Garcia, Prior Lake post a signature win at Breakdown

Pirates, Hopkins, Minnehaha also among victors

By Bruce Strand

A year ago, three different teams topped the Class 4A boys rankings before New Year’s. Uneasy lies head with the crown, so they say, although it doesn’t really matter who wears it until late March.

There’s already a change this season after East Ridge, the MBBN’s pre-season No. 1 pick, and the Star-Tribune’s as well, was taken down by Prior Lake 70-62 on Saturday at the Breakdown Tip-Off Classic.

Prior Lake’s 6-10 junior Dawson Garcia was dominant on both ends with 25 points, 15 rebounds (several off the tip-in), and stout defense. East Ridge’s highly-regarded 6-10 junior Ben Carlson was limited to two points.

“Dawson is an incredible defender, and with Rob backing him up, he can get even more aggressive,” said coach Robert Schweim, referring to 6-9 senior Robert Jones.

Jones and Sam Nissen added 13 points each for Prior Lake. Leading East Ridge were the Brown brothers, senior Courtney and sophomore Kendall, with 20 points each.

Prior Lake has a loss on its ledger also, against Park Center 66-64 in the opener for both teams.
Star sidelined, Islanders cruise

By Bruce Strand

DeLaSalle, top-ranked in Class 3A, has already beaten a pair of Class 4A top-ten teams, and didn’t have their most-recruited player for the second of those, when they foiled Wayzata 70-49 at the Breakdown Tip-Off Classic on Saturday.

Jamison Battle, who’ll play for George Washington next year, poured in 40 points for the Islanders. Keijuan White chipped in 11 points and Jalen Travis 10. Wayzata was led by Jacob Beeninga with 15.

Sitting it out was Tyrell Terry, who picked Stanford over the Gophers, Indiana, Iowa and others. Terry has a recurring shoulder issue, said coach Travis Bledsoe, adding that it’s “too early to tell” about his status. Terrell hit 28 points and Battle 21 when the Islanders opened with a 76-66 conquest of Eden Prairie.

Jamison Battle, on the way to a 40-point game for DeLaSalle, protects the ball from Wayzata’s Keaton Heide at the Breakdown Tip-Off.
Breakdown: Timmons, Steele, Hurt break 40

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The guy everybody wants to see, Matthew Hurt of Rochester John Marshall, hit 42 points, but Cretin-Derham Hall coasted 81-64 against the Rockets. Amari Carter pumped in 23 points, Curtis Jones 21, Jaeden King 14 and Tre Holloman nine for the Raiders. Hurt, 6-11 senior moving like a slippery point guard, shot 17-for-24.

Cameron Steele, 6-8 junior, erupted for 43 points as Minnetonka thumped Rochester Mayo 105-77. Five Skippers were in double digits as Lyric Radford added 16, AJ Tolliver 13, Gavin Patton 12 and Riley O’Connor 11. For Mayo, Gabe Madson netted 21 points, Mason Madsen 12, Andre Crockett 12, and Calvin Dixon 10.

Edina could not stop Tartan star Antwan Kimmons, who poured in 45 points, but defeated the Titans 74-67, led by Jack Middleton with 34, Jacob Hudson added 10.

St. Thomas Academy edging Robbinsdale Cooper 78-77 as Jack Thompson struck for 37 points, sinking five of six free shots at the end to hold the lead. Noah Chamberlain added 27 more as STA built a 15-point lead and held on. Majay Murphy and Denzil Walker tallied 16 each and Damarri Bankhead 12 for Cooper.

Minnehaha Academy, top-ranked and two-time defending state champion in Class 2A, outgunned Champlin Park 79-68 with junior Jalen Suggs hitting 33 points, sophomore Chet Holmgren 18 and freshman Prince Aligbe 17. Bennett Otto netted 27 for the Rebels and Jacob Johnson added 12. (The 3-1 Redhawks were then foiled by Hopkins 66-59 on Tuesday.)


