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2022-23



Girls champs: STMA, BSM, Providence, Mt. Iron-Buhl



The celebrants:
Benilde St.
Margaret's (top of
page), St. Michael-
Albertville (above
left), Providence
Academy (above
right), and Mountain
Iron-Buhl (right).

Bruce Strand, MN BB News



STMA is champ in thriller

By Bruce Strand

St. Michael-Albertville finally slew the dragon. After years of bowing to the state's most powerful basketball program, the Knights toppled conference rival Hopkins 71-70 for the state Class 4A championship Saturday evening at Williams Arena.

But not without some searing drama. The Knights built a 58-38 lead that was almost not enough. Hopkins picked them apart with devastating pressure and made it a one-basket game at 69-67 with a double team on an inbounds pass for a steal leading quickly to a layup by Taylor Woodson.

CLASS 4A: St. Michael-Albertville 71, Hopkins 70

Hopkins had to foul, and Tessa Johnson had the ball. The state's best player sank two free shots with 7.6 seconds left for a 71-67 cushion. Hopkins still wasn't done. Kelly Boyle swished an arching rainbow 3-pointer to make it 71-70. Not until Johnson heaved an inbounds pass down the court with 1.0 on the clock could the Knights celebrate. And, boy, did they celebrate.

"In previous years we've been scared to play Hopkins," said Johnson, "but we wanted them this year, because last year ended on such a bad note. This year we were not going to let them get a third one (win over us)."

The Knights had lost 12 straight games to Hopkins, including last year's state championship game 72-56, and twice this year in conference 75-66 and 104-94.

"We knew they were going to come back. They are so tenacious, so darned athletic," said coach Kent Hamre. "We had leads in both (conference) games against them but this time we held our composure and battled through. Of course, having that big early cushion really helped."

It was suggested to Hopkins coach Tara Starks that they didn't really lose, they just ran out of time. She said, "You might say that. Two more seconds. Maybe three."

Johnson delivered 27 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists, and went 10-for-10 on free shots, including those last two that decided the state title. "I practice free throws all the time," she said. "It's just muscle memory."

Ja'Kahla Craft led the Knights to an early, shocking 27-6 lead, scoring 12 of those points, hitting two 3-pointers, and finished with 17 points. Ava Haus added 12 points and Abby Hoselton 11. Their "dirty work" specialist Piper Carlson contributed eight rebounds, three steals and two blocks.

For Hopkins, Woodson generated 21 points, seven rebounds and six assists. Nunu Agara 18 points and nine rebounds, Kelly Boyle 13 points and Liv McGill 10 points.

STMA led 58-38 with 11 minutes left. That's when Hopkins started playing like Hopkins, shaking loose turnovers, barreling to the hoop, hitting their shots. The Knights' big lead melted...but they held on.

"It was a magical season," said Hamre. "The kids worked so hard for this. What a way to go out."

STMA achieved a hat trick unique in state hoops history — this was their third state title in three different classes. All under Hamre, they won Class 2A in 2001 and 3A in 2009 and now 4A. It was also a hat trick by the Lake Conference that's unprecedented — a 1-2-3 finish in the state with Eden Prairie placing third.

Hopkins 25 45 – 70
St. Michael-Albertville 42 29 – 71

Hopkins – 24-71 FG (5-20 3FG), 17-20 FT, 35 rebounds, 14 turnovers, 21 fouls Scoring: Macaya Copeland 3 (2 stl), Kelly Boyle 13 (5 reb, 3 ast), Jasmine Dupree-Hebert 5, Taylor Woodson 21 (7-7 FT, 7 reb, 6 ast, 3 stl), Liv McGill 10 (4 reb, 5 ast, 4 stl), Nunu Agara 18 (9 reb) ... 3-pointers: Copeland 1-2, Boyle 3-9, Agara 1-1

St. Michael-Albertville – 23-47 FG (6-16 3FG), 19-22 FT, 38 rebounds, 24 turnovers, 14 fouls ... Scoring: Cail Jahnke 0 (1 stl), Tessa Johnson 27 (10-10 FT, 10 reb, 7 ast), Piper Carlson 2 (8 reb, 2 ast, 3 stl, 2 blk), Ava Haus 12 (4 reb, 2 stl), Abby Hoselton 11 (6-6 FT, 4 reb, 2 ast), Ja'Kahla Craft 17 (5 reb, 4 ast, 2 stl), Kylie Diaz 2 3-pointers: Johnson 1-3, Haus 2-4, Hoselton 1-1, Craft 2-7



Tessa Johnson sank two clinching free shots, above.

Benilde-SM gets it done

By Bruce Strand

Benilde-St. Margaret's was missing one key player who was watching on crutches, but the Knights won the Class 3A championship game anyway, over Stewartville 66-60, on Saturday. The Knights (26-6) captured their program's third state title, while Stewartville, making their school's first-ever state trip in boys or girls basketball, finished 29-3 with silver medals.

CLASS 3A: Benilde-St. Margaret's 66, Stewartville 60

Coach Tim Ellefson said it was a "bittersweet" victory as sophomore standout Kendall McGee could not play due to a knee injury suffered in the Knights' quarterfinal win. "Kendall is such a big part of our team and responsible for so many wins in the season and first round of state," said Ellefson. "We needed all our girls to step up and they did. All our girls are very good basketball players."

McGee averages 20 points and junior Olivia Olsen averages 21.9. Olson did not shoot as well as usual as she scored 17 points, but she also pulled down 17 rebounds.

Sierra Lumpkin, averaging just nine points, caught fire in the state finals to lead the Knights with 21 points, including 5-for-6 accuracy on 3-pointers and 4-for-4 on free shots. Zahara Bishop supplied six assists and 10 points. Lumpkin is also a standout in volleyball, in which BSM lost in the state finals to Marshall. She was elated to get another shot. "We came up short in volleyball. We were so close," she said. "In basketball, we had to do this, we had to leave it all on the court. Especially this being my last game."

As for McGee, Olsen related: "She texted me a long paragraph this morning just saying, 'I'm proud of you. It's your time to lead this team.' We've been through so much.' Before the game I just gave her a hug."

For Stewartville, Savanna Hedin netted 17 points and Haylie Strum 12 as the Tigers gave BSM a strong challenge despite being off the mark on 3-pointers, 7-for-30.

One that did hit was Audrey Shindelar's toss from 10 feet outside the arc at the first half horn, pulling them within 34-26. Shindelar and Keeley Steele had eight points each.

"We shoot 37.8 percent on three's for the year and we were 2-for-14 at halftime," lamented coach Ryan Liffbrig. The Tigers were 5-for-16 in the second half, but, as the coach noted, "We had a couple go down the barrel and come back out — one for sure that would have put us up by seven. That was a key point in the game." Strum was glum about the shooting. "Just couldn't make our shots. That's all. They didn't go in."

Ellefson, who coached Hutchinson before moving to BSM this year, observed about Stewartville. "Lots of heart. I coached a town similar to Stewartville for many years, and I could see the whole town was here, and I know all those kids were playing for their neighbors, and the gas attendant, and the post man, and they were all in the crowd."

