

- *Top 20 teams in each class
- *New Life, Lake City boys, BSM girls move to No. 1

Volume 28

Issue No. 7

January 6

2022-23

Holiday highlights

Front: WCA cool in clutch again at Pelican tourney:
Inside: Three new No. 1's



By Bruce Strand

West Central Area always seems to get the job done at the Pelican Rapids holiday tournament, no matter how harrowing the games.

The Knights (6-1) won the event for the sixth consecutive year, prevailing 67-66 over Battle Lake (5-2) and 64-52 over Pelican Rapids (5-1) on Dec. 28-29. Each time, they trailed until the final minute. Each time, they overcame torrid three-point shooting by opponents as Battle Lake made 14 trifecta's and Pelican Rapids 12.

"Once again we ran into a hot shooting team," said coach Kraig Hunter after the finals. "As I said last night, we love the resilience and poise of our kids. We made some big plays again." He added, "We made some key defensive stops."

Posing with their trophy afterward, the Knights all held up six fingers — marking their sixth title in a row.

West Central Area players hold up six fingers for six titles.

"All tight games except one," Hunter added. WCA beat Warroad in OT in 2016 and thereafter tripped Pelican Rapids five times: in double OT, once by four points, twice by two points, and once by 17.

Battle Lake, which beat WCA in their season opener, led 38-28 at halftime. The Knights closed within one after Mitch Dewey, Las Dotts and Jake Strunk sank three-pointers. Cole Anderson hit a two-pointer for the lead, 65-64, with :28 left. Braydyn Roisum put the Battlers back in front with :16 left, but Anderson delivered another go-ahead bucket with 2.1 seconds on the clock.

Anderson totaled 19 points and 10 rebounds, Bryce Kjesbo 16 points, and Jacob Strunk 12 points and five steals. Three-pointers kept Battle Lake in the game, including five Jack Mekalson (21 points) and three

each by Mason Dalluge (17 points) and Owen Buhler (15 points).

In the finals, the Knights trailed Pelican Rapids 59-54 with 1:40 left but rattled off eight straight points to pull it out. Dewey drilled a pair of three-pointers and Anderson sank four free shots, the last two of those off a rebound with seven seconds left for a 64-59 lead. Pelican's Tanner Tollerud sank a three with 2.1 seconds left.

Anderson totaled 20 points and 12 rebounds, Kjesbo 17 points and Dewey nine. For Pelican, Charlie Larson called 14 points, and Ian Fahle and Luke Sjolie 11 each. The Vikings were 12-for-25 on three's.

WCA has been on a nice roll the last half-dozen years, with five straight winning seasons heading into this one. The Knights were 64-13 the last three years, including 7-3 in section playoffs, each time losing to the section champion. They are still looking for their first state tournament trip.

New Life tips Cherry, takes over top spot

New Life Academy toppled Class 1A boys top-ranked Cherry 66-60 in the Granite City Classic at St. Cloud State on Dec. 30 and took over the No. 1 spot.

Colton Hendricks logged 19 points, 10 rebounds and four blocks for NLA (6-0). Erick Reader, 6-foot-8 Gophers recruit, notched 14 rebounds and 12 points. Max Briggs, floor leader, delivered eight assists, five steals and 11 points. For Cherry (4-3), Isaac Asuma sank 21 points, Noah Sundquist 16 and Isaiah Asuma 12.

“A key for us was our depth in the second half,” said Eagles coach Robbie Whitney. “We had a lot of guys who made big plays in the second half when they took away our leading scorers, and our depth helped us make one last push.”

The Eagles also beat the Tigers in last year’s state third-place game at the state tournament. Whitney said it’s bloomed into a pleasant rivalry as NLA and Cherry standouts have played AAU ball together. “It’s fun to see the competitiveness between friends on both teams. We have a lot of respect for each other.”

In another top-five 1A duel in the same event, Cass Lake-Bena (6-0) moves up to No. 2 after edging Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa 68-64 in overtime.