Also in 2A, Breck held off Lake City 57-52 with forward David Roddy hitting 22 points. Jimmy Koch netted 12 and Jaren Morton 10. Lake City’s Reid Gastner sank 19 and Nathan Heise and Jake Wohlers 12 each.

North Woods, state Class A runner-up the past two years, made the 234-mile trip to Hopkins for the first time and defeated Mayer Lutheran 59-46. Cade Gogleyee led with 25 points and his sophomore cousin Darius Goggleeye added 12. Mayer Lutheran got 23 from Baden Noening. North Woods played without junior post Trevor Morrison, an all-state tourney pick last year along with Cade Goggleye. Coach Wade Kleppe said Morrison has a hand injury and will miss approximately four weeks.
Four boys HOF coaches inducted

Kraig Ulveling, Randy Carlson, Jerry Wieme and Jerry Wohler were added to the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Association’s Hall of Fame on Oct. 27.

Ulveling was state Coach of the Year in both Minnesota (2002) and South Dakota (1992). He coached Red Wing for 10 years, with six state trips and two runner-up finishes (2002, 2004), then switched to the Winger girls team, to coach his daughters, posting 120 wins and two more state trips in seven seasons. Counting years at Mountain Lake and Watertown (SD), where he had five state trips and a state title in 1992, he compiled a 368-155 record with boys.

Carlson coached Belle Plaine for 25 years, retiring in 2010, posting a 347-248 record, five conference titles and two state trips (1999 and 2005). He returned to coach the Tiger girls from 2012-17 and got two more Minnesota River Conference coach of the year awards, adding to five with the boys.

Wieme took Kenyon-Wanamingo to the Class 2A state title in 2001, highlighting a 27-year tenure with a 301-195 record, six conference titles and two state trips. He was also activities director and coached football, volleyball and golf.

Wohler headed championships at Bird Island-Lake Lillian in 1980 and 1981, capping a 16-year tenure, after which he made a career change to banking. Counting five previous seasons in North Dakota (with one fourth-place state finish), Wohler had a 301-138 record.

UWGB honors Dawson-Boyds’s Nordgaard

Jeff Nordgaard was set to play college football as a quarterback upon graduation from Dawson-Boyd in 1991, because no D-I programs had shown interest in him for his favorite sport, basketball.

That plan changed when he finished his prep career by leading the Blackjacks to their first, and still only, state tournament, and sparkled in three games there as they placed third. Wisconsin-Green Bay noticed, offering the 6-7 forward a scholarship, which he jumped at.

UWGB got a huge return on its belated investment. Nordgaard scored 1,911 points for the Phoenix and became the second-most popular athlete in town behind Brett Favre. The 6-foot-7 forward scored 22 ppg as a senior, leading the Phoenix to a 16-0 conference record and 25-4 overall. He was a second-round draft pick by the Milwaukee Bucks, had a brief NBA career, and played eight pro seasons in Europe.

UWGB recently retired Nordgaard’s number, 33, and honored him at last Saturday’s game against Belmont. The only other number UWGF has retired is 25, worn by Tony Bennett, current University of Virginia coach.

Other than the 1991 state tournament, Nordgaard is remembered in southwest Minnesota for two showdowns with Todd Bouman of Russell-Tyler-Ruthhton, who had a 12-year NFL career as a backup QB with six teams including the Vikings. These small-town legends and future pro athletes dueled in the section finals their senior year in both football (Bouman won) and basketball (Nordgaard won, with each scoring around 40 points).
Great college VB career for hoop star

By Bruce Strand

Taylor Reiss chose volleyball as her college sport despite a prodigious basketball career at Minneota, highlighted by helping the Vikings to the state Class 1A championship as a sophomore in 2013. She delivered 30 points and 12 rebounds in the 61-51 finals win over Ada-Borup. She led the Vikings to the finals again in 2014 (they lost to Win-E-Mac) scored 3,038 career points.

