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### MVL falls to Montevideo

By Michael Gassett — Journal Sports Writer

POSTED: March 12, 2010

REDWOOD FALLS - A barrage of 3-pointers by Montevideo buried Minnesota Valley Lutheran in too deep of a hole to get out of as the Thunderhawks won the Section 3AA quarterfinal 63-42 Thursday.

"They played a perfect first half and we came out and dug ourselves a hole," MVL coach Craig Morgan said. "We didn't make any of our shots inside, and they just kept pulling away and pulling away. They played a great game."

Montevideo shot a blistering 63 percent from the field in the first half mostly off the hot hand of Ryan Boike.

With the Thunderhawks holding a 14-11 lead six minutes into the game, Boike heated up. The junior scored 14 straight points for Montevideo as the Thunderhawks built a double digit lead at 28-15 with seven minutes to go.

Montevideo never let up and built the lead to 40-21 at the half. Boike - who had four 3s in the first half - scored all of his 17 points in the game in the first 18 minutes.

"We had to change defenses," Morgan said. "They are good shooting team. We told the guys there are certain shooters to watch and we just didn't do it."

The Thunderhawks kept the lead at mostly 20 points the rest of the way to come away with the 63-42 win.

Jake Douglas had 16 points for the Thunderhawks, Brett Bergeson added nine.

MVL was led by Galen Holzhueter with 17 points, Josh Hoffman had 13 and Fred Evers had five.

The Chargers end the season at 15-12. They graduate five seniors that were major contributors to their success this season.

"Freddie [Evers] and Hoffman they really played hard all year and really grew into the players they were," Morgan said. "Kyle Henrich really contributed to our team and Josh Ristow came off the bench on occasion for us."

But no one meant more to this team than Holzhueter. Holzhueter, who holds the city and school record for career points with 2,053 points, had started for the Chargers since his freshman year. And for at least the past seven seasons, Morgan has had a Holzhueter on the floor - with older brother Greg before him - he won't have that anymore.

"It's going to be a little different not having him around next year," Morgan said. "But it will be fun watching him in college. It's going to be a big void for me coaching-wise.

"Galen set a bar for future MVL basketball players that people are going to have to chase awful hard."



Staff photo by Mark Newsom

Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Josh Hoffman drives to the basket during the Section 3AA, North Subsection game against Montevideo on Thursday night in Redwood Falls.

For more photos of this event, go to [cu.nujournal.com](http://cu.nujournal.com)

# Holzhueter hits 2,000

By Jim Bastian New Ulm Journal

POSTED: March 7, 2010

NEW ULM - At the 14:03 mark of the first half, Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Galen Holzhueter became the 64th player in Minnesota State High School Basketball history to score 2,000 career points.

While that is a significant mark, what he did in the waning minutes of the second overtime was had even more meaning.



Staff photo by Jeremy Behnke

Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Galen Holzhueter receives a game ball after scoring his 2,000th career point Saturday against Lac qui Parle Valley at Minnesota Valley Lutheran.

Holzhueter scored seven of the last nine Charger points in that second overtime and also dished off an assist to Kyle Heinrichs for a bucket as the Chargers edged Lac qui Parle Valley 91-85 in two overtimes in Section 3AA North Division playoffs.

Holzhueter finished with 40 points - three points off of the MVL single game record of 43 set by Dave Begalka. He now has 2,036 career points with at least one more game to go. Josh Hoffman added 14 with Nate Siemers adding 13.

Eric Paulson led the Eagles with 28 points.

MVL will now play Montevideo Thursday at a site to be determined.

"We came out a little slow to begin with," said Holzhueter who became the fifth senior in Minnesota to score his 2,000 career point this season. "The second half was intense the whole way through and those two overtimes were great but we came through in the end."

The Chargers trailed 29-23 at halftime before they tied the game at 67-67 on a Josh Hoffman free throw with two seconds left in the game. Lac qui Parle Valley took a time out and nearly won the game at the buzzer as Eric Paulson's three-ball rimmed in and out at the buzzer.

In the first overtime free throws from Michael Schlottman and Seth Wendland gave the Chargers a two-point lead with 27 seconds left but a Ryan Hoium bucket forced a second overtime.

There, a Holzhueter basket gave the Chargers an 84-83 lead which they did not lose.

Holzhueter was humble when he talked about scoring his 2,000th career point.

"I am honored to get that and thankful for the gifts that I have," he said. "This would not have been as fun if we had lost."

While the majority of 2,000 career point scorers are three-point artists, Holzhueter is an old-fashioned banger inside.

"I try and work on the 3's. I think that I have about 15 all year but my game is playing inside and being physical."

He said that his older brother Greg, who he will play basketball with next year at Martin Luther College was a big influence but his father, Paul, was even a bigger influence.

"He had a traveling team in grade school and I was the ballboy for that and from second grade to high school, my dad was my coach. Pretty much everything I learned about basketball I learned from him."

## MVL boys defeat USC 64-59

POSTED: March 2, 2010 New Ulm Journal

WELLS - Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Galen Holzhueter scored 24 points as the Chargers defeated United South Central 64-59 Monday in boys basketball action.

Josh Hoffman scored 22 points for the Chargers, who improve to 14-11 overall.

Ryan Swearingen scored 26 points and Kyle Bauman scored 20 points for the Rebels.

## MVL 54, St. Clair 36

*POSTED by New Ulm Journal*

ST. CLAIR - The Minnesota Valley Lutheran Chargers defeated the St. Clair Cyclones 54-36 Friday night in a boys basketball match-up.

MVL was led by Galen Holzhueter with 17 points and 10 rebounds followed by Josh Hoffman with 14 points.

The Cyclones were led by Mike Drager with 12 points.

## MVL defeats Mustangs

By Dave Clark — Journal Sports Writer

*POSTED: February 26, 2010*

NEW ULM - The word "focus" is often heard this time of year in high school sports.

It was exhibited by both teams in the Minnesota Valley Lutheran Chargers boys basketball 84-70 win over the Buffalo Lake-Hector Mustangs Thursday night.

For Mustangs coach Scott Powers, a lack of focus during game early in the year hurt the team.

Against MVL, it was one of the reasons they were able to manage both a comeback during the game and stay in it as long as they did.

"There were times when we'd be down by eight and next time you'd look at the scoreboard, we'd be down by 30," Powers said. "Now the execution's back and we haven't lost that focus. Tonight, they didn't give up. They got some big buckets to keep us in the game. The kids know they have to be scrappy."

It was the Chargers ability to keep their focus that allowed them to recover from an early second half lapse that allowed them to bring out a new defensive strategy, plus go on a 10-0 scoring run to help win the game.

It took the Chargers about six minutes to open up a double digit lead at 18-7 after a hoop from Josh Hoffman. Two free throws by Cole Witter and a long jumper by Madison LaPlante then cut the lead to seven, 20-13.

MVL extended it with a 5-0 run, but 3-pointers from Ben Maiers and LaPlante kept the Mustangs hanging around to stay within ten points of the lead.



**Staff photo by Mary Roufs**  
Buffalo Lake-Hector's Ryan Haun attempts to shoot over Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Nate Siemers (30) during the first half of the game on Thursday night at MVL. For more photos of this event, go to

A 3 from Nate Siemers re-opened the Chargers lead to 34-22, but later, BLH's Isaac Buboltz nailed one from outside to put the Mustangs back within striking distance, down 39-32.

While the Chargers took a 45-36 lead into the break, it was BLH that took charge to open the second half. The Mustangs outscored MVL 8-1 in the first two minutes to climb to within one, 46-45, before tying it 48-48 after a 3-point play by Witter.

A layup by Dylan Nelson gave the Mustangs a brief 52-50 lead before the Chargers went to full court defensive press.

"Our regular defense wasn't working, so we thought we'd try it," MVL coach Craig Morgan said.

It worked. The Mustangs committed four turnovers that resulted in a travel, a errant pass, and two steals that resulted in easy layups for Hoffman and Kyle Henrich. Suddenly, the Chargers had scored 10 in a row and opened a 66-54 lead with 7:50 to go in the game.

The closest the Mustangs got to MVL after that followed a hoop by Witter that cut the Chargers lead to 71-64. A three-point play by MVL's Fred Evers with 3:40 left put the Chargers up 76-64 and put the game out of reach for the Mustangs.

MVL scoring was paced by Hoffman's 24, while Evers had 21 and Galen Holzhueter added 14 and 13 rebounds. Witter led all scorers with 27, while Nelson had 15 and Maiers was good for 10 Mustang points.

The Chargers improve to 12-11 overall, 7-9 in the Tomahawk Conference, while BLH drops to 4-20, 2-14.

## Chargers survive 3-pointers

By Dave Clark, Journal Sports Writer

*POSTED: February 24, 2010*

NEW ULM - The bad news for the Minnesota Valley Lutheran Chargers boys basketball team is that the Sleepy Eye St. Mary's Knights hit 21 3-pointers on Tuesday night.

The good news for the Chargers is that the Knights managed just 10 points via field goals and free throws as MVL upended St. Mary's 90-73.

The Chargers didn't need long-range bombers to hold the Knights at bay, as they completely dominated the offensive boards and went on a 17-0 run to start the second half to cool off the Knights bombers.

"We just had to play our defense," MVL coach Craig Morgan said. "We usually only gave them one shot and they didn't get many second shot opportunities. We needed to get quality possessions and get good shots."

Meanwhile, St. Mary's is well aware that it lives and dies with its outside shooting.

