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STATE CHAMPIONS!

DIVISION 2: Pewaukee girls

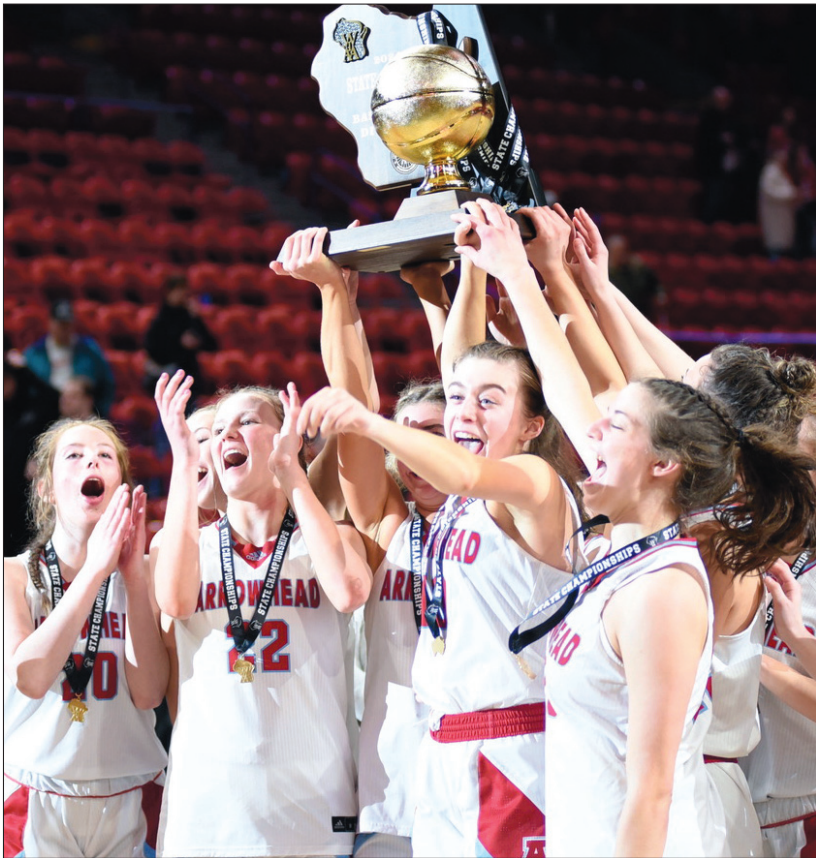


Dave Radcliffe/Freeman Staff

Pewaukee junior Amy Terrian, left, and sophomore Giselle Janowski hold up the gold ball in front of the Pirates' student section following the WIAA Division 2 state championship game March 9 at the Resch Center in Ashwaubenon.

► See story, Page 3

DIVISION 1: Arrowhead girls



Dave Radcliffe/Freeman Staff

Arrowhead's girls basketball team celebrates with the gold ball after winning the WIAA Division 1 state championship game March 9 at the Resch Center in Ashwaubenon.

► See story, Page 2

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Arrowhead claims first state title since '91

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WIAA DIVISION 2 STATE GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
Pewaukee 60, Notre Dame 52



Dave Radcliffe/Freeman Staff

Pewaukee junior guard/forward Anna Terrian shoots a three over Notre Dame junior guard Morgan Gokey during the WIAA Division 2 state championship game March 9 at the Resch Center.

3rd time’s the charm

Pirates take down Tritons for program’s first state title

By Dave Radcliffe
dradcliffe@conley.net
262-513-2655

ASHWAUBENON — The emotion was palpable on the face of Amy Terrian.

Two years ago on this very stage as a freshman, Terrian and Pewaukee’s girls basketball team watched Notre Dame celebrate at their expense after winning its second consecutive WIAA Division 2 state title.

As the final horn sounded, Terrian immediately offered a comforting embrace to teammate Sarah Newcomer. She then promised in the postgame press conference she’d one day help the Pirates bring home a gold ball.

That day, as it turned out, was March 9. This time as the clock hit zero and the Resch Center scoreboard read 60-52 in favor of Pewaukee, Terrian euphorically embraced sophomore teammate Giselle Janowski. That elation turned into tears,

the moment overwhelming the 5-foot-9 junior guard/forward — at least until that gold ball was in her hands, as she showed off her long jump skills to wrench the trophy away from head coach Jim Reuter during the postgame ceremony.

“I think everything happens for a reason,” Terrian said. “I think the Lord put us in that path two years ago to fall short and to learn from it, grow from it, seek after Him.

“It’s kind of unbelievable that we just did it.”

Believe it. The Pirates more than earned it.

The second-seeded Tritons (28-2) were seeking their record fourth state title in a row, as no other girls basketball team in WIAA history had ever four-peated. On the

flip side, No. 1-seeded Pewaukee (29-1) was in search of its first championship in program history.

“Every morning looking at two silver medals, that’s tough,” Terrian said. “But I think each year we grew as a team, we got closer, we got stronger.

“‘G’ (Janowski) said come out with that gut-wrenching feeling in your stomach the last two years and just pound them.”