Reiss obviously made a good choice with volleyball. The 5-10 outside hitter for Southwest Minnesota State was recently named national Division II Player of the Year for the second straight season. She blasted 2,196 kills for the Mustangs in a four-year career.

Another McDonald 2,000-pointer

The McDonald 2,000-Point Club expanded by one when Hibbing senior guard Abbey McDonald scored 27 points in a 56-47 win over Princeton on Dec. 7. She joins her cousin Mariah McDonald (2,003, Ely, 2012), her aunt Judy McDonald (2,152, Chisholm, 1984), her uncle Tom McDonald (2,221, Chisholm, 1982), and her father Joel McDonald, whose 3,292 for Chisholm was the state record when he graduated in 1991.

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Two Eden Valley-Watkins girls scored their 1,000th point five days apart — junior guard Olivia Kuechle (Nov. 29 with 17 points in a 47-35 win over New London-Spicer) and senior forward Emma Schultz (Dec. 4 with 23 points in a 60-22 win over Holdingford).

Zimmerman’s all-time scoring leader Alyssa Daugherty, passed the 2,000 marker on Dec. 8 when the senior guard sank 14 in a 68-52 loss to Monticello.

Glaring omission

Mallory Brake, Hastings junior, was inadvertently left off our annual Top 50 in each class pre-seasons lists this year. Brake was picked last year as a sophomore and went on to average 17.6 points and 12 rebounds on a 19-9 team. Brake is recruited by over 50 schools, with more than 10 Division I offers. She has already passed 1,500 points, 900 rebounds, 300 assists and 200 blocks in her career.

Mike Devney, who coached Esko for 19 years, with six state tournament trips, and a state Class 2A title in 2014, is now coaching Duluth Denfeld, where he’s taught for 27 years. His contract was not renewed at Esko after last season and he figured it was a good time to call it quits. However, during a vacation in Thailand last summer, he realized he wasn’t ready. He told the Duluth News-Tribune: “I need something to do, a reason to get out of bed in the morning.” When Denfeld coach Jeff Nace stepped down, after 24 years, due to a back problem, Devney landed the job. The Hunters are currently 2-3 and beat his old squad, Esko, on Tuesday, 72-70.

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Julian Benson of East Grand Forks was carried off the court, suffering cramps in both legs, late in the game, when the Green Wave hosted Sacred Heart in their opener Dec. 4. However, Benson not only returned but delivered the game-winner with 2.5 seconds left, driving for a layup off an inbounds pass. “I knew I had to get back in,”’ the 5-11 junior guard told the Grand Forks Herald after the 79-77 win. “It was a close game and we had people in foul trouble.” Benson notched 20 points, nine rebounds and six steals.

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The White Bear Lake boys team’s first two opponents each sank 15 three-pointers against them, but the Bears still won both games, 96-76 over Cambridge-Isanti and 90-87 over North St. Paul. The Bears got 32 points from Jeremy Becker in each game as the 6-8 forward shot 28-for-38. Sam Schwartz scored 27 and 22 points, and Isaac Tessier 18 and 13. North guard Shaheed Muhammad drilled eight 3-pointers and 34 points.

* * *

Ken Klawiter, clock operator at Hayfield basketball games and other sporting events since 1972, was recently named to the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Association’s Hall of Honor. The school called attention to this Dec. 4 when the Vikings beat Southland 71-55. The retired teacher has also constructed trophy display cases, book shelves, and the Hall of Fame display for the school. Interviewed by Rocky Hulne for the Austin Herald, he mentioned what every clock operator realizes early: you’re not there as fan. “You cannot watch the ball game,” he said. “You’ve got to concentrate on starting and stopping the clock.”
By Bruce Strand

Nevis basketball standout Michael Landquist, who suffered serious injuries in an auto accident just after the 2017-18 season, is back for his senior season, on a limited basis.

“Michael is going to play basketball this season,” coach Scott Kramer reports, “but is also in rehab mode, and is progressing nicely, but obviously not at a level near where he once was as a player.”

