#### **WEEKLY ROUNDUP**



\*Top 20 teams in each class \*BLHS is new girls power

\*Prep Hoops Hall says no induction this year

\* Win-E-Mac guard shines

Volume 28 Issue No. 8 January 13 2022-23

# ONE ONE



Park Center tops
Totino-Grace 76-62
in their latest clash of
No. 1 conference rivals

**By Bruce Strand** 

Park Center and Totino-Grace have a great thing going. As conference rivals who are both ranked first in the state in their division, they get to rumble twice in the regular season, after which both can pursue separate state championships.

That's how it went last year as the Pirates and Eagles split in Northwest Suburban Conference play and went on to capture Class 4A and 3A state titles, respectively.

Both are top ranked again and had another high-profile duel Thursday evening, with host Park Center pulling away in the last three minutes to win 76-62 before a huge crowd.

"It's not for a state championship. but it's a heavyweight game," said Park Center coach James Ware. "Having them in our conference, it's the kind of rivalry that makes high school basketball so much fun."

Ware's son, JJ, game-high scorer with 19 points, was also asked about the rivalry that doesn't go beyond conference play. "It's perfect," he said. "It's like, what's the word — pride. It's a pride game. It doesn't



A drive by Totino-Grace's Zy'lerre Stewart was thwarted by Park Center's JJ Ware (22) and Chaing Ring (24).

Bruce Strand, MN Basketball News

mean anything down the road, but to beat a team like them, it says a lot about our team."

It's only been a fierce rivalry the last two years though. Totino-Grace became a metro power last season on par with the top 4A teams and beat Park Center 64-61 at home in the first conference meeting, ending a string of 10 straight losses to the Pirates. Park Center pummeled the Eagles 87-57 in the rematch.

For the record, Park Center was NWSC champ last year at 18-1 as T-G also had a loss to Osseo and finished 17-2. The Pirate/Eagle rematch

on Feb. 9 in Fridley might decide this year's outcome.

They were the first two state champs from the same conference since Minneapolis North and Patrick Henry in 2003 and have a good shot at repeating that feat.

Ware's 19 points included four of the team's seven three's. CJ Hara sank 17 points, Cash Chavis 14, Chang Ring nine, Jackson Fowlkes seven and Joe Burgess six. The Pirates made just nine of 23 free shots, but they did everything else well, including eight dunks.

Isaiah Johnson led Totino-Grace with 15 points. Tommy Humphries netted 11 points, Chase Watley 10, and Patrick Bath nine. The Eagles were 15-for-18 at the line.



Patrick Bath of T-G drew a foul here and sank two free shots.

shootnot ing much as he totaled six points. Park Center led 35-27 at the half, with three breakdunks away and impresoutside

shooting.

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41-41 took their first lead 46-44 on a breakaway by Humphries. The Pirates brought their enthusiastic student rooting gallery to its feet as they took a 55-51 lead with a pair of resounding dunks following mid-court steals — by Chavis, after Fowlkes pilfered the ball, and by O'Hara after this own steal.

T-G was still within 65-62 when Ware tossed up a threepointer with 2:15 left, making it 68-62. "That three by JJ was huge," coach Ware said. "With a six-point lead, we were able to be really aggressive on defense." The Pirates stepped up the pressure and threw down a couple more dunks, pulling away to the final 14-point margin.

Park Center is 8-0. The Eagles are 5-3, also losing to 4A power Lakeville North and an Arizona prep school.

## Win-E-Mac guard is scoring machine

Justin Courneya, Win-E-Mac junior point guard, is the leading boys scorer in the state, averaging 31.8 points, along with 5.8 assists, shooting 54 percent on two's and 43 percent on three's. His high game is 43.



Courneya

Courneya averaged 28.3 points as a sophomore. He's also a golfer and 4.0 student, said his father and coach, Jerid Courneya. Jerid assessed that Justin is "extremely quick" with excellent body control, and is very accurate with pullup jumpers and three-pointers. "He faces a lot of box and one's. His ability to get open and move without the ball is important," said the coach.

The Patriots are 6-6, after going 14-13 last year, but have won four of their last five. "We are not very deep and are very young as we only start one senior," the coach said, adding that they've played the toughest part of the schedule and have a good chance to win a few.

