



#### **WEEKLY ROUNDUP**

- \*Top 20 teams in each class
- \*Goodhue boys impress
- \*Big year for Mahtomedi
- \* Kelliher-Northome's bid

Volume 28 Issue No. 15 March 3 2022-23



Tysen Gerads leads the Huskie boys with 21 ppg

St. Cloud Times

## All in at Albany

Huskie boys, girls are a combined 49-2

By Bruce Strand

Albany is enjoying a basketball bonanza this winter. The boys and girls teams have a combined 49-2 record. Between them, they are riding a 40-game winning streak.

The Huskies boys, coached by Cory Schlagel, are ranked No. 7 in Class 2A, with a 24-1 record and 21 straight wins since losing to topranked Holy Family Catholic 76-68. Ranked teams they've beaten are Eden Valley-Watkins 75-56, Rocori 62-54, and Perham 61-48.

The Huskie girls, coached by Aaron Boyum, are ranked No. 2 in Class 2A, with a 25-1 record and 19 straight wins since losing to No. 4 New London-Spicer 45-33. Outstanding defense has been their hallmark, including a 63-35 win over No. 10 Crosby-Ironton when they held a 2,000-pointer to 19 points.

Leading the boys is Tysen Gerads, senior 6-foot-3 guard, averaging 21 points, six rebounds and two steals.. His sister Kylan leads the girls scoring. (Continued on next page.)

# Pirates, RTR handed 1st loss; state unbeaten list down to zero

No undefeated teams, boys or girls, remain in the state, after the Park Center and Russell-Tyler-Ruthon boys were dealt their first blemishes last week.

Elk River toppled Park Center 73-70 on Friday on the Pirates' court. Cade Osterman, who was Mr. Football last fall after quarterbacking the Elks to the state championship, led the upset with 28 points. Park Center is 23-1 with one game left in the regular season. Elk River is 12-13 and lost to the same Pirates 85-37 on Jan. 24.

Dawson-Boyd tripped Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 72-70 on Monday in the Camden Conference title game between the division leaders, on RTR's court. RTR finished the regular season 24-1 and Dawson-Boyd was 23-3. RTR won their first meeting 64-53.

The score was 70-70 in the final seconds when the Knights missed two shots. D-B's Levi Olson rebounded, got fouled, and sank two game-winning free shots. Brayson Boise led the Blackjacks with 23 points and 10 rebounds. Keegan Wicht added 17 points and Olson 16. For RTR, Aidan Wichmann notched 26 points and seven assists, and Drew Werkman 21 points and 11 rebounds.

The other boys starters are Ezekial Austin, 6-foot-2 sophomore point guard (11.9 points); Sam Hondl, 6-foot-6 sophomore guard/forward (11.7 points, 5.4 rebounds); Ethan Borgerding, 6-foot-5 senior guard (9.1 points) and Tanner Reis, 6-foot senior guard (4.8 points). Among the Huskies' weapons is three-point shooting as Austin has 49, Reis 29, Gerads 28 and Hondl 21.

Schagel praised his large senior group: "The nine seniors have provided strong leadership qualities on the court, in the classroom, and in the way they treat others, positively and respectfully."

The Huskies have held 22 of 26 opponents under 60 points and ten under 50 points. They emphasize, Schlagel said, "that defense will win games when we are not performing well on the offensive end." As for depth, Schagel said the Huskies can go ten deep when needed and have enough roster flexibility "to adapt to what teams are trying to do against us." Diligent weight room work, he added, "allows us to play physically on both ends."

The Huskies girls are led by Kylan Gerads, 5-foot-11 junior forward, with 15.8 points and 9.4 rebounds per game, and Alyssa Sand, 6-foot-3 junior forward, with 15.5 points and 9.7 rebounds per game. Tatum Findley, 5-foot-8 junior point guard, adds 11.8 ppg. The other starters are Samantha Van Heel, 5-foot-10 senior forward, and Savanna Pelzer, 5-foot-4 junior guard.

Sharpening their vaunted defense are Sand with 86 steals, Gerads with 77, Findley with 48 and Pelzer with 46. The Huskies distribute the ball well, too; Pelzer and Gerads each have 73 assists and Sand 48.

Defense (which includes their rugged rebounding) is the key. Nobody has scored 60 points against the Huskies. Only three have been in the 50's and three in the 40's. Everyone else has been been held to the 20's or 30's.