Landquist was a double-digit scorer and all-conference pick on a 23-6 basketball team last year. He was also a football and track athlete before the accident.

The teenager had to be extricated by the Jaws of Life after the car he was driving collided with a pickup truck near Park Rapids on Tuesday, March 20. The roads were slippery and snow-covered, according to the police report. The other driver was not injured.

Suffering breaks in his femur, hip, humerus, vertebrae and nose, but no internal injuries, according to information on his CaringBridge page, the three-sport athlete underwent a 4 1/2 hour surgery that day, and another operation later.

(Information for this report taken from the Park Rapids Enterprise newspaper, and the Park Rapids Chamber of Commerce web site.)
Breakdown Tip-Off Classic snapshots

Dain Dainja of Park Center yanks down a rebound against Eden Prairie. The Pirates won 70-62.

East Ridge’s Courtney Brown drives against Prior Lake’s Robert Jones during a 70-62 loss to the Lakers.

Cade Goggye of North Woods drives against Mayer Lutheran’s Cole Stramer.

Wayzata’s Luke Paulson scores after a steal against DeLaSalle.

Rochester JM’s Matthew Hurt surveys the court. He scored 42 points in an 81-64 loss to Cretin-DH.

Tre Holloman of Cretin-Derham Hall bolts to the hoop with RJM’s Simon Werven in pursuit.
Breakdown Tip-Off Classic snapshots

Mayer Lutheran’s Alexander Flucas was about to score after picking up a loose ball ahead of North Woods’ Cade Goggleye and Chase Kleppe.


Caledonia’s Noah King hits a 3-pointer with a hand in his face, during a 66-61 loss to Perham.

Brandon Adelman of NLS scores during a 65-34 win over Mpls. Roosevelt.

Jalen Suggs dunks for Minnehaha in a 79-68 win over Champlin Park.

Carter Cresap (21) of Perham foiled a drive by Caledonia’s Tate Meiners.

MBBN photos by Bruce Strand
MBBN GIRLS BASKETBALL TOP 20

CLASS 4A

1. Hopkins 6-0
2. Wayzata 6-0
3. Eastview 3-1
4. Roseville Area 6-0
5. St. Michael-Albertville 4-0
6. Stillwater 4-1
7. Farmington 3-0
8. Forest Lake 5-1
9. Eden Prairie 5-1
10. Lakeville North 2-3
11. Centennial 2-2
12. Park Center 3-2
13. Prior Lake 2-2
14. Apple Valley 4-1
15. Chaska 3-2
16. Armstrong 5-0
17. Maple Grove 3-2
18. Elk River 3-2
19. Burnsville 3-1
20. Rochester John Marshall 5-0

CLASS 2A

1. Roseau 3-1
2. Stewartville 7-1
3. Sauk Centre 4-1
4. Eden Valley-Watkins 4-0
5. Proctor 5-0
6. Minnehaha Academy 3-4
7. Holy Family Catholic 5-2
8. Rush City 3-1
9. Norwood-Young America 4-0
10. Lake City 5-0
11. New London-Spicer 2-1
12. Annandale 6-0
13. Duluth Marshall 6-0
14. Maranatha Christian 1-2
15. Pine City 5-0
16. Hawley 4-0
17. Concordia 4-1
18. Rochester Lourdes 2-3
19. Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial 5-0
20. Foley 4-0

CLASS 3A

1. Alexandria 3-0
2. Willmar 3-0
3. St. Paul Como Park 6-0
4. Mankato West 5-0
5. Waseca 6-0
6. Waconia 6-0
7. Hill-Murray 6-0
8. Simley 3-1
9. Red Wing 5-1
10. New Ulm 5-1
11. Holy Angels 5-1
12. Benilde-St. Margaret’s 7-1
13. Northfield 2-2
14. Becker 5-1
15. Grand Rapids 4-1
16. Hibbing 5-1
17. Robbinsdale Cooper 1-3
18. DeLaSalle 1-3
19. Austin 5-1
20. St. Cloud Apollo 4-1