T-G, Islanders, Orono take on powers from other states

Three of the top four Class 3A boys teams tested themselves against national competition at the Hoop City Classic in Mitchell, SD. Totino-Grace and DeLaSalle both lost to Dream City Christian, an Arizona prep school with mostly Division I talent. Dream City defeated Totino-Grace 59-54 and DeLaSalle 61-50. Orono, otherwise unbeaten, fell to Sioux Falls Jefferson (3-0) 63-43. DeLaSalle beat Harrisburg, SD, 42-41. Totino-Grace and Orono both defeated Houston (Tennessee) by double digits.

Alexandria routs HFC, alters 2A rankings

Class 2A boys has a new No.1 after Holy Family Catholic took a 79-53 drubbing from Alexandria in the Granite City Classic at St. Cloud State on Dec. 30.

Alexandria, No. 6 in Class 3A, was led by 6-foot-9 Grayson Grove with 30 points (five three-pointers) and 10 rebounds. Jackson Schoenrock added 14 points. The Cardinals (6-1) collected 17 steals by six players, and held HFC (5-1) to 31 points under their season average.

Boden Kapke, HFC’s 6-foot-10 star signed by Butler University, led with 12 points.

Alexandria coach Forrest Witt said it’s been an encouraging start: “I like our depth and the way this group competes. They have embraced playing the game hard and playing together.”

The MN Basketball News moved unbeaten Lake City to the top spot with HFC at No. 2. The Tigers’ eight wins include one over No. 3 Minneapolis North.

Benilde-St. Margaret’s topples Mankato East and West, in Mankato

Benilde-St. Margaret’s moved up to No. 2 in Class 3A boys after toppling both Mankato East 70-63 and Mankato West 85-48 in a tournament hosted by Mankato West.

The Knights, starting a junior, three sophs and a freshman, are 6-0 with wins over four ranked 3A teams, the others being Alexandria and DeLaSalle.

The BSM vs. East battle saw five double-digit scorers by each team. The Knights’ edge was 7-for-15 accuracy on three-pointers while East was 7-for-29. BSM had Jayden Daisy with 21 points, Abu Keita 13 (10 rebounds), Jalen Wilson 12 (eight rebounds), Jaleel Donley 11, Ron Lee 10. East had Giles Lancaster with 15 points, Ganden Gosch 13 (10 rebounds), Carson Schweim 11, Brogan Madson 10, and Dwayne Bryant 10.

Against West, BSM had six double-digit scorers as nobody played more than 21 minutes. Daisy and Abu Keita had 15 each, Wilson and Christian Wiggins 14 each, Kayden Wells 11 and Lee 10.

2023 **PACESSETTER**

Minnesota YOUTH BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP Region Playoffs

Boys & Girls Grades 4-9

ALL GRADES REFER TO THE 2022-23 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
Rochester-RCTC	March 25	4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B
Rochester-RCTC	March 26	5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B
Region 2 Site	Date	Grade/Gender
Lake Crystal	April 22	4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B
Lake Crystal	April 23	5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B
Region 3 Site	Date	Grade/Gender
Redwood Falls	March 25	5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B
Redwood Falls	March 26	4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B
Region 4 Site	Date	Grade/Gender
Moose Lake/Willow River	April 15	4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B
Moose Lake/Willow River	April 16	5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B
Region 5 Site	Date	Grade/Gender
Paynesville	April 1	5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B
Paynesville	April 2	4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B
Region 6 Site	Date	Grade/Gender
Alexandria	April 15	5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B
Alexandria	April 16	4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B
Region 7 Site	Date	Grade/Gender
Grand Rapids	April 1	8G, 5B, 7B
Grand Rapids	April 2	7G, 9G, 4B
Mt. Iron-Buhl	April 1	4G, 6G, 9B
Mt. Iron-Buhl	April 2	5G, 6B, 8B
Region 8 Site	Date	Grade/Gender
Bemidji	April 22	5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B
Bemidji	April 23	4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B

3-4 game guarantee • \$220/team

SAVE \$: REGISTER EARLY! Nov - \$140, Dec - \$160, Jan - \$180, Feb - \$200

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	Grades
MIT - MN Invitational	College of St. Benedict	June 10	B & G 4-6-8
State Championship	College of St. Benedict	June 11	B & G 4-6-8
MIT - MN Invitational	College of St. Benedict	June 17	B & G 5-7-9
State Championship	College of St. Benedict	June 18	B & G 5-7-9



GREAT 5-STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
IA • MN • ND • SD • WI



ROAD TO THE TARGET CENTER!

