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Boys champions: Wayzata, Albany, RTR, Totino-Grace



**We're number one! Celebrating were
Wayzata (top left), Totino-Grace (top right),
Russell-Tyler-Ruthnton (left), Albany (above)**

Bruce Strand, MN BB News

Wayzata reclaims crown

By Bruce Strand

Wayzata, propelled by the unusual guard combo of 6-foot-9 Jackson McAndrew alongside 5-foot-10 Hayden Tibbits, emerged as the Class 4A champion, dethroning Park Center 75-71 in a thrilling overtime rematch of last year's title game.

Wayzata reached the finals for the third straight season; they were champions in 2021, beating Cretin-Derham Hall 75-61, and lost to Park Center 58-53 last year.

The No. 3 ranked Trojans beat No. 2 Lakeville North (79-77) and No. 1 Park Center, finishing 27-4. "We entered state with the confidence that we can beat anyone, and that no one wants to play us right now," McAndrew said.

CLASS 4A: Wayzata 75, Park Center 71, OT

Tibbits delivered the game-winner with one second left in the semifinals. McAndrew took charge in the finals with eight overtime points. McAndrew, junior, tallied 67 points in the tournament. Tibbits, an all-tourney pick for the second time, had 59 points.

"Hayden and Jackson have learned to work very well together, and it has been fun to see them become friends this season," coach Bryan Schnettler said. "They have the trust of their teammates and coaches to make big plays in crunch time and have done exactly that all year long."

McAndrew logged 25 points, nine rebounds and three blocks in the finals. Tibbits delivered 18 points and five assists. Jake Schmitt added 13 points and seven rebounds.

CJ O'Hara led Park Center (28-3) with 21 points and 10 rebounds. Casmir Chavis hit 16 points, JJ Ware 11 and Jackson Fowlkes 10. The Pirates shot well, 8-for-19 on three's and 17-for-18 free shots, and out-rebounded Wayzata 37-25, but Wayzata had a big turnover edge, 7-20.

Park Center had a 57-47 lead after a run sparked by Chavis and Ware hitting 3-pointers and CJ O'Hara dunking

after a steal. Wayzata responded. Three-pointers by Tibbits and McAndrew pulled them within 61-59. McAndrew tied the score 64-64 with three free shots and 66-66 with two more. Regulation ended with excitement. The Pirates disrupted a jump shot by Tibbits, and Chavis sped the other way with a chance to win at the horn, only to be thwarted by Schmitt hustling back on defense.

McAndrew opened the OT with a drive for a three-point play and followed with a reverse layup and a three-pointer for a 74-71 lead, while grabbing two defensive rebounds. "My mindset late in the game was to not let us lose," McAndrew said. "We needed someone to step up and make plays for us. Myself, my teammates and coaches all had trust in me to do that." The Pirates, down 75-71, missed three shots on their last two possessions and relinquished the state title.

The Trojans won without a prominent starter, Spencer Hall, who hurt his knee in the semifinals. He's a defensive ace and averages 11 points.

WHS's championship season (the other was 1959) started ominously, with close losses to three strong teams, Lakeville South, Eastview and Lakeville North. Schnettler said they were "still getting to know each other as a group." He added, "We talked about, after we lost the third game, that we would be laughing about it when we went to state in March."



Wayzata's Nic Beeinga and Park Center's Casmir Chavis wrestle for the ball between Drew Nepstad and Jackson McAndrew.

Wayzata 36 30 9 – 75
Park Center .. 32 34 5 – 71

Wayzata – 25-59 FG (6-19 3FG), 19-27 FT, 25 rebounds, 7 turnovers, 15 fouls Scoring: Hayden Tibbits 18 (5 ast), Ben Schaffer 4, Nic Beeninga 5, Jake Berkland 2 (3 stl), Jake Schmitt 12 (7 reb), Jackson McAndrew 25 (9 reb, 3 blk), Drew Nepstad 4 (3 stl), Isaiah Habte 2, Wyatt McBeth 4 ... 3-pointers: McAndrew 3, Tibbits 1, Beeninga 1, Schmitt 1

Park Center – 23-55 FG (8-19 3FG), 17-18 FT, 37 rebounds, 20 turnovers, 18 fouls Scoring: CJ O'Hara 21 (10 reb, 2 stl), Joe Burgess 2 (6 reb), Jackson Fowlkes 10, Casmir Chavis 16 (5 reb, 4 ast), JJ Ware 11, Chiang Ring 5 (8 reb), Kaden Cook 4 3-pointers: O'Hara 2, Fowlkes 2, Ware 2, Chavis 1, Ring 1

Totino-Grace stays No. 1

By Bruce Strand

Totino-Grace is once again the Class 3A boys champion -- following the same script as last year in the finals, edging fellow Catholic school power DeLaSalle in a fierce defensive struggle 50-46.

"It's a great accomplishment to go back to back. It's really special," declared Taison Chatman, the outstanding floor leader both seasons, who delivered 20 points, 12 rebounds, four assists and two steals. His teammate Patrick Bath, asked if it was fun to be defending champion and get everybody's best shot, said, "That is what we prepare for. It goes to show how hard it is to repeat as champions. It's hard enough just to get one."

CLASS 3A: Totino-Grace 50, DeLaSalle 46

These are the first two state titles for the Eagles, who beat the Islanders 50-44 in last year's finals. DSL has won 12 state championships. "It's no accident that they're in the finals again," said T-G coach Nick Carroll. He praised Todd Anderson, first-year head coach at DLS after 24 years as an assistant: "Best coach in the tournament at any level. It's uncanny the way he gets them prepared for anything."

