

*All scores of the Minnesota
Youth State Championships
*MSHSL state tournament
qualifiers, schedules and
roundup of top seeds

Volume 27

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Pacesetter MN Youth Volleyball State Championships

7th and 8th grade state champs: Caledonia, Stewartville



Stewartville Maroon 8th graders, above,
and Caledonia 7th-graders,
at right, celebrate state championships

8th Grade Top 5

- (1) Stewartville Maroon
- (2) Annandale
- (3) Stewartville Gold
- (4) Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton
- (5) East Grand Forks

7th Grade Top 5

- (1) Caledonia
- (2) Minnewaska Area
- (3) Belgrade-Broten-Elrosa
- (4) New Ulm
- (5) Hawley



Tigers, Warriors win a tourney eagerly anticipated

By Bruce Strand

Teams from Stewartville and Caledonia captured top honors at Pacesetter's annual Minnesota Youth Volleyball State Championships on Saturday, Oct. 28, at Paynesville High School.

The Stewartville Maroon squad, playing "up" one grade, was the eighth-grade champion, edging Annandale 25-22, 18-25, 15-13 in the title match.

Caledonia nabbed the seventh-grade crown, capped by a conquest of Minnewaska Area 25-15, 22-25, 15-6.

Sixteen eighth-grade teams and 12 seventh-grade teams assembled for the opportunity to play against rivals they haven't seen before in a quasi state tournament upon completion of their regular seasons.

8th grade: Stewartville Maroon champion, Annandale runner-up

Stewartville Maroon got past Park Rapids, Rocori, and Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton to reach the finals against Annandale.

"We are a team of all seventh-graders this year," said coach Amy Theobald, who was assisted by Michelle Krause. "We were looking to improve on our third place finish last year in the seventh grade division as sixth graders. The girls like to push themselves and play better competition."



Team members were Clara Theobald (setter/right side hitter), Sadie Romens (middle hitter), Taylor Ferrie (setter), Mor-

Annandale's Grace Whelan spikes against Stewartville's Quinn Krause.

Photos by Bruce Strand



Stewartville's Clara Theobald fields a serve from Annandale as Camryn Klar watches.

gan Arndt (middle hitter), Kaitlyn Carolan (outside hitter), Sylvia Heusinkvelt (outside hitter), Quinn Krause (right side hitter), Ellasyn Spencer (libero), and Camryn Klar (defensive specialist).

Heusinkvedt and Carolan led in kills. Romens, Arndt and Krause led in blocks. Theobald and Ferrie provided the assists. Klar and Spencer led in digs.

Stewartville entered two squads. Their Gold team also did well, placing third, losing only to Annandale.

The Annandale lineup included Avin Schuler (libero), Grace Whelan (outside hitter), Hailey Jenniges (middle hitter), Natalie Wilcox (setter), Jacie Lee (setter), Grace Grube (middle hitter) and Clara Uecker (outside hitter).



Minnewaska's Adeline Oeltjen blocks.

The Cardinals defeated Bagley, Grand Rapids and Stewartville Gold to reach the finals. In a 6-2 rotation, Uecker and Lee led in kills. Schuler took most of the passes. Lee and Wilcox split the setting duties.

"The girls really look forward to this tournament," coach Jodi Lee said. "We played it last year with the almost exact same result as this year. It definitely

draws teams from all over state."

Annandale fielded four different teams at the eighth-grade level in the regular season, Lee said, so this group had not played together before.

7th grade: Caledonia champion, Minnewaska Area runner-up

Caledonia had a first-round bye, then repelled West Central Area and New Ulm to earn the finals berth against Minnewaska Area.

The Warriors roster included Elin Blum, Lilly Augedahl, Ava Bernau, Lydia VanRavenhorse, Jaelyn Foellmi, Chloe Kruse, Kennedy Fruechte, Braylee Konz, Layton Hoshiet, Ali Steele, Nyah Rommes and Ashlyn Reinhart.

"It was a solid 12-girl effort, fun to watch and participate in," coach Dan Reinhart said. "Thanks to Paceset-



Minnewaska's Ally Johnsrud lunges to pick up a serve against Caledonia. Cate Frey looks on.



