

- *Top 20 teams in each class
- *34 points without a miss
- *Wayzata finally tips Royals
- * Park Center edges T-G

Volume 28

Issue No. 13

February 17

2022-23

Battling the big boys



Buffalo 18-3 in 4th season in the powerful Lake

By Bruce Strand

Might this be the best Buffalo team since the state championship season of 2007? That question was posed to Bison coach Josh Ortmann, who should know, since he was the top scorer on that team.

“With so many new faces, I am still trying to figure out how good this team is,” said Ortmann, whose 18-3 squad has four first-year starters who are juniors. “I feel we have a high ceiling, and are doing our best to learn how to compete at the highest level night in and night out.”

If the No. 4 ranked Bison reach state, they’ll be considerably more battle-hardened than the 2007 team, which played in the Mississippi 8 Conference. Buffalo has jousted in the huge Lake Conference for four years.

“People do not understand how tough the competition of the Lake is, night in and night out, until you start to live it,” Ortmann said. The biggest transition is understanding what it takes to compete for a full 36 minutes, he declared. “If you play two minutes of poor basketball, you will lose by twenty in this league.”

Ortmann, a health and PE teacher at Buffalo, also played on a Division



Tyler Dahl, Bison leader in all categories, scores against Tonka.

Edlund Media

II Final Four team as a junior at St. Cloud State. This is fourth year as Bison head coach.

The Bison are led by 6-foot-1 senior guard Tyler Dahl, who’s averaging 24.9 points and is usually in the 30’s against the toughest teams. Dahl, asked about competing in the Lake as its smallest member, said, “We could probably play average teams and blow them out, but it’s more fun to try and take out a big school team.” The only returning starter from last

year’s 16-12 team, for which he averaged 13.6 points, Dahl has high goals this year. “The way last year ended left a bad taste in my mouth,” he said. “This year I just want to have a lot of fun, and make state with this team. My oldest brother played on the last (Buffalo) team to make state.”

Tyler follows Zach, who played in the 2014 state tourney and then UW-Stout, and Tony, currently playing for St. Cloud State, one of several NSIC schools recruiting Tyler.

Dahl leads the team in scoring, rebounding, steals, and charges taken, shooting 39 percent on three's and 57 percent on two's. "Tyler does a great job of taking what the defense gives him," said Ortmann. His high accuracy comes from an hour a day year-round on the team's shooting machine. "His work ethic is second to none," the coach said. "He plays with a chip on his shoulder."

Grady Guida, 6-foot-1 junior guard (that's him at the top of Page 1), averages 13.3 per game. He's the son of Nick Guida, Ortmann's coach on the state champion team who's now activities director. Ortmann describes Grady as an "extremely efficient" player shows grit and toughness, shoots well, gets to the free throw line, and makes teammates better

Other junior starters are Torii Johnson, 6-foot-3 guard (8.5 ppg), Brody Wishart, 6-foot-2 guard (8.3 ppg), and Kai Penney, 6-foot-4 wing (6.1 ppg). With no true "big," the Bison's top eight is all guards, with Guida, Dahl and 5-foot-9 sophomore backup Ty Torgrimson alternating at the point.

In their last four games, the Bison got thrashed by No. 3 ranked Wayzata 77-48 on Feb. 3, beat No. 5 Minnetonka 81-75 on Feb. 7 with Dahl scoring 36 points (they lost to the Skippers 59-57 earlier), nipped Eden Prairie 81-80 on Feb. 10 with Dahl hitting 35 points and Wishart 15, including two free shots with :08 left for the game-winners, and outgunned Class 2A power Minnehaha Academy 97-90 at home this past Monday. In that shootout, Dahl had 36 points, Guida 18, and Penney and Wishart 13 each. Rolyns Aligbe drilled 33 points and Lorenzo Levy 25 for the Redhawks.

The Bison play in Section 8AAAA, where the other top teams are Moorhead (15-4) and Brainerd (15-3). The Bison beat Moorhead 76-62 with Dahl scoring 33 points. They will host Brainerd on Saturday.

Buffalo ranks 33rd in enrollment in the state -- and seventh of seven in the Lake, with less than half the enrollment of Wayzata and Minnetonka, who are 1-2 in the state, and two-thirds that of Eden Prairie and Edina.

Buffalo simply "outgrew" the Mississippi 8, said activities director Guida. The Northwest Suburban turned them down because it already had 14 teams. "The MSHSL then got involved and placed us in the Lake," Guida said. "There has been some growing pains but our kids and coaches have been resilient. The Lake has been great to work with and I'm excited about the future possibilities."