See PEWAUKEE, PAGE 4



Dave Radcliffe/Freeman Staff

Pewaukee junior guard Kennedy Retherford tries to score against Notre Dame senior guard Paige DeMoulin, left, and junior guard Peyton Musial during the WIAA Division 2 state championship game March 9 at the Resch Center.

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Dave Radcliffe/Freeman Staff

Pewaukee junior guard/forward Giselle Janowski is fouled by Notre Dame senior guard/forward Gracie Grzesk during the WIAA Division 2 state championship game March 9 at the Resch Center.

Pewaukee

From Page 3

The hammer met the nail in the early going. Notre Dame turned the ball over on 10 of its first 12 possessions, and the Pirates opened up a 15-4 lead.

“We were on our heels a little bit to start the game,” Notre Dame coach Sara Rohde said. “We knew they were gonna blitz ball screens, blitz handoffs, and we just didn’t react to it very well for some reason.”

The past two years in the state final, Notre Dame gradually built a double-digit lead on Pewaukee and clamped down from there. The Pirates not only refused to let that happen the third time around, but managed to fend off every surge the Tritons made.

“They play so intense and they’re so relentless, and they’re always kind of able to dictate and have their way,” Reuter said. “They’re big, they’re strong, they’re physical. But to see our kids not back down today was very, very impressive.”

Junior guard Trista Fayta, who had a team-high 13 points but shot 6 of 15 from the field and didn’t make a three, brought Notre Dame within 21-19 after a three-point play. Then a driving layup by junior guard Peyton Musial (10 points) completed the comeback with 4 minutes, 37 seconds left in the first half. Two minutes later, senior guard Paige DeMoulin again evened the score with a three.

But the Pirates ended the half on a crucial 6-0 run, taking the lead for good on a pair of free throws by Janowski, who led all scorers with 20 points, with 2:27 to go until halftime.

“My mindset was get down hill, get them in foul trouble, and kind of just take their key players out of the game and allow us to get on runs,” Janowski said.

Notre Dame had three players whistled for two fouls in the first half, including 6-foot senior and Wisconsin recruit Gracie Grzesk, who was held to just five points.

“We got in foul trouble in the first half and I think that hurt us,” Rohde said. “She (Janowski) pretty much took it to us in the post in the first half.”

That 6-0 spurt extended into a 16-0 surge out of the break.

Junior guard Kennedy Retherford was the catalyst, scoring 12 of her 14 points in the second half. She pushed the lead back to double figures with a transition bucket, then knocked down a three before Terrian hit one of her own to make it 42-26 with 15:32 remaining.

“She’s kind of really come on this tournament,” Reuter said of Retherford. “I think that’s why we’re here. We’re able to go four or five kids deep and you’ve got to guard them all.”

But the Tritons had a couple more surges of their own left in them.

Grzesk found Musial to cut the deficit to 44-41 at the 7:45 mark. Then Fayta scored off a steal to bring Notre Dame within 53-52 with 2:39 to go.

But the Pirates, a year older and wiser since last year’s runner-up finish, wouldn’t break.

“It was just a little frustrating how we couldn’t get a stop or turned it over and then they’d score and keep getting the lead,” said Fayta, as the Tritons never led.

Retherford righted the ship when she scored from the post on the other end. Then Fayta had her pocket picked and Pewaukee was able to milk the clock for over a minute before Janowski was fouled. She would make 3 of 4 free throws over the final 52 seconds to put the championship on ice.

“It happens so fast, it really does,” Reuter said. “We’re in a grinder, three minutes to go. All of a sudden it’s over, we won. That’s a testament to these kids and their toughness and their poise.”

Terrian had 18 points and six assists. The Pirates, who also beat the Tritons 60-52 in the season opener, went 20 of 23 from the charity stripe.

“I don’t think it’s gonna soak in until maybe tomorrow,” Terrian said.

Terrian’s emotions were also fueled by sharing the achievement with her twin sister, Anna, and what she’s dealt with over the past nine months. Anna was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes last summer, but both committed to Michigan State in the fall, and now both can finally call themselves state champions.

“This is what we dream of being little kids and winning that thing and to do with your best friend, your best teammate and your sister is just incredible,” Anna Terrian said. “I have no words. It’s just so exciting.”

Janowski remembered being in eighth grade watching the Pirates lose to Notre Dame the first time at the Resch Center. Now, like her and the Terrian twins’ older brothers, she has a gold medal.

“They’ve (the Pewaukee community) watched us lose. They’ve been with us when we fail and to now finally be with us when we’ve had success, you can’t describe it. It’s just an amazing feeling,” Janowski said.

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MANAGEMENT

Bill Yorth - Publisher & Editor-in-Chief..513-2671
byorth@conleynet.com
Jim Baumgart - Freeman Group Ad Director 513-2621
jbaumgart@conleynet.com
Tim Haffemann - Circulation Director....513-2640
thaffemann@conleynet.com
Patricia Scheel - Prepress Manager.....513-2690
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Joe Rocha - Mailroom Supervisor..... 513-2659
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