The Stewartville girls were downcast in the presser. When a reporter pointed out that they made state for the first time, got all the way to the finals and were still in the game in the final minute, Keeley Steele acknowledged. "Yes, that's really cool. It hurts. We really wanted this. But we feel proud of ourselves."



Sierra Lumpkin, launching a 3-point basket here, had 21 points.

Stewartville..... 26 34 – 60
Benilde-St. Margaret's34 32 – 66

Stewartville – 23-66 FG (7-30 3FG), 7-12 FT, 40 rebounds, 13 turnovers, 20 fouls ... Scoring: Haylie Strum 12 (2 ast), Audrey Shindelar 8 (3 reb), Avery Spencer 3, Taylor Klement 3 (7 reb), Jayci Rath 5 (9 reb, 3 ast), Ella Theobald 4 (3 reb, 2 stl), Savanna Hedin 17 (5 reb, 2 ast), Keeley Steele 8 (5 reb, 2 stl) ... 3-pointers: Strum 1-8, Shindelar 2-6, Klement 1-2, Rath 1-2, Hedin 2-5, Steele 0-7

Benilde-St. Margaret's – 20-52 FG (7-18 3FG), 19-30 FT, 47 rebounds, 15 turnovers, 13 fouls ... Scoring: Olivia Olsen 17 (11-15 FT, 17 reb, 2 ast, 2 stl), McKenzie Wells 2 (3 reb), Sydney Friedly 5 (4 reb, 2 ast), Zahara Bishop 10 (3 reb, 6 ast, 3 stl), Mira Wismer 2, Sierra Lumpkin 21 (4-4 FT, 6 reb, 2 ast, 3 blk), Kate Kapsner 7 (8 reb, 3 ast), Josephine Nnaji 2 ... 3-pointers: Friedly 1-3, Lumpkin 5-6, Kapsner 1-1

Providence Acad. repeats

By Bruce Strand

Providence Academy's repeating as Class 2A champion has seemed almost a foregone conclusion ever since the Lions defeated longtime Class 4A power Hopkins 87-80 in late January. And the Lions did indeed capture the gold medals again Saturday although the Albany Huskies made them work pretty hard for it.

CLASS 2A: Providence Academy 74, Albany 60

The Lions fended off Albany 74-60 after trailing 33-32 at halftime and finished the campaign 30-2, playing in their third straight title game.

Maddyn Greenway, their mercurial freshman guard, led with 31 points and five steals. She had 113 points in the tournament.

"She is a special player," Albany coach Aaron Boyum said. "She gets up and down the floor and goes. Providence is so explosive in the transition game."

Grace Counts, six-foot senior named as a Miss Basketball finalist, delivered 17 points, 16 rebounds, five assists and three blocks. Emma Millerbernd added 12 points.

Keeping Albany (30-2) in the game was Alyssa Sand, 6-foot-3 junior, with 29 points and 21 rebounds, plus three steals and three blocks. Kylan Gerads was next with nine points, seven rebounds and three blocks.

The Lions won despite going 3-for-22 on three's. With their rebounding and speed, and with Greenway at the controls, that didn't matter much.

"My guards can go forever. We have multiple sport athletes, they're in soccer and track and they have good lateral quickness," said coach Connor Goetz. "If someone

is streaking down the floor, Maddyn is gonna find her."

With a roster loaded with metro area college prospects, led by Greenway with three more years to go, the Plymouth private school could be looking at five in a row in Class 2A. "That would be great," said Goetz, when such a dynasty was suggested, "but the team we just played will have lot to say about that. The rest of state is getting better and hungry, so I'm not going to make any predictions."

This was the Lions' third straight championship game. They lost to Albany two years ago, and beat Fergus Falls 55-53 last year.



Maddyn Greenway eyes the hoop before scoring two of her 31 points on a breakaway.

Grace Counts paid tribute to her counterpart Sand, a friend from AAU ball: "Alyssa was killing us. She is so good. I knew if I wanted my team to succeed, I had to pick up my end and get as many boards as I could," said Counts. The Lions did improve rebounding in the second half.

Sand battled not one but two six-foot Counts girls. Sophomore Hope Counts had seven points and 10 rebounds. "I work hard, and I'm tall and have long arms. It was a good challenge," said Sand, one of five junior starters

Providence Acad. 32 42 – 74
Albany 33 27 – 60

Providence Academy – 28-72 FG (3-22 3FG), 15-20 FT, 43 rebounds, 9 turnovers, 20 fouls Scoring: Brooke Hohnacker 5 (3 reb, 3 stl), Emma Millerbernd 12 (5 reb, 2 blk), Ari Flies-Peterson 2, Hope Counts 7 (10 reb, 4 ast, 5 stl), Maddyn Greenway 31 (9-13 FT, 5 reb, 4 ast, 5 stl), Kyra Miller 0 (2 reb), Grace Counts 17 (16 reb, 5 ast, 3 blk) ... 3-pointers: Hohnacker 1-9, Greenway 2-10

Albany – 20-57 FG (3-17 3FG), 17-25 FT, 45 rebounds, 21 turnovers, 14 fouls Scoring: Alyssa Sand 29 (11-14 FT, 21 reb, 3 ast, 3 stl, 3 blk), Savanna Pelzer 2 (4 reb, 4 ast), Calie Holthaus 7, Tatum Findley 11 (2 blk), Kylan Gerads 9 (7 reb, 2 ast, 3 blk) 3-pointers: Findley 2-8, Gerads 1-3

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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MIB nabs elusive 1st title

Mountain Iron-Buhl is no longer the school with the most great girls basketball teams that never won a state championship. The Rangers, in their 12th state tournament in 13 years, and third time as the number one seed, finally got it done Saturday, routing a cold-shooting BOLD 52-21 in the Class 1A finals.

And the 2023 state champs want all the girls on past teams to feel a part of it.

“This isn’t just our state championship,” said Jordan Zubich, their all-state guard. “It’s all the girls, even the girls that made it to the state tournament the first time when the youngest girl on our team was just a month old.

CLASS 1A: Mountain Iron-Buhl 52, BOLD 21

“We grew up watching them, and we wanted to be the big girls in the big game. This championship is for them too. They worked so hard to get here, and it was unfortunate they couldn’t come out on top, but it was for them.”

Jeff Buffetta, coach of all those state teams, said he has a list of every girl who played in state tournaments on his computer. “This is for all of them,” he echoed.

Zubich scored 15 points, while Gabby Lira provided 10 points and 13 rebounds, and Sage Ganyo nine points and six assists.

“This means so much. I’ve dreamed about this since I was in the womb,” said Ganyo.

The Rangers finished 30-3 with 22 straight wins. They had to rally from 11 down to beat Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa 61-57 in the semifinals.

But the finals had no such tension as BOLD, at the end of

a remarkable season, could not find the basket.

BOLD (26-6), ranked No. 5, had beaten the No. 2 and 3 ranked teams just to get out of their subsection and beat No. 4 Hayfield 58-46 in the state semifinals, putting their school in its first state basketball championship game, boys or girls.

But the Warriors couldn’t do much against No. 1-ranked MIB’s rugged defenders, scoring the lowest point total ever in a championship game. Laney Braulick led BOLD with eight points.