The MN State Champion and Runner-up in each grade are invited to the Great Five-State Championships at the Target Center in Minneapolis.



Scan Code

Or For More Info/To Register:

www.pacesettersports.net

Questions? 320.243.7460 • pacesettersportsmbbn@gmail.com • www.pacesettersports.net • [Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#) • [Instagram](#) Pacesetter Basketball

Hobbled Becker falls to Tonka, Providence

Missing two of their top players, the Becker Bulldogs, previously unbeaten and ranked first in girls Class 3A, lost to a pair of metro powers this past week. Minnetonka snagged the Bulldogs 55-50 and Providence Academy reversed an earlier loss to them 75-65.

Maren Westin, averaging 16.5 points, missed both games, recovering from surgery. Alexis Rose (12.5 ppg) injured her knee just before the half against Minnetonka. She's out for the year, said coach Dan Baird.

Minnetonka (7-2) was powered by Aaliyah Crump with 22 points at the Granite City Classic at St. Benedict's on Dec. 30. For Becker, Danielle Nuest sank 15 points and Ayla Brown 12. Rose had 10 before she was hurt.

Providence Academy (8-2), top-ranked in Class 2A, got 27 points from guard Maddyn Greenway including several baskets after steals, on their court Thursday evening. Brooke Hohenecker added 16 points, Grace Counts 11 and Emma Millerbernd 10. Brown kept Becker in the game with 29 points. The Lions lost to Becker 83-76 on Dec. 3.

* * *

Benilde-St. Margaret's moved into the No. 1 slot in the Minnesota Basketball News' rankings. BSM is 7-2 with losses to 4A powers Hopkins 77-65 and Eden Prairie 83-77. Led by junior Olivia Olson (23 ppg) and sophomore Kendall McGee (22.6 ppg), the Knights have beaten Holy Angels (7-1), Robbinsdale Cooper (8-2) and Minnehaha Academy (7-2).

* * *

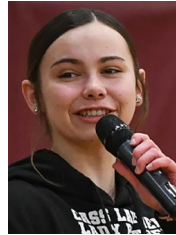
St. Michael-Albertville beat South Dakota power Sioux Falls O'Gorman 54-45 in a Sioux Falls tournament Friday, Dec. 30. Tessa Johnson scored 31 points for STMA. The Knights had a 38-26 rebound edge, led by Piper Carlson with 12. STMA is 9-0 and ranked No. 2 in Class 4A. O'Gorman is the defending state champion and top-ranked in their largest class.

* * *

Holdingford dealt Duluth Marshall (6-1) its first loss 77-40 on Dec. 29, with sophomore Addy Pilarski pouring in a school-record 39 points and grabbing 11 rebounds. Maddy Mitchell supplied 17 points and seven assists for the Huskers (6-2) in that win in the Granite City Classic at St. Benedict's.

CLB star Frazer gets Sportsperson honor

Taryn Frazer, a 2022 graduate of Cass Lake-Bena, was named area Sportsperson of the Year by the Bemidji Pioneer. The newspaper described Frazier as "the face of this town's basketball" and a personality "radiating with warmth." The 5-foot-4 guard tallied 2,594 points for CLB, second only to the 2,622 logged by Martin Wind, her coach the last three years. She led the Panthers to state tournaments her junior and senior years, ending a 16-year absence. All while dealing with Stage 3 Chronic Kidney Disease, a lifelong affliction. The Pioneer pointed out that basketball is more than a sport in Cass Lake; it's an avenue to escape the worst exposures of adolescence. The Ojibway teenager articulated: "How it is growing up on the rez, you live there and see a bunch of negative stuff all the time. We look to basketball as the outlet to get away from drugs, alcohol, family issues, all that kind of bad stuff." Frazer is now at UM-Crookston, averaging seven points.