Boyum calls his Huskies "a very dynamic group" with a variety of skill sets, able to switch positions comfortably. "This allows us to do several different things on the defensive end," he said. The girls buy into the program's tradition of defense that's given them sustained success over the years, he said: "Our defense has been our identity for some time now."

Success is nothing new for Albany girls basketball with 15 state trips and four championships on their ledger, most recently 2021. Albany has four state trips in boys hoops, most recently 2015.

# Kelliher-Northome eyes breakthrough

Kelliher-Northome's girls team has high hopes for their school's first state basketball trip, led by a freshman who recently scored her 1,000th point.

Kate Thayer reached that milestone while scoring 30 in a 111-26 win over Littlefork-Big Falls on Feb. 10. The 5-foot-5 point guard is averaging 24 points, eight steals and 4.5 assists, shooting 53 percent on field goals.

Representing two burgs with a combined 400 population, located just under Canada, the Mustangs have a 24-2 ledger heading into Section 8A.



**Kate Thayer** 

"The Mustangs have never been to state in either boys or girls bas-

ketball, and it is definitely a goal of ours," coach Kevin Waldo stated. "Playoffs are a grind, and there is a long way to go before we can even think about state as we have some very tough teams in our section. One game at a time."

It's a young team with a big window of opportunity. The lineup includes freshman Kylee Binkley averaging 15.9 points, 8.0 rebounds, 4.6 assists and 3.8 steals; junior Ella Thayer averaging 11 points and 6.7 rebounds; freshman Alli Sundin averaging 9.4 points; and junior Meleah Grundmeier averaging four points and 5.5 rebounds.

Waldo said his bench also plays solid minutes: seniors Rylee Neft and Zion Forseen, juniors Kenly Hallstrom and Autumn Poxleitner, sophomore Anikia Charnoski and freshmen Charli Hallstrom and Emily Mastin.

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 2023 PH/LESE

**Boys & Girls Grades 4-9** 

# Minnesota YOUTH BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP Region Playoffs



#### **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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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



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# Goodhue toughs it out

#### **By Bruce Strand**

Goodhue, which last week became the fourth team to be ranked first in Class 1A boys this season, has fashioned a 23-3 record against probably the hardest schedule of any 1A team.

"We play an extremely tough schedule, being in the HVL conference and the sole class A school," acknowledged Wildcat coach Matt Halverson. "The other eight

are AA and AAA. Top to bottom, there is not a night off, and that has been very big in our success."

The Wildcats' singular focus, he said, is "getting better one practice at a time and taking one game at a time."

Goodhue has lost two close games to Class 2A's No. 2 ranked Lake City 51-47 and 58-43, and has beaten Class 3A's No. 11 Stewartville 71-59 and 62-58, along with defending 1A champion Hayfield 66-52. Their other loss was to Byron (13-13), a 3A team, in their second game of the season.

Leading the Wildcats is Will Opsdahl, 6-foot-7 senior guard, averaging 19.6 points, 6.7 rebounds, 5.4 assists and 3.5 steals, while shooting 39 percent on three's. The Minnesota-Mankato recruit has scored over 1,400 career points.

Another college recruit is Adam Poncelet, headed for North Dakota for football as a wide receiver. The 6-foot-3 guard, like Opsahl, is just under 40 percent on three's, while averaging 13.9 points, 5.9 rebounds, 3.0 steals, and 3.6 assists.

Those two are four-year starters, and three-year captains, on teams that have gone 78-25, and are looking for their first state trip.

The two leaders are getting a lot of help, Halverson said: "Most teams key on Will and Adam, but our supporting cast has stepped up so much more this year. Last year, teams were able to triangle and two, box and one, or 'junk' us, and this year, because of our ability to score and shoot, teams haven't been able to do that to us effectively."



Will Opsahl, a MN-Mankato recruit, leads the Wildcats

Traci Westcott, Post-Bulletin

Justin Buck adds 9.5 points and 6.7 rebounds per game, shooting over 50 percent, including 33 percent on three's. Gavin Schafer is "our hustle guard," said the coach, a solid rebounder and shooter. Luke Roschen is another 3-point threat (about 40 percent) averaging eight points.

