

- *Top 20 teams each class
- *Dunk sidelines Gopher
- *Dreier, McKenzie honored
- *Waska basketball family

Tip-Off showcases No. 1's

Hopkins romps in rematch; MIB, Providence win

By Bruce Strand

Hopkins got some revenge last weekend. In the marquee matchup of the Breakdown Tip-Off Classic, Hopkins crushed the Chaska Hawks 70-45, after racing to a 20-2 lead, on their home court Saturday night.

All four No. 1 girls teams were on display, with Hopkins (4A), Providence Academy (2A) and Mountain Iron-Buhl (1A) all turning back challengers while Becker (3A) lost to a big-school Wisconsin power.

Last April, Chaska snapped Hopkins' 78-game win streak in the state semifinals 67-62 and went on to beat Rosemount in the finals to capture the state title.

With their top six players back, all college prospects, the Royals are back in their familiar No. 1 slot in the state rankings. Chaska was No. 2. The Royals savored the opportunity for a rematch with Chaska in their fifth game this season. "It was a revenge game," acknowledged junior forward Taylor Woodson to Minnesota Basketball Hub.

Hopkins led by as much as 26 points in the first half. All five starters



Hopkins' Nunu Agara and Jasmine Dupree double teamed Chaska's Ashley Schuelke on the way to a 70-45 win.

Photo by Bruce Strand

scored in double digits — Maya Nnaji with 17, Liv McGill 12, Nunu Agara 12, Woodson 11 and Amaya Battle 11. Woodson nabbed 11 rebounds.

The Royals held Chaska's Gopher recruit, Mallory Heyer, to zero points in the first half. The second half went better for the Hawks. Courtney Sander stalled 17 points, and Heyer finished with 13 points and 11 rebounds.

Other Tip-Off highlights

Providence Academy, top-ranked in Class 2A, fought off Benilde-St. Margaret's 56-48, with Maddyn Greenway netting 18 points, Grace Counts 15, Brooke Hohe-necker 12, and Maria Counts 10. Olivia Olson sank 17 for BSM (0-2), ranked 11th in 3A. Providence is 3-1, losing to Dowling Catholic (No. 11 in the large school class in Iowa) 59-46.



Hopkins' Maya Nnaji gets the opening tip vs. Mallory Heyer of Chaska.

Becker, top-ranked and defending champion in Class 3A, lost to Appleton East (No. 2 in the largest Wisconsin division) 73-61. Emily LaChappell scored 20 points and Lily Hansford 16 for Appleton. Becker was led by Dani Neust with 19 points. Maren Weston, Ayla Brown and Adeline Kent hit 11 points each. Becker is 1-2, also losing to Class 4A's No. 4 Wayzata 80-52.

Minnehaha Academy, No. 2 in 2A, beat the reigning 2A champion, No. 9 Albany 70-32. Addi Mack, freshman averaging 30 points, led with 28. Charita Lewis added 12 and Aliyah Al-Hameed 11.

Mountain Iron-Buhl, top ranked in Class 1A, was red hot in repelling No. 5 Sleepy Eye St. Mary's 90-64, shooting 15-for-31 on three's. Jordan Zubich (6-for-12) led with 28 points. Sage Ganyo added 18 and Ava Butler 12. Madison Mathiowitz pumped in 27 for SESM. MIB is 3-1, losing its opener Class 2A's No. 5 St. Croix Lutheran 77-72.



Emma Millerberndt (4) of Providence Academy breaks through BSM's McKenzie Wells (15) and Tyreanna Reliford (14) to make a steal.

Photos by Bruce Strand



Grace Counts scores after a spin move during Providence Academy's 56-48 win over Benilde-St. Margaret's.

Minnetonka, No. 3 in Class 4A, won 76-64 over No. 9 Maple Grove, with Kiani Lockett tallying 20 points, Emma Dasovich 17, Aaliyah Crump 14, and Desiree Ware 13, Maple Grove had 10 players score led by Ari Gordon with 10.

Dream delayed: Dunk mishap costs new Gopher a year

By Bruce Strand

Spectacular dunks were a big reason Parker Fox earned a shot at Big Ten basketball after an All-American season in Division II. But it was also a dunk gone wrong that has sidelined the Mahtomedi graduate for a season before he can start his two-year tenure with the Minnesota Gophers.

