WEEKLY ROUNDUP
*New London-Spicer, Hull-Western Christian, Bismarck Showtime, and Watertown are 5-state champs
*Top 100 Expo’s top teams, players saluted

Great 5-State wraps up
Once champ each from MN, IA, ND, & SD in finale

Championship action, clockwise from top left -- Marcus Rabine of 7th-grade champion Watertown works for a shot against Brainerd’s Dillon Gross; New London-Spicer’s Izzy Schmiesing, Miller Holland, Zoe Arnold, Avery Rich, and Audrey Schneider beam after defeating Stephen-Argyle Central in the 9th-grade finals; Eli Van Essen of 9th-grade champion Hull (IA) Western Christian drives against Sam Dewey of Moose Lake-Willow River; Ryah Rood of 9th-grade champ Bismarck Showtime jukes past Detroit Lakes’ Ellie Bettcher to score.

Photos by Bruce Strand, Minnesota Basketball News
Wild ride for wild card NLS

By Bruce Strand

The New London-Spicer ninth-grade girls made the best of an unexpected invitation to the Pacesetter Great Five-State tournament last weekend.

The Wildcats, playing stout defense throughout, captured the championship with three victories at Target Center in Minneapolis, capped by a 26-16 win over Stephen-Argyle Central in the finals Sunday.

“This was a great thing for these girls, to come in as a wild card and then win the whole thing. It was pretty crazy. These girls got up early Sunday and said, we are going to win this!” coach Earl Rich said. “We as coaches were hoping they could win one or two games.”

In pool play Saturday evening, the Wildcats got past two North Dakota teams, Turtle Mountain 34-18 and DL-B/MLS/KW, a combo of seven small towns 33-22. (Summary, Page 6).

9TH GRADE GIRLS FINAL:
NEW LONDON-SPICER (MN) 26,
STEPHEN-ARGYLE CENTRAL (MN) 16

“The number one thing was our defense,” Rich said. “We don’t have any real standout players but they all play great defense. We usually play full-court press, but the Target Center court is 10 feet longer, and the girls were running out of gas our first game, so we went to a 1-3-1 half-court, which worked really well, and we stuck with that the next two games.”


The Wildcats bounced back that day to edge Tracy-Milroy-Balaton 32-26 and Minnesota Valley Lutheran 38-36.

Stephen-Argyle Central lost to NRHEG 40-32 in the state finals. The top two in each state advance automatically to the five-state tournament. However, NRHEG and other qualifiers were unable to attend, opening a slot for NLS.

The Wildcats were 8-1 in Pacesetter region, state and five-state tournaments, 25-4 in MYAS tournaments (including one win over NRHEG) and 6-0 in the Pepsi League, which NLS hosts.

9th grade girls: continued on Page 15
Hull: all the way in 1st try

By Bruce Strand

The Hull Western Christian ninth-grade boys, taking on Pacesetter competition for the first time, rolled to the championship of the Great Five-State tournament.

The Wolfpack toppled Moose Lake/Willow River, the Minnesota champion, 42-34 in the championship Sunday at Target Center. They reached finals getting past Brainerd (MN) 52-41 and Hawley (MN) 40-20.

“This was our first time in the Pacesetter. Normally we have an AAU team, as our players come from different grade schools,” said coach Scott Van Essen. It worked out this summer to enter Pacesetter after winning their only other tournament, at Augustana.

9TH GRADE BOYS FINAL: HULL WESTERN CHRISTIAN
(IN) 42, MOOSE LAKE-WILLOW RIVER (MN) 34


They had just nine games this summer — in basketball anyway — winning them all. In the school year, some were JV, some freshman team. Various players were in soccer, track, or baseball this summer. Some juggled a baseball tournament with the five-state tournament.

“We have a balanced scoring team, and we also showed defensive improvement over the short season,” coach Van Vugt said, “with our trapping and helping behind the trap. We have good length. We have kids who can shoot the three and get to the rim.”

MLWR earned its spot in the five-state finals by scuttling Deer River/Fond du Lac (MN) 46-34 and St. Joe’s Waconia (MN) 38-36. The Rebels, who nipped Byron 41-39 in the Minnesota finals, consist of Connor Welch, Zach Youngs, Duane Broughton, Phillip Sheetz, Sam Dewey, Chance Lunde, Dom Bilyou, Landin Kurhajetz, Logan Orvedahl, and Alex Watrin. Coaches are Paul Dewey and Angie Orvedahl. They were 22-3 in JV in the school year.

