Great 5-State under way
Two champs from Wisconsin; one each from MN, Iowa

Yippee! Pella’s Avery Parks, above, leaps for joy at the buzzer of their 20-19 win over Hawley in the fourth-grade finals. At right, Melik McLaughlin (far right), who hit the game-winner, and Jackson CC teammates celebrate their 45-44 overtime win over Alexandria in the fifth-grade title game.

Photos by Bruce Strand, Minnesota Basketball News
‘Milwaukee style’ prevails

By Bruce Strand

The city of Milwaukee was well-represented at the Pacesetter Great Five-State Championships last weekend.

Milwaukee Reagan powered its way to the eighth-grade boys title, capped by a 56-39 conquest of Mankato (MN) in the finals Sunday at Target Center.

“We play Milwaukee style basketball: tough mentally and physically, get out and run and use our athleticism,” coach Mark Halbrooks said.

Milwaukee Reagan beat Byron (MN) 45-38 and Rapid City (SD) 44-38 at Maple Grove Middle School to reach the finals.

8TH GRADE BOYS FINAL:
MILWAUKEE REAGAN 57, MANKATO 39

Hollbrook said his Pacesetter lineup included boys from various Milwaukee schools. His Reagan eighth-grade team won the top middle-school league in Wisconsin, going 10-4 in division and 5-0 in playoffs. They usually play on separate AAU teams in the summer.

Team members were Dino Cooks Jr., Isaiah Brown, Mason Halbrooks, Josh Bailey, Austin Villareal, Luther Smith Jr., Simeon Murchison, Nollenn Tabaska, and Prentice Young Jr.

“We had a great time at your tourney,” Hollbrook added.

Mankato team members were Isaac Brennan, Caleb Mathiowetz, Zack Wells, Trey Satre, Simon Morgan, Lawson Godfrey, Brandon Meng, Carter Zimmerman, Josh Kann, Jake Sizer and Tanner Winkler.

“We were looking for an affordable, fun alternative to AAU, and Pacesetter fit perfectly,” coach Daniel Godfrey said.

After placing third in the Minnesota tournament, Mankato got past Marathon (WI) 32-24 and Byron 40-26 to reach the five-state finals. Byron had beaten them in the regional at Rochester.

“Our group sometimes struggles out of the gate on offense, but our defense is always ready,” Godfrey said.

Mankato’s payback win over Byron, and getting to play for the championship at Target Center, were the team’s highlights, Godfrey said.

“We wish we’d come out on top, but we got beat by a strong, classy team out of Milwaukee,” Godfrey said. “All in all, it was a great experience for the boys.”

(Byron had a second game in the first round because there were only seven teams. The Bears went on to place third.)

Mankato’s Zack Wells scores over Milwaukee’s Nollenn Tabaska.
Jackson repeats with OT win

By Bruce Strand

Jackson County Central’s fifth-grade boys basketball team is 92-2 over the last three years, and probably never had a win more hard-fought than the one over Alexandria for the 2019 Great Five-State title.

The Huskies nipped Alexandria 45-44 in overtime at Target Center in Minneapolis on Sunday to repeat as champion. JCC won as fourth-graders last year.

Melik McLaughlin hit both baskets in the two-minute OT. He sank the game-winner with two seconds left on a short jumper from the baseline. It was 41-41 in regulation, each team missing a chance in the final minute.

5TH GRADE BOYS FINAL: JACKSON COUNTY CENTRAL 45, ALEXANDRIA 44, OT

“They are a fantastic team, solid in all phases of the game and extremely well coached,” said JCC coach Shawn Foster about Alexandria, against whom the Huskies also had close games in this year’s and last year’s state tournaments. “I am sure we will see each other again next year and we are looking forward to it.”

JCC reached the finals beating Lisbon (ND) 51-22 at Maple Grove Middle School and Roseau (MN) 37-28 at Target Center.

Members are Roman Voss, Weston Rowe, Mason Foster, Ben Gallagher, Melik McLaughlin, Austin O’Reilly, Isaac Hesebeck, Kade Freking-Leu, Kash Gilbert and Isaiah Moum-Bratrud. Coaches are Foster, Nick Rowe, and Ed Gallagher.

“One can’t help but speculate on what lies ahead for them.”

Alexandria defeated West Fargo Swish (ND) 61-35 and Winneconne (WI) 33-26 to reach the finals. The Cardinals were on the verge of finally foiling JCC when Gavin Roderick sank a 3-pointer with a half-minute left in OT for a 44-43 lead.