Along with Chatman, T-G was boosted by Tommy Humphries with 11 points (3-for-6 on three's), and the 6-foot-9 Bath, who, while shooting just 3-for-13 for seven points, snagged 12 rebounds and blocked three shots.

Asked about having Chatman at the point, even a hobbled version (knee) this year, Carroll said, "Any version of Taison, I'll take it. A healthy version would be the best."

The Eagles crushed the Islanders 45-20 on rebounds while almost losing the game at the free throw line, going 3-for-13 before Chatman sank four in the last 20 seconds.

DLS was led by Mr. Basketball finalist point guard Nasir Whitlock, the Star-Tribune's pick as metro player of the year, had 19 points and four assists for the Islanders. He shot just 5-for-20 but was 8-for-10 on free shots. Israel Moses V was next with 11 points.

The No. 1 ranked Eagles finished 24-8 against mostly Class 4A teams plus powers from other states while the No. 3 Islanders had a 24-6 ledger and, entering the finals, had won 19 of 20, losing only to 4A champion Wayzata 64-61. The two powers did not meet in the regular season.

Totino-Grace, down 20-19 at the half, surged ahead 44-30 with a 25-10 run led by Chatman with five points, three assists and four defensive rebounds. DeLaSalle turned it around and inched within 45-41 after Moses drilled a three-pointer from the corner and two free shots.



Taison Chatman slips past Ray James for two of his 20 points in the finals.

The score stuck at 45-41 through several possessions as each team threw furious pressure on the other. T-G had an offensive foul, gave up a turnover when DLS double-teamed Chatman, and lost the ball again when tied up on an offensive rebound. For DLS, a baseline drive by Whitlock was stuffed by Bath, and they had a traveling violation and missed two free shots.

Finally, Whitlock got fouled on a drive and hit two free shots, making it 45-43 with 19 seconds left. The Islanders had to foul, and Chatman swished two free shots. Whitlock drilled a 3-pointer from outside the NBA arc with :10 left. Chatman sank two more freebies. Down 49-46, DLS needed another long three from Whitlock, but, with Chatman, three inches taller, in his face, he "ended up slipping" and was way off the mark. T-G's Isaiah Johnson made one of two free shots to close the scoring.

DeLaSalle 20 26 - 46
Totino-Grace 19 31 - 50

DeLaSalle — 16-47 FG (4-17 3FG), 10-14 FT, 20 rebounds, 12 turnovers, 19 fouls ... Scoring: Nasir Whitlock 19 (5 reb, 4 ast), PJ Pounds 4, Ray James Jr. 2 (3 reb), De'von Irvin 3 (2 stl), Israel Moses V 11 (4 reb), Jaden Morgan 3 (3 reb), Riley Blaylock 2, Aidan Higgins 2 3-pointers: Whitlock 1, Irvin 1, Moses 1, Morgan 1

Totino-Grace — 18-52 FG (6-14 3FG), 8-19 FT, 45 rebounds, 17 turnovers, 14 fouls ... Scoring: Jayden Livingston 3 (4 reb), Tommy Humphries 11 (3 reb), Isaiah Johnson 4 (7 reb, 2 stl), Taison Chatman 20 (12 reb, 4 ast, 2 stl), Chase Watley 5, Patrick Bath 7 (12 reb, 3 blk) 3-pointers: Humphries 3, Chatman 2, Livingston 1

Albany's year: 1st title for boys

By Bruce Strand

Albany was, quite simply, the basketball capital of Outstate Minnesota this winter. A week after the Huskie girls placed runner-up in Class 2A, their boys team brought the Stearns County burg back to Minneapolis and won the whole thing, capped by a 72-65 conquest of Minnehaha Academy in the finals.

The boys finished 32-1 and the girls 30-2 (losing to Providence Academy in the finals). It was the first state championship for the Albany boys. The girls have won four, most recently 2021.

CLASS 2A: Albany 72 Minnehaha Academy 65

The boys top scorer, Tysen Gerads (22 ppg) bunks at the same address as the girls No. 2 scorer Kylan Gerads. They play in the driveway a lot. "She won state in ninth grade and always said it was the best feeling in the world. It is," Tysen remarked. He added, "It's been a fun few weeks for our family, going to St. Cloud, St. John's, Minneapolis."

The Huskies were 24-6 last year and lost to state champ Annandale in the section finals. So they were pumped up as soon as football ended, Gerads said: "We thought, right from the beginning of the year, we could do it." Fellow senior footballer Ethan Borgerding sounded a bit awed as he recounted their ledger: "We were 32-1. One loss all season. We won it all."

Coach Cory Schlägel reflected: "It was such a grind, a season like this, but this group was tremendous to work with. They practice hard every day, use the weight room on their own, you don't have to tell them. All that work paid off."

Albany's lone loss was against top-ranked Holy Family Catholic 76-68 on Dec. 29. An anticipated finals rematch didn't happen as Minnehaha Academy upset HFC in double overtime the night before. After four recent championships, Minnehaha Academy lost a state title game for the first time and finished 23-9.

"We got out-rebounded pretty badly. That really hurt us," said Redhawk coach Lance Johnson. "A surprise -- against (HFC's) two 6-11 guys, we only got out-rebounded by one. We took care of the ball pretty well. Our energy level was a problem, probably the same for them, too, but we did have a very long and very emotional game last night."

Gerads sank 19 points, Borgerding 16, Zeke Austin 15 and Sam Hondl 14 for Albany. The Huskies earned a 39-26 rebound edge. The brawny, 6-foot-5 Borgerding had 11 rebounds and three blocks, battling 6-foot-9 Rolyns Aligbe. Gerads had eight rebounds and Hondl seven.