Rebel hallmarks, coach Paul Dewey said, are “Aggressive man to man team defense, excellent shooters, typically great team offense, getting everyone involved on offense.” Sheetz, Orvedahl, Broughton and Dewey are three-point threats. Kurhajetz is the top best rebounder and shot blocker. Broughton is adept on the dribble drive to the hoop. Lunde is the spark off the bench.

The Rebels entered Pacesetter tournaments each of the last five years and this was the first time they broke through. In previous Pacesetter state toursneys, they placed fifth twice, then third twice, losing to the state champs. “So proud they finally did it in their last year,” Dewey said. Reaching the finals at Target Center made it even sweeter.
Bismarck girls nab hat trick

By Bruce Strand

It’s a hat trick for the Bismarck Showtime seventh-grade girls. They have captured their third Pacesetter Great Five-State championship in four tries.

Showtime turned back Detroit Lakes (MN) 29-20 in the championship game (the fourth one they’ve played in) at Target Center on Sunday, July 14.

After winning Pacesetter’s North Dakota tournament, they advanced to the five-state finals defeating St. Peter (MN) 35-30 and Plainview-Elgin-Millville 43-12.

7TH GRADE GIRLS FINAL: BISMARCK (ND) SHOWTIME 29, DETROIT LAKES (MN) 20

Showtime is 18-3 in the summer, following 35-6 season during the school year. This group won the Pacesetter Great Four-State title as fourth-graders, lost in the finals to Detroit Lakes in fifth grade, won it again last year when it expanded to five states, and have now repeated.

“The girls spend a lot of time in the gym, but also enjoy spending time together off the court, creating memories and developing friendships that lead to an undeniable chemistry while playing basketball,” coach Brent Dschaak said. “It is exciting to see the team work together and mesh with each other no matter which five girls are on the court.”

Showtime, which beat Grand Forks 32-25 in the North Dakota finals, has the following team members: Paige Breuer, Londyn Dschaak, Raya Rood, Eden Fridley, Kaitlyn Toman, Madison Conner, Lauren Weiler, Mia Berryhill, and Anika Kvien. Coaches are Dschaak, Jim Breuer, Russ Conner and John Berryhill.

Dschaak listed a couple highlights for Showtime — Raya Rood making a double-move on the low block to score on a left-handed finger roll, then nailing a 3-pointer two possessions later; and Anika Kvien sinking a three, then, shortly after, making a dribble drive for a floater the connected over some long outstretched arms. “Both exemplify the work the girls put in to improve their games,” Dschaak said.

“The teams and sportsmanship at the Pacesetter tournaments are second to none, and the opportunity to play at the Target Center is an incredible experience!” the coach said. Detroit Lakes was the

Ellie Bettcher (white uniform) of Detroit Lakes and Paige Breuer (5) of Bismarck Showtime get down and dirty pursuing a loose ball.

Bismarck Showtime was all smiles with the 7th-grade championship plaques added to those they earned in 4th grade and 6th grade.

Ellie Bettcher (white uniform) of Detroit Lakes and Paige Breuer (5) of Bismarck Showtime get down and dirty pursuing a loose ball.

7th grade girls: continued on Page 15
Watertown’s ‘good mix’ wins

By Bruce Strand

The Watertown seventh-grade boys emerged as champions in the Pacesetter Great Five-State tournament. The Arrows fought off Minnesota champions Brainerd 32-27 in the finals at Target Center on Sunday, July 14.

“This is a team that has put in a tremendous amount of time since first grade,” coach Matti Kranz said. “They are very unselfish, and play the game the right way.”

Watertown reached finals beating Moose Lake/Willow River (MN) 34-22 and Jamestown (ND) 38-19.

7TH GRADE BOYS FINAL: W ATERTOWN (SD) 32, BRAINERD (MN) 27

“Each of them has their strengths, and combined, they play a fun style of basketball,” Kranz said.

“We have a good mix of size and perimeter scoring that poses problems for opponents.”

