

- *Top 20 teams in each class
- *Huge game for DLS star
- *Providence trips Hopkins
- *Miss BB list pared to 26

Volume 28

Issue No. 11

February 3

2022-23

Benilde-SM is dual threat

And get used to it as both Knight teams are young

By Bruce Strand

Benilde-St. Margaret's has a chance to duplicate what Totino-Grace did last year, sweep the boys and girls Class 3A basketball titles in March. And for both Knight teams, the window of opportunity extends beyond this year.

Early in the final month of the regular season, the Knight girls are ranked No. 1 with a 14-4 record, led by a junior and sophomore, all four losses against Class 4A powers. The Knight boys, getting most of their scoring from sophomores, are ranked No. 2 with a 13-3 record, behind Totino-Grace.

The Knight girls are averaging 77 points — most in Class 3A — and have beaten No. 6 Holy Angels 88-73 and No. 9 DeLaSalle 80-67, along with Class 2A's No. 5 Minnehaha Academy 90-77.

Knight junior Olivia Olson, already committed to Michigan, is averaging 21.9 points, 9.6 rebounds and 4.2 steals. She recently became BSM's career scoring leader for boys and girls and passed 1,500 points. Sophomore Kendall McGee is averaging 21.7 points, 5.2 re-



The Benilde-St. Margaret's girls team celebrated Olivia Olson breaking the school's career points record on Jan. 21.

bounds and 2.8 steals. Sierra Lumpkin, a senior, adds 9.4 ppg and Zahara Bishop, a sophomore, 8.7 ppg.

Girls coach Tim Ellefson, asked what he likes about what he's seen so far, said, "Relentless attack. We attack you defensively, making you play fast, and usually that is in our favor. We then attack the basket quickly with multiple players that can get to the rim."

The Knights have lost to Class 4A's No.1 Hopkins 77-65, No. 2 Chaska 92-83, No. 7 Eden Prairie 83-77 and No. 11 Minnetonka 56-52.

"Close losses to these teams have

helped us work on our weaknesses," Ellefson said. He added, "I like that we have accepted that we have lots to learn and improve on. We are not settling on winning, but rather of playing the right way."

The Knight boys stumbled last week with a 75-72 loss at Waconia (5-10) but they've beaten Class 3A's No. 3 DeLaSalle 55-49, No. 5 Alexandria 82-78, No. 6 Mankato East 70-63 and No. 7 Orono 78-59. They've lost to Class 4A's No. 5 Wayzata 73-62 and one of Wisconsin's top teams, Middleton, 51-47.

The Knight scoring leader is 6-foot-7 sophomore guard Jalen Wilson with

17.9 points per game, followed closely by sophomore Jaleel Donley with 13.1 ppg, junior Jayden Daisy with 12.8 ppg and sophomore Abu Keith with 12.3 ppg. Keita nabs 10 rebounds per game.

Boys coach Damian Johnson assessed: "We have been shooting the ball extremely well this year. Five of our top eight players are above 36 percent from three. We are also long and athletic, with the potential to be dominant defensively."



**Jalen Wilson
paces BSM
with 17.9 ppg**

He added, "I like the way we have been fighting through adversity. We have played a tough schedule and have found ways to win."

The win over DLS is the highlight so far. "It has been a lopsided rivalry," Johnson said, "and getting a win this year was big for us to overcome a mental hurdle within our program."

The BSM girls placed sixth at state last season. The program has six state trips and with state titles in 2006 and 2010. The Knight boys have made three state trips with a championship in 2008 and runner-up finish in 2007.

Roberts, Shudlick among MN Hall of Fame picks

Linda Roberts and Carol Ann Shudlick, prep basketball legends of the 1970's and 1980's, respectively, who had prodigious college careers with the Gophers, are among 10 new additions to the Star-Tribune's Minnesota Sports Hall of Fame. Roberts, known mainly as a monster rebounder, led St. Paul Central to the first state girls championship in 1976. She still holds the Gopher career rebound of 1,413 and her 1,865 points ranks sixth. Her senior year, 1980-81, the Gophers, not yet playing in the Big Ten or the NCAA, had a 28-7 record, most wins in program history, and reached the NAIA final eight. Shudlick, the 1990 Miss Basketball winner with Apple Valley, went on to capture the 1994 Wade Trophy as the nation's top college player with the Gophers. She scored 1,558 points in high school and averaged 20, 22 and 23 for the Gophers (1990-94) her last three years, setting a record of 2,097 that stood until Lindsay Whalen broke it. The Hall of Fame class will be introduced March 1 at the Mall of America. Other honorees are Lou Nanne, Mychal Thompson, Scott Studwell, Mick Tinglehoff, Paul Krause, Katie Smith, Jean Freeman, and Bob Johnson.