Reliable backups are Tristan King, Carson Roschen, Jed Ryan, Caden Berg, Jacob Ryan and Sean Matthees.

In the Hiawatha Valley League, Lake City was champion with 15-1, followed by Goodhue and Stewartville, each 13-3. Byron was fourth at 7-9.

The Wildcats graduated some good players, Halverson noted, from last year's 23-7 season (section runner-up to Hayfield) and his current team might have been underestimated at the outset of the season.

"But our kids did a great job investing time in shooting, and in that 'improvement day by day' mentality," the coach said. He added, "Our overall our balance and chemistry has been vital this year."

It's been a banner basketball season all-around at Goodhue, with the girls team, which plays in Class 2A, ranked No. 3 with a 23-3 record. The Wildcats are hoping for dual state tournament trips. Goodhue has gone to state in boys hoops four times, in 2004, 2011, 2016, and 2017. The 2016 team was 1A runner-up.

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### Mahtomedi's year? Both teams strong

Mahtomedi has probably its best boys team ever, with a 22-3 record. Leading an all-senior lineup is an outstanding guard tandem of Owen Carlson (20.8 points per game) and Will Underwood (19.8) -- both dangerous as 3-point shooters, dunkers, and at

all points in between. The No. 6 ranked Zephyrs have two other strong senior veterans in Cole Armitage (12.3 ppg) and AJ Mc-Cleery (9.0 ppg). Carlson and Underwood (who missed last season with a football injury) both passed 1,000 points this season, and 16th-year coach Keith Newman got his 300th win Tuesday at Tartan, 64-51. Mahtomedi has made just two state trips in its history. A third one this month will be difficult, even with this lineup, as defending state champion and No. 1 ranked Totino-Grace plays in the same section, 4AAA. Other



Will Underwood

teams with winning records are St. Anthony Village (16-9) and Columbia Heights (12-11). In the Metro East Conference, the Zephyrs and St. Thomas Academy split and are likely to finish tied for the champion-ship after Friday night's finales.

Mahtomedi's girls team, meanwhile, has a good chance to reach the state tournament for the first time, with a much longer window of opportunity than the all-senior boys lineup. The No. 9 ranked Zephyrs are 20-5 with 13 straight wins and are 5-0 against their section (4AAA). They have one senior starter, Sonya Potthoff (14.9 points per game). Their balanced lineup features sophomore Anna Greene (13.3), eighth-grader Mya Wilson (12.9), junior Ella Kletti (12.0) and sophomore Ella Frazier (9.2). The Zephyrs went 14-0 in the Metro East for the second straight year.

#### Hopkins rules power-packed Lake

The Hopkins girls were bumped from their usual No. 1 spot in Class 4A, due to losses to Providence Academy and Wayzata, but the No. 2 ranked Royals went 11-1 to win the Lake Conference, which has five of the top six teams in the rankings. The Royals, who have scored over 100 points in three straight games, feature Nunu Agara with 20 points per game, Taylor Woodson (17.8), Liv McGill (13.4) and Kelly Boyle (10.3).

#### AROUND THE STATE

Maple River edged Hayfield 73-70 in double overtime in the Gopher Conference boys overall title game Saturday in Maple River. Hayfield led 55-52 with a second left in regulation when Maple River's Aaron Pawlitschek was fouled on a three-pointer and sank three free shots to force overtime. Hayden Niebuhr scored six of the Eagles' seven points in the second OT. Pawlitschek scored 28 points, Niehbur 12, and Mason Schirmer 11 for Maple River. Isaac Matti had 29, Ethan Pack 12, Trent Jellum 11, and Zander Jacobson eight points and 15 rebounds for Hayfield.

Orono, ranked No. 4 in boys 3A this week, beat Benilde-St. Margaret's, ranked No. 2, 77-69 on Friday at home, powered by Isaiah Hagen with 36 points, 12 rebounds, and two blocks. Riley Nelson added 17 points. BSM won their first meeting 78-59.

Class 3A boys rankings note: there's no clear No. 1 in this division. We've got Totino-Grace there (after one week behind BSM) because they are the defending champions and they play by far the toughest schedule, almost exclusively 4A. The Eagles are 17-8 after an 89-80 loss to Minnetonka (No. 4 in 4A) on Wednesday.