Waseca's Reger: nine 3's, 34 pts, no misses

By Bruce Strand

Tyson Reger of Waseca, who was averaging just six points per game, pumped in 34 points, without missing a single shot, on Tuesday in an 87-48 win over Sibley East.

That included 9-for-9 on three-pointers, which breaks the state record for most three's in a game without missing.

"I was just playing a normal game of basketball," said senior forward, who made three 2-pointers and one free shot. "I realized I had not missed a shot, but I just kept the confidence I had in the beginning of the game and finished with the same amount in the end."

His previous high for 3-pointers was seven in a junior varsity game. "I always knew I could knock down three's," said Reger, who's hitting 40.3 percent for the season, "but Tuesday just happened to be the night that they all fell."

The previous state record was 8-for-8 by three players -- Trent Hollerich of Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial in 2001, Jace Hennen of Ada-Borup in 2012 and Adam Olson of Royalton in 2016 -- according to Matt Pederson, state basketball record-keeper.

"It's wild, because he's only averaging six points per game. His previous high was 17 points," said Seth Anderson, Waseca coach, adding, "Not a single one of his (three's) even touched the rim. Swish after swish."

Anderson described Reger as a team-first player who never shoots outside the flow of the offense but has always been an accurate marksman with a quick release. "This is probably why he was a candidate for breaking a record like this," said Anderson.

"We were aware on the bench that he hadn't missed a shot. However, we had no idea that a state record was at stake or what it even was."



Tyson Reger set a state 3-point re-

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 • pacesettersportsmbb@gmail.com • www.pacesettersports.net • [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) Pacesetter Basketball

Trojans nip Hopkins, end long No.1 tenure

Hopkins has been bumped out of the girls Class 4A No. 1 spot for the first time in five years after Wayzata edged the Royals 55-53 on Friday, Feb. 10.

Before a standing-room-only crowd of about 2,500 in Wayzata, Abby Krzewinski sank two free shots with eight seconds left, after being found shooting at the end of a full-court drive, to break a 53-53 tie. In the final seconds, Wayzata's Brynn Senden deflected a shot in the lane by Hopkins' Liv McGill, and teammate Grace Weber smothered the loose ball as time ran out.



**Brynn
Senden**

The Trojans made 17 of 20 free shots as they ended a 14-game losing streak against the Royals. Senden scored 19 points, Sophie Hawkinson 11 points (9-for-10 at the line) and Shannon Fornshell nine for Wayzata. Nu Nu Agara netted 19 points, Taylor Woodson 13 and McGill eight for Hopkins. It was Woodson's first game back after missing 11 games with an ankle injury.

The MN Basketball News has Chaska (22-1) in the top spot, followed by Hopkins (19-2), St. Michael-Albertville (21-2) and Wayzata (19-3). Hopkins also has a loss to Class 2A's top-ranked Providence Academy, 87-80.

Hopkins had gone unbeaten in the Lake, the state's strongest conference, since Wayzata beat them 70-66 on Jan. 12, 2018. The last time Hopkins was not No. 1 was on Feb. 28 of that year, when Eastview took over the top spot and went on to win the state title, beating Hopkins in the finals.

The Royals beat Wayzata 57-50 earlier this year and have also beaten STMA 75-66, No. 5 Maple Grove 69-49, No. 8 Eden Prairie 86-51 and 64-58, No. 11 Minnetonka 86-60 and 82-59, and Class 3A's No. 2 Benilde-St. Margaret's 77-65.

Articles are written by Bruce Strand, MBBN editor. Anyone who has a suggestion for an item about a player, coach, team, event or issue is welcome to send an e-mail to bruce.a.strand@gmail.com

Pirates edge T-G for No. 1's rivalry sweep

Park Center is 2-0 against Totino-Grace in duels of top-ranked teams in the state but the second one was much closer than the first. The Pirates, No. 1 in Class 4A, prevailed 68-65 over the Eagles, No. 1 in Class 3A, on the Eagles' court Feb. 9. "I was impressed with our team's defense down the stretch," Pirate coach James Ware said. Casmir Chavis, junior guard, led with 28 points and six rebounds, and his steal against all-stater Taison Chatman in the final minute helped the Pirates expand a two-point lead to four. JJ Ware had 12 points, six rebounds and four assists, CJ O'Hara nine points and Chiang Ring eight points. Chatman sank 23 points, Patrick Bath 17 and Isaiah Johnson 13 for Totino-Grace. In the first meeting of the Northwest Suburban Conference rivals, Park Center won 76-62.