Whitlock's record 52 leads big Islander win

Nasir Whitlock of DeLaSalle poured in a school record 52 points against one of the top metro teams, Hopkins, on Jan. 28, leading a 91-78 win by the Islanders. Whitlock, a 6-foot-2 senior point guard who's averaging 27.9 points, shot 15-for-22 from the field (5-for-8 on three's) and 17-for-21 on free shots. He has committed to Lehigh, a D-1 program in Pennsylvania. As a junior, he averaged 22.9 points to lead a state runner-up team. The Islanders are currently 14-4 and ranked No. 3. Whitlock broke the team record held by one of the Islanders all-time greats, 6-foot-8 Reid Travis, a 2014 graduate who had 51 against Breck during a state championship season his senior year. Reid went on to stellar college career with Stanford (three years) and Kentucky (one year).



**Nasir
Whitlock**

Fifty-plus point games by seven players have been reported to MBBN this season. As previously noted, senior Braeden O'Neill of Norwood Young America scored 61 in a 90-82 win over Monticello on Dec. 9, and senior Tessa Johnson of St. Michael-Albertville scored 51 in a 97-70 win over Chaska on Dec. 16. The others are sophomore Gabrielle Fineday of Cass Lake-Bena with 58 in a 107-13 win over Laporte on Jan. 24, sophomore Brooks Johnson of Duluth Marshall with 56 in a 92-77 loss to North Woods on Jan. 27, Mountain Iron-Buhl senior Asher Zubitz with 51 in a 98-62 win over North Woods on Jan. 13, senior Isaac Matti of Hayfield with 50 in a 76-50 win over Blooming Prairie on Jan. 24, and Whitlock (above).



**Avery
Koenen**

Avery Koenen, Montevideo's all-time scoring leader, reached the 2,000 point marker while scoring 25 in a 48-35 win over Minewaska Area on Jan. 31. That milestone came eleven days after Koenen snagged her 1,000th rebound during a win over Morris Area/Chokio-Alberta, 66-40, on Jan. 10. There are 76 girls with 2,000 points and 1,000 rebounds in state hoops history, according to state record keeper Matt Pederson. Koenen, 6-foot-3, also a volleyball and track star, has signed with North Dakota State. She led Montevideo to its first state tournament last season. The Thunderhawks are 13-2.

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

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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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Providence Acad. topples Hopkins

Greenway sinks 41 as Lions win 87-80, snap Royals streak at 42

By Bruce Strand

Providence Academy won duel of top-ranked, defending state champion teams over Hopkins, 87-80, riding freshman guard Maddyn Greenway's 41-point siege, last Saturday, snapping the Royals' 42-game win streak against Minnesota teams.

Greenway also generated seven steals, eight assists and six rebounds, and the Lions had three other double-digit scorers, as they overcame Stanford recruit NuNa Agara's 37-point performance for Hopkins in the marquee game of the Breakdown Community Clash at St. Michael-Albertville. Grace Counts added 12 points, Brooke Hohnecker 11, and Hope Counts 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Lions (15-2).

"This is obviously a huge win for our program. Honestly, just getting the chance to play this game at all has been great," Providence Academy coach Connor Goetz said. "We have a lot of larger schools turn us down for one reason or another, so I give Hopkins a lot of credit. They say they will play anyone, anywhere and they mean it."

Hopkins had not lost to a Minnesota rival since Chaska upset them in the 2021 state semifinals.

The Royals (17-1), who also had Liv McGill with 14 points, led 38-29 at the outset. The Lions caught up 43-43 at the half. Hopkins led by six or seven again in the second half. Late in the game, three-pointers by Hohnecker and Emma Millerbernd erased a six-point Hopkins lead. The Lions edged ahead and got another Hohenecker trifecta to open an 81-75 lead with a minute left. Grace Counts sank two free shots with :28 left for an 85-80 lead, and one last breakaway basket by the mercurial Greenway finished the job.