"We really struggled defensively," Knights coach Tim Milliard said. "But this is who we are and the kind of game we play and MVL has really improved since the first time we played them."

The 3s weren't finding their mark for St. Mary's in the early stages of the game, as MVL staked themselves to a 12-3 lead with Fred Evers, Galen Holzhueter and Josh Hoffman each scored two buckets.



**Staff photo by Steve Muscatello**

Sleepy Eye St. Mary's Kyle Krzmarzick takes a three-point-shot over Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Seth Wendland (11) during the first half Tuesday at MVL. For more photos of this event, go to <http://cu.nujournal.com>

The Chargers took a 10-point lead with 11 minutes left in the half, 21-11, but seven treys by the Knights, including three by Brett Ubl and two from Adam Sellner, kept them in the game.

It looked like MVL might have a chance to put St. Mary's away after the Chargers went on a 12-0 run to open up an 18-point lead, 44-26, with four minutes left until the break, but the Knights then pulled out the serious rocket launchers.

Kyle Krzmarzick and Kansas Adams hit two 3-pointers apiece, with Jordan Osmonson adding another one for good measure. The Knights hit three of their four field goals in the game with the end result being a 48-47 Chargers lead at halftime, as the Knights shaved 17 points off the MVL lead in just under four minutes.

The Chargers came out smoking in the second half, though, going on a 17-0 run that featured four points on offensive rebounds, a 3 by Hoffman, two layups on passes by Holzhueter and a steal and bucket by Evers.

St. Mary's finally got on the board with a 3 from Adams at the 12:20 mark, with subsequent 3-pointers adding up to a 12-4 run for the Knights that eroded the Chargers lead to 73-62. But MVL held its ground after that, rebuilding the margin to 84-64 with 3:18 on the clock. By that time, St. Mary's had run out of time and shots and the Chargers took the 90-73 win.

Holzhueter led all scorers with 26 points and also had 16 rebounds to pace MVL, with Hoffman adding 17 points, Evers scoring 14 and Nate Siemers contributing 11. The Knights scoring leader was Adams with 17, followed by Jon Milliard with 12 and Krzmarzick with 11.

The win improves MVL's record to 11-11 overall, 6-9 in the Tomahawk Conference, while St. Mary's drops to 7-15 overall.

## **CM/C 67, MVL 60**

*POSTED Feb. 20, 2010 New Ulm Journal*

MORGAN - The Minnesota Valley Lutheran Chargers held a 34-33 lead going into the half. Unfortunately they were unable to hold on to it as the Cedar Mountain/Comfrey Cougars came back to win 67-60 in Tomahawk Conference boys basketball action Friday night.

For the Cougars, Dalton Kleinschmidt had a double-double night with 27 points, 11 rebounds and three steals. Tanner Kokesch scored 14 points and Zak Pendleton had 13 points.

Galen Holzhueter scored 27 points for the Chargers, and Christian Evers had 16 points.

## **MVL edges Redwood Valley**

*POSTED: February 19, 2010 New Ulm Journal*

REDWOOD FALLS - Minnesota Valley Lutheran defeated Redwood Valley 70-66 Thursday in boys basketball play.

MVL was led by Galen Holzhueter who scored 20 points. Nate Siemers had 14 points for the Chargers and Josh Hoffman scored 13 in the victory. Fred Evers added 12 points for MVL.

For Redwood Valley, J.T. Radel had 20 points and Mike Busack also had 20 points for the Cardinals.

## **Tigers fight off Chargers**

By Dave Clark NEW ULM JOURNAL

POSTED: February 17, 2010

NEW ULM - The Springfield Tigers boys basketball team almost got crowned Tuesday night in their victory over the Minnesota Valley Lutheran Chargers.

They clinched at least a share of the Tomahawk Conference championship, but after beating the Chargers at home by 28 earlier in the year, they found a much fiercer opponent on MVL's home court, coming away with a 87-78 win that was decided in the final two minutes.

The Tigers record stands at 17-1, 12-1 in the conference and a win Friday night at Sleepy Eye St. Mary's gives them the outright crown.

Against MVL (9-10, 5-8) Springfield showed exactly why they're the team to beat in the area, nailing nine 3-pointers that opened up the inside game.

"We've got some guys that can shoot," Tigers coach Lance Larson said. "That opens it up for the big kids inside. But MVL came out and played us tough. I told the team we need to be able to fight through those adversity games, and tonight was one of those."

Chargers coach Craig Morgan liked aspects of MVL's game, but knew what they were up against.

"We were ahead by a few points at different times, but they're a good team," Morgan said. "They've got all the bells and whistles."

The game's opening bell saw the Chargers move out to a quick 10-6 lead, with Nate Siemers and Galen Holzhueter scoring four apiece. Just a quickly, the Tigers took the lead behind a 3 from Jesse Kieper and a layup by Tyler Marz.

Midway through the half, the score was 23-23 after a 3 from the Tigers Jordan Milbrath and it looked like Springfield might run away with the game. Two 3s by Dillon Schultz, combined with four in a row by Milbrath had the Tigers up 39-28 with 3:55 left before the break.

But MVL shaved the lead to 45-39 at halftime and came out fired up. Siemers opened the scoring with a 3-pointer that started a Charger comeback to tie it at 48-48.

With MVL up 60-56, the Tigers went on an 11-2 run behind consecutive Milbrath 3-pointers and a 3 from Alex Fink. Down 67-62, the Chargers managed another run at the lead, tying it at 68-68 on a Holzhueter bucket.

With 5:44 left in the game, Springfield started to take control, with a Fink steal, layup and free throw opening up a 77-70 Tigers lead with 4 minutes remaining.

With less than two minutes on the clock, Josh Hoffman nailed a mid-range jumper to pull MVL within four, 79-75. But Schultz made a big play for the Tigers with 58 seconds left and Springfield up 80-75 by grabbing a defensive rebound, forcing the Chargers to start fouling. The Tigers made five in a row and took home the 87-78 win.

Milbrath scored 32 for the Tigers, with Marz adding 17, Kieper contributing 13 and Schultz with 11 points.

Holzhueter led all scorers with 35, followed by Siemers 16, and Hoffman's 14.



**Staff photo by Mary Roufs**  
Springfield's Tyler Marz (51) shoots over Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Ben Dose during the first half of the game on Tuesday night at MVL. For more photos of this event, go to <http://cu.nujournal.com>

**Jim Bastian Column**

February 14, 2010

By Jim Bastian, Journal Sports Writer

**STREAK ENDED;** MVL coach Craig Morgan said that the snapped winning streak against the Greyhounds is good for the rivalry.

"They have not beaten us for a while so it is good that way. We have been playing well and when we got down we thought that we can win this game. But we did not do it."

Galen Holzhueter was once again the Chargers' go-to player scoring 14 second-half points but got little help late in the game.

"We need Fred [Evers] to step up like he did against GFW," Morgan said. "Josh [Hoffman] was good early in the game. We let Galen do a lot of things and ended up watching him, and on defense, our forwards did not

## Cathedral boys snap skid

By Jim Bastian, Journal Sports Writer

*POSTED: February 13, 2010*

**NEW ULM -** With just over five minutes left in New Ulm Cathedral's game with Minnesota Valley Lutheran, Cathedral's Kevin Larson scored on a three-point play off an MVL turnover to give the Greyhounds a 64-61 lead.

It was a lead that Cathedral never lost.

Larson scored a game-high 27 points - 18 of them coming in the second half - as Cathedral ended a near 10-year losing streak to the Chargers with a 76-74 win.

Larson's 27 points were aided by 15 from Frank Johnson and 12 from Alex Cooper.

Galen Holzhueter led the Chargers with 26 points. Josh Hoffman added 16 with Nate Siemers and Fred Evers each scoring 11 points.

For Larson - who scored 11 of the final 17 Cathedral points in the game - it was a win that was a long time coming.

"We worked hard on the defensive end," said the junior guard who saw a 20-game losing streak to the Chargers snapped. "This is a huge win for us because we have not beat these guys for a while. This win is going to springboard us for the second half of our season."

Charger coach Craig Morgan said the loss was a case of his team giving up too many points in the second half - 45 to be exact - to the Greyhounds.

"You cannot win a ballgame giving up that many points," Morgan said. "Our defense was trying to keep them from penetrating but yet we allowed that to happen."

The Chargers held a slim 31-25 lead at halftime and kept the lead until Frank Johnson gave Cathedral a 45-44 lead with 13 minutes left in the game. The lead changed hands 10 times in the next seven minutes.

Two Larson conventional three-point plays kept Cathedral in the lead while Galen Holzhueter's two free throws with just over four minutes left in the contest lifted the Chargers to within 67-66.



**Staff photo by Steve Muscatello**  
Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Galen Holzhueter (15) hits a lay up as Cathedral's Kyle Fischer defends on the play during the first half of the Greyhounds' win Friday at MVL. For more photos of this event, go to <http://cu.nujournal.com>

But then consecutive 3-pointers from Alex Cooper and Kyle Fischer - with Fischer's coming off of the eighth MVL turnover in the second half - gave the Greyhounds their biggest lead of the game at 73-66 with 2:11 left in the game.

"They both hit some big 3's for us," said Hazuka, who saw his team hit 11 three-point shots in the game. MVL did not hit a 3-pointer in the game. "Hitting those is a key against a zone defense and the kids came through on that. We have not done that for quite a few games so it is nice to see that happen."