Caledonia's Ashlyn Reinhart, Layton Hoshiet and Nyah Rommes get set to serve-receive with coach Dan Reinhart watching.

ter for the invite and a good day of volleyball."

Rommes powered the team offensively, leading in aces and kills, the coach said. Augedahl and Reinhart sparked in serve receive and "putting up a solid defensive effort, both front and back row." Steele put up some "excellent hittable balls consistently."

Minnewaska Area proceeded to the finals with a bye and close wins over Hawley and Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa. The Lakers got it done with just seven players: Ava Moen (setter), Ally Johnsrud (outside hitter), Taylor Schultz (outside hitter), Cate Frey (libero), Sophie Boll (middle hitter), Piper Barsness (right-side hitter, setter) and Adeline Oeltjen (middle hitter).



Caledonia's Chloe Kruse serves.

"It was fun to play stronger teams than we usually do," said coach Mary Johnsrud about the Pacesetter tournament. "We won both our tournaments this season, but they were nothing like this one."

Boll, Schultz and Johnsrud led in kills. The team showed good hustle and made it hard for opponents to find an open area, Johnsrud said. "Our back row passing was on target and we did a nice job of setting up our hitters. We have a strong serving team."

STATE YOUTH VOLLEYBALL SNAPSHOTS



MN Youth Volleyball State Championships scores

7TH GRADE

FIRST ROUND

West Central Area def. Glencoe-Silver

Lake 23-25, 25-23, 15-7

Caledonia bye

Paynesville def. Brandon-Evansville 25-12, 25-11

New Ulm bye

Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa def.

Barnesville 25-12, 25-12

Hutchinson bye

Hawley def. Park Rapids 25-14, 25-17

Minnewaska Area bye

QUARTERFINALS

Caledonia def. West Central Area 25-14, 25-13

New Ulm def. Paynesville 24-26, 25-19, 15-10

Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa def.

Hutchinson 25-10, 25-13

Minnewaska Area def. Hawley 14-25,

25-13, 15-11

SEMIFINALS

Caledonia def. New Ulm 25-21, 25-22

Minnewaska Area def. Belgrade-Brooten-

Elrosa 28-26, 25-20

CHAMPIONSHIP

Caledonia def. Minnewaska Area

25-15, 22-25, 15-6

THIRD PLACE

Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa def. New Ulm

24-26, 25-19, 15-10

FIFTH PLACE

Paynesville def. West Central Area 25-11, 25-23

Hawley def. Hutchinson 25-14, 25-22

Hawley def. Paynesville 13-25, 25-15, 15-10

CONSOLATION

Glencoe-Silver Lake def. Brandon-Evansville 19-25,

25-13, 15-8

Park Rapids def. Barnesville 25-20, 25-18

Glencoe-Silver Lake def. Park Rapids 25-17,

28-26 (championship)

Barnesville def. Brandon-Evansville 25-14,

14-25, 15-11 (third place)

8TH GRADE

FIRST ROUND

Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton def.

Paynesville 25-15, 25-17

Caledonia def. Glencoe-Silver Lake 25-23, 25-23

Rocori def. Red Lake County Central, 25-18, 25-10

Stewartville Maroon def.

Park Rapids 25-9, 24-26, 15-3

Annandale def. Bagley 25-21, 25-18

Grand Rapids def. St. Charles 12-25, 25-22, 16-14

Stewartville Gold def. Northland 25-13, 25-15

East Grand Forks def. Milaca 25-16, 25-18

QUARTERFINALS

Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton def. Caledonia 25-10, 25-9

Stewartville Maroon def. Rocori 25-20, 25-19

Annandale def. Grand Rapids 25-22, 25-22

Stewartville Gold def. East Grand

Forks 25-22, 25-14

SEMIFINALS

Stewartville Maroon def. Dilworth-

Glyndon-Felton 25-22, 26-24

Annandale def. Stewartville Gold 25-22, 25-18

CHAMPIONSHIP

Stewartville Maroon def. Annandale

25-22, 18-25, 15-13

THIRD PLACE

Stewartville Gold def. Dilworth-Glyndon-

Felton 25-16, 25-14

FIFTH PLACE

Rocori def. Caledonia 25-7, 25-15

East Grand Forks def. Grand Rapids 25-18, 25-19

East Grand Forks def. Rocori 22-25, 25-16, 15-11

CONSOLATION

Paynesville def. Glencoe-Silver

Lake 25-19, 22-25, 15-9

Red Lake County Central def. Park

Rapids 25-8, 25-21

Bagley def. St. Charles 25-17, 25-18

Milaca def. Northland 25-7, 25-8

Red Lake Central def. Paynesville 25-17, 25-22

Milaca def. Bagley 25-21, 25-22

Red Lake County Central def. Milaca 18-25,

25-22, 15-11 (championship)