Frazer

New Ulm girls on upswing

New Ulm, coming off three seasons under .500, stands 6-2 with a young lineup: one senior and one junior in the top seven. Top scorers are junior forward Daviney Dreckman with 17.1 ppg, freshman guard Brooklyn Lewis (16.5) and senior forward Bryn Nesvold (11.0). Coach Julie Rogers likes the Eagles' depth. "When we put subs in the game, the level of play does not decrease," she said. "If teams shut down one of our players, there's another to pick up the slack." It's a short, fast-breaking team that stays in good shape, she said. "They are focused on working together, making sure they're all playing the roles we need to be successful, and having fun."

Another Zubich milestone at MIB

Jordan Zubich, Mountain Iron-Buhl junior, scored her 2,000th point on Dec. 30, eight days after her brother Asher, a senior, reached 3,000. Zubich scored 33 points, but her team lost to Crosby-Ironton and its young sensation Tori Ohrlein 76-69 in a Granite City Classic game at College of St. Benedict. Ohrlein, freshman guard who went over 1,000 as an eighth grader, pumped in 35 points, including a half-court shot at the halftime buzzer. In this Iron Range battle of Rangers, the nickname for both teams, Crosby-Ironton (5-3) halted an eight-game win streak by MIB (8-2).

March 4 & 5

College of St. Benedict
St. Joseph, MN

Boys & Girls Grades 4-8

2023 Pacesetter

WINTER CLASSIC

Basketball

Tournament



Saturday, March 4:

Girls Grades 4-5 | Boys Grades 6-7-8

Sunday, March 5:

Girls Grades 6-7-8 | Boys Grades 4-5

Each tournament is a ONE-day tournament.

Limit 16 teams per grade/gender

All teams will play 3-4 games.

All players on a team must either be enrolled in the same school system or live or attend school in the same city, the same school district or the same tribal community.

\$190/team before Feb 5

\$210/team Feb 5 or later

Registration Deadline: Feb 22

PACESETTER



Scan Code:

Or For More Info/To Register:

www.pacesettersports.net

Camps available at a variety of gyms for boys & girls entering grades 1-12
High-quality, low-cost basketball camps for over 40 years!

2023 Pacesetter BASKETBALL CAMPS



IA • MN • ND • SD • WI

Host a camp in YOUR gym!

"TOUR OF CHAMPIONS"
CAMPS -- 1-2 days

AREA CAMPS --
3-4 days

Customize your camp to
YOUR program needs.

More info:

320.243.7460 • pacesettersportsmbbn@gmail.com

www.pacesettersports.net •    Pacesetter Basketball



MBBN GIRLS TOP 20

CLASS 4A

1. Hopkins 8-0
2. St. Michael-Albertville 9-0
3. Chaska 8-1
4. Wayzata 9-1
5. Rosemount 8-0
6. Eden Prairie 9-2
7. East Ridge 10-3
8. Minnetonka 7-2
9. Maple Grove 5-3
10. Lakeville North 7-2
11. Anoka 9-1
12. Lakeville South 9-1
13. White Bear Lake 10-2
14. Stillwater 7-1
15. Rochester Mayo 8-1
16. Rogers 6-2
17. Champlin Park 3-2
18. Elk River 5-3
19. Robbinsdale Cooper 7-2
20. Blaine 6-2

CLASS 3A

1. Benilde-St. Margaret's 6-2
2. Becker 5-1
3. Jordan 7-0
4. Holy Angels 7-1
5. Marshall 4-1
6. Grand Rapids 8-2
7. Stewartville 8-2
8. Cloquet 9-1
9. Detroit Lakes 6-1
10. Alexandria 6-3
11. Byron 6-3
12. Monticello 7-2
13. Mahtomedi 5-3
14. North St. Paul 9-1
15. St. Peter 4-2
16. Red Wing 5-2
17. Hill-Murray 5-4
18. Austin 5-2
19. Visitation 5-3
20. Orono 4-4