Courneya was a starter at Frazee in ninth grade and a teammate of his brother Jack, who now plays for Jamestown (ND) College. Jerid was JV coach at Frazee before becoming Win-E-Mac's head coach last year. A third brother, Joe, in eighth grade, is playing JV and getting a few varsity minutes.

wen Leach of Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton logged his 2,000th point while scoring 20 in a 66-53 loss to Thief River Falls on Jan. 5. The 6-foot-6 senior, signed by Minnesota-Duluth, is averaging 26.4 points this year. In his four years as a starter he's averaging 18.7 points and shooting 54 percent on two's and 35 percent on three's. Leach is DGF's career rebound leader with 916 and ranks second in scoring behind Jake Driscoll, who had 2,308. "He can score from anywhere on the floor," said coach Mike Clark, "but if I had to put a label on him, it would be shooting guard position."

ddi Mack, Minnehaha Academy sophomore, Apassed the 2,000th-point marker on Tuesday while scoring 33 points in a 91-16 win over Apple Valley. A starter since seventh grade, the 5-foot-6 guard is averaging 27 points for the Redhawks (8-3), after averaging 23 as a freshmen. Mack reached 2,000 in her 91st game, tying for sixth-fastest in state history in that regard. (The fastest was Roseau's Megan Taylor, in 82.)

**Boys & Girls Grades 4-9** 

# Minnesota YOUTH BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP Region Playoffs



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2023 PH/LESETTER

#### **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	

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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



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2023 Pacesetter

# 





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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.

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# **Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart** girls burst into Class 1A contention

By Bruce Strand

Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart, a program with just one state trip, in 2010, is looking like a solid contender for another in appearance in 2023, currently unbeaten and ranked No. 3 in Class 1A.

BLHS is 8-0, led in scoring by junior twins, a senior and a freshman. The Mustangs are coming off three

big wins, over No. 16 BOLD (8-2) by 59-39 just before Christmas, No. 10 Hayfield (10-2) by 82-57 Saturday, and Sleepy Eye St. Mary's (6-3) by 90-52 on Tuesday.

The Mustangs were 20-7 last year, losing to Mayer Lutheran, the eventual third-place team at state, 54-44 in the third round of Section 2A. Mayer Lutheran is again a potential section foe, currently 9-0 and ranked first.

"Ending our season last year with a loss like we had, our team

made the commitment to work this off-season," said Jesse Wieck, sixth-year head coach. "These last games have shown that hard work and playing together as a team works. Their confidence is on the rise."

Rachel Kottke averages 20 points, six assists and four steals. Kristi Kottke averages 16.6 points, five assists and seven rebounds, and shoots almost 50 percent on three's. They are 5-foot-8 guards.

"Kristi and Rachel have been top scorers these last three years and will shoot teams out of the gym," Weick said. "Kristi will make shots from anywhere behind the arc. Rachel has great court awareness and gets to the rim at an extremely high rate." Rachel is the offensive floor leader and Kristi is the "defensive general" who pressures the point, Weick said. The twins are the third and fourth sisters to play for BLHS. Their dad, Kory, scored 1,057 points for Buffalo Lake-Hector.

Allison Millbrandt, 5-foot-11 senior forward, adds 13.6 ppg. She led the Mustangs with 17.7 as a sophomore, but missed her junior year when she had two surgeries.

"She is still a big part of our offense and especially our defense in our press," Weick said. "As she keeps becoming more comfortable playing again, Allison's offensive talent will be on full display."

Lily Huber, 5-foot-8 guard, a freshman, averages 13 points. "Lily has come a long way since this last season, from being our sixth player as an eighth grader," Weick said. "She will take players off the dribble and get to the free throw line."



Rachel (1) and Kristi (2) Kottke lead the 8-0 Mustangs.

Submitted

The Mustangs are "committed to playing fast and playing together," Weick said. On defense, especially, they try to make opponents battle their press on every possession.

This is BLHS's fourth straight winning season, after seven straight with low single-digit wins. The Mustangs should be able to keep it going for a while.

"Each season is special and unique with players graduating and new players coming up," Weick said. "If our underclassmen put in the work and step into the roles that are required, I believe we can have success again next year and the following years."

## MBBN GIRLS TOP 20

#### CLASS 4A

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

Note: records are through Tuesday.