Aligbe led the Redhawks with 20 points and seven rebounds before fouling out. Jerome Williams netted 16 points and Lorenzo Levy 11.



Ethan Borgerding (44) draws a foul from Minnehaha's Rolyns Aligbe.

Albany sank four three-pointers late in the half, two each by Austin and Andrew Olson, and led 39-31 at the break. The Redhawks came back strong, getting as close as 50-48 after Aligbe bulled his way to three baskets. The Huskies regained an eight-point margin at 60-52. An acrobatic drive by Williams got Minnehaha back within 64-59. But Aligbe fouled out with 1:52 left, and Hondl sank two free shots, making it 66-59. The Redhawks had a 5-17 turnover edge in the game, but their pressure defense down the stretch

resulted in fouls, not turnovers. The Huskies controlled the ball and cashed 10 of their last 14 free shots to stay in front. They were 19-for-25 in the game.

Minnehaha Academy 31 34 – 65
Albany 39 33 – 72

Minnehaha Academy – 26-70 FG (6-22 3FG), 7-9 FT, 26 rebounds, 5 turnovers, 20 fouls ... Scoring: Jerome Williams 16 (5 ast, 2 stl), Lorenzo Levy 11 (5 reb, 2 stl), Harrison Aligbe 2, Rolyns Aligbe 20 (7 reb, 3 stl), Mateo Cortes Weis 14 (6 reb) ... 3-pointers: Weiss 4, Williams 1

Albany – 24-48 FG (5-13 3FG), 19-25 FT, 39 rebounds, 17 turnovers, 10 fouls Scoring: Ezekial Austin 15 (5 reb), Tanner Reis 2 (4 reb, 5 ast), Andrew Olson 6 (4 reb), Tysen Gerads 19 (8 reb), Samuel Hondl 14 (7 reb, 2 blk), Ethan Borgerding 16 (11 reb, 3 blk) 3-pointers: Austin 3, Olson 2

RTR racks up 4th crown

By Bruce Strand

Russell-Tyler-Ruthton was the last unbeaten team in Minnesota this year at 24-0 before their lone loss. They had three of their top four scorers back from last year's state tournament team. Their program had produced three prior state championships.

With those credentials, RTR was voted top seed by coaches in Class 1A for the 2023 tournament, and the Knights proved them right, capturing their fourth state crown, capped by a 59-49 conquest of New Life Academy in the finals.

CLASS 1A: Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 59, New Life Academy 49

"We knew we were capable of getting back here, and, like our coach told us, when you get here, anything can happen," said Aiden Wichmann, senior guard who led the Knights' title drive with 65 points, 20 assists and 20 rebounds.

The senior-driven team finished 31-1 and added to the titles won in 2004, 2005 and 2018. Their lone loss was against Dawson-Boyd, 72-70, and they beat their Camden Conference rival two other times.

"The team really bought into our seniors being mentally tough and playing the right way," said coach Daren Gravley "We have been in a lot of situations like this and were able to answer a big run by NLA today." Gravley, an assistant when Ted Kern coached the previous champs, took over last year when they reversed roles.

The Knights led 38-22 at halftime. NLA pulled within 48-45, 50-47 and 52-49. The Eagles had a 10-0 run with Max Briggs scoring seven of those points.

But the rally fizzled as NLA missed its last nine shots. Wichmann's two free shots with :43 left and two more by Drew Werkman with :22 left stretched a 55-49 lead to 59-49. RTR was 17-for-20 at the line.

Wichmann led with 18 points, seven rebounds and six assists, although he had nine turnovers as well. Werkman, rugged 6-3 junior, scored 15 points. Hayden Gravley chipped in seven points and six rebounds.

Briggs, NLA's fleet point guard, tallied 17 points, and Erick Reader, 6-foot-9 post who'll walk-on with the Gophers, provided 11 points and 13 rebounds. Colton Hendricks had nine points for the Woodbury private school that finished 26-6 with the silver medals.



RTR's Aiden Wichmann shoots over NLA's Erick Reader

"What a game. What an awesome fight," NLA coach Robbie Whitney said. "It's never easy to end a season on a loss, but to place second in the state is something they will remember the rest of their lives."

About their second half rally, Briggs said, "We had to play more physical than we were before," and Reader added, "Never give up, no matter what."

But Russell-Tyler-Ruthton, located in the southwest corner of the state, held firm.

"We had to refocus, get back to the basics," said Gravley. "We had to take a breath." Werkman said the play got "a little rough" at times against the bigger Eagles but he had to keep his cool. "I got hit in the face a couple times," he grinned, "but Aiden told me to chill out."

New Life Academy 22 27 - 49
Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 38 21 - 59

New Life Academy — 19-62 FG (4-24 3FG), 7-8 FT, 30 rebounds, 15 turnovers, 20 fouls Scoring: Max Briggs 17 (4 ast), John Kirschling 6 (4 stl), Tyler Huebsch 2, Austin Woolf 4 (5 reb), Colton Hendricks 9 (5 reb), Erick Reader 11 (13 reb) ... 3-pointers: Kirschling 2, Hendricks 1, Briggs 1

Russell-Tyler-Ruthton — 21-41 FG (3-14 3FG), 17-20 FT, 31 rebounds, 15 turnovers, 13 fouls ... Scoring: Blake Christianson 2, Cody Wichmann 7, Aiden Wichmann 18 (7 reb, 6 ast, 3 stl), Tucker Haroldson 4, Camden Hansen 6, Hayden Gravley 7 (6 reb), Drew Werkman 15 (5 reb) ... 3-pointers: A. Wichmann 2, Gravley 1

STATE 4A AND 3A SNAPSHOTS



Wayata's Drew Nepsund (24) and Jackson McAndrew thwarted a drive by Park Center's Casmir Chavis.