But the Chargers clawed their way back using a 6-0 run to cut the lead to 73-72 on a Siemers' basket and free throws from Evers and Hoffman.

Larson sank three free throws in the last 29 seconds before Siemers hit a basket with two seconds left to pull the Chargers to within 76-74.

"We knew that we had to work harder than them," Hazuka said. "To outplay them on the scoreboard tonight was a great accomplishment. This is a huge win for our school because we have not had a lot of success against MVL."

## **MVL reverses its fortunes with GFW in home game**

By Jim Bastian, Journal Sports Writer

*POSTED: February 7, 2010*

By Jim Bastian  
Journal Sports Writer

NEW ULM - High school basketball can be a funny sort of game.

On January 5, the Minnesota Valley Lutheran Chargers traveled to Winthrop to take on Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop in a Tomahawk Conference game and left with a 77-65 loss.

One month later, the same two teams met at MVL and the score was almost identical.

But this time, it was the Chargers who turned the tables with a 77-60 win over the Thunderbirds.

"This is a group of players who can play as well as they did last night," said Chargers coach Craig Morgan, who saw his team win its second straight game. "We had a couple of good practices in preparation for this game. This win was a great group effort - a team win - even if a person did not play in it. The preparation was important and without everyone participating and working as hard as they did in practice, we could not have won this game."

Morgan said that the turnaround in scores happened because of the players.

"This team has the potential and when they put their mind to it - cut down on the turnovers - expect good things from them," added Morgan. "They are capable of good things."

What also made Morgan happy was the fact that the Chargers placed four players in double figures.

"That was awesome," he said. "Fred Evers comes up with 21 points with Josh [Hoffman] and [Nate] Siemers each get 13 and 12 points. Plus they ran the boards left and right and that was great for us."

There is sometimes a point in the game when Morgan knows that his team is "clicking" like it did on Friday.

"Friday it was evident in the first five or 10 minutes of the game," Morgan said. "We were passing the ball well, saw each other and defended well. Then it was just a matter of sustaining that over the course of the game and staying with our game plan."

The win Friday was big as the Chargers have games with Cedar Mountain/Comfrey, New Ulm Cathedral and Springfield.



night at MVL. For more photos of this event, go to <http://cu.nujournal.com>

"It is a great win for us as was the game with Fairmont," Morgan said. "They are both sectional opponents. Now we will work and try and stop Cedar Mountain."

CMC has scored 90 points or more in each of its last four games.

## **Chargers shock GFW**

*POSTED: February 6, 2010*

By Jeremy Behnke  
Journal Sports Editor

NEW ULM - Knowing that Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop had a definite size advantage, the Minnesota Valley Lutheran boys basketball team wanted to make sure the Thunderbirds were forced to try to beat them in another way rather than by pounding it inside.

The Chargers instead did a good job of denying the inside look for the Thunderbirds and forced them to shoot from outside. Although the Thunderbirds were effective in the first half from outside, that trend didn't continue in the second half.

The Chargers defeated their rivals 77-60, led by Galen Holzhueter's 24 points and Fred Evers' 21 points.

Josh Hoffman scored 13 points and Nate Siemers finished with 12 for the Chargers, who saw their record improve to 9-8 overall and 5-6 in the Tomahawk Conference.

Evers said that his team worked hard all game on denying the inside pass.

"Just guard them and try to "D" up on them and don't let them score," Evers said. "That was our game plan to get them to shoot it from outside, and they did knock it down but they didn't make enough of them."

The Thunderbirds (11-5, 8-3) were led by Jay Rogotzke, who had 18 points. Brandon Wortz had 12 points and Kyle Hoffman had 11 points. They also had a brief scare in the second half when Jamie Brooks went up to block a shot by Holzhueter and came down and hit his head on the floor.

The fall delayed the game for about 10 minutes and Brooks did not return to action but appeared to be alright after the fall.

GFW took a 4-0 lead early, but the Chargers went up 6-4 on back-to-back baskets by Evers.

Later, a Josh Hoffman 3-pointer put the Chargers up 19-13 and that lead grew to 23-13 before Lucas Seehafer and Wortz hit consecutive 3s. The Thunderbirds finished with five 3s in the first half.

But that outside shooting didn't keep the Chargers from building a 37-27 lead at halftime.

In the second half, Spencer Kruggel hit a 3 and GFW trailed 45-39.

But the Chargers were just too much on this night and went back to Evers and Holzhueter, who led the way the rest of the night.

Holzhueter hit a pair of free throws to put MVL up 61-47 and a late Evers free throw gave the Chargers a 71-60 advantage. MVL went on a 9-0 run to close out the game.

**MVL (77): Evers 21, Holzhueter 24, Hoffman 13, Siemers 12, Henrich 4, Dose 1, Brown 2.**

**GFW (60): Kruggel 3, Wortz 12, Brooks 7, Rogotzke 18, Seehafer 3, Hoffman 11, Hartmann 2, Platz 4.**

## Holzhueter headed for MLC

By Chad Courrier

Free Press Staff Writer

*POSTED FEB. 1, 2010, Mankato Free Press*



Senior Galen Holzhueter set the Minnesota Valley Lutheran boys basketball scoring record last week and now has more than 1,700 points in his four-year career. **Pat Christman**

Last week, Galen Holzhueter set the boys scoring record at Minnesota Valley Lutheran and now has 1,713 points in his four seasons as a starter.

"His drive and determination and work ethic has made him the player he is," MVL coach Craig Morgan said.

Dan Unke held the previous record of 1,662 points. Holzhueter is averaging 25 points per game this season, with a high of 37 points earlier this month against Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop.

"He practices as hard as he plays," Morgan said. "What you see on the floor is what we see every day in practice."

Holzhueter will attend Martin Luther next season and play with his older brother Greg.

## MVL fends off Fairmont

Charlie Sorrells - Sentinel Sports Editor

*POSTED: February 2, 2010*

FAIRMONT - Galen Holzhueter does little things - like making diving saves or tipping a loose carom to a teammate - that do not show up in a basketball boxscore.

The 6-foot-2 power forward, however, did deliver a couple of impressive statistics - a double-double of 18 points and a game-high 12 rebounds - to help the Minnesota Valley Lutheran Chargers fend off the late-charging Fairmont Cardinals, 62-58, Monday night in Fairmont.

"He (Holzhueter) does everything for us," said MVL mentor Craig Morgan.

But the Chargers' four-year varsity starter proved only part of the winning formula that staked the visitors to an 11-point halftime edge over the Cardinals.

Holzhueter's traditional 3-point play, combined with guard Christian Evers' 15-foot baseline jumper, extended MVL's margin to 36-25 with a minute remaining before intermission.

Fairmont sophomore forward Kevin Hanson, who produced an impressive double-double of 16 points and a team-best 10 rebounds, seemingly swung the late first-half momentum to the home team. Hanson hit a putback basket with only 13 seconds remaining.



DRIVING BY — Fairmont's Kevin Hanson (left) drives around Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Dusty Compart during nonconference basketball action Monday night at Cardinal Gym in Fairmont. (Photo by Chip Pearson)

View additional photos at <http://cu.fairmontsentinel.com>

Evers, who delivered 12 of his 16 points during the initial 18 minutes, however, had other plans. The Chargers' point guard drilled a long-distance 2-pointer off the drive with only two seconds left to restore the 11-point edge.

Max Waletich, who finished with a game-leading 22 points, stormed out of the lockerroom to deliver the Cardinals' first six consecutive points to open the second half, but the Chargers would maintain an eight- to 12-point lead until late in regulation.

Josh Hoffman's traditional 3-point play off one of Nate Siemers' five assists off a high post cutter kept MVL's advantage at 12 at 54-42 with 7:22 showing on the scoreboard.

The Chargers opted for a slowed tempo following a timeout, and the Cardinals answered by forcing four quick turnovers to fuel an 11-0 scoring surge.

Joey Fitzgerald, who was scoreless during the first half, hit a runner in traffic to serve as Fairmont's comeback catalyst before Brandon Splinter threaded a baseline pass to Hanson for a low-post leaner.

Fitzgerald then drained a 3-pointer from the top of the key to whittle the red-and-white's deficit to 54-49 before Waletich reeled off back-to-back baskets to inch within one with 2:40 remaining.



Clinging to a 54-53 lead, MVL turned to Holzhueter and the senior forward responded by converting both ends of a critical one-and-one situation 11 seconds later.

After Siemers' solo free throw, Waletich buried a 3-pointer from the left corner off a Fitzgerald assist to reduce the Cardinals' gap to 57-56 with a minute to go.

Holzhueter delivered a baseline leaner to restore a three-point lead before Splinter responded in kind at the other end for a one-point game again.

Ben Dose calmly sank two free throws with 24 seconds left before Hoffman hit the second of a two-shot foul with 5.3 seconds left to ice MVL's non-league victory.

Hoffman contributed 13 points to the Chargers' winning ways.

Fairmont (8-7, 5-2 South Central) travels to St. James on Friday night.

Minnesota Valley Lutheran (8-8) plays host to Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop on Friday night in New Ulm.