#### CLASS 3A

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

#### CLASS 2A

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

#### CLASS 1A

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

# MBBN BOYS TOP 20

#### CLASS 4A

- 1. Park Center 7-0
- 2. **Hopkins 9-1**
- 3. Maple Grove 7-2
- 4. Eden Prairie 7-1
- 5. Eastview 6-2
- 6. Lakeville North 7-2
- 7. Minnetonka 5-2
- 8. Farmington 7-3
- 9. Wayzata 5-3
- 10. Shakopee 6-3
- 11. Andover 6-4
- 12. Stillwater 7-3
- 13. Prior Lake 6-4
- 14. Lakeville

Hall 6-4

- South 7-3 15. Cretin-Derham
- 16. East Ridge 5-4
- 17. Buffalo 9-0
- 18. Mounds **View 7-1**
- 19. Brainerd 7-1
- 20. Duluth East 8-1

Note: records are through Tuesday.

#### CLASS 3A

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

#### CLASS 2A

- 1. Lake City 11-0
- 2. Holy Family Catholic 7-1
- 3. Maranatha Christian 6-1
- 4. Maple **River 12-1**
- 5. Minnehaha Academy 7-3
- 6. Perham 10-0
- 7. Minneapolis North 3-3
- 8. Albany 6-1
- 9. Lake Crystal-Wellcome-Memorial 9-1
- 10. Esko 7-1
- 11. Watertown-Maver 6-2
- 12. Mora 7-1
- 13. Thief River **Falls 10-0**
- 14. Sauk Centre 7-1
- 15. West Central Area 8-2
- 16. Minneapolis Edison 6-3
- 17. New London-Spicer 4-1
- 18. Melrose 7-1
- 19. St. Cloud Cathedral 7-1
- 20. Two Harbors 7-1

#### **CLASS 1A**

- 1. New Life Academy 9-1
- 2. Cass Lake-Bena 8-0
- 3. Cherry 7-3
- 4. Goodhue 9-2
- 5. Henning 10-0
- 6. Russell-Tyler-
  - Ruthton 8-0
- 7. Kenvon-
- Wanamingo 9-3
- 8. Hayfield 9-3
- 9. Lakeview 8-1
- 10. Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa 5-2
- 11. Ada-Borup **West 7-1**
- 12. Lyle-Pacelli 9-2
- 13. Legacy Christian 8-3
- 14. Spring Grove 6-1
- 15. Browerville-Eagle Valley 5-1
- 16. Northland 9-1
- 17. Sacred
- **Heart 10-2** 18. Mankato
- Lovola 8-4
- 19. Border West 6-2
- 20. Warren-Alvarado-
  - Oslo 10-1

# MN High School BB Hall of Fame calls a time-out for 2023

By Bruce Strand

When the Minnesota High School Basketball Hall of Fame made its debut in 2018 with an original class of 12 athletes and one team, it was a much-appreciated addition to the state basketball scene.

But the organization — headed by two retirees, Marc Hugunin, an author, blogger and hoops zealot, and Joel

Maturi, former Gopher athletic director, with a 14-member board of directors — has seen some rough going.

After inducting their second class in 2019, there were two years being out of commission due to Covid-19. The HOF returned with its third class in 2022, but there won't a fourth, not in 2023, anyway,

"We thought raising the funding to support it would be easy. That has not turned out to be the case," Hugunin explained.

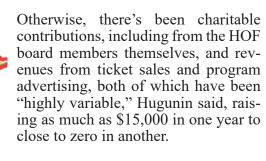
The organization needs to have \$25,000 in the bank at the start of each year to be confident of success, Hugunin said, and the coffers are currently well short of that.

"My fellow executive officers are in agreement that it is too late to try to do an induction event in 2023," he reported.

One of its fund-raisers, the Winter Classic tournament, will still be held, Jan. 14 at Anoka-Ramsey, he said, adding that this has been just a "break-even" event in its first three induction years, partially because they've never been able to hold all 12 games, due to snow and to COVID. They hope it will fall into place better this year. The event costs about \$7,500 to run, what with gym rent, officials, trainer, program, and scorers.

Hugunin said the HOF has been able to pay all the bills in its first three induction years, although he and Maturi had to dip into their own pocketbooks the first year to break even.

After the first year, they hired Tim Browne, a former Gopher football defensive end who owns a marketing company, to secure corporate sponsorships. Brown was able to bring in three sponsorships, with a cost structure favorable to them, but none was for more than \$5,000. Sadly, Browne passed away three months ago.



The Wolves and Lynx, Hugunin said, have provided valuable in-kind support — introducing the new HOF picks on the floor of the Target Center at halftime of a game ("a very big

deal for our inductees") and providing suites for them, along with providing a display case for the HOF in the skyway. However, the teams contribute no actual cash support.