Israel Moses V of DLS gets a block on Totino-Grace's Chase Watley

Hayden Tibbits, Wayzata

Minnesota Basketball News photos by Bruce Strand



Wayzata hoists the trophy



Jackson McAndrew, Wayzata



Jack Janicki, White Bear Lake



Nasir Whitlock, DLS; Zy'Lerre Stewart, T-G



Patrick Bath of T-G.

STATE 2A AND 1A SNAPSHOTS



Cherry's Isaac Asuma (3) drives against Border West's Clint Determan (35) and Andrew Walker-Hannemann.

Mark Hvidsten, SportsEngine



Boden Kopke of Holy Family, guarded by EVW's Noah Stommes

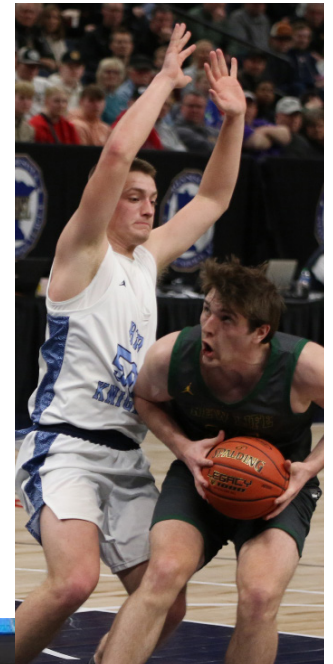


Albany's Tysen Gerads, guarded by Minnehaha's Lorenzo Levy



Owen Leach, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton

Duluth News Tribune



Colton Hendricks of New Life Academy, guarded by RTR's Drew Werkman.



Erick Reader, New Life Academy

Lawson Godfrey (11), Mankato Loyola; Caleb Griffin and Jaxon Strinmoen, Spring Grove

Rochester Post Bulletin



STATE BOYS TOURNNEY RESULTS

CLASS 4A

Quarterfinals

Park Center 92, Andover 72
Eastview 72, Minnetonka 68
Lakeville North 87, Buffalo 59
Wayzata 81, White Bear Lake 61

Semifinals

Park Center 61, Eastview 56
Wayzata 79, Lakeville North 77

Third place

Lakeville North 83, Eastview 70

Championship

Wayzata 75, Park Center 71, OT

Consolation semifinals

Andover 95, Minnetonka 77
White Bear Lake 66, Buffalo 63

Fifth place

White Bear Lake 68, Andover 64

CLASS 3A

Quarterfinals

Totino-Grace 89, St. Francis 36
Alexandria 72, Mankato East 57
Orono 84, Hermantown 82
DeLaSalle 71, Stewartville 66

Semifinals

Totino-Grace 70, Alexandria 59
DeLaSalle 67, Orono 61

Third place

Orono 67, Alexandria 63

Championship

Totino-Grace 50, DeLaSalle 46

Consolation semifinals

St. Francis 79, Mankato East 73
Stewartville 85, Hermantown 67

Fifth place

Stewartville 56, St. Francis 55

CLASS 2A

Quarterfinals

Holy Family 80, Eden Valley-Watkins 52
Minnehaha Academy 53, Maple River 48
Albany 69, Pequot Lakes 53
Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 63, Plainview-Elgin-Millville 61

Semifinals

Minnehaha Acad. 76, Holy Family 72, OT
Albany 79, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 64

Third place

Holy Family Catholic 86, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 79

Championship

Albany 72, Minnehaha Academy 65

Consolation semifinals

Maple River 59, Eden Valley-Watkins 32
Pequot Lakes 51, Plainview-Elgin-Millville 42

Fifth place

Pequot Lakes 50, Maple River 43

CLASS 1A

Quarterfinals

Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 80, Nevis 61
Cherry 68, Border West 55
New Life Academy 62, Sacred Heart 46
Spring Grove 39, Mankato Loyola 38

Semifinals

New Life Academy 51, Spring Grove 35
Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 61, Cherry 57

Third place

Spring Grove 68, Cherry 43

Championship

Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 59, New Life Academy 49

Consolation semifinals

Nevis 63, Border West 55
Sacred Heart 59, Mankato Loyola 58

Fifth place

Nevis 72, Sacred Heart 47

Greenway: Providence prodigy

By Bruce Strand

Maddyn Greenway has accomplished more both individually and team-wise as a ninth-grader than 99 percent of athletes can dream about in their entire athletic careers. And she is just getting started.

Providence Academy's bold, blazing 5-foot-8 guard played in her third state championship game March 18 and picked up her second state title with the Lions as they beat Albany 74-60 in the Class 2A finals.

Greenway had 31 points in that game after scoring 47 and 35 in the first two rounds. Her tourney total of 113 ranks third-most all-time behind Carlie Wagner's 130 and 129 for New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva.

That pushed her career total to 2,306 points in 89 games for a career average of 25.9 per game on teams that have gone 81-8, including 8-1 at state. And 235 of those points have come in nine state tournament games, an average of 26 per game.