Watertown, which beat Gregory 47-26 for first place in the South Dakota tournament, has the following team members: Brody Torgerson, Dylon Rawdon, Will Engstrom, Kohen Kranz, Marcus Rabine, Juven Hudson, and Jake Olson.

Brainerd advanced to the finals beating Lisbon (ND) 42-33 and Adel-DeSoto-Minburn (IA) 41-38.

The Warriors, who tipped Stewartville 48-45 in the Minnesota finals, have the following team members: Brady Rushin, Jameson Dale, Bennett Bennander, Jake Merseth, Dillon Gross, Brandon Stark, Nate Herkenhoff, and Eli Holtz. Coaches are Jon Dale and Nick Hoelz.
Great 5-State, July 13-14

9TH GRADE GIRLS

Pool play
• Stephen-Argyle (MN) 37, Four Winds (ND) 30
• New London-Spicer (MN) 34, Turtle Mountain (ND) 18
• Stephen-Argyle 33, Estherville Lincoln Central (IA) 32
• New London-Spicer 33, Des Lacs-Burlington/Mohall-Lansford-Sherwood/Kenmare-Westhope (ND) 22
• Estherville Lincoln Central 50, Four Winds 36
• DLB/MLS/KW 35, Turtle Mountain 29

Championship
• New London-Spicer 26, Stephen-Argyle 16
Third place
• DLB/MLS/KW 23, Estherville Lincoln Central 20
Fifth place
• Four Winds 23, Turtle Mountain 18

9TH GRADE BOYS

Quarterfinals
• St. Joe’s Waconia (MN) 37, LaMoure (ND) 26
• Moose Lake/Willow River (MN) 46, Deer River/Fond du Lac (MN) 34
• Hull Western Christian (IA) 52, Brainerd (MN) 41
• Hawley (MN) 45, Tri-Valley (SD) 29

Semifinals
• Moose Lake/Willow River 38, St. Joe’s Waconia 36
• Hull Western Christian 40, Hawley 20
Championship
• Hull Western Christian 42, Moose Lake/Willow River 34

7TH GRADE GIRLS

Quarterfinals
• West Fargo Lightning (ND) 26, Estherville Lincoln Central (IA) 9
• Detroit Lakes (MN) 24, Rapid City (SD) 14
• Bismarck Showtime (ND), St. Peter (MN) 30
• Plainview-Elgin-Millville (MN) 26, Wagner/Avon (SD) 23

Semifinals
• Detroit Lakes 24, West Fargo Lightning 15
• Bismarck Showtime 43, Plainview-Elgin-Millville 12

Championship
• Bismarck Showtime 29, Detroit Lakes 20
Third place
• West Fargo Lightning 290, Plainview-Elgin-Millville 18
Consolation semifinals
• Rapid City 28, Estherville Lincoln Central 12
• St. Peter 29, Wagner/Avon 26
Consolation championship
• Rapid City 42, St. Peter 35
Consolation third place
• Estherville Lincoln Central 36, Wagner/Avon 33

Duane Broughton of MLWR was about to score on a break, trailed by Donte Gulker of Hull.

7TH GRADE BOYS

Quarterfinals
• Watertown 34, Moose Lake/Willow River (MN) 22
• Jamestown (ND) 36, Paynesville (MN) 21
• Adel-DeSoto-Minburn (IA) 36, Cashton (WI) 31
• Brainerd (MN) 42, Lisbon (ND) 33

Semifinals
• Watertown 38, Jamestown 19
• Brainerd 41, Adel-DeSoto-Minburn 38
Championship
• Watertown 32, Brainerd 27
Third place
• Adel-DeSoto-Minburn 29, Jamestown 26
Consolation semifinals
• Moose Lake/Willow River 31, Paynesville 23
• Cashton 31, Lisbon 27
Consolation championship
• Moose Lake/Willow River 36, Cashton 32
Consolation third place
• Paynesville 27, Lisbon 26
Great 5-State champs July 13-14

9th grade girls
NEW LONDON-SPICER (MN)

9th grade boys
WESTERN CHRISTIAN (IA)