The HOF puts a high premium, he said, on being a firstclass operation "in order to truly honor people who, in many cases, have traveled the world playing basketball and have trophy cases filled with many wonderful trophies and memorabilia and whatnot."

After a half-dozen years of fund-raising efforts, Hugunin concludes that the HOF's future depends on "charitable contributions by people who love high school basketball," more than by obtaining marketing sponsorships.

People can contribute at <a href="www.gofundme.com/mnhs-basketballhall">www.gofundme.com/mnhs-basketballhall</a>, or contact the group at <a href="mnhsbasketball-hall@gmail.com">mnhsbasketball-hall@gmail.com</a>

## NLA falls to Marantha, then trips Hayfield

Tew Life Academy (9-1), top-ranked in Class 1A boys, absorbed its first loss, against Class 2A's No. 3 ranked Maranatha Christian 73-62, on NLA's home court in Woodbury. The Eagles regrouped and defeated two-time defending state champion Hayfield 75-62 on Saturday in Hayfield, led by Max Briggs with 24 points and 10 assists. John Kirschling added 16 points, Austin Woolf 15 and Erick Reader 11.

Hayfield (9-3) had a grueling week, losing again to Kenyon-Wanamingo 59-58 on Tuesday in a conference game. AJ Higginbottom sank 19 points, Alex Lee 18 and Colton Steberg 16 for K-W (9-3). The last minute was scoreless. K-W missed twice on one-and-one's and Hayfield star Alex Matti missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer. Matti had 23 points and Ethan Pack 16. Pack sank two free shots, putting him at 1,000, to pull the Vikings within 59-58.

No. 4 ranked Eden Prairie (7-1) handed No. 19 Brainerd (7-1) its first loss 90-81 on Tuesday at home, overcoming John Pecarich's 34-point, eight-rebound performance for Brainerd. Luke Rapp tallied 23 points and Adam Mertens 20 for Eden Prairie.

Cambridge-Isanti came up with its second high-scoring win over a good team, handing Princeton its first loss 98-88 on Friday. Josh Troolin hit 33 points (7-for-12 on three's), Elias Lee 20 and Kobe Karels 17. Graham scored 29, Cooper Drews 26 and Aaron Keykal 20 for Princeton. The Bluejackets also had a 120-114 double overtime win over Blaine (6-4) on Dec 20. They beat Chisago Lakes 94-87 Tuesday, but have also had five games in the 50's and 60's. "We do have guys that can finish at the rim, and we do shoot free throws well, too," coach Mike McDonald said. "I think we lost our mojo after the Blaine game when we didn't have practice for six days and then did not shoot that well in the TCO Tournament. Seems like that is back now."

Providence Academy, top ranked in Class 2A girls, thumped Mountain Iron-Buhl, No. 2 in Class 1A, 87-53 in the Lake Superior Classic in Duluth on Saturday. Maddyn Greenway poured in 38 points and Rachel Bartels added 21. Jordan Zubich led the Rangers with 21.



Taryn Hamling, in middle with the ball, was saluted by Thunderhawk teammates.

#### **Surging Grand Rapids** celebrates star's 2,000th

ed by Taryn Hamling, who tallied her 2,000th point Lon Tuesday evening, Grand Rapids has reeled off 11 straight wins since opening with two losses. Hamling, 5-foot-9 guard committed to NDSU, went over 2,000 while scoring 24 points in a 65-34 win at Hibbing. Grand Rapids, ranked No. 4 in Class 3A, opened the season with losses to two highly-ranked teams, St. Croix Lutheran 64-55 and Holy Angels 49-44. The top teams the Thunderhawks have beaten are Monticello (9-3) by 59-56 and Duluth Marshall (6-4) by 62-46. Hamling, 5-foot-9 senior guard, averages 22 points, and leads the state with 50 three-pointers. Jessika Lofstrom, 5-foot-11 junior post, is next with 14.8 ppg. Braya LaPlante, 5-foot-11 junior forward adds 7.7 points per game. LaPlante was the setter on the Rapids volleyball team that reached the state semifinals.

Perham (10-1) handed Breckenridge (9-1) its first loss 63-55, led by Willow Thiel with 29 points and 12 rebounds Tuesday in a conference game. Thiel's threepointer at the halftime buzzer gave the Yellowackets a 34-18 lead. Breckenridge came back strong in the second half but couldn't overtake the Yellowjackes. Kaia Anderson added 12 points for Perham, ranked No. 7 in Class 2A. Breckenridge is No. 11 in Class 1A.