“That obviously didn’t go quite how we wanted, but that’s basketball,” said coach Brian Kingery. “Some days you can’t put the ball in the hoop and today we didn’t. Six percent on three’s, 18 percent overall, you can’t do that against a team like MIB.”

Zubich savored her school’s second state title of the year. Her brother Asher quarterbacked the Rangers to the state nine-man football title. “I think if this game would have come out a different way, I never would have heard the end of it,” she quipped.



Sage Ganyo, whose longtime dream came true, drives to the hoop.

Mt. Iron-Buhl 32 20 – 52
BOLD 15 6 – 21

Mountain Iron-Buhl – 21-49 FG (7-24 3FG), 3-3 FT, 43 rebounds, 10 turnovers, 12 fouls ... Scoring: Hali Savela 1, Jordan Zubich 15, Kate Nelson 2, Gabby Lira 10 (13 reb, 3 ast), Sage Ganyo (9 reb, 6 ast), Anna Neyens 6 ... 3-pointers: Savela 2-7, Zubich 2-6, Ganyo 1-5, Neyens 2-6

BOLD – 8-46 FG (1-18 3FG), 4-10 FT, 26 rebounds, 7 turnovers, 8 fouls ... Scoring: Lainey Braulick 8 (5 reb, 2 ast, 2 stl), Mari Ryberg 5 (10 reb, 2 sal, 2 blk), McKenzie Visser 4 (6 reb), Lily Dean 2, Layla Pfarr 2 ... 3-pointers: Braulick 1-4

STATE 4A AND 3A SNAPSHOTS



Ja'Kahla Craft scores for STMA



Josephine Nnaji, BSM, works against Jayci Rath, Stewartville

Molly Lenz, Eden Prairie, and Marisa Frost, Centennial, chase a loose ball.

Photos by
Bruce Strand-
MN BB News



Taylor Woodson scores for Hopkins (above)



Annika Anderson,
Eden Prairie

Olivia Olsen (left)
scores for BSM



Abby Hoselton, STMA, and
Taylor Woodson, Hopkins

STATE 2A AND 1A SNAPSHOTS



Crosby-Ironton's Tori Oehrlein drives vs Goodhue



Tears of joy for Jordan Zubich and Mountain Iron-Buhl



Albany's Kylan Gerads, guarded by Emma Millerbernd of Providence.



BOLD scoring leader Laney Braulick



Abby Berge of BBE drives against a Mt. Iron-Buhl double team.

West Central Tribune



Goodhue's Elisabeth Gadiant, Crosby-Ironton's Hannah Compton eye the ball on a free shot.



BOLD's Mackenzie Visser, Rylie Boen and Laney Braulick gang up on MIB's Sage Ganyo.

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STATE GIRLS TOURNNEY RESULTS

CLASS 4A

Quarterfinals

Hopkins 81, Roseville Area 40
Stillwater 67, Lakeville North 65
St. Michael-Albertville 80, Eagan 60
Eden Prairie 78, Centennial 57

Semifinals

Hopkins 79, Stillwater 51
St. Michael-Albert. 55, Eden Prairie 40

Third place

Eden Prairie 69, Stillwater 54

Championship

St. Michael-Albertville 71, Hopkins 70

Consolation semifinals

Lakeville North 60, Roseville Area 48
Centennial 55, Eagan 45

Fifth place

Centennial 71, Lakeville North 54

CLASS 3A

Quarterfinals

Becker 52, Marshall 43
Stewartville 71, Grand Rapids 57
Benilde-St. Margaret's 64, DeLaSalle 53
Alexandria 57, Hill-Murray 39

Semifinals

Stewartville 60, Becker 59
Benilde-St. Margaret's 70, Alexandria 51

Third place

Becker 57, Alexandria 56

Championship

Benilde-St. Margaret's 66,
Stewartville 60

Consolation semifinals

Marshall 41, Grand Rapids 33
DeLaSalle 56, Hill-Murray 41

CLASS 2A

Quarterfinals

Providence Academy 78, Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial 40
Minnehaha Academy 50, New London-Spicer 28
Goodhue 67, Crosby-Ironton 59
Albany 51, Perham 38

Semifinals

Providence Academy 83, Minnehaha Academy 63
Albany 48, Goodhue 35

Third place

Goodhue 79, Minnehaha Academy 68

Championship

Providence Academy 74, Albany 60

Consolation semifinals

New London-Spicer 74, LCWM 38
Perham 56, Melrose 50

Fifth place

New London-Spicer 65, Perham 38

CLASS 1A

Quarterfinals

Mountain Iron-Buhl 65, Minneota 50
Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa 60,
Underwood 44
Hayfield 63, Badger-Greenbush-Middle River 58
BOLD 67, United Christian Academy 29

Semifinals

BOLD 58, Hayfield 46
Mountain Iron-Buhl 61, Belg.-Brtn.-Elr. 57

Third place

Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa 65, Hayfield 54

Championship

Mountain Iron-Buhl 52, BOLD 21

Consolation semifinals

Underwood 60, Minneota 43
BGMR 75, United Christian Acad. 41

Fifth place

Underwood 47, Badger-Grn.-Mid. Riv. 32

Boys top seeds: Park Center, Totino, Holy Family, RTR

Two defending champions, Park Center and Totino-Grace, are among the 32 teams in the 110th annual state boys basketball tournament this week.

Top seeds are Park Center in Class 4A, Totino-Grace in Class 3A, Holy Family Catholic in Class 2A, and Russell-Tyler-Ruthton in Class 1A.

All were MBBN No. 1 teams except RTR, which was No. 6, but got the coaches' top seed. Three of the top five teams in 1A rankings didn't reach state.

Three teams from the Northwest Suburban are in the state tournament with Andover joining Park Center and Totino-Grace.

There are two first-timers: Stewartville in Class 3A and Eden Valley-Watkins in Class 2A. Stewartville never had a state entrant in girls or boys until both qualified this year, and the girls were state runners-up.

Spring Grove knocked out both top-ranked Goodhue 57-48 in the Section 1A finals and two-time time defending champion Hayfield 57-46 in the semifinals.

DeLaSalle in Class 3A makes its 12th consecutive appearance and 28th overall. DLS has the state record of 12 championships, most recently in 2019.

CLASS 4A

Quarterfinals Tuesday

At Target Center

1-Park Center (26-2) vs Andover (22-7), 10 a.m.
4-Minnetonka (23-6) vs. 5-Eastview (22-7), noon
2-Lakeville North (26-3) vs. Buffalo (23-6), 2 p.m.
3-Wayzata (24-4) vs. White Bear Lake (21-7), 4 p.m.

Semifinals Thursday, 6 and 8 p.m.
Championship Saturday, 8 p.m.

At Concordia-St. Paul

Consolation semifinals Wednesday, 10 a.m. and noon.
Consolation finals Thursday 6 p.m.
Third place Saturday, 4 p.m.



Taison Chatman leads T-G's returning champs.

