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## Crosby-Ironton High School Girls Basketball likely state bound Tori Oehrlein sets records and signs with Gopher women



Crosby-Ironton High School Girls Basketball team celebrated Tori Oehrlein's 5,000th point against Ogilvie on Friday, Jan. 16. Oehrlein went on to surpass Rebekah Dahlman's Minnesota all-time career points record of 5,060 points on Tuesday, Jan. 20 with 57 points against the Mille Lacs Raiders. Photos provided by C-I High School Girls Basketball Coach Pete Vukelich.

By ANN SCHWARTZ  
While Tori Oehrlein scored her 5,000th career point in Ogilvie, the 12 wins, 5 losses, Crosby-Ironton girls' basketball team continues their winning ways.

They are likely to enter state tournament play. But first, two major games on the schedule are February 17 versus Proctor and February 21, versus Minnehaha Academy.

"Our only losses are to big schools. We are a 2A school but we play tougher, harder 4A schools," explained Head Coach Pete Vukelich in a recent interview. "We like to be challenged by larger, tougher schools rather than

who we might play around here. Then we are ready for the playoffs. Proctor is pretty much our section rival and we'll have to get past them to get to state."

**Three outstanding senior on the team:**

**Tori Oehrlein** has signed to play basketball with the University of Minnesota Gopher women's team. She also reached 5,000 career points at a recent game against Ogilvie where the Rangers scored 100 points.

Oehrlein set state records for numbers of rebounds and numbers of assists, said Vukelich.

"She is a highly decorated

player who has seen it all."

**Sammie Hachey** has been a starter for four years and is a great scorer.

**Lucy Lewandowski** is a great utility player and longtime starter – a great



Sammie Hachey



Tori Oehrlein

rebounder. "She'll give us whatever we need that night, like 12 rebounds or whatever we ask her for," said Vukelich. "These students model great leadership to the other girls."

While not a "yeller" Vukelich says he lets his teams work hard and also play hard. "We need to lighten up once in a while and have some fun. But my players and I trust one another. They'll make suggestions of what to do on the court to improve the game."

He said they continue to play hard and recently lost a game against Monticello, a large school, in overtime. "That's the first time we've gone to overtime in five years. They are a 4A school and we really wanted to win.

We are learning a lot. Our motto is 'we either win or we learn.' We don't say that we lose."

The community has packed the stands for the last four years as the girls made their runs to state – also getting them used to playing in front of large and loud crowds. Families and businesses — the Hudson and Super One — have provided meals for the team.

In another month, the lady Rangers will be that much closer to a state championship berth (fingers crossed). Get out to the local gym on these cold, dark evenings and support the great C-I basketball tradition that continues with the Class of '26.



Lucy Lewandowski

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