Fox transferred to the "U" after a terrific junior season for Northern State in Aberdeen, SD. The explosive 6-foot-8



Parker Fox

forward was a first-team Division II All-American, averaging 22.3 points, 9.8 rebounds and nation-best 3.5 blocks per game, leading the Wolves to a 19-2 record. He averaged 19.9 points and 8.8 rebounds as a junior. Having graduated from Northern, and thus free to transfer, he had about 100 D-I teams interested, attracted in large part by his highlight reel dunks.

His knee injury occurred during a pickup game at Northern in April. Like he's done "a thousand times before," Fox launched off his right leg for a dunk and landed on his left. "I didn't do anything different, but I must have landed wrong this time," said Fox. "It didn't feel right." Fox went to the trainers room, where a torn anterior cruciate ligament and meniscus in his left knee was diagnosed.

Gopher coach Ben Johnson, who signed him April 15, was called. "Coach Johnson was obviously disappointed that I won't be able to help the team this year, but he stood by my side," Fox said. "He still wants me to be part of the team, and didn't take away the offer."

This was a new injury. He missed his sophomore year at Mahtomedi with a hamstring issue, but fully recovered and was able to score 1,218 points in just two seasons.

Fox is pursuing a masters in sports management while rehabbing. "I am working on getting my strength back, as well as range of motion," Fox said. He's back on the court, too, honing his shooting and ball handling. "All is going well and according to plan. I'm just trusting it and working as hard as I can, to get back as soon as I can."

Wooden Legacy awards presented to Dreier, McKenzie

By Bruce Strand

Mike Dreier and Larry McKenzie have each been accorded another major honor.

Dreier, New London-Spicer girls basketball coach, and McKenzie, Minneapolis North boys coach, were chosen as the first Minnesota recipients of the John Wooden Legacy Award, initiated this year by the National High School Basketball Coaches Association.

Dreier acknowledged that it's special to receive "an award with John Wooden's name on it." Wooden, one of the premier basketball coaches in history, won 10 national titles with UCLA and was known for high integrity.

In his 44th season, Dreier holds state records of 989 wins and 19 state tournament appearances (with two state titles and eight times in the finals).

McKenzie, in his 23rd season, has coached four state championship teams with Minneapolis Henry and two more with North, where he rebuilt a program that had hit the bottom. All his players have gone on to colleges and about a third earned degrees.

Both are among just seven coaches named to the Minnesota State High Basketball Hall of Fame in its first three induction classes.

The NHSBCA criteria for the Wooden award are "excellence on the floor, in the classroom, and in the community," reflecting the characteristics of Wooden, along with "longevity, character, and service."

In its first year, the award was presented to 78 scholastic leaders in 41 states.

Coaching five sons was among perks for Waska's Johnsrud

By Bruce Strand

Phil Johnsrud, who coached the Minnewaska Area boys basketball team — including all five of his sons — for 21 seasons, stepped down after last season.

Johnsrud, 54, compiled a record of 308 wins and 231 losses in two separate stints, 15 seasons from 1997 through 2012 and six more starting in 2015. His teams captured five conference championships and went to state in 2001 and 2018. He still teaches two periods a day, mentors young coaches and helps with scheduling,

His oldest son, Brady, was West Central Conference MVP in 2011. Blake, Jackson, and twins Connor and Peyton followed Brady in the Lakers' lineups. All the boys were all-conference except Connor, who was a spot starter. "No girls," Phil said, about his and wife Jennifer's family. "Just two awesome daughters-in-law: Halle (Brady's wife) and Miriah (Blake's)."

Johnsrud, who grew up in the district, said that teaching and coaching was always his dream, and coaching his sons was just an added perk.

"The fact that it happened where I grew up was awesome, and that we had five sons was coincidental," Johnsrud reflects. "Believe me, there were challenges, but the opportunity to coach all five will be a memory that I will cherish for a lifetime. Not many family gatherings go by without reliving all the stories about games, seasons, and experiences as their coach."

Just as important, he added, were the "hundreds of other young men that I had a chance to mentor." He frequently hears from former players and loves discussing their jobs, family and lives with them.