Greenway led the state in scoring with 31.8 points per game, just ahead of another freshman phenom, Tori Oehrlein of Crosby-Ironton, who averaged 31.2. Greenway had 1,019 points and Oehrlein 998. The two are summer teammates and good friends. Remarkably, Greenway also led the state in assists with 235, showing how much other firepower her team had, with Grace Counts, a Miss Basketball finalist, averaging 14.7 points, Brooke Hohenecker 11.0, Hope Counts 9.0 and Emma Millerbernd 6.5. Greenway was also fifth in the state with 147 steals and 19th with 80 three-pointers.

Her dad is Chad Greenway, the former star Vikings line-backer who has great speed, as does her mom, Jenni, a track standout at the University of Iowa, where they met. Maddyn is the oldest of their four children. Interviewed by Fox9 in eighth grade, she commented, "Last year, there was a lot of 'oh, that's (Chad's) daughter. It's going to happen, people will always say that, because he was really good, but I'll just continue to do what I'm doing to make a name for myself." In the same feature, coach Connor Goetz assessed: "She's wired differently

than most kids. That comes from parents, but it is also self-driven from her, and that's really special."

Unlike many basketball prodigies aiming for a Division I career, Greenway does not stick to one sport. Her tenacity and blazing speed are also on display in track, where she was a member of a state champion mile relay team last June, and in soccer, where she led the state with 58 goals last fall, powering a 17-4 team that placed third in the state tournament.



Maddyn Greenway took aim on a free shot at the state tourney.

But she makes this perfectly clear: "No matter what season I am in, I focus on basketball. Basketball is my main sport." Toward that end, she declares: "I never want to be satisfied with who I am as a player. I can continue to be so much better as I grow and develop."

One method Greenway uses to improve her game is Dr. Dish, a machine that keeps feeding balls to players, rapid fire, allowing them to make maximum use of their time practicing. No more traipsing around the gym to pick up balls. Greenway has one both at home and at school. "With the amount of shots I can get up in a short amount of time, the Dr. Dish has been

very beneficial," Greenway said. "I can get hundreds of three's up in 20 minutes. Before using Dr. Dish, I didn't think of myself as a knock-down shooter. Now, I've grown my game across the arc. I have confidence that my shots will go in." She has made 40, 66 and 80 three's in her three seasons.

Greenway has already shown an uncanny ability to rise to the occasion, as two of her greatest games this season came by leading wins over top-notch rivals. She got 60 points (third most all-time in the state) in a 124-94 shootout against Minnehaha Academy (whom they met again in the state semifinals) and 41 points in an 87-80 win over Class 4A runner-up Hopkins.

She's got three prep seasons left to help her team add more titles and to at least double her career points and approach 5,000. Colleges are already calling; last summer, for instance, her parents' alma mater, the Iowa Hawkeyes, offered a scholarship.

PATH TO THE STATE FINALS

CLASS 4A

QUARTERFINALS

Park Center 92, Andover 72 — The Pirates shot 62 percent and had six double-digit shooters — Casmir Chavis with 18 points, Joe Burgess 15, JJ Ware 14, Jackson Fowlkes 14, Change Ring 13, and CJ O'Hara 12. Ware snagged 10 rebounds. For Andover, Ben Kopetzki sank 22 points and Sam Musungu 17.

Eastview 72, Minnetonka 68 — The score was 68-68 before Myles Adams made a free shot with :33 left and a dunk with :11 left. Dylan Omweno sank 25 points, Mario Adams 12 points and Jonathan Mekonnen 10. For the Skippers, Andy Stefonowicz tallied 22 points, Jordan Cain 14, Ibrahim El-Amin 12 and Jalen Cain 10.

Wayzata 81, White Bear Lake 61 — The Trojans shot 13-for-24 on three's, with Hayden Tibbits scoring 17 points (2-for-5), Jackson McAndrew 14 points (4-for-7), Isaiah Habte 13 points (3-for-4) and Ben Schaffer 12 points (2-for-3). For the Bears, Jack Janicki sank 16 points, Jack Misgen 15 and Zach Nelson 12.

Lakeville North 87, Buffalo 59 — Nolan Winter ruled the lanes with 25 points and 17 rebounds. The Panthers crushed the Bison on rebounds 44-18 while shooting 61 percent (35-of-57). Sam Nolan sank 16 points and Hudson Vaith 13. For Buffalo, Nate Dahl netted 21 points, Grady Guida 15 and Brody Wishart 11.

SEMIFINALS

Park Center 61, Eastview 56 — Casmir Chavis led with 21 points, six rebounds, five assists and four steals. Jackson Fowlkes added 13 points, and CJ O'Hara and JJ Ware eight each. The Bucs trailed by five with four minutes left but went on a 9-0 run, sparked by O'Hara with two steals and two dunks. They overcame 4-for-20 three-point shooting. For Eastview, Jonathan Mekonen hit 19 points and Mario Adams and Chet Klos 10 each.

Wayzata 79, Lakeville North 77 — Hayden Tibbits swished a pull-up jumper from 15 feet, with 1.1 second left, capping a drama-filled semifinal. The Trojans led by 20 in the second half only to see the Panthers surge ahead by four. Jackson McAndrew tallied 28 points (shooting 9-for-14 with three three's, 7-for-7 at the line). Tibbits had 24 points and Jake Schmitt 10. Wayzata was 16-for-17 on free shots and 9-for-20 on three's. Scoring 24 each for Lakeville North were Nolan Winter (shooting 8-for-11) and Hudson Vaith (10-for-15).