**MVL 38-24-62**

**FHS 27-31-58**

**FAIRMONT (58)**

**Waletich 9-15 2-4 22, Splinter 2-10 1-2 5, Hanson 6-10 4-4 16, Fitzgerald 2-11 1-2 6, Peymann 1-5 2-2 4, Heide 2-7 0-0 5, Riley 0-0 0-0 0, Hawkins 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 22-59 10-14 58.**

**MVL (62)**

**Holzhueter 6-11 5-9 18, Dose 2-2 2-3 6, Siemers 0-4 5-8 5, Evers 7-9 1-1 16, Hoffman 5-9 3-5 13, Schlottman 1-1 0-0 2, Henrich 1-3 0-0 2, Wendland 0-0 0-0 0, Compart 0-2 0-1 0, Pitcher 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 22-41 16-27 62.**

**3-pointers: Fairmont 4-18 (Waletich 2-3, Fitzgerald 1-4, Heide 1-5, Splinter 0-2, Peymann 0-2, Hanson 0-2); MVL 2-4 (Holzhueter 1-1, Evers 1-1, Siemers 0-1, Compart 0-1). Fouled out: None. Rebounds: MVL 32 (Holzhueter 12); FHS 29 (Hanson 10). Assists: MVL 15 (Siemers 5); FHS 13 (Peymann 6). Steals: FHS 7 (Waletich 3); MVL 3 (Evers 2).**

Ben Kain scored 17 points to help guide the Fairmont B-squad to a 54-47 victory over Minnesota Valley Lutheran on Monday night in Fairmont.

Alex Kopischke contributed 11 points to the victory, while Michael Forster scored 10 for the Cardinals (8-3).

Luke Hested and Jacob Ellis each scored 11 points to power the Fairmont C-squad to a 56-31 triumph over Minnesota Valley Lutheran on Monday night in Fairmont.

Photo by Chip Pearson/Fairmont Sentinel. Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Josh Hoffman is guarded by a Fairmont defender in Monday's nonconference battle at Fairmont.

Bryce Holm supplied 10 points and four rebounds for the Cardinals (10-1), while Levi Becker generated nine points.

Ryan Noll distributed six assists and made three steals for Fairmont, Matt Tennyson grabbed five rebounds, while Carter Welchlin scored five points.

## **Chargers fall below .500**

By Jim Bastian—Journal Sports Writer

*POSTED: January 31, 2010*

Partial column appearing in Sunday, Jan. 31, 2009 New Ulm Journal

CHARGERS FALL BELOW .500: Prior to last night's home game with Cedar Mountain/Comfrey, the Minnesota Valley Lutheran Chargers boy's basketball team was 4-5 in the Tomahawk Conference.

That is the first time in Craig Morgan's 11 years as head coach that his team has been below .500 at this point of the season in conference play. They were 7-7 overall.

Friday's loss to Wabasso was disappointing to say the least, according to Morgan.

"We had played a good game Tuesday (a 74-53 win over Sleepy Eye) and we had two very good practices," he said. "I thought that we would play really well [Friday]. But we threw the ball away - we did not shoot well - it was disappointing."

Morgan said that the Chargers are lacking consistency.

"We were looking to try and keep our losses down in the conference," Morgan said. "We are going to have to refocus on the playoffs right now. We just need to be consistent each game."

Morgan feels that the Chargers have players who can step up and score. But the problem has been to have the players step up.

"I am giving a lot of guys chances but maybe we just need to settle down with one line-up," Morgan said. "We need to come out and attack and not sit back on our heels. If we sit back, we will get what we got on Friday night."

And the Chargers will need to improve fast as they have a tough stretch of games coming up. They played Cedar Mountain/Comfrey last night and they travel to Fairmont on Monday, host Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop on Tuesday, play at Cedar Mountain/Comfrey Feb. 9th and then host New Ulm Cathedral on Feb. 12th.

"They are tough games," Morgan said. "But maybe I am looking at the glass half full because I see these guys in practice and I think that we can win those games, But they have to start believing it themselves."

## **Cougars easily handle Chargers**

By Jim Bastian — Journal Sports Writer

*POSTED: January 31, 2010*

NEW ULM - When you play Cedar Mountain/Comfrey, you need to play two solid halves of defense.

Saturday night, the Minnesota Valley Lutheran Chargers played a decent first half but allowed the Cougars too many uncontested scoring chances in the second half.

The end result was a convincing 96-74 win for CM/C in a Tomahawk Conference meeting.

Dalton Kleinschmidt led four Cougars in double figures with 29 points. Nate Golden added 21 with Zak Pendleton and Tanner Kokesch scoring 20 and 14 points respectively.

Galen Holzhueter led the Chargers (4-6,7-8) with a game-high 33 points. Josh Hoffman contributed 16 points - 15 of them coming in the first half.

"We allowed too many easy shots in the second half," MVL coach Craig Morgan said. "We did not move our feet defensively and we did not help each other out."

Cedar Mountain/Comfrey coach Keith Klawitter, who saw his team improve to 8-3 in the conference and 10-4 overall, said that his team has a nice mix of players.

"We have Dalton and Nate who can shoot from the outside and can also go to the basket very well," he said. "We had five players in double figures last night [in a loss to Springfield]. We have players who can score."

And that balance, more than anything, caused the Chargers problems late in the first half and all through the second half.

The Chargers held a 22-17 lead thanks in large part to the scoring of Hoffman, who scored 11 of the first 18 points for MVL. Hoffman and Galen Holzhueter provided 31 of the Chargers' 41 first-half points.

When they weren't scoring, the Chargers sputtered on offense and that allowed the Cougars to erase a 37-31 MVL lead and outscore the Chargers 14-4 to close out the first half.

Baskets from Kleinschmidt, Austin Koupal and Pendleton and a 3-pointer from Golden lifted the Cougars to a 40-37 lead and a 45-41 halftime advantage.

"We withstood that flurry from MVL," said Klawitter, who recorded his 403rd career coaching win. "And once we got the lead, we played with a lot of confidence."

Klawitter said that in the first half, he played a box-and-one on Holzhueter.

"But that was ineffective because they had other players scoring so we had to get out and play a more traditional man-to-man defense which is not our forte."

But in that second half, the scoring that MVL was getting from players other than Holzhueter failed to materialize. Hoffman was held to just one free throw in the second 18 minutes.

"I told the kids that we need some other players to step up and score," Morgan said. "Josh's first half was awesome. Nate Siemers had a few points but we need him and (Fred) Evers to also step up. We need a few more players to step up and not just Galen."

Meanwhile the Cougars were not having a problem with balanced scoring as they turned a slim 52-48 lead into a 66-56 lead as Golden, Kleinschmidt, Tanner Kokesch and Pendleton all scored in that 14-6 run. Two free throws from Kleinschmidt made it a 75-58 game and then an 86-67 lead thanks to a Golden basket with 3:27 left in the game.

## Wabasso rolls to easy win

First win at MVL since 1999 for Rabbits

By Dave Clark — Journal Sports Writer

POSTED: January 30, 2010

NEW ULM - The seniors on the Wabasso Rabbits boys basketball team were pretty young the last time they came to New Ulm and won on the Minnesota Valley Lutheran Chargers home court.

Try first grade.

According to head coach Stan Rohlik, the Rabbits haven't beat the Chargers on the road since 1999.

Friday night, they not only won, they dominated in a 70-53 victory after losing to MVL earlier in the year by more than 20 points.

The difference? "Tonight, we started making some shots and our players believe they can do something," Rohlik said. "We made a shot and the confidence is there. We played good defense and Sam (Guetter) was an animal out there. They were giving 110 percent."

The percentage of desire may not have been as large in the Chargers.

"Last time we played, our intensity and defense were much better," coach Craig Morgan said. "We had it the first three minutes and then spent the next 33 minutes trying to get something going. No pride in the defense. It was a lackadaisical effort."

Neither team started the game with a brick wall around the basket, as both sides scored easily inside the paint. It wasn't until the game was tied 12-12 that Wabasso started to pull away.

The Rabbits Dalton Salfer hit two free throws and a 3-pointer, Guetter fought for a hoop and Jason Plaetz made a nice move to the basket and suddenly, with 7:38 left in the half, Wabasso was up 23-13.

After Guetter's second blocked shot of the night, Tyler Huhnerkoch hit a side jumper to complete a 15-3 Rabbits run.

At halftime, the Chargers were still within striking distance of the lead, down 35-24.

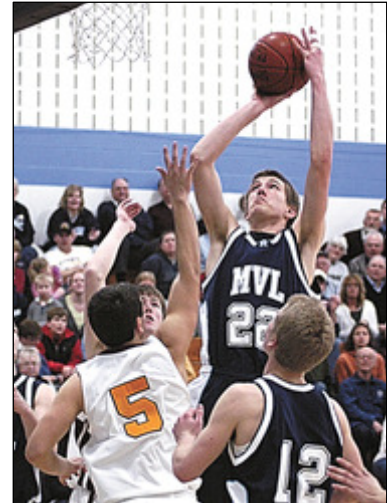
Four minutes into the second half, Fred Evers had a steal and layup for MVL, followed by a Nate Siemers 3-pointer to cut the Wabasso lead to 39-35.

The Chargers wouldn't get any closer than four, though, as short jumpers by Plaetz and Huhnerkoch extended the Rabbits' lead back to eight.

A 3-pointer from Salfer put Wabasso up 54-44 with 7:12 to go in the game and then the Rabbits started to pull away.

In the next three minutes, the Chargers had three turnovers and a single point, while Wabasso scored 11 and took a 65-45 margin with 4:04 remaining.

Six in a row by Galen Holzhueter cut the margin to 14, but a Guetter layup and free throw ended any slim chance MVL had of a comeback.