Johnsrud grew up in Starbuck (now fused with Glenwood and Villard as Minnewaska Area) and played football, basketball and baseball for the Bucks. His basketball coach was Greg Starns, whom he succeeded in 1997. A physical education/health teacher, he also coached junior high baseball and football, and done some administrative work.



Phil Johnsrud and wife Jennifer posed with the five sons who played basketball for him at Minnewaska Area. From left are Blake, Jackson, Peyton, Connor, Brady.

One sport he wasn't in himself was track, but the Johnsrud name is also prominent in track-and-field. Jennifer Johnsrud, a kindergarten teacher, coached a state true-team champion team in 2019, along with a third-place team in 2018 and runner-up in 2021. The 2020 team would have had a good shot at repeating if the season hadn't been canceled. This fall, Jennifer's cross country team made the program's first state appearance.

"She is the MVP of our family and one heck of a coach and teacher," said Phil. "Don't know how she did it while raising five boys. We both started teaching at Waska in 1992."

Last season, Peyton was state high jump champion (6-foot-7) and Connor placed eighth in triple jump. Both are college freshmen participating in track, Connor at St. Thomas and Peyton at Concordia (Moorhead).

Brady, Blake, and Jackson have all graduated from Concordia (Moorhead). Brady and Jackson are long-term care administrators in Fargo. Blake is also in the business field. Only Brady has done any coaching (junior high basketball).

"I feel like all would have been excellent teachers and coaches," Phil said, "but they all recognized what teachers/coaches have to do and deal with, which persuaded them to pursue different careers than their parents."

Minnewaska Area's new coach is Hunter Salathe, 25, who played for Perham High School and was the Lakers' junior high coach the past two seasons.

Boys Top 20 Teams

CLASS 4A

1. Wayzata 1-0
2. Park Center 1-0
3. Cretin-Derham Hall 1-0
4. Shakopee 0-0
5. East Ridge 1-0
6. Eastview 1-0
7. Hopkins 2-0
8. Lakeville North 0-1
9. Mounds View 3-0
10. Park 2-0
11. Robbinsdale Cooper 0-0
12. Edina 0-1
13. Rosemount 1-0
14. Owatonna 0-0
15. Osseo 0-0
16. Minnetonka 2-0
17. Andover 1-0
18. Eden Prairie 1-0
19. Chaska 0-2
20. Brainerd 1-0

CLASS 2A

1. Minnehaha Academy 1-0
2. Caledonia 1-0
3. Minneapolis North 0-0
4. Morris Area/Chokio-Alberta 3-0
5. Blake 2-0
6. Annandale 0-0
7. Maple River 2-0
8. Moose Lake-Willow River 2-0
9. Pequot Lakes 1-0
10. Albany 1-0
11. Cloquet 2-0
12. Rockford 2-1
13. Fergus Falls 1-0
14. Jackson County Central 1-0
15. Lake City 1-0
16. Luverne 0-1
17. Maranatha Christian 0-0
18. Southwest Christian 2-0
19. Milaca 2-0
20. Rochester Lourdes 1-1

CLASS 3A

1. Totino-Grace 0-0
2. DeLaSalle 2-0
3. South St. Paul 2-0
4. Alexandria 1-0
5. Columbia Heights 0-0
6. Mankato West 0-0
7. Austin 1-0
8. Princeton 2-0
9. Benilde-St. Margaret's 1-0
10. Mankato East 0-1
11. Richfield 0-1
12. St. Paul Johnson 0-0
13. Minneapolis Edison 1-0
14. Hutchinson 1-0
15. Mound-Westonka 0-1
16. Marshall 0-0
17. Delano 2-1
18. Mahtomedi 2-0
19. Red Wing 2-1
20. Stewartville 2-0

CLASS 1A

1. Hayfield 0-0
2. Sleepy Eye St. Mary's 3-0
3. Central MN Christian 1-0
4. Mahnommen-Waubun 3-0
5. Fertile-Beltrami 1-0
6. Mayer Lutheran 0-0
7. Cass Lake Bena 1-0
8. New York Mills 1-0
9. Martin County West 3-0
10. Hancock 0-0
11. Ashby 0-0
12. Nevis 2-0
13. Mankato Loyola 2-0
14. Southwest MN Christian 2-0
15. Spring Grove 2-0
16. Cherry 2-0
17. Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa 1-0
18. North Woods 2-0
19. Sacred Heart 2-0
20. Mountain Iron-Buhl 1-1