CLASS 3A

QUARTERFINALS

DeLaSalle 71, Stewartville 66 — PJ Pounds netted 20 points (shooting 9-for-12), Nasir Whitlock provided 18 points and 10 assists, and Israel Moses V 13 points. DLS shot a solid 22-for-44 overall, 8-for-15 on three's, and 15-for-19 at the line. Stewartville, in their first-ever state game, had Parker Wangen, Henry Tschetter and Tegan Malone with 14 points each. The Tigers shot 24-for-47, and 7-for-14 on three's.

Orono 84, Hermantown 82 — Isaiah Hagen delivered 35 points, five steals and four assists for Orono, which built a 16-point lead and held on. Kyle Kallenbach added 20 points, Grant Gunderson 12 (with nine assists), and Nolan Groves 11. For Hermantown, Abraham Soumis notched 34 points (10-for-10 at the line) and 12 rebounds, and Blake Schmitz 24 points.

Alexandria 62, Mankato East 57 — Grayson Grove led the Cardinals with 20 points, 10 rebounds, five assists and two blocks. Chase Thompson netted 15 points, and James Schoenrock and Bralyn Steffensmeier nine each. For Mankato East, Brogan Madsen hit 16 points, Ganden Gosch 10 and Carson Schweim nine.

Totino-Grace 86, St. Francis 36 — Patrick Bath led the rout sinking 23 points with 10-for-11 accuracy and nabbed seven rebounds. Taison Chatman was next with 16 points as the Eagles shot a blistering 72 percent (36-for-50). Mathew Bottom led the Saints with 16 points.

SEMIFINALS

DeLaSalle 67, Orono 61 — Nasir Whitlock powered the Islanders with 27 points, five assists and five steals. Israel Moses V added 10 points, Jaden Morgen nine. Orono kept the pressure on as Isaiah Hagen hit 23 points (18 of 21 free shots) and Nolan Groves 13 points.

Totino-Grace 70, Alexandria 59 — The Eagles shot 55 percent at 28-for-51 and a scorching 7-for-12 on three-pointers. Tommy Humphries canned 16 points, Isaiah Johnson 15, Patrick Bath 14 and Taison Chatman 12. Chatman dished out nine assists. Bath and Humphries nabbed eight rebounds each. For Alexandria, which led 38-33 at halftime, Grayson Grove sank 21 points (shooting 8-for-12) and blocked four shots. Chase Thompson added 16 points. The Cardinals also shot well, 21-for-40 overall and 10-of-24 on three's.

PATH TO THE STATE FINALS

CLASS 2A

QUARTERFINALS

Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 63, Plainview-Elgin-Millville 61 — PEM led 59-58 before DGF's Owen Leach and Drew Shelley each sank two free shots in the last eight seconds. Leach had 28 points and 12 rebounds and Sheeley 10 points. The Rebels were 9-for-14 on three's with Leach 4-for-7. Kaiden Peters hit 16 points and Aeron Stevens 14 for PEM.

Minnehaha Academy 53, Maple River 48 — Jerome Williams logged 26 points and seven rebounds, shooting 8-for-12 overall, 3-for-4 on three's, 7-for-8 at the line. Lorenzo Levy added 10 points. For Maple River, Hayden Niebuhr notched 19 points and seven rebounds, and Mason Schirmer 14 points and seven assists.

Holy Family Catholic 80, Eden Valley-Watkins 52 — Collin Mulholland logged 25 points, 11 rebounds and five steals, and 13 blocks. Boden Kapke notched 26 points and 16 rebounds, and Kole Hanson 14 points. For EVW, in its first state game, Parker Schmitz had 12 points, and Noah Stommes 11 points and 12 rebounds,

Albany 69, Pequot Lakes 53 — Sam Hondl sank 20 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for Albany. Tysen Gerads added 19 points and Ezekial Austin 13. The Huskies shot 8-for-17 on three's and out-rebounded the Patriots 36-16. Grant Loge drilled 23 points for Pequot. Eli Laposky and Gavin Kennen had 10 points each.

SEMIFINALS

Minnehaha Academy 76, Holy Family Catholic 72, OT — The Redhawks, crushed by HFC 101-56 in January, sprang a huge upset. Lorenzo Levy sank 27 points (7-for-9 on three's), tied the game 68-68 on a drive with :01 left and hit a 3-pointer to start overtime. Rolyns Aligbe added 17 points and Jerome Williams 16. HFC's 6-foot-11 duo was productive as Boden Kapke logged 27 points and 13 rebounds and Collin Mulholland 20 points and 15 rebounds. Kole Hanson (11 points, five assists, five steals) fouled out with three minutes left.

Albany 79, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 64 — Tyson Gerads poured in 31 points, shooting 13-for-17 with three 3-pointers. Sam Hondl logged 14 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds. Ezekial Austin added 12 points and Ethan Borgerding 10. Owen Leach notched 30 points and 13 rebounds for DGF (11 of 12 free shots). Drew Sheeley netted 15 points and made six assists.

CLASS 1A

QUARTERFINALS

Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 80, Nevis 62 — Aiden Wichmann led the Knights with 24 points, nine rebounds and four assists. Drew Werkman scored 19 points, Cody Wichmann 11 and Hayden Gravely 10. For Nevis, Alex Lester had 20 points and Spencer Lindow 12.

Cherry 68, Border West 55 — Noah Sundquist shot 14-for-15 with two 3-pointers and totaled 30 points. Isaac Asuma had foul trouble as he notched 11 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists. Clint Determan tallied 19 points and Dylan Bainbridge 12 for Border West, which shot 13-for-33 on three's, 20-for-24 on free shots.

Spring Grove 39, Mankato Loyola 38 — Elijah Solum scored 16 points and Caleb Griffin nine for Lions, who led by 11 with 7:24 left in the defensive battle. Loyola's late 15-5 run included two 3-pointers by Quinn Kelly. Lawson Godfrey and Jake Sizer led Loyola with nine points each.

