

SPORTS

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2007

Lacrosse team asks district for official club status

By DUKE BEHNKE
NEWS-RECORD STAFF WRITER

NEENAH — Neenah High School senior Brad Simpson would like to graduate this spring with a varsity letter in lacrosse.

Simpson, a four-year member of the Neenah lacrosse team, can't earn a varsity letter now because lacrosse is not officially recognized as a club sport by the school district.

He and other members of the Neenah Lacrosse Club have asked the Board of Education to grant them official club status for the 2007 season.

That would give the team



Simpson

recognition in the yearbook, the ability to bestow awards, and consideration for field use at the high school.

"It would give us the opportunity to get recognized by the school and the student body," said Simpson, who plans to play lacrosse at college next year. "I think it is a big step to build the lacrosse program and the lacrosse team. It's a sport that is growing very fast."

Neenah Activities Director Kelley Hood said recognizing lacrosse as a club sport would

make it comparable to Neenah power lifting, which, like lacrosse, is not affiliated with the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association.

"I think it's a great thing," Hood said. "I really do. The caveat is that they have to be self-supporting."

Bob Simpson, president of the Neenah Lacrosse Club, promised just that. He said the club, which is entering its fifth season, is financially sound and would perpetually fund the sport.

"No additional funding would be required by the school system in granting this club official club status," he

said. "We ask that you seriously consider this proposal as it benefits the school, students and players at a very low risk."

School board President Scott Thompson asked administrators to examine the request and bring a recommendation to the school board.

The Neenah lacrosse team competes in the Bay Valley Conference against eight other teams. Half of them are official clubs (Bayport, Notre Dame Academy, Green Bay Southwest and Wausau), and half are not (Appleton, De Pere, Menasha and Oshkosh).

Duke Behnke can be reached at 920-729-6622, ext. 32, or dbehnke@newsrecord.net.

Wednesday, March 21, 2007 ■ www.postcrescent.com

The Post-Crescent, Appleton-Fox Cities, Wis. ■ C-3

Neenah schools

In other action

On Tuesday, the Neenah school board:

■ Designated lacrosse as an official club sport at Neenah High School. The status gives the Neenah lacrosse team recognition in the yearbook, the ability to bestow awards and consideration for field use. The Neenah Lacrosse Club will pay for all expenses associated with the team.

Approved the 2006-07 budget