“We’ve had three games against them that could have went either way,” said coach Zach Witt. “It’s fun to go against great teams like JCC.”

Members are Roderick, Myles Gray, Camden Kosters, Mason Witt, Talan Witt, Beau Jones, Max Jansen, Thomas Hinrichs, and David Hinrichs. Coach are Zach Witt and Forrest Witt.
Hortonville rises to top

By Bruce Strand

The Hortonville sixth-grade girls of Wisconsin captured the Pacesetter Great Five-State title.

In the finals, the Polar Bears defeated Bismarck Energy 33-22 at Target Center on Friday. Both teams had won their Pacesetter state tournaments.

Hortonville beat Becker (MN) 36-14 and Estherville (IA) 29-20 at Maple Grove Middle School to reach the finals.

6TH GRADE GIRLS FINAL:
Hortonville 33, Bismarck Energy 22

“All the girls on the team work together very well and understand that each brings something to the team and they are needed,” coach Mandy Peters said about the 12-girl squad. “Our bench brings a lot of motivation to the team; they are fully involved and are always being great teammates.”

Team members are Gianna Schanke, Jenna Haas, Naevy Peters, Rainey Welson, Mya Valeri, Maci McNichols, Leah Heraly, Autym Peters, Chelsea Jungwirth, Anya Smith, and McKenna VanDettey. Coaches are Jeff Peters, J.B. Haas, and Bill Worley.

Bismarck Energy defeated Harrisburg (SD) 42-14 and New Ulm (MN) 33-21 to reach the finals.

Team members are Taya Fettig, Macy Johnson, Attriana Backman, Ashlyn Buchholz, Alexis Selesky, Grace Horner, Whitney Welk, and Brooklynn Felche. Coaches are Tere Selensky and Kristin Johnson.

Hortonville players were all smiles after completing their drive at the Great Five-State championship.


Bismarck Energy's Brooklynn Felche reaches high for a rebound.
Champ is Pella in a thrilla

By Bruce Strand

The fourth-grade girls from Pella, Iowa, emerged as Pacesetter Great Five State champions, capped by a one-point victory in the finals.

The Iowa state champions edged Hawley, the Minnesota champion, 20-19 at Target Center. In the final minute, they got a short jump shot from Lucy Carlson and a reverse layup from Ella Tousey to pull out the win.

To reach the finals, Pella Black, as they are officially designated, beat DeForest (WI) 28-19 and Alexandria (MN) 24-18 in pool play at Maple Grove.

4TH GRADE FINALS: PELLA 20, HAWLEY 19

Coach Tim Tousey attributes his team’s success to “aggressive defense with help side principals” and “pushing the pace in transition and on offense,” plus good teamwork, ball-handling, and being able to finish at the hoop with either hand.

Team members, all Jefferson Intermediate students, are Carlson, Tousey, Emma Walkup, Avery Parks, Riley Parks, Taryn Hole, and Makaeyla Vincent. Other coaches are James Walkup and Paul Parks.

Hawley got to the finals beating Markesan (WI) 24-10 and Kimball (MN) 21-8 in pool play. Team members are Taelyn Card, Lakyn Donnelly, Marley Knutson, Josie Schenck, Ali Langerud, Katie Vetter, Jordan Christofferson, Avery Strawvell, and Katie Jackson. Coaches are Jen Christofferson and Danelle Card.
GREAT 5-STATE, JUNE 14-16

8TH GRADE BOYS

Quarterfinals
• Milwaukee Reagan (WI) 46, Byron 38
• Rapid City (SD) 44, Lakeview (MN) 38
• Mankato (MN) 32, Marathon (WI) 24
• Byron (MN) 48, Aberdeen Central (SD) 42

Semifinals
• Milwaukee Reagan 58, Rapid City 22
• Mankato 40, Byron 26

Championship
• Milwaukee Reagan 56, Mankato 39

Third place
• Byron 40, Rapid City 26

Consolation
• Lakeview 34, Marathon 25
• Aberdeen Central 43, Marathon 20
• Lakeview 49, Aberdeen Central 47
(Lakeview is consolation champ)

6TH GRADE GIRLS

Quarterfinals
• Estherville (IA) 40, Dover-Eyota (MN) 7
• Hortonville (WI) 36, Becker (MN) 14
• Bismarck Energy (ND) 42, Harrisburg (SD) 14
• New Ulm (MN) 31, Underwood (ND) 19

Semifinals
• Hortonville 29, Estherville 20
• Bismarck Energy 33, New Ulm 21

Consolation
• Becker 30, Dover-Eyota 29
• Underwood 14, Harrisburg 13

Consolation champion
West Fargo 32, Fargo Serkland 25

Consolation third place
• Lisbon 33, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 24