Hopkins played without second-leading scorer Taylor Woodson, a Michigan signee, who's injured. The Royals, always with college prospects at every position, had won 57-50 over No. 3 Wayzata (14-3) and 86-60 over No. 11 Minnetonka (12-6) without Woodson ear-



Maddyn Greenway powered the Class 2A champs past the 4A champs.

Smug Mug photo at 2022 state tourney

lier in this grueling week.

Greenway shot 16-for-16 on free shots. Goetz assessed: "She is so good with her first step at getting by anybody, and then when she gets in there she's really starting to get crafty about how to finish, how to

draw contact, how to get to the line ... She shoots close to 200 free throws a day."

The Lions coach also cited Hohnecker for face-guarding Kelly Boyle — "We think she's a big reason that Hopkins wins a lot of games" — and Millerbernd for the "the tough task" of trying to slow down Liv McGill.

Providence Academy has played in two straight state title games and still has a very young roster with a good chance for a long Class 2A dynasty. While a number of schools don't want to play a loaded private school team, the Lions have been able to line up some formidable competition this season, Hopkins being foremost on that list.

The Lions lost to Iowa's top-ranked large school, Bishop Garrigan Catholic, 93-89, and to Class 3A's No. 2 Becker 83-76, early in the season. They won a rematch over Becker (13-3) 76-65, and have beaten Goodhue (15-2) 74-68, Mountain Iron-Buhl (14-3) 87-53, St. Croix Lutheran (13-3) 77-52, Minnehaha Academy (11-4) 71-60, Mahtomedi (10-5) 74-54, and Mayer Lutheran (13-3) 84-45.

This was the first time Providence Academy has dueling Hopkins since losing to the Royals in 2009-10 and 2012-13 when Ray Finley coached them.

March 4 & 5**College of St. Benedict
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MBBN GIRLS TOP 20

CLASS 4A

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

CLASS 3A

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

CLASS 2A

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

CLASS 1A

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

Note: records are through Tuesday.

MBBN BOYS TOP 20

CLASS 4A

1. Park Center 15-0
2. Lakeville North 13-2
3. Eastview 12-3
4. Minnetonka 12-3
5. Wayzata 13-3
6. Buffalo 14-2
7. Maple Grove 13-3
8. Lakeville South 12-4
9. East Ridge 11-5
10. Hopkins 12-5
11. Andover 12-5
12. Shakopee 10-5
13. Farmington 9-7
14. Owatonna 12-4
15. Stillwater 11-6
16. White Bear Lake 10-5
17. Edina 9-7
18. Eagan 10-7
19. Duluth East 13-4
20. Roseville 10-7

Note: records are through Tuesday.

CLASS 3A

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

CLASS 2A

1. Holy Family Catholic 14-2
2. Lake City 17-1
3. Maranatha Christian 15-2
4. Lake Crystal-Wellcome-Memorial 16-1
5. Maple River 18-2
6. Minneapolis North 10-5
7. Albany 14-1
8. Minnehaha Academy 11-5
9. Perham 15-1
10. Esko 12-2
11. Norwood Young America 13-2
12. Plainview-Elgin-Millville 14-3
13. Mora 14-2
14. Minneapolis Edison 12-3
15. Thief River Falls 14-2
16. Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 14-3
17. Eden Valley-Watkins 11-4
18. Paynesville 14-4
19. Two Harbors 13-2
20. Hiawatha Collegiate 12-4

CLASS 1A

1. Cass Lake-Bena 15-1
2. New Life Academy 14-3
3. Cherry 13-3
4. Henning 16-1
5. Goodhue 17-2
6. Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 15-0
7. Belgrade-Brooklyn-Elrosa 12-3
8. Ada-Borup-West 15-2
9. Hayfield 16-4
10. Lyle-Pacelli 16-2
11. Spring Grove 14-1
12. Northland 15-1
13. Browerville-Eagle Valley 12-2
14. Sacred Heart 15-2
15. Dawson-Boyd 14-3
16. Lakeview 14-3
17. Border West 13-2
18. Fosston 13-3
19. Westbrook-Walnut-Grove 15-1
20. Warren-Alvardo-Oslo 15-2



Chaska's Kennedy Sanders is one of 26 seniors who made the First Cut.