**Staff photo by Mary Roufs**  
Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Ben Dose(22) goes up for a shot over Wabasso's Steven Rohlik during the second half of the game at MVL on Friday night. For more photos of this event, go to <http://cu.nujournal.com>

Guetter led Wabasso with 15 points, with Salfer and Rohlik scoring 13 and Plaetz adding 12.

Holzhueter led MVL with 16, while Siemers had 11. The Rabbits up their record to 7-10, 5-6 in the Tomahawk Conference. The Chargers drop to 7-7, 4-5.

## Chargers roll past Indians

Dave Clark — Journal Sports Writer

*POSTED: January 27, 2010*

NEW ULM - The Minnesota Valley Lutheran Chargers boys basketball team decided to hold a second homecoming dance Tuesday night.

Because of weather and scheduling, it was the Chargers first home game since the middle of December, and they didn't disappoint their fans, decisively beating the Sleepy Eye Indians 74-53.

The win puts MVL above the .500 mark for the season at 7-6, but it was also a game that featured balanced scoring and stifling defense.

"We're trying to get better each and every game," MVL coach Craig Morgan said. "Now the guys are starting to believe in themselves. More guys stepped up besides Galen (Holzhueter, who recently set New Ulm's all time scoring record.) Other guys made shots and we've got to have more than one guy score to win."

MVL put the press on early and it jumped out to a quick 6-0 lead, helped by a couple of buckets by Kyle Henrich.

Nate Siemers then added a 3-pointer to increase the Chargers lead to 11-3. Then it was Fred Evers turn to join in the scoring fun as he nailed the next nine MVL points to put the Chargers up 20-5 midway through the first half.

After a Holzhueter layup and a Josh Hoffman 3 that gave MVL a 19 point, 28-9 lead, the Indians were finally able to break through the Chargers defense and warm up what had been ice cold shooting to try and get back in the game.

Nathan Kral finally put Sleepy Eye into double digits on the scoreboard with 5:15 left in the half, followed by a Andrew Geiger hoop.

Then Eli Krumbach scored and was fouled for a 3-point play and Mitch Laffen hit a turnaround jumper to complete a 9-2 run that cut MVL's margin to 30-18.

Henrich was the Chargers hero the final two minutes of the half, though, scoring the final eight MVL points, the final two a layup at the buzzer that gave the Chargers a 38-24 lead at halftime.

While 14 points is a manageable deficit, it didn't take the Indians long to discover that the Chargers maybe hadn't forgotten their loss to Sleepy Eye earlier in the season. MVL came out smoking hot, while the Indians couldn't buy a basket.

Even though Laffen scored four of the half's first six points, Holzhueter came alive after getting a hoop on a third offensive rebound.



**Staff photo by Mary Rouf**  
Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Nate Siemers shoots over Sleepy Eye's Nathan Kral (12) and Tyler Hadley (22) during the first half of a game on Tuesday night at MVL. For more photos of this event, got to <http://cu.nujournal.com>

He scoref six in a row, but the Chargers put the game out of reach by also scoring the next 16 to take a 64-28 lead with just 7:25 left in the game.

The Indians grabed the next nine points, but MVL was still up 64-37, with the only highlight for Sleepy Eye the rest of the game coming from Dylan Doyle, who scored all seven of his points in the final two minutes.

Evers led the Chargers with 15 points, followed by Henrich's 14 and Holzhueter with 13.

Geiger paced the Indians with 14, while Laffen contributed 10.

## **MVL 74, Sleepy Eye 53**

*POSTED BY SLEEPY EYE HERALD DISPATCH*

The Chargers avenged an earlier season loss with a 74-53 win at home over the Indians Tuesday night.

"MVL came out a step quicker on both ends of the floor," said coach Brian Polesky.

"We need to play with more intensity on a consistent basis and get back to putting a full game together," commented Polesky. Andrew Geiger led Sleepy Eye in point totals with 14. Mitch Laffen added 10.

MISSING game are under re-construction and will be added later.

## MVL cruises by CHS

By Jim Bastian, Journal Sports Writer  
*POSTED: January 12, 2010*

*(Points- Only box Score at End of Article)*

NEW ULM - The last time that the New Ulm Cathedral boy's basketball team defeated Minnesota Valley Lutheran was during the 1998-99 season when most of the current members of the Greyhound team were playing in the Cathedral "Super Hooper" program

Monday night, the Greyhounds appeared that they could end the 19-game losing streak to the Chargers as they trailed by a score of 36-35 when Frank Johnson hit a basket to begin the second half.

But the Chargers out-scored Cathedral 22-9 to take a 58-44 lead and go on to top the Greyhounds and end a three-game losing streak with a 71-51 win in Tomahawk Conference basketball.

Galen Holzhueter led the Chargers (2-2, 5-4) with a game-high 23 points - 17 of which came in the second half. Nate Siemers added 17 points.

Junior guard Kevin Larson paced the Greyhounds - who saw their four-game winning streak end - with 22 points.

"I was real happy with the effort that the guys came with," Chargers coach Craig Morgan said. "We had players come off of the bench with some fire tonight - it was what I was expecting out of this group tonight."

"MVL really pushed us [in the second half] to do things that we did not want to do," said Cathedral coach Paul Hazuka, who saw his team fall to 2-3 in the conference and 6-5 overall. "They ran their offense through Galen [Holzhueter] and posted him up. We did not adjust as well as we should have defensively to that."

And it was the ability of the Chargers to get the ball more to Holzhueter, who scored a quiet six points in the first half, that got the MVL offense rolling.

Consecutive baskets from Holzhueter -one coming off a conventional three-point that lifted MVL to a 44-37 lead.

"We talked (at halftime) about getting him the ball more and that got us some points," Morgan said. "And we were able to get other people involved in scoring. We talked about how other people stepping up. We had Nate Siemers, Josh Hoffman, Ben Dose all go hard to the basket."

And 3s from two players off of the bench, Seth Wendland and Dusty Compart, helped build a 54-42 lead with just under 12 minutes left in the game.

MVL built a 64-45 cushion off of a Siemers basket as the Chargers hit on 10 of 19 shots from the floor while Cathedral struggled hitting just four of 15 shots in that same span as the Chargers took control.



**Staff photo by Steve Muscatello**

New Ulm Cathedral's Nick Simon (42) shoots the ball as Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Kyle Henrich defends on the play during the first half Monday at CHS in New Ulm. For more photos of this event, go to <http://cu.nujournal.com>

The Chargers took an early 16-7 lead only to see the Greyhounds cut it to 18-15 on baskets from Larson and Nick Simon along with consecutive hoops from Brian Nosbush.

MVL regained momentum and held a 26-15 lead later in the first half before Cathedral cut it to 26-21 on two Larson baskets.

Larson's 3 cut a first half lead to 32-26 before he canned a jumper just before half that pulled the Greyhounds to within 36-33 at halftime.

MVL won the B-squad game 45-41.

**MVL ..... 36 - 35 - 71**

**CHS ..... 33 - 18 - 51**

**MVL (71): Holzhuetter 23, Siemers 17, Evers 8, Compart 7, Dose 5, Hoffman 4, Henrich 4, Wendland 3, Schlottman 2.**

**CHS (51): Larson 22, Simon 8, Fischer 6, Genelin 5, Nosbush 4, Johnson 2, Grathwohl 2, Zambino 2.**

**Continue scrolling for more**

**MVL boys' basketball**

## Second half lifts St. Croix

By Jim Bastian — Journal Sports Writer

POSTED: January 10, 2010

(Partial box score included at end of article)

NEW ULM - When St. Croix Lutheran's Cameron Cummings buried a open 3-point shot to close out the first half against Minnesota Valley Lutheran, it was a sign of things to come for both teams.

The Crusaders hit seven of 11 3s in the second half - the vast majority of them with no Charger defender in their face - to come away with a 59-53 win over MVL Saturday afternoon at Martin Luther College in a non-conference match-up.

Cummings and Kyle Prelgo led the Crusaders (2-7) with 11 points each with Wesley Tucker and Dominic Cambrice each adding 10 points.

Galen Holzhueter paced MVL (4-4) with a game-high 21 points.

For the Chargers, who saw St. Croix Lutheran erase a 10-point MVL lead late in the first half, it was a case of not playing solid perimeter defense in the second half against the long-range Crusader shots.

"We did not defend the 3," MVL coach Craig Morgan said. "We would wave at them from six feet away. And when we would sub in, you should know who you have. We were not paying attention, we were not focused."

And that lack of focus let the Crusaders - who hit only seven of 25 shots from the floor in the first half - turn a probable loss into a win.

MVL started out the second half by increasing its three-point halftime lead to a stable 30-22 off of a 3-point shot from Nate Siemers and a jump shot from Fred Evers.

But the Crusaders cut a 23-13 MVL lead with 3:20 left in the first half to three at the break.

St. Croix Lutheran went on a 14-5 run to take its first lead of the game at 36-35 on an unguarded 3 from Michael Galler.

Galler canned his second 3-pointer of the second half to keep St. Croix Lutheran on top at 39-37.

MVL rallied to the lead at 41-39 on two free throws from Holzhueter and a Ben Dose basket.

Josh Hoffman's 3 gave the Chargers a 48-42 lead.

However, four of the next five baskets by the Crusaders were 3s and that allowed them to take a 56-52 lead on Cummings third 3-pointer of the second half with just over a minute left in the game.