CLASS 3A

Quarterfinals Tuesday

At Williams Arena

1-Totino-Grace (21-8) vs. St. Francis (17-12), 10 a.m.
4-Mankato East (24-5) vs. 5-Alexandria (24-4), noon
2-Orono (24-5) vs. Hermantown (22-6), 2 p.m.
3-DeLaSalle (24-5) vs. Stewartville (25-4), 4 p.m.

At Target Center

Semifinals Thursday, noon and 2 p.m.
Championship Saturday, 5 p.m.

At Concordia-St. Paul

Consolation semifinals Wednesday, 2 and 4 p.m.
Consolation finals Thursday 4 p.m.
Third place Saturday, 2 p.m.

CLASS 2A

Quarterfinals Tuesday

At Target Center

1-Holy Family Catholic (27-2) vs. Eden Valley-Watkins (24-6), 6 p.m.
4-Maple River (29-2) vs. 5-Minnehaha Acad. (21-8), 8 p.m.
At Williams Arena
2-Albany (29-1) vs. Pequot Lakes (25-5), 6 p.m.
3-Plainview-Elgin-Millville (26-4) vs. Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton (24-6), 8 p.m.

At Target Center

Semifinals Friday, 6 and 8 p.m.
Championship Saturday, 1 p.m.

At Concordia-St. Paul

Consolation semifinals Wednesday, 6 and 8 p.m.
Consolation finals Thursday, 2 p.m.
Third place Saturday, noon

CLASS 1A

Quarterfinals Wednesday

At Williams Arena

1-Russell-Tyler-Ruthton (28-1) vs. Nevis (24-6), 11 a.m.
4-Cherry (26-4) vs. 5-Border West (26-2), 1 p.m.
2-New Life Academy (24-5) vs. Sacred Heart (27-4), 3 p.m.
3-Spring Grove (29-1) vs. Mankato Loyola (22-8), 5 p.m.

At Target Center

Semifinals Friday, noon and 2 p.m.
Championship Saturday, 11 a.m.

At Concordia-St. Paul

Consolation semifinals Thursday, 10 a.m. and noon
Consolation finals Saturday, 8 a.m.
Third place Saturday, 10 a.m.

Shooting a Basketball

By Jeff McCarron

State records set and tied, world records revealed, what a week of state hoops

Most high-level coaches will say, "Defense and rebounding win games." Ben Hemberger, head boys' coach at Fosston, can now add, "Shooting 80% on field goals can win a game!"

When the nets were finally cooling down after their section semi-final game, the stat sheet for the Fosston boys read, 29-36 on field goals with 7-11 of them on threes. Only three 2-point shots were missed in the whole game!

That's a state record. See more details in the article in this issue.

Fosston won the very first Minnesota boys' state championship in 1913. Now 110 years later, they have set the one game team field goal percentage record. Quite a feat.



The Pequot Lakes boys made 21-21 free throws as a team in their section finals win over Esko. That ties the state record for percentage with 100%. This was unofficial at press time, but we will follow up on it.

In the girls' tournament, under possibly the most pressure of any state championship game, both the Hopkins girls and St. Michael-Albertville girls shot over 80% on free throws. STMA was close to 90% led by Tessa Johnson with 10-10, including the most important two at the end of the game. See the stats on the recap.

I once calculated the free throw percentage for an entire Division 2 basketball league, the Northern Sun Conference, for the year. The men shot 71.6% and the women shot 71.2%.

Tessa Johnson is quoted in this issue as saying, "It's all muscle memory. I shoot a lot of free throws."

I have taught shooting in camps for 48 years. All the basics and a few secrets: balance, squaring to basket, hand placement, fingertip touch on release, extending arm high for arch to open the basket, flopping wrist, lead fingers down, holding follow through.

I often tell players they can become a "shooting machine" with good form and practice. And invariably

there will be someone in the camp that can stand in front of the basket and make 25 or more in a row. That's the machine I'm looking for so others can see that it can be done. "Muscle memory" as Tessa would say.

So what is the world record for most free throws in a row, I ask. Players offer "a hundred", "five hundred", some might get wild and say "a thousand".

Getting warm - 5,221! Ted St. Martin. It took him seven hours. Google it.

The previous record holder was Tom Amberry with 2,750. He claims he could have made more, but he got kicked out of the gym after the thirteen plus hours it took for him to shoot that many. In his personal recordings, it was revealed that he had made 500 in a row 432 times. His daily routine was 500 shots six days a week.

Now get this - he didn't start shooting free throws until he was 70 years old. Google it or YouTube it.

Stephen Curry recently made 105 threes in a row after a practice. That's unbelievable. NBA length. World record? Nope. 209 by 60-year old Fred Newman. And get this - he rebounded every one of those shots himself. Yes, it's on YouTube.

I hate to reveal this, but Newman shot the ball two-handed, Ted St. Martin didn't believe in using the legs - much - and Emberry didn't hold his follow through!

So is there such a thing as perfect form. Yes, I think there is. It is the form a person uses to make 20 or more shots in a row. It is his or her perfect form. It is Tessa Johnson making 10-10 in a state championship game with the final two to get the four point lead needed to seal it. And they needed it for their one point win over their long-time nemesis, Hopkins, who charged back from being 20 points down to almost breaking the hearts of the STMA Knights again.

It was hundreds, thousands, of free throws shot to prepare her for that moment. Her routine was the same, her muscle memory intact, and above all, her confidence in place when she needed it the most.

Repetition is the key to form and confidence. So is the shooting instructor being replaced by Dr. Dish? Not completely, but Dr. Dish does give a nice assist and who wants to rebound your 209 three pointers in a row!

Wild week last week!

I had a great week watching Minnesota high school basketball, starting with my hometown team, Martin Co. West (Sherburne-Trimont-Welcome), playing Mankato Loyola in the section semi-finals and finishing with an amazing girls' state tournament.

I don't get surprised too often any more, but starting for MCW in the post was a wrestler! Yes, you heard that right. Wyatt Williamson had scored 11 points and grabbed 17 rebounds in an upset win over United South Central in the sub-section finals. He had never played organized basketball until January 2023. Incredible. See the article in this issue.

The ending of the game was another first. MCW had a ball with 15 seconds left. They were behind 33-32. Both teams had been content all night to be ultra patient with the ball, and both teams shot quite well. It just took them a long time to shoot it, which was also a credit to both defenses not giving many good looks. Now here comes the crazy part: Loyola had only two fouls. So their team did what any good coach would do in that circumstance - foul immediately each time the ball is entered. They had four free fouls to give before MCW would be able to shoot a free throw. If you are MCW do you try to shoot immediately, taking a risky quick long shot?

Long story short, ML fouled three times, taking precious seconds off the clock each time, and MCW couldn't get a shot off until a slightly deflected pass resulted in one final desperation toss at the buzzer. It was an unusual frustrating situation that a team never expects to face.

The girls' state tournament was incredible. The speed, ball handling, shooting, poise, desire and intensity - while also demonstrating exceptional sportsmanship - was a huge credit to how good Minnesota basketball has become. It was like watching college basketball as close to a hundred of the players will likely be playing college basketball soon. Congratulations to all coaches and teams on a remarkable display of competition that is a credit to Minnesota.