New Life Academy 62, Sacred Heart 46 — Erick Reader led with 14 points and 12 rebounds. Colton Hendricks had 11 points and Max Briggs eight. NLA dominated the rebounding 41-23. Eleven players scored for Sacred Heart, led by Ethan Arntson with nine.

SEMIFINALS

New Life Academy 51, Spring Grove 35 — NLA made a 14-0 run to break it open with Austin Woolf scoring seven points. The Eagles had a 41-21 rebound edge and forced the Lions to shoot three's, which they weren't hitting (3-for-19). Erick Reader grabbed 15 rebounds and scored 11 points. Woolf had 13 points and John Kirschling 10. NLA made 12 steals, six by Max Briggs. For Spring Grove, Jaxon Strinmoen had 15 points, eight rebounds, five steals and four assists.

Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 61, Cherry 57 — The Knights were 13-for-14 on free shots, with Aiden Wichmann sinking six down the stretch and Hayden Gravely two with :21 left for a four-point lead. Cherry was just 4-for-12 at the line. Wichmann led the Knights with 23 points, 10 assists and three steals, shooting 9-for-9 at the line. Drew Werkman added 14 points. For Cherry, Isaac Asuma sank 21 points, Noah Asuma 13 points (four 3-pointers), and Carson Brown 11 points, eight assists and seven rebounds.

BOYS ALL-TOURNNEY TEAMS



CLASS 4A -- Front: Jack Janicki, White Bear Lake; Jack Robison, Lakeville North; Hayden Tibbits, Wayzata; Ben Kopetzki, Andover; Dylan Omweno, Eastview. Back: Jackson McAndrew, Wayzata; Nolan Winter, Lakeville North; Jackson Fowlkes, Park Center; Jon Mekonnen, Eastview;



CLASS 3A -- Front: Grayson Grove, Alexandria; Henry Tschetter, Stewartville; Kyle Kallenbach, Orono; Isaiah Hagen, Orono; Matthew Bothun, St. Francis. Back: Tommy Humphries, Taison Chatman and Patrick Bath, Totiono-Grace; Nasir Whitlock and Israel Moses, DeLaSalle



CLASS 2A -- Front: Owen Leach, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton; Grant Loge, Pequot Lakes; Jerome Williams, Minnehaha Academy; Hayden Niebuhr, Maple River; Back: Sam Hondl, Albany; Rollins Aligbe, Minnehaha Academy; Tysen Gerads and Zeke Austin, Albany. Not pictured: Boden Kapke and Collin Mullholland, Holy Family Catholic



CLASS 1A -- Front: Elijay Solum and Jackson Strinmoen, Spring Grove; Alex Lester, Nevis; Isaac Asuma and Noah Asuma, Cherry. Back: Drew Werkman, Aiden Wichmann and Hayden Gravley, Russell-Tyler-Ruthton; Max Briggs and Erick

BOYS STATE CHAMPION TEAMS

WAYZATA

CLASS 4A

Record: 27-4

Coach: Bryan Schnettler

Third state title



TOTINO-GRACE

CLASS 3A

Record: 24-8

Coach: Nick Carroll

Second state title



ALBANY

CLASS 2A

Record: 32-1

Coach: Cory Schlagel

First state title



RUSSELL-TYLER-RUTHTON

CLASS 1A

Record: 31-1

Coach: Daren Gravley

Fourth state title



MBBN's super 5 all-tourney teams

Each year Minnesota Basketball News picks a five-player all-tournament team from all four classes. This year's super teams are headed by Tessa Johnson of St. Michael-Albertville and Nolan Winter of Lakeville North. -- *Bruce Strand, editor*

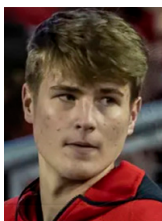
MBBN girls all-tourney

Tessa Johnson (pictured), senior 5-foot-10 guard, led St. Michael-Albertville to the Class 4A championship, racking up 77 points, 26 rebounds, 18 assists, and 10 steals. The South Carolina recruit was 19-for-21 on free throws, including two clinchers in the 71-70 finals victory over Hopkins. **Olivia Olson**, junior forward, led Benilde-St. Margaret's to the 3A crown with 75 points, 33 rebounds and 10 assists. **Maddyn Greenway**, freshman guard, scored 113 points, third-most all-time, leading Providence Academy to the Class 2A crown, with games of 47, 35 and 31. **Jordan Zubich**, junior guard, was the rudder on both ends of the court for Class 1A champion Mountain Iron-Buhl while notching 57 points, eight assists and seven steals. **Taylor Woodson**, senior forward, amassed 67 points and 30 rebounds as Hopkins fell one point short of the title.



MBBN boys all-tourney

Nolan Winter (pictured), Lakeville North's 6-foot-11 senior forward, signed by Wisconsin, shot 28-for-35 in the tournament, logging 70 points and 31 rebounds as the Panthers placed third after a last-second loss to Wayzata in the semifinals. **Jackson McAndrew**, Class 4A champion Wayzata's 6-foot-9 junior guard delivered 67 points, 24 rebounds and six blocks, capped by scoring eight points in overtime in the finals. **Hayden Tibbits**, Wayzata's speedy 5-foot-10 senior guard, notched 59 points, 10 assists, seven steals and just seven turnovers while setting a furious pace. **Tai-son Chatman**, unflappable 6-foot-4 senior point guard headed for Ohio State, led Totino-Grace to the Class 3A crown for the second straight year with 48 points, 18 rebounds, 18 assists, and just five turnovers. **Nasir Whitlock**, DeLaSalle senior point guard, racked up 64 points, 19 assists, 12 rebounds, and seven steals.