**Staff photo by Steve Muscatello**  
St. Croix Lutheran's Evan Nelson (32) attempts to block the shot of Cole Brown (20) of Minnesota Valley Lutheran during the first half Saturday at Martin Luther College in New Ulm. For more photos of this event, go to <http://cu.nujournal.com>

"They would find the kid that was open," Morgan said. "We did not defend it and we did not know who we had. It [not defending the 3-point shot] had to be a mental lapse on our part because physically, we can guard them."

The Chargers, who face cross-town rival New Ulm Cathedral for a big match-up Monday night, took an early 10-4 lead on the Crusaders thanks to a basket from Evers and two from Holzhueter.

They made it 18-9 on two baskets from Hoffman and an Evers jumper.

That would increase to a comfortable 23-13 lead on a Holzhueter 3 and an Evers' bank shot with 3:20 left in the first half.

MVL hit nine of its first 21 shots at that time while the Crusaders hit only five of 21 from the field at that same time.

"I think that when we had the [23-13] lead we relaxed," Morgan said. "And that has to be a lesson that we have to learn - we cannot relax on something like that. You have to keep going, keep pushing the tempo, keep pushing the defense and don't let them back into the game."

Morgan added that he did talk at halftime about the Chargers' intensity.

"I think that maybe that first half run came too easy for us." he said. "And I was happy with the way that we played in the first half and even some in the second half. But we need to put together 36 minutes of basketball - we cannot let up."

**ST. CROIX LUTHERAN ..... .22 37 59**  
**MINN VALLEY LUTHERAN ... 25 28 53**

**ST.CROIX LUTHERAN (59) Cummings 11, Prelgo 11, Tucker 10, Cambrice 10, Walker 7, Galler 6, Saito 4.**

**MVL (53) Holzhueter 21, Evers 12, Hoffman 7, Siemers 5, Dose 4, Brown 2, Henrich 2.**

## **GFW 77, MVL 65**

*POSTED: January 6, 2010 New Ulm Journal*

WINTHROP - Though tied 32-32 at the half, the Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop Thunderbirds defeated Minnesota Valley Lutheran Chargers in a Tomahawk Conference game on Tuesday night.

The majority of the Chargers 65 points were scored by Galen Holzhueter, who came up with 37 points.

The Thunderbirds had three players in double-digits for the night. Alex Platz led the team with 23, and Jamie Brooks added another 10. Jay Rogotzke scored 20 points and managed six assists.

MVL next plays at home on Thursday against Cedar Mountain/Comfrey.

***THIS BASKETBALL BOX SCORE has not been reported by the above media nor made available to New Ulm Sports Central.***

CONTINUE SCROLLING FOR  
SEASON SUMMARY FOR BOYS' BASKETBALL

## **MVL falls in title game**

By Dan Timm — Journal Sports Writer

*POSTED: December 31, 2009*

MANKATO - For the second night in row, Minnesota Valley Lutheran found itself down by double digits at halftime.

This time though, it was not able to turn things around in the second half as New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva played tough defense and forced turnovers to win the Pepsi Holiday Basketball Tournament.

The Panthers outscored MVL 67-57 in the championship game.

"We expended a lot of energy last night to come back, and we just couldn't keep that energy going tonight," MVL coach Craig Morgan said.

The game started out with NRHEG and MVL trading scores, and no team was able to gain an advantage.

About six minutes into the game, the Panthers were down 10-9 when they rallied off 10 unanswered points that included 3-pointers from Matt Nafe and Brett Hagen.

The Chargers started to close the gap. They cut the lead to 21-18 after two Galen Holzhueter free throws, but a 3 from NRHEG's Evan Ferber stopped their momentum.

Another 3 in the closing minute, this one from Hunter Eustice, gave the Panthers a 37-26 lead at the half.

The Panthers' 3-point shooting in the first half forced MVL to play tighter defense in the second half.

"We tried to get up tighter on them in our man defense," Morgan said. "Then we changed a little defense up hoping that would maybe do the trick, but I think our legs were a little bit tired."

The Chargers seemed ready to make another comeback at the start of the second half.

They held the Panthers to just two points in the first five and a half minutes, but the Chargers also struggled on the offensive end, scoring only seven points of their own.

The teams battled back and forth with MVL staying within striking distance until NRHEG went on another 10-0 run increasing its lead from 52-44 to 62-44 with only two minutes left.

From there, the Panthers cruised to a 67-57 victory.

Turnovers aside, the Chargers still made progress each game of the tournament.

"The guys improved with each game," Morgan said. "That's what we're hoping to do; with each game a couple more improvements, a couple guys improving and stepping up."

The Panthers were led by Nafe and Cory Camerer with 17 points each.

Holzhueter had 26 for MVL, and Christian Evers added 17.

## **NRHEG downs MVL for Pepsi Tournament title**

*POSTED: Dec. 31, 2009 Mankato Free Press*

## Drew Lyon

Special to The Mankato Free Press



New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva's Matt Nafe keeps the ball away from Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Seth Wendland during the first half Wednesday at Bethany Lutheran College.  
Pat Christman / The Free Press

MANKATO — In its previous seven appearances at the Pepsi Holiday Tournament, New Richland Hartland-Ellendale Geneva had earned no better than a third-place finish. This year, it was a jubilant Panthers squad hoisting the championship trophy of the 12th annual tournament after a 67-57 triumph over Minnesota Valley Lutheran Wednesday at Bethany Lutheran Center.

"After coming here for eight years and never being champions, it's nice for the boys to get the trophy," NRHEG head coach Brian Riley said after the game. "There are only two times a year where you're in a tournament, and to win one of them is a lot of fun."

Buoyed by five 3-pointers and 10 points from center Cory Camerer, the Panthers raced out to a 37-26 halftime lead.

With starting guard Josh Hoffman unable to play due to an ankle injury, the Chargers relied heavily on the offensive production of forwards Galen Holzhueter and Christian Evers, who contributed a combined 24 of the team's 36 first-half points. After crawling back from a 10-point halftime deficit in the tournament semifinals, the Chargers again cut into their opponents' double-digit lead Wednesday after Holzhueter's jumper with six minutes remaining put the score at 50-42.

Turnovers of several variations — traveling, five-second violations, stripped balls— and missed free throws crippled the Chargers second-half attack, and MVL head coach Craig Morgan said it was wishful thinking to expect lightning to strike twice on consecutive nights.

"You can only (make that comeback) sometimes," he said. "You can't make a living off that. They're a good ball club and they made their shots. We expended a lot of energy last night and we just couldn't keep the energy tonight and we needed to cut down our mistakes."

But the Chargers managed one final offensive spurt before NRHEG pulled away in the final two minutes. Down 62-44 with three minutes remaining, MVL rattled off seven points over a 45-second span to pull within 11. The Panthers pressed hard on defense throughout the game, and clamped down hard enough in the final minutes to again extend the lead to double digits.

"Our defense came up big," Riley said. "(MVL) is a good team, they've got good shooters, and our defense really carried us."

Camerer, who made the all-tournament along with teammates Tyler Firme and Hunter Eustice, finished with 17 points. Junior guard Matt Nate also added 17 points, including 10 in the second half.

The Chargers were again led by Holzhueter, who posted 26 points and made the all-tourney squad. Evers added 17 points and also earned all-tournament honors.

"I was pleased with the effort," Morgan said. "I told the guys after the game that sounds like a loser's speech but the guys really improved with each game."

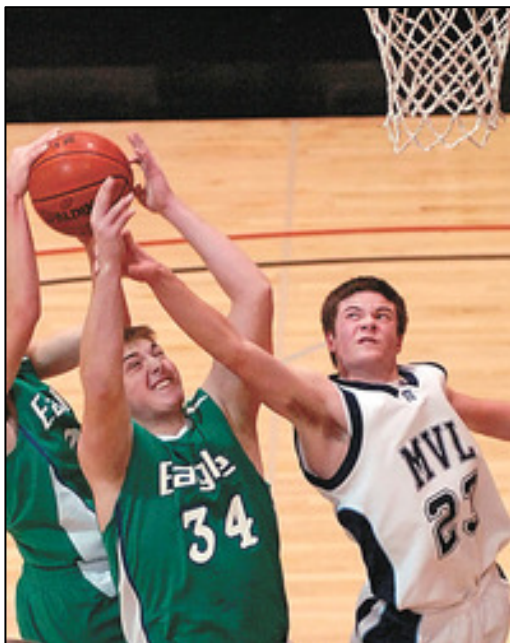
And for the first time after a holiday tournament, it was the Panthers who could call themselves champions.

## Bastian Column

By Jim Bastian — Journal Sports Writer

POSTED: January 2, 2010

**CHARGERS FALL IN FINALS:** After a season-opening loss to Sleepy Eye, the Minnesota Valley Lutheran boy's basketball team ran off four straight wins before losing to New Richland-Heartland-Ellendale-Geneva in the finals of the Bethany Lutheran College Tournament Wednesday.



MVL coach Craig Morgan said that the key to the winning streak was the fact that the players got to know each other and what their individual roles are on the team.

"We did not shoot the ball well in the first game," he said. "I think that if we would have shot the ball better and taken care of it, things might have been a little different."

Morgan said that inexperience on the part of some players may have led to some confusion in that first game.

"We had a couple of players on the team that took a year off from basketball with one player taking off two years," Morgan said. "They were confused because it was an overload of information for them. We all needed to get on the same page."

Morgan said that Josh Hoffmann and Christian Evers have improved their play recently.