Bruce Strand, MN BB News

Miss Basketball contenders listed

Twenty-six players have made the First Cut list for Miss Basketball, announced the Minnesota Girls Basketball Coaches Association. Finalists will be named March 19, following the state tournament, and Miss Basketball will be named during the All-Star games on April 8. The committee is chaired by Pat Barrett of Fridley. The players are:

NuNu Agara and Taylor Woodson of Hopkins; Ayla Brown, Dani Nest and Marin Westin of Becker; Abby Berge of Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa; Grace Counts of Providence Academy; Sage Ganyo of Mountain Iron-Buhl; Jenna Gapinski-Vogt of Sauk Centre; Madeline Guetzkow of Mayer Lutheran; Sophi Hall of Holy Family Catholic; Taryn Hamling of Grand Rapids; Olivia Harazin of Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial; Chloe Jarnot of Maranatha Christian; Tessa Johnson of St. Michael-Albertville; Lexi Karlen of Stillwater; Kennedy Klick of Maple Grove; Jenna Kluxdal of Jordan; Avery Koenen of Montevideo; Abby Krzewinski of Wayzata; Molly Lenz of Eden Prairie; Tori Miller of Goodhue; Kennedy Sanders of Chaska; Abby Shubert of Kasson-Mantorville; Ireland Stassen of Minneota; and Haylie Strum of Stewartville.

Eden Prairie's Flom returns, suspension lifted

David Flom, Eden Prairie boys coach, returned to the helm Jan. 23 after his suspension was lifted. He had been out since Dec. 8 due to a school district investigation for reading a racial slur aloud from a social media post during a session on responsible use of social media. Flom has a career record of 390-156 and was national coach of the year in 2020. During the suspension, Eden Prairie's best player left the team to take an early graduation to enroll in a college, where he will play football, and Flom's son, a guard, also left the team but has now returned. The Eagles have lost to Wayzata and Edina since his return. North St. Paul players voted to not play Eden Prairie.

Girls coaches Hall of Fame adds four

Four 2023 inductees have been named to the Minnesota Girl Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame. They are Byron Negen of Virginia, Mountain Iron-Buhl, and Rock Ridge; John Noga of Parkers Prairie; Ellen Thompson of St. Thomas, Macalester, Hopkins and Holy Family; and Dan Woods of Holy Angels. Induction will be held during the state coaches clinic at University of St. Thomas, tentatively scheduled for Oct. 27.

JUMP SHOTS — Concordia Academy (10-7) pulled a upset of Class 1A boys top-ranked **New Life Academy** 78-74 on Jan. 27, powered by Alonzo Greene with 34 points. Lucas Swanson added 14 and Benjamin Raymond 13. Max Briggs scored 24 for the Eagles (13-3), who beat the Beacons 89-66 earlier this year **Cass Lake-Bena** takes over the 1A boys No. 1 slot. The Panthers are 15-1 with 12 wins over teams with winning records, including Henning (16-1) and Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa (12-3). Their loss came against Nevis (12-5) ... **Bruce Woitas, Sleepy Eye St. Mary's** girls coach, got his 500th win when the Knights (14-4) beat Sleepy Eye 54-51 on Jan. 26... **Clarissa Sauer**, Winona Cotter sophomore, shot 7-for-7 on three-pointers on Jan. 23 against Plainview-Elgin-Millville, tying the state record for most three's in a game without missing. Sauer totaled 34 points in a 73-58 win by the Ramblers (13-4) **Cory Larson, Dawson-Boyd** boys coach, reached 300 wins Jan. 26 when the Blackjacks (14-3) beat Lakeview 76-66 **Christian Hooge**, Pillager 6-5 sophomore, logged 33 points and 23 rebounds in an 83-63 win over Menahga on Jan. 19 ... **Owen Leach** of Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton recently broke the school points record of 2,308, held by Jake Driscoll since 2007, while also notching his 1,000th rebound.

Articles are written by Bruce Strand, MBBN editor.



Register now for the **33rd Annual Fastbreak Club Junior Grand Am Basketball Tournament** in Grand Forks, ND on **Friday, March 31, 2023 – Sunday, April 2, 2023**. This is the largest youth basketball tournament in North Dakota, with over 300 teams expected to play. There are divisions for both boys and girls teams in grades 3 through high school. We provide registered officials and excellent venues for our games, including the Betty Engelstad Sioux Center, UND Wellness Center, Alerus Center and the Choice Wellness Center.

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