4TH GRADE GIRLS

Pool play
• Hawley (MN) 24, Markesan (WI) 10
• Alexandria (MN) 18, DeForest (WI) 11
• Kimball (MN) 22, Markesan 18
• Bella Black (IA) 28, DeForest 19
• Hawley 21, Kimball 8
• Pella Black 24, Alexandria 18

Championship
• Pella Black 20, Hawley 19

Third place
• Alexandria 20, Kimball 6

Fifth place
• DeForest 19, Markesan 11

8TH GRADE BOYS

Winneconne’s Parker Groff scores against Roseau.

Championship
• Hortonville 33, Bismarck Energy 22

Third place
• New Ulm 30, Estherville 28, OT

Consolation
• Fargo Serkland 32, Lisbon 23
• West Fargo Serkland 50, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 13

Consolation champion
West Fargo 32, Fargo Serkland 25

Consolation third place
• Lisbon 33, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 24

4TH GRADE GIRLS

Pool play
• Hawley (MN) 24, Markesan (WI) 10
• Alexandria (MN) 18, DeForest (WI) 11
• Kimball (MN) 22, Markesan 18
• Bella Black (IA) 28, DeForest 19
• Hawley 21, Kimball 8
• Pella Black 24, Alexandria 18

Championship
• Pella Black 20, Hawley 19

Third place
• Alexandria 20, Kimball 6

Fifth place
• DeForest 19, Markesan 11
STATE TOURNAMENTS JUNE 16

8TH GRADE BOYS

Quarterfinals
• Eden Valley-Watkins 22, Houston 17
• Grand Rapids 32, Barneville 20
• Mount. Iron-Buhl 40, Hawley 23
• Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart 32, Houston 19

Semifinals
• Grand Rapids 19, Eden Valley-Watkins 17
• Mountain Iron-Buhl 58, Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart 20

Championship
• Mountain Iron-Buhl 37, Grand Rapids 29

Third place
• Eden Valley-Watkins 47, Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart 38

Consolation semifinals
• Hawley 19, Barnesville 13
• Houston 39, Barnville 33
• Hawley 26, Houston 21

(Each is consolation champ)

8TH GRADE GIRLS

Quarterfinals
• Cass Lake-Bena 35, Sartell-St. Stephen 34

Consolation semifinals
• Mountain Iron-Buhl 38, Moose Lake-Willow River 37
• Stewartville 38, Byron Black 28

Consolation champion
• Mountain Iron-Buhl 24

Consolation 3rd place
• Byron Black 30, Moose Lake-Willow River 28

5TH GRADE GIRLS

Quarterfinals
• Crosby-Ironton 29, Lanesboro 14
• Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 20, Virginia 10
• Minnewaska Area 18, Yellow Medicine East 15

Semifinals
• Crosby-Ironton 35, Stewartville 24
• Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 18, Minnewaska Area 10

Championship
• Crosby-Ironton 31, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 26

Third place
• Minnewaska Area 17, Stewartville 12

Consolation semifinals
• Lanesboro 20, Nett Lake 16
• Virginia 25, Nett Lake 13

(Each is consolation champ)

4TH GRADE BOYS

Quarterfinals
• Byron 25, Moorhead 21
• Grand Rapids 36, Minnesota Valley Lutheran 19
• Minneapolis Green Central 40, Moose Lake-Willow River 14
• Central MN Christian 29, Moorhead 27

Semifinals
• Byron 25, Moorhead 21
• Central MN Christian 36, Minneapolis Green Central 32

Championship
• Central MN Christian 31, Grand Rapids 28

Third place
• Minneapolis Green Central 21, Byron 18

Consolation
• Minnesota Valley Lutheran 31, Moose Lake-Willow River 25
• Moorhead 51, Moose Lake-Willow River 32
• Moorhead 46, Minnesota Valley Lutheran 21

(Each is consolation champ)
8TH GRADE GIRLS

Quarterfinal
• Ely 28, Nett Lake 27
• Caledonia, Park Rapids, and Luverne had byes

Semifinals
• Caledonia 33, Ely 24
• Park Rapids 18, Luverne 15

Championship
• Park Rapids 22, Caledonia 20, OT

Third place
• Luverne 43, Nett Lake 18
• Luverne 38, Ely 19

6TH GRADE BOYS

Quarterfinals
• Detroit Lakes 24, Jackston Co. Central 14
• St. James 43, Lac qui Parle Valley 29
• Lewiston-Altura 45, Madelia 12
• Redwood Valley 32, Jackson County Central 25