7th grade girls
BISMARCK SHOWTIME (ND)
First: Paige Breuer, Londyn Dschaak, Raya Rood … MIDDLE: Eden Fridley, Kaitlyn Toman, Madison Conner … Back: Lauren Weiler, Mia Berryhill, Anika Kvien

7th grade boys
WATERTOWN (SD)
Front: Brody Torgerson, Dylon Rawdon, Will Engstrom … Back: Kohen Kranz, Marcus Rabine, Juven Hudson, Jake Olson, coach Matti Kranz
Great 5-State runners-up, July 13-14

9th grade girls
STEPHEN-ARGYLE (MN)
Front: Madelyn Groven, Marey Kazmierczak, Casey Osowski, Macy Haugen .... Back: coach Heidi Carlson, Greta Weberg, Josie Rivard, Grace Carlson, Maysie Snnsky, Riley Mooney, coach Scott Groven

7th grade girls
DETROIT LAKES (MN)
Front: Ava Jones, Brook Markuson, Helena Daggett, Ella Bommersbach .... Back: Karly Mace, Hanna Knoop, Ella Okeson, Grace Gunderson, Elle Bettcher, Sydney Borgmann

9th grade boys
MOOSE LK-WILLOW RIVER (MN)
Front: Connor Welch, Zach Youngs, Duane Broughton, Phillip Sheetz, Sam Dewey .... Back: coach Angie Orvedahl, Chance Lunde, Dom Bilyou, Landin Kurhajetz, Logan Orvedahl, Alex Watrin, coach Paul Dewey

7th grade boys
BRAINERD (MN)
Front: Brady Rushin, Jameson Dale, Bennett Bernander, Jake Merseth .... Back: coach Nick Hoelz, Dillon Gross, Brandon Stark, Nate Herkenhoff, Eli Holtz, coach Jon Dale
Great Five State boys snapshots

Hull Western Christian’s Eli Van Essen tries to drive through a maze of Moose Lake-Willow River defenders: Landin Kurhajetz, Sam Dewey, and Duane Broughton (14).

Brainerd’s Jake Merseth (34) and Watertown’s Dylon Rowdon (8) scramble after a loose ball.

Jamestown’s Treyton Wibstad shoots against tight defense from Watertown’s Dylon Rowdon.

Grant Rychnovsky of Adel-DeSoto-Minburn (IA) shoots against Brainerd.
Great Five State girls snapshots

All fall down -- Ella Okeson of Detroit Lakes (white uniform) and Madison Conner of Bismarck Showtime hit the deck after wrestling for the ball, which squirted away.

Deee lighted! After riding defense to the championship, NLS players Izzy Schmiesing, Nyla Johnson, Ellary Pederson, and Avery Rich celebrate at Target Center.

Grace Carlson of Stephen-Argyle Central takes a contested shot.

Detroit Lakes players get a briefing from Bob Jones, one of their coaches, at the start of the second half in the finals against Bismarck Showtime.
Pacesetter Top 100 Expo

These squads placed first among six teams in a tournament at College of St. Benedict on July 2

BOYS CHAMPIONS:
DUCKS

Front: Jacob Bright, West Central Area; Ethan Mische, Westbrook-Walnut Grove; Tait Nelson, St. Anthony Village; Mason Ollman, William Kelley

Back: Russell Corrigan, Hutchinson; Kale Hoselton, St. Michael-Albertville; Zachary Doely, St. Croix Prep; Matt Banovetz, Academy of Holy Angels

GIRLS CHAMPIONS:
HUSKIES

Front: Paige Meyer, Albany; Lauren Bjurman, Princeton; Ruby Carlson, Orono; Natalie Mikrot, Moose Lake-Willow River

Back: Grace Gerads, Holdingford; Kennedy Klick, Maranatha Christian; Kaila Youngs, Delano; Greta Hilliukka, Menahga
Pacesetter Top 100 Expo

These are the all-stars named after the tournament at College of St. Benedict on July 2. MVP’s were Paige Meyer, Albany, and Matt Banovetz, Holy Angels

GIRLS ALL STARS

Front: Marissa Radtke, Lester Prairie; Paige Meyer, Albany; Hailey Hohenecker, Providence Academy; Lexi Schermann, Mayer Lutheran; Adeline Kent, Becker

Back: Megan Gamble, Becker; Kennedy Klick, Maranatha Christian; Kaila Youngs, Delano; Lilly Mackley, Hill-Murray; Sophie Stork, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva; Hannah Hannuksela, Mesabi East

BOYS ALL STARS

Front — Parker Fraki, Henning; Blake Wallevand, Henning; Shaheed Muhammad, North St. Paul; Tait Nelson, St. Anthony Village

Back — Zachary Doely, St. Croix Prep; Broden Lien, Norman County East-Ulen-Hitterdal; Elijah Morris, Perham; Mitchell Buerkle, Springfield; Matt Banovetz, Holy Angels.