"I knew last year that they could play this way," he said. "They are seniors now and they are contributing. Ben Dose and Michael Schlottmann have played well. Michael came off of the bench in the LeSueur-Henderson game and took advantage of the chance. He has not relinquished that sixth-man spot since then."

Morgan said that Seth Wendland has stepped it up as the Chargers' back-up point guard. Cole Brown has also come off of the bench as a key post player for MVL.

Morgan said the success at the Bethany Tournament is an omen for his team in the new year.

"It has been a stepping stone into the rest of our season," he said. "We see what some of the players are made of playing three days in a row - it is a defining three days for some players. We get that team chemistry in the tournament - I feel that team chemistry is huge. All that I can ask is that the team keeps improving and they are doing that now."

## **MVL to defend title**

By Dan Timm — Journal Sports Writer

*POSTED: December 30, 2009*

**MANKATO** - The Minnesota Valley Lutheran Chargers refused to go away, battling back from a 14-point deficit in the second half to pull out a thrilling 67-62 win over Maple River in the final minute of the semifinal game of the Pepsi Holiday Basketball Tournament Tuesday.

The Chargers scored the first six points of the game, but Maple River responded, tying the game at 11.

With the Eagles down 14-13, Jordan Drager scored six straight points to make it a 19-14 game.

The Chargers battled back, tying it at 22 after a Josh Hoffman jump shot.

The Eagles then rattled off 14 straight points, including eight by T.J. Nowak.

**Staff photo by Steve Muscatello**

Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Josh Hoffman (23) and Maple River's Jordan Leagjeld (34) reach for a rebound during the Chargers' win Tuesday at Bethany Lutheran in Mankato. For more photos of this event, go to <http://cu.nujournal.com>

The Chargers put up four points before the half to make it a 36-26 game at the half.

Hoffman led MVL with 14 points at the half, but injured his ankle with under a minute left.

Hoffman, Galen Holzhueter and Christian Evers were the only players to score for MVL in the first half.

The Chargers were in a tough spot, down 10 with their leading scorer out, but they did not give up.

They opened the second half with the first six points, capped off by a basket from Michael Schlottman, who got the second half start with Hoffman injured.

"[Schlottman] came in and did a nice job for us off the bench," MVL coach Craig Morgan said. "Michael Schlottman has been playing really nice. He's been hustling, moving around a lot, and playing good defense. When he's got the ball, he's hanging on to it and making some good decisions."

Maple River later responded, with an 11-1 run to give the Eagles a 50-36 lead.

Down 10 with eight minutes left in the game, MVL hit seven straight free throws to cut the lead to 54-51.

With three and a half minutes left, Ben Dose hit back-to-back jump shots near the free-throw line to give the Chargers a 57-55 lead, their first since being up 14-13 in the first half.

"Take it possession by possession and see what we can do," Morgan told his team at halftime. "If we can play defense and rebound, then that helps us. Cole Brown got a couple of good rebounds. Dose came in and got a couple of good rebounds, and that got the pressure off of Galen. [Evers] was in there playing good [defense] so we did an all around good job."

Garrett FitzSimmons hit a big 3-pointer with two minutes left, giving the Eagles a one-point advantage.

After a Holzhueter bucket for MVL and two free throws by Drager, the Eagles were again up 62-61 with just under a minute left.

Following a time out, Holzhueter drew a foul dribbling up the sidelines. He hit both free throws to give the Chargers a one-point lead.

The Chargers stopped Maple River and got the ball back to Holzhueter, who was quickly fouled. He hit his first shot, increasing the lead to two.

Following a Maple River time out, he was unsuccessful on his second. Dose grabbed the rebound and kicked it back out to Holzhueter, who was again fouled.

Again he went to the line, and again he made his first and missed his second after another time out by Maple River. This was Holzhueter's eighth straight point for the Chargers.

This time, the Eagles got the rebound with 12 seconds left. They hurried down the floor and shot a 3 to tie the game. The shot hit the front rim and Brown got the rebound for MVL. He was fouled, hit both free throws and sealed the Chargers' victory.

MVL will play in the championship game against New Richland-Hartland-Ellellendale-Geneva.

## MVL uses big Dose to defeat Maple River Chargers advance to title game of Pepsi Holiday Tournament

By Drew Lyon

Special to The Free Press

POSTED: Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2009 by Mankato Free Press

MANKATO — Minnesota Valley Lutheran spent much of Tuesday's game against Maple River clawing back from a double-digit deficit ... one bucket at a time.

Enter junior forward Ben Dose, who drained consecutive 17-foot jumpers — from nearly the exact same spot — in the final minutes to complete the Chargers' comeback. The result was a 67-62 win over the Eagles in a Pepsi Holiday Tournament semifinal at Bethany Lutheran College. The victory advances MVL to the tournament championship tonight against New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva.

"I take that shot quite a bit," said Dose, who finished with five points and also added a key offensive rebound in the final minute. "But it doesn't fall very much."

Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Galen Holzhueter (15) gets triple-teamed by Maple River's T.J. Nowak (23), Jordan Drager (1) and Clark Minks (33) during Tuesday's semifinal game of the Pepsi Holiday Boys Basketball Tournament at Bethany College.

Pat Christman / The Free Press

Down 36-26 in a plodding, turnover-riddled first half, MVL entered the second half determined to stifle Maple River with a combination of offensive aggressiveness and defensive grit, much to the satisfaction of head coach Craig Morgan.

"We came in at halftime kind of having our heads down and the guys made the adjustments," he said. "(Maple River) played good defense in the first half, that was the key.

"But I was real pleased with how we came out (after halftime). We really had to adjust on the fly and the guys believed in themselves."

It wouldn't be easy, nor without roadblocks. Minutes into the second half, Chargers senior guard Josh Hoffman, who finished with 14 points, exited the game with an apparent ankle injury.



MVL managed to trim the Eagles' lead to six early in the second half, but Maple River responded with 3-pointers from T.J. Nowak and Garret FitzSimmons to build a 52-40 lead midway through the period. Senior forward Jordan Drager led the Eagles with 18 points.

In the next seven minutes, the Chargers attacked the basket for a 17-3 run, culminating in Dose's second 17-footer from just beyond the free-throw line to put MVL ahead 57-55 with 3:30 left in the game.

"I guess we saved all our energy for the second half," shrugged MVL senior forward Galen Holzhueter, who finished with a game-high 27 points, including 16 in the second half.

"We either got tired or started settling for 3-point shots," Maple River head coach Chad Ostermann said. "I wasn't pleased with the effort.

"It was not an effort worthy of winning. The energy and enthusiasm wasn't there, and that's my responsibility"

After FitzSimmons hit a 3-pointer, the Eagles clung to a 62-61 lead with 59 seconds remaining. But MVL, which won the lopsided free-throw battle 33-12, grabbed several critical rebounds and loose balls, and sank six free throws in the final minute to seal the comeback.

"We're really starting to (become familiar with) each other," Morgan said. "We just hope to keep getting better and better."

Ostermann was left wondering what went wrong, and predicted the loss would send a stern message to his team.

## **Chargers roll to easy win**

By Dan Timm, Journal Sports Writer

*POSTED: December 29, 2009*

MANKATO - It didn't take Minnesota Valley Lutheran long to get back into basketball form after the break.

The Chargers used solid defense and a good first half to earn a 63-40 victory over St. Clair in the first round of Bethany's Holiday Basketball Tournament.

The game started out close as the Chargers and the Cyclones traded buckets early. After a Jarrett Finch basket for St. Clair cut the Charger lead to 10-9, Galen Holzhueter started to take the game over. Holzhueter had 18 of MVL's next 23 points to give the Chargers a 33-18 lead with just over two minutes left in the half.

MVL's tough defense also played a large part in helping them pull away in the first half. The Chargers used a 2-2-1 press paired with a solid man-to-man defense to hold the Cyclones to only 22 points at halftime.

"We've been practicing it and we've been using it," MVL coach Craig Morgan said about the press. "We saw that their guards were susceptible to a little bit of pressure. So we thought we'd try it a little bit without extending ourselves too far."

It was a very clean basketball game, as there were only three fouls called on MVL and five on St. Clair. Each team attempted only two free throws the entire game.

"We have been trying to work with moving your feet on defense and position on defense, and the guys moved their feet well," Morgan said.

The Cyclones' halftime adjustments seemed to be focused on stopping Holzhueter. After he scored 22 points in the first half, they held him to only two points in the second half.

The Chargers had to find other ways to score points. They spread the ball around much better in the second half, as six different players put points on the board in a low-scoring second half.

The Chargers quickly increased their 39-22 halftime lead to 46-24 after a Josh Hoffman 3-pointer.

The Cyclones responded, cutting the lead to 48-31 after Dustin Benning hit a 3 of his own, but that was as close as the Cyclones would get.

MVL didn't let the Cyclones back into the game and took a 60-34 lead with five minutes left before starting to rotate the backups into the game.

MVL will face the winner of the Mankato Loyola-Maple River game in the second round of the tournament.

# Chargers win big

Michael Gassett, Journal Sports Writer

POSTED: December 18, 2009

NEW ULM - Minnesota Valley Lutheran started strong and ended strong.

The Chargers just need to work on what happens in the middle.

MVL saw a double-digit lead collapse in the final minutes of the first half. But the Chargers used a strong start to the second half to blow out LeSueur-Henderson 65-40 in nonconference boys basketball play Thursday night.

MVL started the game strong and built the lead to 17 points at 27-10 with just under five minutes to play in the half. But LSH went on a 12-4 run over the final four minutes to cut the lead to 31-22 at the break.