Semifinals
• Detroit Lakes 35, St. James 31
• Lewiston-Altura 36, Redwood Valley 26

Championship
• Lewiston-Altura 31, Detroit Lakes 27

Third place
• Redwood Valley 37, St. James 23

Consolation
• Lac qui Parle Valley 38, Madelia 34
• Jackson County Central 36, Madelia 17
• Jackson County Central 42, Lac qui Parle Valley 41
(Jackson County Central is consolation champion)

4TH GRADE BOYS

Semifinals
• Clearbrook-Gonvick 39, Lewiston-Altura 26
• Rothsay 20, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 8

Championship
• Rothsay 31, Clearbrook-Gonvick 30, OT

Third place
• Lewiston-Altura 27, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 14

5TH GRADE GIRLS

Quarterfinals
• Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial 24, Mt. Iron-Buhl 23, 2 OT
• Fillmore Central 19, Nevis 11
• Kelliher/Northome 24, Houston 9
• Hawley 34, Mount. Iron-Buhl 5

Semifinals
• Fillmore Central 23, Lac qui Parle Valley 2
• Hawley 28, Kelliher/Northome 15

Championship
• Hawley 19, Fillmore Central 12

Third place
• Kelliher/Northome 28, Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial 18

Consolation
• Houston 20, Nevis 17
• Nevis 26, Mountain Iron-Buhl 6
• Houston 26, Mount. Iron-Buhl 12
(Houston is consolation champion)
Great 5-State champs June 14-16

8th grade boys
MILWAUKEE (WI) REAGAN
Front: Dino Cooks Jr, Isaiah Brown, Mason Hallbrooks, Josh Bailey, Austin Villareal, Luther Smith Jr ... Back: Simeon Murchison, coach Mark Hallbrooks, Nollenn Tabaska, Prentice Young Jr.

6th grade girls
HORTONVILLE (WI)
Front: Gianna Schanke, Jenna Haas, Naevy Peters, Rainey Welson, Mya Valeri, Maci McNichols ... Back: coach Bill Worley, Leah Heraly, Autym Peters, Chelsea Jungwirth, Anya Smith, McKennia VanDettey, head coach Jeff Peters ... Rear: coach JB Haas

5th grade boys
JACKSON CO. CENTRAL (MN)
Front: Isaiah Meium-Bratrud, Ben Gallagher, Kash Gilbert, Austin O’Reilly, Melik McLaughlin ... Middle: Weston Rowe, Kade Freking-Leu, Isaac Hesebeck, Roman Voss, Mason Foster ... Back: coaches Nic Rowe, Ed Gallagher, Shawn Foster

4th grade girls
PELLA (IA)
Front: Emma Walkup, Ella Tousey, Avery Parks, Riley Parks ... Back: Coach James Walkup, Lucy Carlson, Taryn Hol, Makayla Vincent, Coach Paul Parks, Coach Tim Tousey
Great 5-State runners-up, June 14-16

8th grade boys
MANKATO (MN)
Front: Isaac Brennan, Caleb Mathiowetz, Zack Wells, Trey Satre, Simon Morgan, Lawson Godfrey and Brandon Meng ... Back: Carter Zimmerman, Josh Kann, Jake Sizer and Tanner Winkler ... Not pictured: Coach Daniel Godfrey

6th grade girls
BISMARCK ENERGY (ND)
Front: Whitney Welk, Grace Horner, Brooklynn Felchle, Alexis Selensky, Macy Johnson ... Back: Coach Tera Selenske, Atrianna Backman, Taya Fettig, Ashlyn Buchholz, Coach Kristin Johnson

5th grade boys
ALEXANDRIA (MN)
Front: Camden Kosters, Max Janssen, Thomas Hinrichs, Mason Witt, Talan Witt ... Back: Coach Forrest Witt, Myles Gray, Beau Jones, Gavin Roderick, Coach Zach Witt

4th grade girls
HAWLEY (MN)
Great Five State boys snapshots

Rapid City’s Carson Kurtenbach leads a break against Byron.

Mankato’s Tanner Wenkler scores on a reverse layup against Milwaukee.

Ethan Russell of Aberdeen was able to score despite tight defense by Lakeview’s Owen Louwagie.

About to score were Roseau’s Jordan Borowicz (left) and Alexandria’s Max Janssen (above).

Byron’s Nick Netzke snags a rebound in front of Rapid City’s Aidan Unterbrunner.
Kimball’s Kylie VanNurden was surrounded by Alexandria players Erin Cross (2), Gretta Kelly, McKinley Hoelscher, and Lylah Radach.