Mayer Lutheran, top ranked in girls Class 1A, improved to 10-0 with wins over Blake 67-35 and LeSueur-Henderson 74-23 on Thursday. The Crusaders have four players averaging double digits, led by Madeline Guetzkow with 6.5 per game.



2023 Pacesetter

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# "On the road again"

It was the summer of 1980. Inflation was raging, farmers were losing farms, and the Iranian hostage crisis was dominating the headlines with Jimmy Carter in the White House and Ronald Reagan campaigning against him. On Minnesota summer highways, however, Willie Nelson was singing, "On the Road Again" to a group of 20-somethings who loved traveling, fishing, and teaching basketball. Pacesetter Basketball Camps had begun!

My close friend and high school teammate, Paul Krohn, and I embarked on an 8-camp swing through Minnesota that started in Sherburn and ended in Ely.

Our two girlfriends joined us much of the way as we taught basketball by day, fished by night, and found some place to pitch a tent or share a room on weekends. We danced, we sang, we met hundreds of kids, coaches, and parents as we crisscrossed this wonderful state, making lifelong friends and memories. We ran eight 5-day camps for 400 players and finished the inaugural journey with a canoe trip in the Boundary Waters. What a life!



**Jeff McCarron** 

Paul eventually moved on to college football coaching at Mankato State and Elmhurst College in Chicago, where he also became athletic director. I continued with Pacesetter for another forty-two years, multiplying the fun, teaching, and friendships as we added volleyball camps, basketball tournaments and Minnesota Basketball News.

My time is winding down, but Pacesetter will carry on. I still love it, but it is time for others to have the fun and join the Pacesetter "Road Warriors," that dedicated group of coaches who have pounded the highways of the 5-state area, seeking out kids in gyms who want to learn and become better. They do it because they love kids, love their sport, and love meeting new people in small towns across the plains and forests of the Upper Midwest. And they also know how to make it fun.

In our 2023 Pacesetter Camp brochure, we reveal our secret that hasn't changed in 43 years: High-quality coaching and affordable fees in local gyms. We offer three types of coaches: (1) High-profile with a strong resume – state champions, college head coach es, or Hall of Famers; (2) Highly-experienced coaches

who love teaching the game, and (3) "Young guns" who show great enthusiasm and promise at an early age.

**Do you fit any of these categories?** If so, WE WANT YOU to apply to join the Pacesetter team. You have to love kids, teaching, and being "on the road". Pay is good from \$35-\$55/hour for directors, and \$15-\$25/hour for assistants. Out-of-pocket costs for travel are covered by a "travel package." If interested in being a Pacesetter basketball coach, email me at <a href="mailto:jmac8144@yahoo.com">jmac8144@yahoo.com</a>. Volleyball applicants should contact Tammy Blake at <a href="mailto:tammyblake15@yahoo.com">tammyblake15@yahoo.com</a>.

Pacesetter offers camps that are 1-2 days — "Tour of Champions" camps. These camps are run by the highest profile coaches, who are often too busy to commit more than 1-2 days. But campers can get the best tips from these coaches for lower fees in 1-2 days. Pacesetter Area Camps are 3-4 days. Sessions can be set from 1-8 hours per day for any grade levels 1-12. Hosts set the format. Camp fees are \$10/hour + \$10 registration fee. -- 2 hours: \$30; 5 hours: \$60; 8 hours: \$90; 12 hours: \$130; 16 hours: \$170

Interested in hosting a Pacesetter Camp at your school? Email tracey at pacesettersportsmbbn@gmail.com. Hosts should set up the camp between now and May 1. See the full brochure at www.pacesettersports.net.

#### MN Basketball Hall of Fame needs support

The Minnesota Basketball Hall of Fame needs support. I attended their ceremony last April in downtown Minneapolis, where the inductees were honored in a first-class event and treated to a suite for the Timberwolves game, where they were recognized at halftime at mid-court. The 14-member committee, headed by former U of M athletic director, Joel Maturi, inducted another class of former Minnesota players and coaches, who have honored this state on the court and throughout their lives.

See the article on page 8 by our editor, Bruce Strand, for more details on the committee, their mission, and their dilemma. It seems the committee is having a difficult time raising enough money – a budget of \$25,000 needed - to conduct the Hall of Fame process and induction day events in a first-class way. People can contribute at <a href="https://www.gofundme.com/mnhsbasketballhall">www.gofundme.com/mnhsbasketballhall</a>.