Girls Top 20 Teams

CLASS 4A

1. Hopkins 5-0
2. Minnetonka 5-0
3. Wayzata 3-0
4. Eden Prairie 5-0
5. Stillwater 3-0
6. Chaska 2-1
7. St. Michael-Albertville 5-1
8. East Ridge 1-1
9. Maple Grove 1-3
10. Roseville 4-0
11. Shakopee 2-1
12. Blaine 4-0
13. Edina 4-0
14. Lakeville North 2-1
15. Centennial 2-2
16. Rosemount 0-3
17. Chanhassen 2-1
18. Prior Lake 2-1
19. Rogers 2-1
20. Spring Lake Park 3-1

CLASS 2A

1. Providence Academy 3-1
2. Minnehaha Academy 5-0
3. Fergus Falls 2-0
4. Goodhue 5-0
5. St. Croix Lutheran 4-1
6. Hawley 2-0
7. Rochester Lourdes 1-0
8. New London-Spicer 4-0
9. Proctor 4-0
10. Pequot Lakes 4-0
11. Duluth Marshall 2-0
12. Glencoe-Silver Lake 2-0
13. Lake City 2-2
14. Sauk Centre 1-3
15. Chatfield 5-0
16. Watertown-Mayer 3-1
17. Luverne 4-0
18. Holy Family Catholic 3-2
19. Albany 2-1
20. Jackson County Central 3-1

CLASS 3A

1. Becker 1-2
2. Austin 2-0
3. Holy Angels 4-1
4. St. Paul Como Park 2-3
5. DeLaSalle 1-2
6. Totino-Grace 4-1
7. Hill-Murray 2-1
8. Grand Rapids 4-1
9. Mankato West 2-0
10. St. Peter 3-0
11. Mankato East 1-1
12. Benilde-St. Margaret's 1-2
13. Alexandria 2-2
14. Marshall 2-1
15. Hutchinson 2-2
16. Detroit Lakes 1-0
17. Visitation 4-0
18. Mahtomedi 2-2
19. Worthington 4-0
20. Red Wing 2-2

CLASS 1A

1. Mountain Iron-Buhl 4-1
2. Minneota 3-0
3. Cass Lake-Bena 3-0
4. Mayer Lutheran 3-0
5. Sleepy Eye St. Mary's 5-1
6. Hayfield 3-0
7. Hancock 2-0
8. New York Mills 3-0
9. Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa 3-0
10. Cromwell-Wright 2-0
11. Badger-Greenbush-Middle River 2-0
12. Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart 3-0
13. Walker-Hackensack-Akeley 3-1
14. Tracy-Milroy-Balaton 3-0
15. GHECTML 1-0
16. Sleepy Eye 4-0
17. Ogilvie 3-0
18. Underwood 3-0
19. Grand Meadow 3-0
20. Fosston 3-0

2022 **PACESETTER**

Minnesota YOUTH BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP Region Playoffs

Boys & Girls Grades 4-9

ALL GRADES REFER TO THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

4B = 4th grade boys, 4G = 4th grade girls, etc. Teams may register for more than one region.

| Region 1 Site | Date | Grade/Gender |
|------------------|----------|------------------------|
| RCTC | March 26 | 4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B |
| RCTC | March 27 | 5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B |
| Region 2 Site | Date | Grade/Gender |
| MN State-Mankato | April 23 | 4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B |
| MN State-Mankato | April 24 | 5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B |
| Region 3 Site | Date | Grade/Gender |
| Redwood Falls | March 26 | 5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B |
| Redwood Falls | March 27 | 4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B |
| Region 4 Site | Date | Grade/Gender |
| Mora | April 9 | 4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B |
| Mora | April 10 | 5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B |
| Region 5 Site | Date | Grade/Gender |
| Paynesville | April 2 | 5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B |
| Paynesville | April 3 | 4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B |
| Region 6 Site | Date | Grade/Gender |
| Alexandria | April 9 | 5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B |
| Alexandria | April 10 | 4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B |
| Region 7 Site | Date | Grade/Gender |
| Grand Rapids | April 2 | 8G, 5B, 7B |
| Grand Rapids | April 3 | 7G, 9G, 4B |
| Mt. Iron-Buhl | April 2 | 4G, 6G, 9B |
| Mt. Iron-Buhl | April 3 | 5G, 6B, 8B |
| Region 8 Site | Date | Grade/Gender |
| Bemidji | April 23 | 5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B |
| Bemidji | April 24 | 4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B |