Mr. Basketball finalists named

Five finalists have been named by the Mr. Basketball Committee for the 2023 Award which was to be announced March 30. They are:

Nolan Winter, Lakeville North 6-foot-11 forward -- Averaged 23.4 points per game and 11.6 rebounds, signed by Wisconsin

Nasir Whitlock, DeLaSalle 6-foot-2 guard -- Averaged 26.7 points, excellent floor leader, signed by LeHigh.

Ben Kopetzki, Andover 6-foot guard -- Averaged 25.5 points, 5.8 rebounds, 6.7 assists -- signed by Concordia-St. Paul.

Hayden Tibbits, Wayzata 5-foot-10 guard -- Averaged 21 points and four assists, shooting 44.8 percent on three's, for the state champions. College undecided.

Boden Kopke, Holy Family Catholic 6-foot-11 forward -- Averaged 22.2 points and 13 rebounds, excellent 3-point shooter, signed by LeHigh (PA)

STAR-TRIBUNE ALL-METRO

GIRLS

Player of the year : Tessa Johnson, St. Michael-Albertville

First team: Johnson; Kennedy Sanders, Chaska; Nunu Agara, Hopkins; Olivia Olsen, Benilde-St. Margaret's; Maddyn Greenway, Providence Academy

Second team: Aaliyah Crump, Minnetonka; Molly Lenz, Eden Prairie; Addi Mack, Minnehaha Academy; Liv McGill, Hopkins; Tatlor Woodson, Hopkins

BOYS

Player of the year: Nasir Whitlock, DeLaSalle

First team : Whitlock; Daniel Freitag, Bloomington Jefferson; Boden Kapke, Holy Family; Hayden Tibbits, Wayzata; Nolan Winter, Lakeville North

Second team: Patrick Bath, Totino-Grace; Casmir Chavis, Park Center; Ben Kopetzki, Andover; Jon Mekonnen, Eastview; Max Shikenjanski, Stillwater

March Madness in Minnesota - the Good, the Bad and the Ugly

By Jeff McCarron

Minnesota's March Madness was full of highs and lows - good and bad - and even ugly. As I write this, it is just past midnight on March 31.

I have spent January and February the past two winters away from Minnesota in warmer weather. You do begin to wonder while away why people live in snow and cold while others enjoy 50's, 60's and 70's and sunshine. I have always thought that if it wasn't for basketball, how would I survive the winter? I've been playing it and watching it over 60 years. But years of shoveling snow and scraping ice from my windshield has shortened my basketball season..

Well, I couldn't stay away in March, so I returned and quickly adapted to the snow and cold by seeking out the nearest gym. I started with our Pacesetter Wisconsin Youth Basketball state championships in Wausau March 4-5. I marveled at several strong teams that earned a bid to the Pacesetter Great Five-State Championships in Minneapolis, where every team will get a chance to play at least one game on the main Target Center floor - complete with music for the starting line-ups and a play-by-play announcer.

The other states competing will be North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa. Minnesota has an 8-region play off system:

Rochester and Redwood Falls March 25-26
Paynesville and Grand Rapids/MIB April 1-2
Alexandria and MLWR April 15-16
Bemidji and Lake Crystal April 22-23

I attended most of the Minnesota girls' state tournament, which was awesome with all games at Williams Arena. I directed the Region 1 Pacesetter tournament in Rochester last weekend, so much of my boys' state tournament experience ended up being spent bracketing. Our faithful "Sherburn Mafia" - John Tirevold and Sparky Martin - attended again along with Keith and Mary Peterson and Brad Brolsma. Basketball fans that attend all games without an affili-

ation are becoming a vanishing breed. How many real fans - who go to watch any and all teams - are left? Not many. Sad.

And there could be two fewer next year. Pat and Mary Ellen Dewey of Sandstone go every year. Mary Ellen has become a basketball fan "celebrity", after John Millea of the MSHSL wrote about her twice in his popular John's Journal. Mary Ellen is the wife of Pat or "Dew" as many of us know him. She attended all of Pat's games over 30 years when he was head coach at Sandstone and later East Central when Sandstone consolidated with Askov. A bookkeeper by profession, Mary Ellen has kept a scorebook from the stands for her local team and still does today. I witnessed her correcting the scorekeeper in St. Cloud last winter. The adjustment was made at halftime.

Last Saturday Pat and Mary Ellen attended the Park Center-Wayzata game. Mary Ellen, who now relies on a cane, ambled out to the rest room. As Pat described it, a swarm of kids ran through the corridor, yelling that someone had a gun. People scrambled in fear, seeking safety. A video later revealed that someone was being attacked in the hallway by a large group who were kicking and beating him. Mary Ellen was returning to her seat when someone ran by and kicked her cane away, and she fell to the floor. Pat was rushing into the corridor at the same time and slipped on pop that had been spilled in the frenzy. He fell hard and required help to get up.

Two of the kindest, sweetest people on the planet and two of the best Minnesota basketball fans - now in their 70's - were lying on the floor, victims of senseless violence at a Minnesota state tournament.

People suggested they get checked at a hospital. Both of their sons, Paul and Dan, are doctors. They decided to go home instead. Mary Ellen needed assistance. But on Monday morning, she did what good people do - she went back to work.

But will they see another state tournament in person? Maybe not. That would truly be sad.

2023 **PACESETTER**

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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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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