FIVE FINALISTS NAMED FOR MISS BASKETBALL

Five finalists for the 2023 Miss Basketball award have been announced by the committee. The decision will be announced on April 8 at the state all-star game.

NuNu Agara, Hopkins, 6-1 forward, averaged 19 points and 6.8 rebounds, committed to Stanford.

Taylor Woodson, Hopkins, 6-foot forward, averaged 18.7 points and 7.5 rebounds, committed to Michigan.

Grace Counts, Providence Academy, 6-foot-1 forward, averaged 14.7 points and 9.4 points, committed to UM-Duluth.

Tessa Johnson, St. Michael-Albertville, 5-foot-11 guard, averaged 23.8 points, 5.6 rebounds, and 4.0 assists, committed to South Carolina.

Kennedy Sanders, Chaska, 5-foot-8 guard, averaged 20 points for the 27-2 Hawks, committed to Colorado.

COACHES ASSOCIATION ALL-STATE TEAMS

Class 4A — Tessa Johnson, St. Michael-Albertville; Kennedy Sanders, Chaska; Abby Krezwinski, Wayzata; Nunu Agara, Hopkins; Taylor Woodson, Hopkins; Liv McGill, Hopkins; Jordan Ode, Maple Grove; Kennedy Klick, Maple Grove; Molly Lenz, Eden Prairie; Aaliyah Crump, Minnetonka

Class 3A — Dani Nuest, Becker; Ayla Brown, Becker; Maren Westin, Becker; Hadley Thul, Alexandria; Olivia Olsen, Benilde-St. Margaret's; Kendall McGee, Benilde-St. Margaret's; Taryn Hamling, Grand Rapids; Haylie Strum, Stewartville; Ellabelle Pritchard, Holy Angels;

Class 2A — Maddyn Greenway, Providence Academy; Grace Counts, Providence Academy; Tori Miller, Goodhue; Tori Oehrlein, Crosby-Irtonton; Addi Mack, Minnehaha Academy; Avery Rich, New London-Spicer; Sophie Lahti, Pine City; Avery Koenen, Montevideo; Alyssa Sand, Albany; Kylan Gerads, Albany

Class 1A — Jordan Zubich, Mt. Iron-Buhl; Sage Sanyo, Mt. Iron-Buhl; Madeline Guetzkow, Mayer Lutheran; Kaitlyn Rohloff, Hancock; Rachel Kottke, Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart; Kadence Hesse, Sleepy Eye; Kristen Watson, Hayfield; Natalie Beaver, Hayfield; Ireland Stassen, Minnetonka; Abby Berge, Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa



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



GIRLS PATH TO THE STATE FINALS

CLASS 4A

QUARTERFINALS

Hopkins 81, Roseville 40 — The Royals shot 29-for-46 on field goals and 22-for-28 at the line, led by Liv McGill with 24 points, Taylor Woodson with 23 and Nunu Agara with 16. Kendall Barnes scored 12 for the Raiders.

Eden Prairie 78, Centennial 57 — The Eagles shot 30-for-55, including 9-for-18 on three's, and had 11 players score, with nobody playing more than 23 minutes. Annika Anderson and Ella Hardwick hit 12 points each and Rae Ehrman and Molly Lenz 10 each. Marisa Frost tallied 21 points for the Cougars.

Stillwater 67, Lakeville North 65 — Pony guard Amy Thompson pumped in 29 points, shooting 7-for-10 on 3-pointers, and made a layup with 11 seconds left for the game-winner. Lexi Karlen notched 17 points and 11 rebounds, and Liana Buckhalton 11 points. Lakeville North had Trinity Wilson with 18 points, Gabby Betton 12, Aduke Ojulu 11 and Gracie Winge 10.

St. Michael-Albertville 80, Eagan 60 — Ja'Lahla Craft tallied 24 points, shooting 4-for-7 on three's, for the Knights. Tessa Johnson notched 21 points, six steals and eight rebounds. Abby Hoselton had 11 points and Piper Carlson 10. Eagan's Jocelyn McClary had 13 points and Drew Buslee 11.

SEMIFINALS

Hopkins 79, Stillwater 51 — Taylor Woodson hit 23 points, Liv McGill 17, Nunu Agara 12 and Kelly Boyle 11 for the Royals. Liana Buckhalton tallied 16 points and Elisae Dieterle 14 for the Ponies, while Hopkins held thousand-pointers Lexi Karlen and Amy Thompson to eight and six, respectively.

St. Michael-Albertville 55, Eden Prairie 40 — Tessa Johnson dominated with 29 points and 10 rebounds. Ja'Kahla Craft added 11 points as the Knights beat their conference rivals for the third time. Molly Lenz sank 21 points for the Eagles.

CLASS 3A

QUARTERFINALS

Benilde-St. Margaret's 64, DeLaSalle 55 — The Knights were stunned at the outset as DLS raced to a 22-6 lead and still trailed 32-21 at the half but ruled the last 18 minutes. Olivia Olsen delivered 25 points and eight rebounds, and Kendall McGee 19 points and four steals. Aneisha Scott netted 17 points and Madalyn Blaylark 11 for the Islanders.

Alexandria 57, Hill-Murray 39 — Hadley Thul notched 18 points (shooting 7-for-10 with three 3-pointers) and eight rebounds for the Cardinals. Chloe Scholl had 16 points and four steals, and Allie Haabala 12 points. Elise Groppoli hit 11 points for H-M.

Stewartville 71, Grand Rapids 57 — Stewartville won the school's first-ever state basketball tournament game, led by Ella Theobald with 18 points, Audrey Shindelar with 13 and Savannah Hedin with 10. Jessica Lofstrom had 18 points, Amanda Scherping 14, Katelyn Jamtgaard 11 and Braya LaPlant 10 for Grand Rapids. Their 2,000-point scorer Taryn Hamling missed the state tourney with an injury.

Becker 52, Marshall 43 — Maren Westin dominated with 27 points (including 4-for-4 on three's), eight rebounds, four assists and three steals. Ayla Brown added 10 for the Bulldogs. Breanna Simpson sank 22 points and Randi Wendorff 11 for Marshall.

SEMIFINALS

Benilde-St. Margaret's 70, Alexandria 51 — Olivia Olsen powered BSM with 33 points and 13 rebounds, stepping up after their second-leading scorer Kendall McGee left the game after seven minutes with a knee injury. Sydney Friedly added 11 points. For Alexandria, MaCee Linow netted 15 points and Hadley Thul 13.

Stewartville 60, Becker 59 — The Tigers, in their state tourney debut, prevented top-seeded Becker from advancing to their fifth straight final. Savannah Hedin's layup with :32 left gave them the lead. Hedin and Ella Theobald sank 15 points each. Haylie Strum, playing on a painful sprained ankle, added 13 points and seven rebounds. Danielle Neust sank 19 points and Maren Westin 15 for the Bulldogs.

GIRLS PATH TO THE STATE FINALS

CLASS 2A

QUARTERFINALS

Goodhue 67, Crosby-Ironton 59 — Kendal Lodermeier logged 19 points and nine rebounds, Tori Miller 17 points and 11 rebounds, and Elisabeth Gadiant 16 points, eight rebounds and six steals, for the Wildcats. Crosby-Ironton's 2,000-point freshman Tori Oehrlein sank 27 points and Margaret Eigen 16.