Rochester Mayo, ranked No. 17 in girls Class 4A, captured the Big Nine championship with a 19-3 record, followed by Mankato East (No. 13 in 3A) at 18-4 and Austin (No. 19 In 3A) at 17-5. Mayo (23-4) split two hard-fought battles with Mankato East, winning 75-73 and losing 56-54.

Chaska, No. 1 in the final girls Class 4A rankings, has a 26-1 record and 21 straight wins, heading into their Section 2AAAA semifinal against No. 6 Minnetonka on Saturday. The Hawks' lone loss was a drubbing by St. Michael-Albertville 97-70 on Dec. 16. (STMA is 23-3). Chaska is led by Gophers recruit Kennedy Sanders, a senior guard averaging 20.8 points. Anna Lenzen averages 11.9 points, Ashley Schuelke 10 points and Ella Keenan eight points. Chaska went 14-0 in the Metro West, with Benilde-St. Margaret's (No. 2 in Class 3A) next at 12-2. The Hawks beat the Knights 92-83 (with Sanders hitting 42 points) and 86-58.

Three of the four Section 4AAAA girls semifinalists are 20-win, top-ten ranked teams. Matchups on Saturday are No. 8 White Bear Lake (22-4) against No. 10 Stillwater (22-5), and No. 9 East Ridge (22-4) against Cretin-Derham Hall (11-16). Those three teams also battled for the Suburban East title, with East Ridge going 17-1, White Bear Lake 15-3 and Stillwater 14-4.

## MBBN BOYS TOP 20

#### CLASS 4A CLASS 1A CLASS 3A CLASS 2A 1. Park 1. Totino-1. Goodhue 23-3 1. Holy Family Center 23-1 2. Cass Lake-Grace 17-7 Catholic 22-2 2. Lakeville Bena 25-2 2. Benilde-St. 2. Lake City 24-1 North 22-3 Margaret's 21-4 3. New Life Maranatha 3. Wayzata 20-4 3. DeLaSalle 21-5 Christian 23-3 Academy 19-5 4. Minnetonka 18-6 4. Henning 24-1 4. Orono 20-5 4. Lake Crystal-Eastview 19-6 5. St. Thomas 5. Cherry 19-4 Wellcome-Academy 20-5 Memorial 24-1 6. East Ridge 19-6 6. Russell-Tyler-5. Maple 7. Andover 18-6 6. Mahtomedi 22-3 Ruthton 23-1 **River 24-2** 8. Hopkins 16-8 7. Alexandria 20-4 7. Spring 9. Brainerd 21-4 Grove 25-1 8. Princeton 20-5 6. Minneapolis 10. Edina 15-10 8. Hayfield 21-6 9. South St. North 17-8 9. Lyle-Pacelli 21-5 Paul 19-6 7. Albany 24-1 11. Buffalo 20-5 10. Northland 22-2 10. Mankato 8. Minnehaha 12. White Bear East 20-5 Academy 18-8 Lake 17-7 11. Belgrade-9. Esko 21-3 13. Duluth East 19-6 11. Stewartville 22-4 10. Thief River Brooten-14. Shakopee 15-10 12. Delano 18-7 Elrosa 21-4 Falls 22-3 15. Stillwater 15-9 13. St. Paul 12. Dawson-Boyd 22-3 Johnson 15-7 11. Plainview-Elgin-16. Farmington 15-10 14. Hermantown Sacred Millville 22-4 17. Lakeville Heart 23-3 19-6 12. Perham 19-5 South 14-11 15. New Ulm 19-5 14. Lakeview 21-3 13. Mora 21-4 18. Maple 14. Norwood Young 15. Border **Grove 19-6** West 22-2 16. Worthington America 21-4 19. Blaine 14-12 19-4 15. Minneapolis 20. Osseo 13-12 16. Nevis 19-6 17. St. Anthony Edison 17-8 17. Southwest MN Village 16-9 18. St. Paul Highland 16. Waseca 20-6 Christian 22-4 Note: records are 18. Warren-Park 13-6 17. Eden Vallevthrough Tuesday. 19. Rocori 16-9 Alvarado-Watkins 20-6 Oslo 23-3 20. Austin 16-9 18. Pavnesville 20-6 19. Fosston 21-5 19. Dilworth-20. Westbrook-Glyndon-Walnut-Felton 19-6 Grove 21-4 20. Two