CLASS 1A

1. Minneota 4-0
2. Mountain Iron-Buhl 5-0
3. Heritage Christian 6-0
4. Menahga 5-0
5. Pelican Rapids 3-0
6. Ada-Borup 3-1
7. Grand Meadow 6-0
8. Goodhue 5-1
9. Lac qui Parle Valley 4-0
10. Hills-Beaver Creek 5-0
11. SW Minnesota Christian 3-1
12. BOLD 3-2
13. Cromwell-Wright 4-0
14. Parkers Prairie 5-0
15. Stephen-Argyle 4-0
16. Red Lake 5-0
17. Wabasso 3-1
18. Pine River-Backus 2-1
19. Park Christian 6-0
20. Cherry 4-1
## MBBN BOYS BASKETBALL TOP 20

### CLASS 4A

1. Park Center 3-0  
2. Prior Lake 2-1  
3. East Ridge 2-1  
4. Hopkins 3-1  
5. Lakeville North 2-1  
6. Eden Prairie 2-2  
7. Wayzata 3-1  
8. Cretin-Derham Hall 3-1  
9. Shakopee 3-0  
10. Edina 2-1  
11. Minnetonka 3-0  
12. Tartan 2-1  
13. St. Paul Central 2-0  
14. Champlin Park 1-1  
15. Eastview 3-1  
16. Chaska 2-2  
17. White Bear Lake 3-0  
18. St. Michael-Albertville 3-0  
19. Maple Grove 1-1  
20. Moorhead 3-0

### CLASS 3A

1. DeLaSalle 3-0  
2. Princeton 4-0  
3. Mahtomedi 2-0  
4. St. Thomas Academy 3-1  
5. Mankato East 1-0  
6. Robbinsdale Cooper 1-1  
7. Northfield 2-0  
8. Waseca 3-0  
9. Austin 1-1  
10. Delano 2-1  
11. Hibbing 3-1  
12. Marshall 1-1  
13. St. Paul Harding 1-0  
14. Bemidji 2-0  
15. St. Cloud Apollo 2-2  
16. Fergus Falls 3-1  
17. Totino-Grace 2-1  
18. Benilde-St. Margaret’s 2-2  
19. Hermantown 5-0  
20. Columbia Heights 0-2

### CLASS 2A

1. Minnehaha Academy 3-1  
2. Minneapolis North 2-1  
3. Breck 4-0  
4. Perham 2-1  
5. Lake City 3-1  
6. Caledonia 3-1  
7. Melrose 2-0  
8. Breckenridge 2-1  
9. Osakis 3-0  
10. Minnewaska Area 3-0  
11. Spectrum 3-0  
12. La Crescent-Hokah 3-0  
13. Hawley 3-0  
14. St. Charles 3-0  
15. St. Cloud Cathedral 1-1  
16. Pine City 3-0  
17. Holy Family Catholic 3-0  
18. Rochester Lourdes 2-1  
19. Albany 2-1  
20. Greenway 3-0

### CLASS 1A

1. Minneota 4-0  
2. Springfield 3-0  
3. Cass Lake-Bena 2-0  
4. Russell-Tyler-Ruthhton 3-0  
5. BOLD 4-0  
6. North Woods 4-1  
7. Ortonville 3-1  
8. Minnesota Valley Lutheran 4-0  
9. Cromwell-Wright 3-0  
10. Mountain Lake Area/Comfrey 1-0  
11. Mayer Lutheran 3-1  
12. Mahnomen-Waubun 2-0  
13. New Ulm Cathedral 2-1  
14. Henning 3-0  
15. Ada-Borup 3-0  
16. Murray County Central 4-0  
17. SW Minnesota Christian 3-0  
18. Mountain Iron-Buhl 5-0  
19. Randolph 2-0  
20. Hancock 3-0