Providence Academy 78, Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial 40 — Maddyn Greenway erupted for 47 points, including 8-for-15 three-point shooting, and made five of the Lions' 17 steals. Grace Counts had 12 points and eight rebounds. Olivia Harazin led LCWM with 17 points and seven rebounds.

Minnehaha Academy 50, New London-Spicer 28 — The Redhawks, down 20-19 at halftime, routed the Wildcats 31-8 in the second half with shut-down defense at all positions. Addi Mack sank 21 points on 8-for-13 shooting. Angel Hill netted 15 points and made seven of their 15 steals. Avery Rich led NLS with 11 points.

Albany 51, Perham 38 — The Huskies, who hold almost every opponent under 40 points, did so again, limiting the Yellowjackets to 12 field goals. Alyssa Sand and Kylan Gerads netted 14 points each and Tatum Findley 11. For Perham, Willow Thiel had 18 points and Mya Morris 15.

SEMIFINALS

Albany 48, Goodhue 45 — Albany sank six of 11 three-pointers for the difference in a close game, with Tatum Findley going 3-for-5, including one with 1:10 left to give the Huskies their 48-45 lead. Goodhue had a 3-point attempt hit the front rim in the final seconds. Findley sank 13 points and Kylan Gerads 12. Alyssa Sand had six points, six rebounds and four blocks. Kendyl Lodermeier tossed in 21 points for Goodhue and Jada Scheele added 12.

Providence Academy 83, Minnehaha Academy 63 — Grace Counts shot 9-for-9 on two's, and 2-for-2 at the line, for 20 points, and snagged 14 rebounds, while Maddyn Greenway was her usual electrifying self with 35 points. Emma Millerbernd added 13 points, missing just one shot, as the Lions won the duel of metro private school powers. Addi Mack had 19 points, Aniyah Reuben 13 and Angel Hill 12 for the Redbirds.

CLASS 1A

QUARTERFINALS

BOLD 67, United Christian Academy 29 — Mari Ryberg notched 26 points and eight rebounds, and Lainey Braulick 15 points, eight rebounds, and five assists, for BOLD. Mackenzie Visser had 12 points and 11 rebounds. Olivia Haukoos scored nine for UCA.

Hayfield 63, Badger-Greenbush-Middle River 58, OT — Natalie Beaver powered Hayfield with 31 points and 14 rebounds. Kristen Watson fouled out with 10 points. Eighth-grader Jenna Christopherson added nine points on three 3-pointers, one in OT. BGMR had five players between nine and 16 points, and made 20 steals, in its upset bid. Kristen Hanson had 16 points and five steals, and Jade Reese nine points and six steals.

Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa 60, Underwood 44 — Abby Berge tallied 18 points and seven rebounds, and Brooklyn Fischer 14 points for BBE. The Jaguars cashed 20 of 29 free throws with Berge 10-for-13. Elizabeth Lukken led Underwood with 16 points.

Mt. Iron-Buhl 57, Minneota 40 — The Rangers, who had been 0-4 against Minneota in state tournament games, finally subdued the Vikings, led by Jordan Zubich with 25 points and five steals. Hali Savela added 19 points and Sage Ganyo 16. Ireland Stassen had 18 points and Faith Myrrh 14 for Minneota.

SEMIFINALS

BOLD 58, Hayfield 46 — Warrior coach Brian Kingery's hybrid defense produced excellent results as they went one-on-one against Hayfield's top two scorers — holding them to five combined points — and controlled the lane with a 1-2 zone. Lainey Braulick netted 19 points, Mackenzie Visser 18 and Mari Ryberg 15. Eighth-grader Chelsea Christopherson led Hayfield with 18 points and Josanne Tempel added 12.

Mt. Iron-Buhl 61, Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa 57 — MIB trailed by 11 points with ten minutes left, but when BBE slowed the pace to try to protect the lead, the Rangers pounced. They took the lead at 49-48 on a three-point play by Jordan Zubich, who then fed Gabby Lira for a layup to cap a 14-0 run. Sage Ganyo tallied 23 points and Zubich 17 for MIB. For BBE, Abby Berge notched 18 points, Harley Roering 12 and Tiyaana Schwinghammer 10.

AROUND THE STATE

Northland's boys team (25-3) had two sets of twins in the lineup — **Alex Wake** (25 points per game) and **Liam Wake** (6.6 ppg), and **Aiden Carlson** (16.5 ppg) and **Nolan Carlson** (14 ppg). All are seniors and their dads are head coach Chris Carlson and assistant Bill Wake. Alex Wake is a 2,000 point scorer, and the Carlsons both went over 1,000. The Eagles finished 25-3 with a section semifinal loss to No. 5 Cherry ... **Grant Gunderson** missed the first but made the second of two free shots with .6 second left as Class 3A's No. 4 **Orono** nipped No. 12 Delano 78-77 in the 6AAA semifinals. Isaiah Hagen drilled 34 points. Gunderson had 19 points, 11 rebounds and five assists. Will Strandemo poured in 37 points for Delano, which lost to Orono 102-75 in December The **Worthington** and New Ulm boys squared off four times this season, each winning two, but Worthington got the big one, advancing in 2AAA with 65-49 conquest of the Eagles. Kaleb Knothe tallied 13 points and Mikele Walu 10 for the Trojans, who had nine players score. Colton Benson scored 20 for New Ulm ... **Justin Courneya**, Win-E-Mac junior, scored his 2,000th point in a section loss to Fertile-Beltrami, 84-65, on March 9. Courneya sank 33 points in the game and averaged 30.6 points for the Patriots (15-12) ... **Jack Janicki** broke White Bear Lake's career points record while scoring 21 in a 52-50 section semifinal win over Stillwater, passing Jeff Halbeck's mark of 1,915 that stood since 2000 **Rayzjon Walker** of Bloomington Kennedy poured in 39 points in an 80-71 win over St. Paul Como Park on Feb. 28 and 38 points a day later in an 83-82 loss to Robbinsdale Cooper. The senior forward averaged 19.7 points for the Eagles (10-17) ... **Fertile-Beltrami** upset Class 1A's No. 2 Cass Lake-Bena 58-57 in Section 8A with **Ryan Van Den Einde** delivering the game-winner at the buzzer after grabbing a rebound. Derek Sorenson hit 19 points. Caiden Swenby had 14 points, seven steals and seven assists. Dominic Staples-Fairbanks led CLB (25-3) with 15 points **Maple River**, No. 5 in 2A, beat No. 4 Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial 64-53 in their section semifinal, led by Hayden Niebuhr with 22 points and Mason Schirmer with 16. Zack Wells scored 20 for LCWM. The two teams split in the regular season ...

Articles are written by Bruce Strand, MN Basketball News editor. Anyone with a suggestion for an article may send it to bruce.a.strand@gmail.com.