Harbors 20-4

## MBBN GIRLS TOP 20 (FINAL)

#### CLASS 4A

- 1. Chaska 25-1
- 2. Hopkins 23-2
- 3. St. Michael-Albertville 23-3
- 4. Wayzata 21-4
- 5. Eden Prairie 17-9
- 6. Minnetonka 16-10
- 7. Maple Grove 22-4
- 8. White Bear Lake 21-4
- 9. East Ridge 22-4
- 10. Stillwater 21-5
- 11. Rosemount 19-7 13. Mankato
- 12. Lakeville North 19-7
- 13. Rogers 20-5
- 14. Elk River 20-6
- 15. Prior Lake 15-9
- 16. Roseville 16-10
- 17. Rochester Mayo 22-4
- 18. Blaine 15-11
- 19. Robbinsdale Cooper 19-5
- 20. Lakeville South 17-9

Note: records are through Tuesday.

#### CLASS 3A

- 1. Becker 23-3
- 2. Benilde-St. Margaret's 20-6
- 3. Grand Rapids 24-2
- 4. Stewartville 24-2
- 5. Jordan 23-2
- 6. DeLaSalle 20-6
- 7. Holy Angels 20-5
- 8. Alexandria 22-4
- 9. Mahtomedi 20-5
- 10. Detroit Lakes 22-4
- 11. Monticello 21-5
- 12. St. Peter 19-6 13. Mankato
- East 19-6
- 14. Visitation 16-7
- 15. Delano 20-6
- 16. Marshall 18-9
- 17. Red Wing 18-7
- 18. Orono 14-12
- 19. Austin 18-8
- 20. Hill-Murray 15-11

#### CLASS 2A

- 1. Providence Academy 24-2
- 2. Albany 25-1
- 3. Goodhue 23-3
- 4. New London-Spicer 24-1
- 5. St. Croix Lutheran 22-3
- 6. Rochester Lourdes 22-4
- 7. Minnehaha Academy 19-7
- 8. Pequot Lakes 22-3
- Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial 25-1
- 10. Crosby-Ironton 19-7
- 11. Perham 22-3
- 12. Montevideo 20-3
- 13. Caledonia 22-3
- 14. Holdingford 22-3
- 15. Luverne 22-3
- 16. Minneapolis Roosevelt 24-3
- 17. Pine City 20-6
- 18. Glencoe-Silver Lake 20-6
- 19. Sauk Centre 18-8
- 20. Maranatha Christian 16-10

#### CLASS 1A

- 1. Mountain Iron-Buhl 23-3
- 2. Mayer Lutheran 21-4
- 3. Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart 24-1
- 4. Hayfield 24-3
- 5. BOLD 20-5
- 6. Badger-Greenbush-Middle River 22-3
- 7. Grand Meadow 24-2
- 8. Underwood 22-3
- 9. Henning 24-2
- 10. Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa 21-4
- 11. Hancock 20-4
- 12. Cromwell-Wright 21-5
- 13. Kelliher-Northome 24-2
- 14. Nevis 23-3
- 15. Lac qui Parle Valley 23-3
- 16. Fosston 21-3
- 17. Breckenridge 16-8
- Silver Lake 20-6 18. Sleepy Eye 20-6
  - 19. Sleepy Eye St. Mary's 20-6
  - 20. Braham 20-6

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Pacesetter has provided statewide youth basketball playoffs for over 20,000 Minnesota teams since 1993.

See the Pacesetter 8-region Minnesota State flier in this issue.

Teams may play in any region. Groups are scheduled so





that teams could play in two regions on the same weekend.

The Pacesetter playoff system is for school/community teams. All players must live in, or attend school, in the same city or tribal community. Two or three smaller schools may combine if the total enrollment of their high

schools for grades 9-12 is 400 or fewer.

Each region is limited to the first 16 teams to register.

#### Minnesota Regionals, grades 4-9

Regon 1 — Rochester, March 25-26 Region 2 — Lake Crystal, April 22-23

**Region 3** — Redwood Falls, March 25-26

**Region 4** — Moose Lake/Willow River, April 15-16

**Region 5** — Paynesville, April 1-2

Region 6 — Alexandria, April 15-16

Region 7 — Grand Rapids/Mt. Iron Buhl, April 1-2

Region 8 — Bemidji, April 22-23



Register now for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fastbreak Junior Club 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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