Not pictured: Reagan Koch, Jordan
Pacesetter Top 100 snapshots

Kaily Youngs of Delano shoots, under pressure from Elizabeth Frase of Proctor.

Tait Nelson of St. Anthony Village runs into a double team by Mitchell Buerkle (34) of Springfield and Julian Benson of East Grand Forks.

Paige Meyer of Albany scores on a break, with Willmar’s Mackenzie Jones in pursuit.

Zachary Doely of St. Croix Prep gets inside position to score.

Madisen McKinney of Grand Rapids clutches the ball while guarded by Karli Nixon (33) of Crosby-Ironton and Grace VanErp of Battle Lake.
PACESETTER GREAT FIVE-STATE
2019 CHAMPIONS

9th-grade boys — Western Christian, Hull, IA
9th-grade girls — New London-Spicer, MN
8th-grade boys — Milwaukee Reagan, WI
8th-grade girls — SD Extreme, Brandon Valley
7th-grade boys — Watertown, SD
7th-grade girls — Bismarck Showtime, ND
6th-grade boys — Waseca, MN
6th-grade girls — Hortonville, WI
5th-grade boys — Jackson County Central, MN
5th-grade girls — Crosby-Ironton, MN
4th-grade boys — Lennox, SD
4th-grade girls — Pella, IA

New London-Spicer players reach for the game ball, which is tossed to each Great Five State champion at the end of the awards ceremony, at Target Center.
7th grade girls: Detroit Lakes has been 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Continued from Page 2

Minnesota runner-up, losing to Mountain Iron-Buhl 28-17 in the finals. MIB was not able to attend the five-state tournament.

The Lakers advanced to the five-state finals defeating Rapid City (SD) 24-14 and West Fargo (ND) Lightning 24-15.

Laker team members are Ava Jones, Brook Markuson, Helena Daggett, Ella Bommersbach, Karly Mace, Hanna Knoop, Ella Okeson, Grace Gunderson, Elle Bettcher, and Sydney Borgmann. Coaches are Mike Gunderson and Bob Jones.

“Against Bismarck, even though a loss, it was a fun game and gives us things to work on to get better,” said Mike Gunderson.

“What makes this team special is how well they get along. They work hard every practice and game. It’s always a true team effort. We have had multiple girls hit big shots and play great defense all year.”

This group won the Pacesetter Great Four-State in 2017 in fifth grade, beating Showtime in the finals. They also placed third in 2016.

The Lakers were unbeaten in the school season and have won eight of 12 tournaments in the summer. They lost to Alexandria in state finals after beating them in the regional. (Alexandria was not able to attend the five-state.) Another highlight was hosting a tournament and beating Fargo Davies in the finals.

“Pacesetter tournaments, and the chance to play at the Target Center, and watch a Lynx game, creates excitement for basketball,” Gunderson said. “We truly enjoy the whole Pacesetter experience.”

9th grade girls: Stephen-Argyle Central is runner-up

Continued from Page 2

Stephen-Argyle Central earned its spot in the championship by defeating Four Winds (ND) 37-30 and Estherville Lincoln Central (IA) 33-32 in pool play.

“These girls have a no-quit attitude, and strive to be the best,” coach Heidi Carlson said. “Each brings something special to the game. This will be a fun group to watch in coming years.”

Members are Madelyn Groven, Marey Kazmierczak, Casey Osowski, Macy Haugen, Greta Weber, Josie Rivard, Grace Carlson, Maysie Srnsky, and Riley Mooney. Coaches are Carlson and Scott Groven.

The Storm won two previous tournaments: the Junior Grand Am tournament in Grand Forks, and their Pacesetter regional in Bemidji.