

# Tigers Athletic News



## Tigers Boys Basketball Scoreboard

Trans. 8th	22
SPA	68
Trans. 5th	18
St. Croix	35

## Tigers Boys Basketball Upcoming Games

12/16 Trans. 5th	
Away 6:30pm	
12/18 Trans 8th	
Home at 4pm	
12/19 Trans. 8th	

## TIGERS BOYS BASKETBALL NEWS

### 8th Grade

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Tiger boys opened their season at home versus SPA Gold Dec. 11 with a raucous crowd and brisk concessions. It was a tall task – SPA Gold’s players had a lot of height, so the boys needed to show some Tiger might. SPA Gold jumped out to an early lead, yet some three pointers and trips to the foul line by Zac F. helped the Tigers put points on the board. Meanwhile, some scrappy defensive play and rebounds by Jesse H., Jack M., and Aiden A. ensured there was some Tiger glitter, not just SPA Gold. Gabe R. added a bucket and some stifling defense to simmer down the Gold rush. Luke H. roused the crowd as he hit a final-second, mid-court, three-point shot to end the first half. Alas, as Robert Frost once wrote, “Nothing gold can stay.” After the half, the Tigers ran into some foul trouble and a barrage of Tiger shots missed their mark while SPA hit pay dirt with some easy layups. Overall, it was a good effort by the boys against a formidable team and good for all players see how fast the game moves. The game ended with a loss, yet the season is young and we are looking forward to next week’s two games.

### 5th Grade

On Tuesday, December 10, the Transfiguration 5th-grade Tiger boys took their talents to the top of the hill in Stillwater for a battle with east-side powerhouse St. Croix Catholic. The Transfiguration coaching brain trust of Shelly Umland and J. Hruby knew the team would have its work cut out for it going into this critical game. As coach Hruby told the team before the game, "All the scouting services say St. Croix Catholic is a basketball machine. We need to bring our A-game if we want to throw a wrench in their gears and come out on top." The scouting services were right. St. Croix came to play a full-throttle game and they are tall, talented, and tenacious. The Tigers starting five took the fight to St. Croix Catholic right from the opening tipoff. Luke "The Motivator" Jacobson continued his string of high speed, low drag performances, sinking his first shot from so far into downtown Stillwater that some claimed he was standing on the Lift Bridge when he shot it. Jacobson again led the team in scoring with 10 points, proving that the coaching brain trust knew what they were doing when they recruited him from 4th grade to play in the big leagues. The Tiger's other 4th grader, Henry "Kirch" Kirchberg also burned the Under

Armor rubber as he racked up the miles playing both forward and guard. The

Transfiguration Twin Towers of Michael Merabella and Henry Hruby had a real inside battle on their hands as the two powerhouse centers waged open rebound warfare against St. Croix Catholic's multitude of big men. Both centers rebounded early and often to keep the Tigers within reach at halftime Merabella lead the big men with 2 points. Speedster guards Cam Bennett and Drew Gieser kept St. Croix Catholic guessing as they called Christmas-themed plays that kept the opponent in a less-than-festive mood. Bennett and Gieser finished with 2 and 4 points respectively as they put in a workman-like effort on both ends of the hardwood. Defensive shutdown artist Caleb Umland had his hands full with St. Croix deep and talented lineup. Forward Nathan Narusiewicz also logged big minutes for the Tigers as he muscled through the middle in an increasingly difficult battle deep in the second half. Eli Feaman, Juan Lopez-Munoz, and Alex "Don't call me Drew" Gieser also were key players in the run-and-gun battle. Ultimately the Tigers were unable to derail the St. Croix Catholic train. The final score was Tigers 18, St. Croix Catholic 35. Next week, the Tigers take it on the road again to do battle in Shoreview with the highly-ranked St. Odilia Knights. The scouting services say be ready for a full-tilt jousting match as these two eastern powerhouses collide. As Coach Umland said in the post-game press conference, "This is the last game before Christmas and St. Odilia won't be giving us any presents. We'll need to play our best game and do what we need to do to get the win."

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## Swim Team

Hear Ye—Hear Ye. The swim team is taking registrations for the Winter season. Practices start after the first of the year, but registrations should be submitted now. Mr. Kirchberg is our School Coordinator for the Swim Team. It is a great way to get exercise and learn some swimming strokes plus working as a team. We try to set up two practices a week and go to three or four meets. The end of the season concludes with qualified swimmers going to the CAA meet, the finals are held at the U of M Aquatic Center. There have been a number of forms submitted this past week, but we are accepting more.

If anyone wants to try it out to see if competitive swimming is for them let me or Mr. Kirchberg know and we will allow one or two practice days to check it out before committing to the team.

## Athletic Director

Watch for volunteering opportunities. During the Winter sports season we will need help with the scoreboard. Thanks to all the families that have helped during the fall season and volleyball playoffs.

Be aware that coaches, assistant coaches and volunteers need to be current with the VIRTUS training.

Any student athlete that wants to play on more than one team in the same season can explore that option, just be aware of the chance of more time conflicts.

Anyone can join the Tiger Pride Booster Club at any time during the year. It is a fun group and the money they raise selling concessions helps with the school sports teams.

Any questions can be directed to Jim Weingartz or Abbey Luger. GO TIGERS!!!!!!