Injured wrestler gave MCW cagers a boost

Wyatt Williamson, a lifelong wrestler at Martin County West, joined the basketball team in January due to a shoulder injury from football. The son of wrestling coach Adam Williamson, he notched 11 points and 15 rebounds in a second-round playoff



Wyatt Williamson

win over top seed United South Central 56-50 on March 10. MCW (17-10) then lost to Mankato Loyola 33-32. A 6-foot-3, 190-pound standout (tight end and linebacker) on the 7-3 football team, Williamson tried to continue in wrestling through December, but the shoulder injury would not allow it. "We knew the shoulder would be troublesome for wrestling," said his father. "He couldn't even do a pushup or other basic movements with the pain going on. He gave wrestling a shot, as he has wrestled his whole life." Williamson was a wrestling captain and helped MCW reach state in 2021 and 2022. He had never played organized basketball, just a few pickup games, but hoops coach Cliff Anderson welcomed him aboard. Williamsom contributed mainly in rebounding and doing the dirty work on defense.

Fosston shoots 29-for-36 in win for state record

Fosston coach Ben Hemberger was a little irked when he checked the stats for the Fertile-Beltrami game March 15 and saw that the Greyhounds had only two offensive rebounds. "I was going to get on them about that," Hemberger said, "but then I noticed that we only missed seven shots in the whole game." Hard to complain about offensive rebounding, he realized, when his team shot 29-for-36 in their 76-54 section semifinal win. Instead, the coach wondered if 80.56 percent might be some kind of record and sent the stats to Matt Pederson, state record-keeper. Yes, indeed, Pederson reported. The known existing record was 78 percent by Bagley (32-for-41) in a 1995 game. Fosston was 22-for-25 on two's and 7-for-11 on three's (while just average, ironically, on free throws, 11-for-19). Darren Skala shot 9-for-11 (4-for-6 on three's) for 24 points. Zach Theis was 8-for-8, scoring 22 points. Hemberger said the Greyhounds shot 50 percent for the season, 37 percent on three's, with five starters averaging between 10 and 13 points. Fosston cooled off and lost to Sacred Heart 58-47 in the section finals, finishing 25-6,

BOYS SECTION FINALS RESULTS

CLASS 4A

Lakeville North topped Lakeville South 58-41 in 1AAAA as Nolan Winter netted 19 points, Matt Drake 15 and Hudson Vaith 12 ... **Minnetonka** tripped Chanhassen 73-69 in 2AAAA with Jalen Cain's steal and dunk clinching the win. Jordan Cain and Alexander Jones scored 20 points each. Marshall Woods sank 33 for Chanhassen ... **Eastview** turned back Eagan 63-37 in 3AAAA as Jonathan Mekonnen tallied 23 points and Dylan Omweno 13 **White Bear Lake** earned its first state trip since 2000 edging East Ridge 57-55 in 4AAAA. Jack Janicki sank 23 points and Wyatt Hawks 11, including two clinching free shots **Park Center**, defending state champion, beat Osseo 62-52 in 5AAAA as CJ O'Hara tallied 22 points and Casmir Chavis 14. Osseo's De'Mari Larkins netted 15 ... **Wayzata** fended off Hopkins 71-66 in 6AAAA with Hayden Tibbits scoring 23 and Spencer Hall 12. Hopkins' Vincent Hillesheim scored 19 ... Sam Musungu hit 45 points and Ben Kopitzke 26 as **Andover** topped Cambridge-Isanti 106-79 in 7AAAA. John Trollin had 29 and Kobe Karels 27 for C-I **Buffalo** clipped Moorhead 82-65 in 8AAA as Grady Guida hit 27 points and Nate Dahl 17. Colton Hagen had 24 for the Spuds.

CLASS 3A

Stewartville beat Winona 56-48 in 1AAA led by Caleb Bancroft with 10 points and Ayden Welder nine **Mankato East** repelled Worthington 64-50 in 2AAA. Dwayne Bryant sank 15 points, and Manaow Omot and Carson Schweim 11 each ... **DeLaSalle** beat St. Thomas Academy 65-46 in 3AAA for its 12th straight title. Nasir Whitlock sank 16 points, Jaden Morgan 14 and Israel Moses 12. Michael Kirchner scored 26 for the Cadets **Totino-Grace**, defending state champ, routed No. 6 Mahtomedi 77-46 in 4AAA as Patrick Bath and Tyler Wagner netted 15 points each and Tommy Humphries 14. Owen Carlson had 16 for the Zephyrs.... **St. Francis** tripped Princeton 59-58 in OT in 7AAA. Michael Bothun logged 22 points (including the last four) and 13 rebounds. Graham Peterson sank 27 for Princeton No. 4 **Orono** edged No. 2 Benilde-St. Margaret's 66-62 in 6AAAA, led by Isaiah Hagen with 18 points and Nolan Groves 16. Jayden Daisy had 16 and Jalen Wilson 15 for BSM, which missed three late free throws ... **Hermantown** topped Duluth Denfeld 70-59 in 7AAA as Abe Soumis hit 19 points and Blake Schmitz 18. Marnaries Ferguson had 23 for Denfeld ... In 8AAA, **Alexandria** beat St. Cloud Tech 56-44. Grayson Grove sank 17 points and Chase Thompson 12. Tameron Ferguson had 18 for Tech.

CLASS 2A

Kaiden Peters' 3-pointer at the buzzer lifted **Plainview-Elgin-Millville** over No. 2 ranked Lake City 58-55 in 1AA. Aeron Stevens led with 33 points. Hunter Lorensen had 17 and Ryan Heise 15 for the Tigers **Maple River** edged MN Valley Lutheran 75-71 in 2AA. Mason Schirmer hit 24 points and Hayden Niebuhr 23. MVL's Benjamin Pearson sank 46 points (13 three's) ... **Eden Valley-Watkins** nipped Redwood Valley 75-72 in 3AAA ... **Minnehaha Academy** clipped Concordia Academy 90-61 in 4AA. Lorenzo Levy had 27 points and Jereme Williams 20. AJ Greene scored 22 for CA.... Kole Hanson sank 29 as No. 1 **Holy Family** beat No. 6 Mpls. North 75-63 in 5AA. Boden Kapke added 13, Collin Mullholland 12 and Braylon Cumming 12. North's Larry Perkins sank 18 points, Zashon Rich 15 **Albany** tripped Milaca 74-57 in 6AA with Tyson Gerads hitting 27 points and Sam Hondl 15.... **Pequot Lakes** toppled Esko 77-59 in 7AA as Eli Loposky netted 23 points, Harrison Lennon 19 and Grant Loge 15. For Esko, Makoi Petrich had 16 and Cuinn Berger 15 ... Owen Leach was unstoppable with 50 points as **Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton** beat Thief River Falls 77-67 in 8AA. Jack Rosendahl had 23 for TRF.