"We just looked at what we had done right early in the first half," MVL coach Craig Morgan said. "We had a couple of things that we didn't do so well and we had to fix those things. We needed to talk through the screens, quit fouling and we needed to rebound a little better in the second half."

The nine-point deficit was as close as the Giants got because the Chargers opened the second half on a 17-3 run.

They kept the lead at 20 points the rest of the game.

MVL tried out a full-court press which helped the Chargers build a double-digit lead.

"We threw that in and the guys keep working at it," Morgan said. "It's going to pay off and we are going to tweak it a little more and get them to perfect it a little more. But we did all right with it."

Galen Holzhueter led all scorers with 20 points, 13 came in the first half. Josh Hoffman had 16 points and grabbed nine rebounds. Nate Siemers added eight.

Jack Fraser led LSH with 10 points. Eric Smith had nine.

MVL led the battle at the line with the Chargers shooting 13-for-17 from the line. LSH was just 2-for-13 from the charity stripe.

After starting the season with a 75-62 loss to Sleepy Eye, the Chargers have won two straight.

"We had first game mistakes," Morgan said. "Sleepy Eye is a good team and they shot well. They did a nice job that night and hats off to them. We are just going to keep trying and take baby steps and try and improve as the season goes a long. It's a long season with 22 more games left."

Staff photo by Mary Roufs  
Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Josh Hoffman goes up over a Le Sueur-Henderson defender during the game at MVL on Thursday night. For more photos of this event, go to <http://cu.nujournal.com>



"This is a pretty inexperienced group at the varsity level," Morgan said. "Mentally we are going to keep getting better and get more confident. Overall they are eager to learn and ready to come to practice each day."

Holzhueter takes control for MVL

## Chargers cruise past LSH

By Chad Courrier  
Mankato Free Press Staff Writer

POSTED Dec. 17, 2009



NEW ULM — Galen Holzhueter has played on some pretty good basketball teams at Minnesota Valley Lutheran, where he could let other players score, rebound or pass.

This season, with a much more inexperienced group of teammates, the Chargers' senior will need to do more.

"This group is a lot younger, and I need to be more of a leader and set an example," Holzhueter said. "But we're willing to work extra hard."

Holzhueter had 20 points, 14 rebounds and four assists Thursday as MVL downed Le Sueur-Henderson 65-40 in a nonconference boys basketball game at the MVL gym. Holzhueter had scored 54 points in the Chargers' first two games, and he's gone over 1,300 points for his career, with the school's scoring record of 1,652 points clearly within reach.

"He knows he has to score more for us; we didn't have to tell him that," MVL coach Craig Morgan said. "He's passing more, too, which will give some other kids confidence. That's what we need to take steps forward."

MVL led 5-4 after three minutes when Holzhueter took over. He fed Fred Evers for a layup, then scored three straight interior baskets. He added another driving basket with 10:40 remaining in the half to complete the 12-point Chargers' run.

Holzhueter, who will play next season at Martin Luther College, made two shots to start an eight-point run that made it 27-10, but Le Sueur-Henderson answered with a 10-2 burst, capped by consecutive 3-pointers by Eric Smith that cut the lead to 29-20 with less than two minutes before halftime.

The margin was nine at halftime, and Josh Hoffman nailed a 3-pointer to open the second half as MVL's lead was at least 10 the rest of the way.

"This is a good group of kids, but we're a work in progress," Morgan said. "I noticed some improvement in practice (Wednesday), and that's what's been fun. These kids give 100 percent each day in practice and are willing to learn, which is all I can ask."

Hoffman finished with 16 points and eight rebounds, as MVL had a 51-32 rebounding advantage.

Jack Fraser paced the Giants with 12 points, and Brendan Kroehler had a team-best six rebounds.

LSH (0-3) plays tonight at home against Montgomery-Lonsdale. MVL (2-1) is off until Dec. 28 against St. Clair in the opening round of the Bethany Lutheran College tournament.

“We’ve made a lot of improvement,” Holzhueter said. “(Early in the season) we could hardly get through drills in practice without losing the ball. We’re playing better, and hopefully, we’ll keep it rolling.”

## **MVL boys win big over Wabasso**

*POSTED: December 15, 2009 New Ulm Journal*

MVL boys 74, Wabasso 53

WABASSO - Minnesota Valley Lutheran defeated Wabasso in Tomahawk Conference boys basketball action.

Galen Holzhueter scored 26 points and had eight rebounds and Josh Hoffman had 13 points and Fred Evers had 12.

Tyler Huhnerkoch had 10 points for the Rabbits and Sam Guetter scored eight.

## **Sleepy Eye 75, MVL 62**

*POSTED Dec. 11, 2009 New Ulm Daily Journal*

SLEEPY EYE - Sleepy Eye had four players in double figures as it beat Minnesota Valley Lutheran 75-62 in Tomahawk Conference play Friday.

Tyler Hadley scored 20 points and had 11 assists. Nathan Kral scored 17 points, Eli Krumbach had 14 points and Andrew Geiger added 13.

MVL was led by Galen Holzhueter with 28 points.

## **The time is now for Holzhueter and MVL**

By Jeremy Behnke — Journal Sports Editor

*POSTED: December 3, 2009*

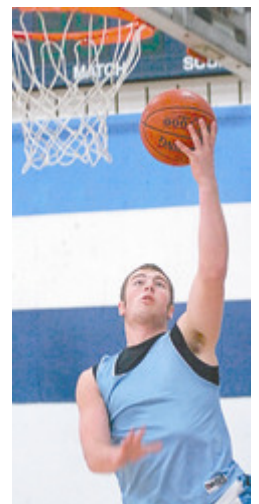
*Staff photo by Steve Muscatello*

**Minnesota Valley Lutheran senior Galen Holzhueter goes up for a lay-up in practice this week. Holzhueter averaged 19.8 points a game last year and is fourth on the school’s career points list. For more photos of this event, go to <http://cu.nujournal.com>**

NEW ULM - During last year's Section 3AA playoff loss to Montevideo, Minnesota Valley Lutheran's Galen Holzhueter felt that there was really nothing he could do as his team finished the season with a disappointing loss to the Thunderhawks that ended the Chargers season at 26-2.

That's because Holzhueter couldn't really do much since he was on the sideline with a leg injury that came in the win before. A season that began with high expectations and high hopes ended in big disappointment for the Chargers.

"That was definitely hard last year," Holzhueter said. "I think if things would have gone different, the season would've ended a lot more successful."



This year, Holzhrueter is back for the Chargers, who are once again hoping to make a deep postseason run. Although the cast of players around him will be different, Holzhrueter is hoping that the Chargers can keep everyone healthy this season.

"I'm hoping that all of my injuries for senior year are over and that we stay healthy and maybe we'll go a little bit farther in the playoffs this year," Holzhrueter said.

The Chargers open the 2009-10 season at Buffalo Lake-Hector Tuesday. For Holzhrueter, that means getting back down to business.

"It's been fun the past three years, but now this is the last season [for him] and the last chance to do whatever I wanna do," he said. "It's definitely exciting, we lost a lot of people last year but I think we have a good group this year."

Last year, Holzhrueter led the Chargers in scoring when he averaged 19.8 points per game. And for most people that average seems pretty high, but Holzhrueter still isn't satisfied and knows there are other parts of his game he'd like to improve upon.

"One thing people probably criticize about my game is that I don't shoot very well or I don't shoot enough," Holzhrueter said. "I'm looking to bring my game more on the perimeter and try to shoot some more 3's this year because in the past I've been known mostly as a driver or someone who'll lower my shoulder and try to get to the basket. I want to try to balance being able to shoot from the outside and being able to get to the hoop."

He knows getting to the hoop or finding his shot this year will be more difficult and he also knows that teams will throw a number of defenses at the Chargers aimed at stopping Holzhrueter.

"If you take one guy off of someone else, then he's obviously going to be open and that's one thing we'll work on in practice," Holzhrueter said. "If we need to make one or two extra passes to get him the ball, maybe we'll be able to take advantage of that and make this season a lot more successful."



Holzhrueter has been a starter for the Chargers for four years. During that time, he's put up some impressive numbers along the way, including his 1,391 career points, which puts him fourth all-time in school history. He trails Dan Unke (1,662), Tim Merseth (1,640) and Dave Begalka (1,588) in that category.

He's also fourth in field goals attempted and fourth in field goals made and he's third in free throws attempted and fourth in free throws made. He's also fourth in school history with 528 career rebounds, a record held by Begalka (941).

Fred Evers and Josh Hoffmann will play at the guard positions along with Seth Wendland, Dusty Compart and Josh Ristow. Ben Dose, Cole Brown and Kyle Henrich will play at the forward positions. Holzhrueter will play both guard and forward, depending on where he's needed.

The Chargers will be in the mix to compete in the Tomahawk Conference. Coach Craig Morgan thinks Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop, Springfield and Cedar Mountain/Comfrey will also be in the race at the end of the season. As for Section 3AA, Windom and Montevideo could be contenders along with GFW.

The Chargers don't have a lot of height this year with their tallest player being 6-foot-5 inches. But like they always do, they plan on running a lot and using the up-tempo style of play to their advantage.

"We have a lot of people who didn't get to use their full potential last year and we have some new people that maybe will catch some people by surprise this year," Holzhrueter said. "Who knows, maybe we could be a contender for the conference championship."