From Eden Prairie's 28-0 team: 4 in college hoops, 1 in lacrosse

Eden Prairie's great boys basketball team of 2019-20 that went 28-0 and was ranked No. 10 in the nation has sent four players to college hoops and one to college lacrosse. Austin Andrews at Minnesota-Duluth is the only one currently a starter in basketball. The 6-6 sophomore forward is averaging 11.5 points and 5.9 rebounds for the Bulldogs (18-8). Drake Dobbbs, sophomore guard at St. Thomas, has played in 11 games, averaging 2.2 points. Connor Christenson is a freshman forward at Dartmouth. He's been in four games, scoring 13 points. Miles Frisch is a junior guard for MIAC leader Carlton, appearing in 15 games, scoring 21 points. Will Foster is the lacrosse player. He stepped right into the starting lineup at Marquette as a freshman and logged 10 goals and 16 assists in 14 games. They're two games into the 2023 season. Another member of the 2020 team, John Henry, is not currently in school.

Becker trips BSM, takes top spot

Class 3A girls top two spots are reversed this week after Becker defeated Benilde-St. Margaret's 84-78 at Becker on Saturday. Ayla Brown sank 32 points and Marin Westin added 25 points, each going 5-for-9 on three-pointers, for Becker (21-3). BSM (17-6) was led by sophomore Kendall McGee with 34 points, 25 in the second half, when they trimmed a 16-point deficit to one. Olivia Olson added 18 points. Each team was unbeaten in Class 3A entering the game.

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

PACESSETTER**Scan Code:****Or For More Info/To Register:****www.pacesettersports.net**

MBBN GIRLS TOP 20

CLASS 4A

1. Chaska 22-1
2. Hopkins 19-2
3. St. Michael-Albertville 21-2
4. Wayzata 19-3
5. Maple Grove 18-3
6. Lakeville North 17-5
7. Stillwater 20-3
8. Eden Prairie 15-8
9. White Bear Lake 18-4
10. East Ridge 19-4
11. Minnetonka 14-8
12. Elk River 17-5
13. Rosemount 17-5
14. Robbinsdale Cooper 19-4
15. Rogers 14-6
16. Prior Lake 13-8
17. Centennial 13-9
18. Lakeville South 15-8
19. Roseville 13-9
20. Rochester Mayo 18-4

CLASS 3A

1. Becker 21-3
2. Benilde-St. Margaret's 17-6
3. Grand Rapids 21-2
4. Stewartville 21-2
5. Jordan 20-2
6. DeLaSalle 17-5
7. Holy Angels 17-5
8. Alexandria 19-4
9. Detroit Lakes 20-3
10. Mahtomedi 15-5
11. Monticello 18-5
12. St. Peter 16-6
13. Mankato East 16-6
14. Visitation 15-7
15. Austin 17-6
16. Delano 17-6
17. Red Wing 16-6
18. Marshall 17-8
19. Orono 12-10
20. North St. Paul 17-4

CLASS 2A

1. Providence Academy 20-2
2. New London-Spicer 23-0
3. Albany 22-1
4. Goodhue 22-3
5. Minnehaha Academy 17-5
6. St. Croix Lutheran 18-3
7. Rochester Lourdes 21-4
8. Pequot Lakes 18-3
9. Perham 20-2
10. Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial 23-1
11. Luverne 21-2
12. Montevideo 19-3
13. Minneapolis Roosevelt 22-2
14. Caledonia 21-3
15. Holdingford 20-3
16. Proctor 16-7
17. Pelican Rapids 18-5
18. Pine City 16-8
19. Glencoe-Silver Lake 18-5
20. Crosby-Ironton 14-7

CLASS 1A

1. Mountain Iron-Buhl 19-3
2. Mayer Lutheran 19-3
3. Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart 22-1
4. Henning 22-1
5. Hayfield 22-3
6. BOLD 19-5
7. Nevis 18-2
8. Badger-Greenbush-Middle River 20-3
9. Grand Meadow 20-2
10. Underwood 20-3
11. Hancock 18-3
12. Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa 17-4
13. Cromwell-Wright 19-4
14. Barnum 20-3
15. Kelliher-Northome 20-2
16. Fosston 19-3
17. Lac qui Parle Valley 21-3
18. Breckenridge 13-8
19. Sleepy Eye 18-6
20. Braham 17-5

Note: records are through Tuesday.

MBBN BOYS TOP 20

CLASS 4A

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

Note: records are through Tuesday.