CLASS 1A

No. 7 **Spring Grove** knocked off No. 1 Goodhue 57-48 in 1A with Elijah Solum netting 22 points, Tysen Grinde 14 and Jaxon Strinmoen 12. Will Opsahal had 28 for Goodhue **Mankato Loyola** is 2A champ beating Cedar Mountain 63-57, powered by Simon Morgan with 22 points, 15 rebounds, seven assists and three blocks. Lawson Godfrey added 17 points. Blake Schueller had 17 and Brandon Pendleton 16 for CM ... **Russell-Tyler-Ruthton** split with Dawson-Boyd in conference but won 63-55 in 3A as Aiden Wichmann delivered 26 points **New Life Academy** topped Legacy Christian 71-52 in 4A with Max Briggs hitting 16 points, John Kirschling 12, Erick Reader 11 and Tyler Huebsch 10. Dominic Zoa had 15 for Legacy **Nevis** turned back Barnum 68-54 in 5A as Alex Lester tallied 23 points and JohnPaul Benson 15. Layne Wickstrom had 22 for Barnum ... **Border West** won 6A tipping Henning 66-51 behind Dylan Bainbridge with 24 points and Clint Determan with 18 ... **Cherry** repeated in 7A beating Deer River 85-61 as Noah Sundquist hit 24 points and Isaac Asuma 22. Sam Raher had 19 and Ethan Williams 15 for Deer River **Sacred Heart** stopped Fosston 58-47 in 8A as Ethan Arnston netted 17 points and Parker Erickson 15. Aaron Nordlund had 13 and Cullen Norland 12 for Fosston.

GIRLS ALL-TOURNEY TEAMS



CLASS 4A -- Front: Marisa Frost, Centennial; Molly Lenz and Annika Anderson, Eden Prairie; Alexis Karlen, Stillwater. Back: Ja'Kahla Craft, Tessa Johnson, Abby Hoselton, St. Michael-Albertville; Liv McGill, Nunu Agara, Taylor Woodson, Hopkins



CLASS 3A -- Front: Madalyn Blaylark and Aneisha Scott, DeLaSalle; Maren Westin and Dani Nuest, Becker; Hadley Thul, Alexandria. Back: Olivia Olsen and Kate Kapsner, Benilde-St. Margaret's; Kelley Steele, Hailey Strum and Savannah Hedin, Stewartville



CLASS 2A -- Front: Avery Rich, New London-Spicer; Kendyl Lodermeier and Elisabeth Gadiant, Goodhue; Addi Mack, Minnehaha Academy. Back: Kylan Gerads, Tatum Findley and Alyssa Sand; Emma Millerbernd, Grace Counts, Maddyn Greenway, Providence Academy



CLASS 1A -- Front: Liz Lukken, Underwood; Lainey Braulick, BOLD; Abby Berge and Tiyanha Schwinghammer, Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa; Natalie Beaver, Hayfield. Back: Jordan Zubich, Hali Savela and Sage Ganyo, Mt. Iron-Buhl; Mari Ryberg and

GIRLS STATE CHAMPION TEAMS

ST. MICHAEL- ALBERTVILLE

CLASS 4A
Record: 29-3
Coach: Kent Hamre
Third state title
(one each in 2A, 3A, 4A)



BENILDE- ST. MARGARET'S

CLASS 3A
Record: 26-6
Coach: Tim Ellerson
Third state title



PROVIDENCE ACADEMY

CLASS 2A
Record: 30-2
Coach: Connor Goetz
Third state title



MOUNTAIN IRON-BUHL

CLASS 1A
Record: 30-3
Coach: Jeff Buffetta
First state title



GIRLS SECTION FINALS RESULTS

CLASS 4A

Lakeville North held off Lakeville South 60-51 in 1AAAA with Trinity Wilson sinking 21 points, Gabby Betton 19 and Haley Bryant 15. Finley Ohnstad had 12 points and Haile Easting 11 for South **Eden Prairie** tumbled No. 1 ranked Chaska 60-42 in 5AAA, led by Molly Lenz with 22 points, Ashley Fritz 12 and Tori Schlagel 11. For Chaska, Ashley Schuelke had 12 points, Alexis Lenzen 11 and Kennedy Sanders nine **Roseville** upset Maple Grove 68-62 in 6AAAA powered by Kendall Barnes with 31 points. Jordan Ode had 20 and Kennedy Klick 18 for the Crimson.

CLASS 3A

Stewartville in 1AAA earned their school's first-ever state basketball trip, boys or girls, downing Austin 78-50. Freshman guard Audrey Shindelar led with 17 points in their 24th consecutive win. Olivia Walsh scored 20 and Cassidy Shute 16 for Austin **Marshall** will make its 13th state trip after foiling St. Peter 61-45. Briana Simpson led with 25 points. Randi Wendorff added 14 and Taleigha Bigler 12.

CLASS 2A

Goodhue downed No. 13 Caledonia 78-58 in 1A with Elisabeth Gadiant scoring 26 points and Kendyl Lodermeier 19 ... **Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial** repeated as 2A champion, tripping Southwest Christian 48-40 ... **New London-Spicer** nabbed its 20th state berth, most of any school, with a 44-32 win over Luverne in 3A. Avery and Dakota Rich scored 11 points each. NLS beat Montevideo (defending champion with everyone back) 43-37 in their sub ... **Minnehaha Academy** in 4AA beat St. Croix Lutheran 64-44 with Addi Mack sinking 28 points. Laura Hauge and Zoey

Washington had 12 each for SCL ... **Providence Academy** throttled Holy Family 89-35 in 5AA with Maddyn Greenway sinking 34 points and Hope Counts 14 ... **Albany** outlasted Sauk Centre 49-41 in 6A, the Huskies' 22nd straight win, led by Alyssa Sand with 16 points and Madi Herkenhoff with 14 ... **Crosby-Ironton** defeated Pequot Lakes 66-58 in 7AA with Tori Oehrlein pumping in 31 points and Hannah Compton 21 **Perham** downed Wadena-Deer Creek 58-44, earning its first state berth since their only other one in 1991.

CLASS 1A

Hayfield repeated in 1A with a 51-32 conquest of Grand Meadow with Natlie Beaver netting 16 points and Chelsea Christopherson 10. Lauren Queensland scored 20 for Grand Meadow No. 4 ranked **BOLD** shackled Sleepy Eye 54-31 in 2A behind Lainey Braulick's 29 points -- after beating No. 3 Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart and No. 2 Mayer Lutheran in their sub section **Minneota** repelled Southwest MN Christian 60-51 for their sixth straight 6A title behind Grace Hennen with 17 points, Faith Myhre 15 and Dakota Hennen 14 **United Christian Academy** edged Heritage Christian 66-62 in 3A with Elizabeth Corley sinking 23 points, Olivia Haukoos 17 and Kailey Smith 14. Kaitlan Jones netted 24 for Heritage ... **Belgrade-Brooklyn-Elrosa** downed Barnum 76-50 in 5A as Brooklyn Fischer nailed 22 points, Abby Berge 19 and Tiyaana Schwinghammer 18. Rayna Klejeski had 18 for Barnum ... **Underwood** ousted last year's state champion, Hancock, 64-50 in 6A Top-ranked **Mountain Iron-Buhl** earned its 12th consecutive 7A title beating Cromwell-Wright 67-38 with Jordan Zubich netting 22 points, Sage Ganyo 16 and Anna Keyes 14 ... **Badger-Greenbush-Middle River** edged Fosston 53-50 in 8A.

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*These championships were held Friday, March 10.
Finals prior to that were listed last week.*