

# Brothers to try Macker

By Mark Multer  
Wausau Daily Herald  
mmulter@wdhprint.com

Klint Knueppel and his "Flying Knueppel Brothers" Klay, Kole and Kon have traveled far and wide to compete in 3-on-3 basketball tournaments.

The brothers were in San Diego last weekend and have played in tournaments as far away as Nashville, Miami and the Czech Republic during the last 10 years or so. Although they all hail from the Milwaukee area, the four had never made the 3-hour trip north to Wausau for the annual Gus Macker tournament here — until this weekend.

"We're getting all juiced up to come up and play some ball," said Klint Knueppel, who said the brothers usually try to travel outside the state to compete against different competition. "It really is mostly that we were avoiding Wisconsin tournaments because we know so many Wisconsin guys that play in tournaments.

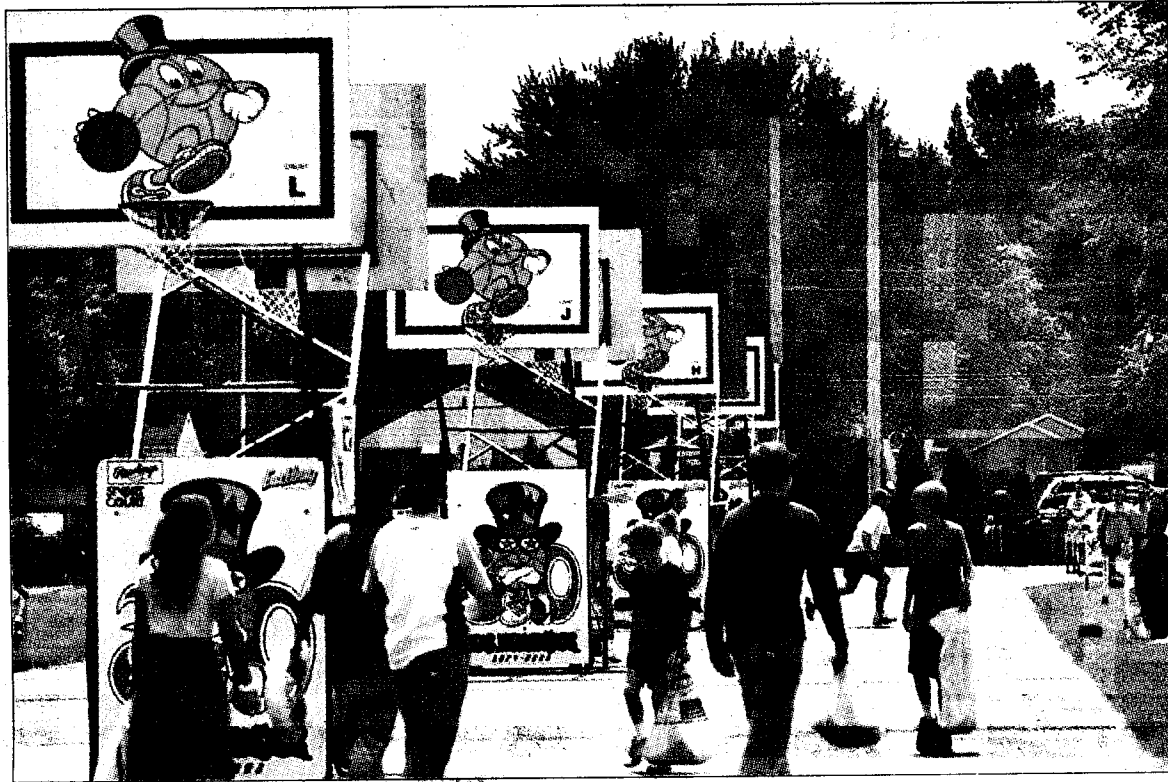
"But we're starting to run into guys in Illinois and Michigan now, and we've heard great things about Wausau."

The 12th annual Wausau Macker tips off today at 8 a.m. and wraps up Sunday afternoon. More than 900 teams and 30,000 spectators are expected for the event, which takes place between the Wausau West and Newman high schools.

The Knueppels (pronounced ke-nipple) will play under the team name SMI-Milwaukee, but Klint Knueppel said the brothers got their more colorful nickname from Gus Macker (a.k.a. Scott McNeal) himself.

"We definitely can't fly, in fact we don't look like we can play at all," Knueppel said. "He said it looked like a circus."

McNeal and his brother Mitch held the first Gus Macker in their driveway in Belding, Mich., in 1975, and the event has since expanded to



Bac Nghi To Trong/Wausau Daily Herald

Volunteer crews set up basketball courts Friday at Newman High School and Wausau West High School in preparation for this weekend's Gus Macker 3-on-3 basketball tournament. Action gets under way today at 8 a.m.



## 12th annual Gus Macker 3-on-3 basketball tournament

The 12th annual Gus Macker 3-on-3 basketball tournament will be held today and Sunday behind Wausau Newman High School.

### Today

Registration is 7 a.m. to noon.  
Games begin at 8 a.m.

and end at 5 p.m.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

there will be an Around the World 3-point shooting contest, free-throw contest, wall climbing, inflatable bounce house and Media Court, in which celebrities from local news and

radio stations compete.

The Slam Dunk contest is at 7 p.m.

### Sunday

No registration.  
Games begin at 8 a.m. and end at 5 p.m.

Same events as Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

more than 75 cities.

The tournament is bracketed by age, gender and ability level, and the Knueppels will compete on the top men's court.

Although this is the first trip to Wausau for the Knueppels, who plan to play in six more 3-on-3

tournaments this summer, it also could be their last.

"This is about it for me," said Klint, 38, the eldest brother to Klay, 34, Kole, 33, and Kon, 27. "I think 38 years old and playing in the top division, it takes me about a week to recover. Time is running out.

We're getting beat up, but it's fun."

The brothers have compiled a record of 129-30 with 19 tournament championships over the years. Although they hope to add another title this weekend, it's all in good fun.

"We could go and lose two out of three games, but just spending time together as brothers is the big thing," Klint Knueppel said. "We're coming to have fun. We want to win it, we're competitive, but we want to have fun while we're doing it."