3-4 game guarantee

\$190/team 30 days prior • \$210/team under 30 days

Champions from each regional site will be invited to the MN State Championship. Other top finishers will receive an invitation to the Minnesota Invitational Tournament (MIT).

| MN State Championships | Location | Date |
|------------------------|-------------|---------|
| MIT - MN Invitational | Paynesville | June 11 |
| State Championship | Paynesville | June 12 |
| MIT - MN Invitational | Paynesville | June 18 |
| State Championship | Paynesville | June 19 |



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Breakdown duels Saturday includes 4A's 1 vs. 2

The Breakdown Tip-Off Classic boys basketball lineup set for Saturday at Hopkins High School includes several clashes of highly-ranked teams. Marquee matches in the evening are Class 4A's top-ranked Wayzata vs. No. 2 Park Center at 7 p.m., and Class 3A's top-ranked Totino-Grace vs. Class 4A's No. 3 Cretin-Derham Hall at 8:30 p.m. Starting in the morning, Class 4A's No. 4 Shakopee meets No. 16 Minnetonka at 11 a.m. DeLaSalle, No. 2 in Class 3A, takes on Minneapolis South at 12:45 p.m.

Alexandria, ranked No. 4 in Class 3A and last year's state runner-up, faces No. 7 Austin at 1:45 p.m. Class 4A duels include No. 9 Mounds View vs. No. 18 Eden Prairie at 12:15 p.m., No. 8 Lakeville North vs. No. 10 Park at 2:15 p.m., and No. 5 East Ridge vs. No. 7 Hopkins at 3:45 p.m. In Class 2A, it's No. 6 Annandale vs. No. 7 Maple River at 5 p.m., No. 1 Minnehaha Academy vs. No. 3 Minneapolis North at 5:30 p.m., and No. 4 Morris Area/Chokio-Alberta vs. No. 5 Blake at 6:30 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2021-2022

PACESETTER CLASSIC Basketball Tournaments Schedule

HOLIDAY CLASSICS

- Mt. Iron-Buhl ▪ Dec 18-19** Sat: Boys 3-8 | Sun: Girls 3-8
- Byron ▪ Dec 18-19** Sat: Girls 3-8 | Sun: Boys 3-8
- St. Paul ▪ Dec 28-29*** Boys & Girls 3-8 & 9-12 (no MSHSL teams)

SNOWBALL CLASSICS

- Mt. Iron-Buhl ▪ Jan 9 & 23** 1/9: Boys 3-8 | 1/23: Girls 3-8
- MLK Classic Mpls ▪ Jan 17*** Sat: Girls 3-8 | Sun: Boys 3-8
- Byron ▪ Jan 22-23** Sat: Boys 3-8 | Sun: Girls 3-8
- Paynesville ▪ Jan 29-30** Sat: Girls 3-8 | Sun: Boys 3-8

HEARTS + HEROES CLASSICS

- Bemidji ▪ Feb 5-6** Sat: Girls 3-8 | Sun: Boys 3-8
- Byron ▪ Feb 5-6** Sat: Girls 3-8 | Sun: Boys 3-8
- Mt. Iron-Buhl ▪ Feb 6 & 20** 2/6: Girls 3-8 | 2/20: Boys 3-8
- Paynesville ▪ Feb 12-13** Sat: Boys 3-8 | Sun: Girls 3-8
- Redwood Falls ▪ Feb 20** Sun: Boys & Girls 3-8
- Pres. Day Classic TBD ▪ Feb 21*** Boys & Girls 3-8

WINTER CLASSICS

- Paynesville ▪ March 5-6** Sat: Boys 3-8 | Sun: Girls 3-8
 - St. Joseph ▪ March 12-13** Sat: Boys 3-8 | Sun: Girls 3-8
- College of St. Benedict

Boys & Girls Grades 3-8



To Register:
www.pacesettersports.net

*MYAS tournaments: www.myas.org