Haylee Stokes brings Estherville up the court, trailed by New Ulm’s Morgan Hulke.

Hawley’s Katie Vetter protects the ball while pressured by Pella’s Ella Tousey.

Morgan Hulke (left), after hitting a game-winning shot against Estherville, is hugged by Kenzie Enter as they celebrate along with Maddie Gilles.
Pacesetter state champs June 16

8th grade girls
MOUNTAIN IRON-BUHL
Standing: Hali Savela, Jordan Zubich, Sage Ganyo, Desi Milton, Angel Moore, Gabby Lira, Zoe Bialczak
Sitting: Suzy Aubrey, Mya Gallus... Not pictured: Coach Jeff Buffetta

6th grade boys
WASECA
Front: Coach Brian Rupe, Damarius Russell, Deron Russell, Jameson Paulson, Isaac Feldkamp... Back: Coach Gregg Feldkamp, Tauston Rupe, Cameron Karsten, Max Howard, Coach Corey Rupe

5th grade girls
CROSBY-IRONTON
From left: Emma Silgin, Lucy Lewandowski, Veronica Millsop, Tori Oehrlein, Kirsten Nixon. Sammie Hachey, Ryley Bartels... Not pictured: Coach Kyle Bartels

4th grade boys
CENTRAL MINN. CHRISTIAN
Front: Kyle Schwitters, Sutton Van der Hagen, Andrew Broberg... Back: Will Schneiderman, Eli Gerdes, Asher Wieberdink, Carter taatjes, Carter Ruplinger... Not pictured: Coach Dustin Van der Hagen
Pacesetter state runners-up June 16

8th grade girls
GRAND RAPIDS
Front: Bethany Mendonsa, Taryn Hamling, Samantha Brink, Reiley Leppanen, Lindsey Racine ... Back: Coach Rich Kane, Braya LaPlant, Hannah Hostetter, Katie Jamtgaard, Jessika Lofstrom, Kyra Giffen, Coach Mandy Giffen, Coach Eric Blair

6th grade boys
TRACY-MILROY-BALATON
Front: Ryker Davis, Quinn Landherr, Noah Knakmuhs, Cade Swenhaugen ... Back: Aidan Swenhaugen, Alex Munson, Trevor Smith, Dalton Timmerman, Taylor Swenhaugen ... Not pictured: Coach Michael Munson

5th grade girls
JANESVILLE-WALDORF-PEMBERTON
Kneeling: Kwynn Krause, Nevaeh Weimert, Katelyn Olson, Brooklin Hinze .... Standing: Coach Beth Weunert, Ellie Morsching, Aubrey Adams Brielle James, Mikayla Wheelock .... Rear: Coaches Ben Wheelock, Darin Hinze

4th grade boys
GRAND RAPIDS
Front: Matthew Ringold, Brennan Lane, Chaston Finckbone, Riley Matteson ... Middle: Jack Johnson, Grady Giffen, Tyler Christofferson Ethan Morgan ... Back: Coach Giffen, Coach Christofferson, Coach Morgan
Pacesetter MIT champions June 15

8th grade girls
PARK RAPIDS

Front: Tori Weaver, Christina Engst, Mikey Clark
Back: Madyson Maninga, Avery Cerderstrom, Julia Harmon, Olivia Davis, Gabby Sherpersky
Not pictured: Coach Chris Bungert

6th grade boys
LEWISTON-ALTURA

Front: Wyatt Kriedermacher, Carter Cady, Collin Lande, Tyler Steele

5th grade girls
HAWLEY

Front: Eagan Hastings, Mallory Halvorson, Sella Fleming, Sydney Martin
Back: Brooke Geoffrey, McKenna Walker, Kelby Christofferson, Emily Vettern
Not pictured: Coach Kristi Fleming

4th grade boys
ROTHSAY

Front: Tydan Holland, Jeremiah Ziegler, Ben Metzger, Mason Heidecker, Trey Holland
Back: Coach Dana Holland Sr., Coach Tanner Tollerud, Kellan Simmer, Tripp Meyer, Tate Marich, Tyson Tollerud, Wesley Phillips, DJ Holland, Coach Travis Tollerud
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- Rochester, MN... July 6-9
- Puyallup, WA... July 9
- Walker, MN... July 9
- Redwood Falls, MN... July 10
- Grand Rapids, MN... July 10
- Rochester, MN... July 10
- Grand Rapids, MN... July 11
- Redwood Falls, MN... July 11
- Redwood Falls, MN... July 15
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