CLASS 2A

1. Providence Academy 7-2
2. Minnehaha Academy 7-2
3. St. Croix Lutheran 6-2
4. Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial 7-0
5. New London-Spicer 7-0
6. Albany 8-1
7. Goodhue 7-2
8. Rochester Lourdes 8-1
9. Sauk Centre 7-1
10. Perham 8-1
11. Pequot Lakes 4-1
12. Luverne 6-0
13. Minneapolis Roosevelt 7-1
14. Southwest Christian 8-0
15. Montevideo 6-1
16. Holdingford 6-2
17. Duluth Marshall 6-1
18. Pierz 5-1
19. Caledonia 7-2
20. St. Clair 8-0

CLASS 1A

1. Mayer Lutheran 8-0
2. Mountain Iron-Buhl 8-2
3. Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart 6-0
4. Hayfield 8-1
5. Hancock 4-2
6. Fosston 6-0
7. Kelliher-Northome 8-0
8. Braham 7-0
9. Badger-Greenbush-Middle River 7-1
10. Breckenridge 8-0
11. Goodridge-Grygla 7-0
12. Cromwell-Wright 8-1
13. Grand Meadow 6-1
14. Underwood 8-2
15. Henning 7-1
16. Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa 3-2
17. Lanesboro 5-1
18. BOLD 6-2
19. Minneota 4-1
20. Barnum 6-1

Note: records are through Tuesday.

MBBN BOYS TOP 20

CLASS 4A

1. Park Center 5-0
2. Lakeville North 6-1
3. Hopkins 9-1
4. Maple Grove 6-1
5. Eden Prairie 5-1
6. Eastview 5-2
7. Minnetonka 5-2
8. Farmington 4-3
9. Wayzata 4-3
10. Shakopee 4-2
11. Cretin-Derham Hall 6-3
12. Andover 5-3
13. Stillwater 6-2
14. Prior Lake 4-3
15. Lakeville South 6-2
16. East Ridge 4-4
17. Rochester Mayo 7-0
18. Buffalo 6-0
19. Mounds View 7-0
20. Brainerd 6-0

CLASS 3A

1. Totino-Grace 3-2
2. Benilde-St. Margaret's 6-0
3. DeLaSalle 4-2
4. Orono 5-1
5. Mahtomedi 4-2
6. Alexandria 6-1
7. Princeton 4-0
8. Mankato East 5-3
9. Austin 5-2
10. Hermantown 5-0
11. New Ulm 6-1
12. St. Anthony Village 5-2
13. Delano 6-3
14. Worthington 5-1
15. Big Lake 6-1
16. Marshall 3-1
17. South St. Paul 3-2
18. Winona 3-2
19. Mankato West 4-3
20. Jordan 4-2

CLASS 2A

1. Lake City 8-0
2. Holy Family Catholic 5-1
3. Minneapolis North 3-4
4. Maranatha Christian 4-1
5. Maple River 9-1
6. Minnehaha Academy 7-3
7. Perham 7-0
8. Albany 4-1
9. Lake Crystal-Wellcome-Memorial 6-1
10. Esko 6-0
11. Watertown-Mayer 4-2
12. Mora 5-1
13. Pequot Lakes 5-1
14. Thief River Falls 8-0
15. West Central Area 6-1
16. Minneapolis Edison 6-2
17. Dassel-Cokato 6-0
18. Two Harbors 7-0
19. New London-Spicer 3-1
20. Blue Earth Area 7-0

CLASS 1A

1. New Life Academy 8-0
2. Cass Lake-Bena 6-0
3. Cherry 4-3
4. Hayfield 8-1
5. Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa 3-1
6. Henning 7-0
7. Goodhue 7-1
8. Russell-Tyler-Ruthron 5-0
9. Mankato Loyola 8-1
10. Legacy Christian 7-2
11. Lakeview 5-1
12. Lyle-Pacelli 6-2
13. Ada-Borup-West 5-0
14. Deer River 7-2
15. Southwest MN Christian 5-1
16. Browerville-Eagle Valley 3-1
17. Battle Lake 5-2
18. Mahnonen-Waubun 4-2
19. Lester Prairie 7-2
20. Warren-Alvarado-Oslo 8-0

Note: records are through Tuesday.