CLASS 3A

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

CLASS 2A

1. Holy Family Catholic 19-2
2. Lake City 21-1
3. Maranatha Christian 19-2
4. Lake Crystal-Wellcome-Memorial 20-1
5. Maple River 22-2
6. Minneapolis North 12-7
7. Albany 20-1
8. Minnehaha Academy 14-7
9. Perham 16-4
10. Norwood Young America 19-2
11. Esko 16-3
12. Plainview-Elgin-Millville 18-4
13. Mora 16-3
14. Minneapolis Edison 15-7
15. Thief River Falls 18-2
16. Eden Valley-Watkins 16-5
17. Paynesville 18-4
18. Osakis 16-5
19. Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 17-5
20. Two Harbors 18-3

CLASS 1A

1. Cass Lake-Bena 21-1
2. New Life Academy 16-5
3. Cherry 17-3
4. Henning 20-1
5. Goodhue 20-3
6. Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 22-0
7. Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa 16-3
8. Spring Grove 21-1
9. Hayfield 19-5
10. Lyle-Pacelli 18-3
11. Northland 20-1
12. Dawson-Boyd 19-3
13. Sacred Heart 20-3
14. Lakeview 19-3
15. Border West 18-2
16. Southwest MN Christian 18-4
17. Nevis 16-5
18. Warren-Alvarado-Oslo 20-3
19. Browerville-Eagle Valley 16-4
20. Westbrook-Walnut-Grove 17-3



Jordan Zubich of Mountain Iron-Buhl posed in Univ. of North Carolina colors.

Zubich signs with family favorite UNC

Jordan Zubich of Mountain Iron-Buhl, the state's No. 3 ranked junior girl player according to Prep Girls Hoops, announced last week that she'll attend North Carolina. The 5-foot-11 guard averaging 28.8 points is especially coveted for her three-point shooting, hitting 44 percent this year after setting a state record with 137 last year. Zubich told Inside Carolina, a fan website, that her family is longtime UNC fans, watching all the Tar Heels games they can on TV, and that "Carolina" is her middle name. "Obviously, it's been my dream for a long time (to play at UNC)," said Zubich, who picked UNC from six finalists, including the Gophers. (The Zubich family includes her brother, Asher, a senior guard averaging 26 points, also the quarterback of MIB's state nine-man champions. He has verbally committed to St. Olaf for football.) The North Carolina women have been a Top 25 team the past two years, currently No. 19 with an 18-7 record. Among the top three ranked juniors in the state, No. 1 Olivia Olson of Benilde-St. Margaret's has committed to Michigan and No. 2 Liv McGill of Hopkins has not committed.



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.

For more information visit our website at www.gffastbreak.com or contact Evan Pederson at epederson120@mygfschools.org

AROUND THE STATE

Tessa Johnson, St. Michael-Albertville senior signed by NCAA champion South Carolina, reached 2,000 points on Feb. 7 while scoring 16 in a 77-53 win over Wayzata **Isaac Matti**, senior guard who's won two state championships with Hayfield, got his 2,000th point Feb. 7 while scoring 27 in a 77-58 win over Kenyon-Wanamingo **Ashlynn Guenther** of Duluth East reached 2,000 points while scoring 27 in a 72-37 win over Hibbing on Thursday evening. The 5-foot-11 senior got her 1,000th rebound on Jan. 3 Crosby-Ironton freshman **Tori Oehrlein** scored 45 points in a 93-41 win over Pine River-Backus on Feb. 13, lifting her career total to 1,944, one more than the C-I boys record of 1,943 held by Bryce Tesdahl, the Minnetonka boys coach **JJ Thornton**, senior 6-foot-4 wing, scored 40 for Burnsville (9-11) to lead a 76-64 upset of Eastview (14-6) on Feb. 10 ... **Laura Hauge**, St. Croix Lutheran junior, got her 2,000th point while scoring 22 on Thursday in an 81-12 win over New Life Academy **Peyton Hunt** scored 51 points for Milaca in a 122-64 win over Pierz on Jan. 31, sinking nine 3-pointers. The 6-foot-5 senior guard is averaging 18.8 points **Maggie Westling**, another Milaca player, a junior, recently snagged her 1,000th rebound Three sophomores that we're aware of have passed 1,000 points: **Brooks Johnson** of Duluth Marshall, **Noah Sundquist** of Cherry and **Trevor Smith** of Tracy-Milroy-Balaton Stillwater senior **Lexi Karlen** and junior **Amy Thompson** both got their 1,000th point during a win over Forest Lake, 70-38, on Feb. 9. That's the fourth time this season, and 15th time overall, that teammates have reached the milestone the same game ... **Brenden Chiabotti**, North Woods senior, scored 50 points in 115-68 win over Littlefork-Big Falls, and went over 1,000 points, on Feb. 10 **Chad Ostermann**, Maple River boys coach, got his 300th win when the Eagles beat United South Central 61-41 on Feb. 7. Maple River is 22-2 this season Henning girls coach **Mike Hepola** got his 300th win at Sebeka, 61-21, on Feb. 4. The Hornets are 21-1 this year.

Correction — The Bishop Garrigan team that lost to Providence Academy is No. 1 in Iowa's smallest class, not its largest class.



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