Park Rapids def. Glencoe-Silver Lake 25-19, 23-25,

17-15

St. Charles def. Northland 25-18, 25-20

St. Charles def. Park Rapids 25-23, 25-23 (fifth place)

8TH GRADE FINALISTS



CHAMPION: STEWARTVILLE MAROON

Front: Taylor Ferrie, Ellasyn Spencer, Kaitlyn Carolin, Camryn Klar Back: Quinn Krause, Sylvia Heusinkvelt, Morgan Arndt, Sadie Romens, Clara Theobald

RUNNER-UP: ANNANDALE

Front: Jada Evans, Avin Schuler, Natalie Wilcox, Grace Whelan
Back: Grace Grube, Hailey Jenniges, Clara Uecker, Jacie Lee



7TH GRADE FINALISTS



CHAMPION: CALEDONIA

Front: Ali Steele, Lydia VanRavenhorse, Jaelyn Foellmi, Lily Augedahl, Ava Bernau, Elin Blum
Back: Braylee Konz, Nyah Rommes, Ashlyn Reinhart, Layton Hoshiet, Kennedy Fruechte, Chloe Kruse

RUNNER-UP: MINNEWASKA AREA

Front: Piper Barsness, Cate Frey, Taylor Schultz
Back: Coach Mary Johnsrud, Sophie Boll, Adeline Oeltjen, Ally Johnsrud, Ava Moen



PACESETTER "Formula for Success"**1) TOP COACHES:** Who do you prefer?

Master Coaches: Coaches who love to teach and have shown exceptional ability in relating the most important fundamentals for volleyball success at all levels.

-Championship Coaches: Coaches who have won championships as a coach or player and have an intense motivation to share their secrets for success.

-Young Guns: Young coaches who have had early success as a player or coach and have demonstrated great enthusiasm and insight.

2) Strong Fundamental Teaching: Through 38 years Pacesetter has provided top coaches who teach the most important skills for game success at every age.

3) Low Costs: Pacesetter continues to keep fees at very affordable levels for the high quality of the program.

4) Low Ratios: Pacesetter averages one coach for every 9-10 players and tries not to exceed 15-1 for any session.

COMMENTS FROM COACHES:

We were able to cover a wide variety of skills and learned some new competitive drills too. Our MS & HS athletes were able to really push themselves and there was great improvement for all levels.

Louis Colletti - Balsam Lake, WI

I absolutely loved having Korie - the girls did as well. The knowledge she presented and the passion she has for the game was beyond expectations. She was very thorough in her explanations and even gave me ideas for different approaches.

Corbin Storbeck - Harvey, ND

I think Trevor did a great job - The girls really enjoyed it and they said they learned a lot and were challenged!

Lynn Neely - Wessington Springs, SD

The camp was excellent! The girls enjoyed having someone new come in to explain things in a different way. As coaches, we received a lot of new drills we can implement that the girls found fun. It was a great mix of skills development and fun for the girls!

Kelsey Muehlelt - Avoca, IA

Lexie was an amazing coach! She has a great knowledge of the game, has a wonderful connection with the players and really knows how to push each player.

Jill Olson, Lake of the Woods, Baudette, MN

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• DII on staff since 2005
• 181-110 record - Four 20-win seasons
• Five appearances in NCAA tournament



KORIE LEBEDA
• Former Head Coach at University of Mary - DII
• Coaching experience: 6 years collegiate,
6 years club, 4 years high school
• D2 NCAA Regional appearance in 2014 (WSC)



TAMMY BLAKE
• 32 years of coaching experience
• NSIC conference champion 2000, 28-4 record
• NCAA tournament appearances: 2000, 2004, 2005
• Former MSUM head coach: winningest coach - 300+ wins
• Ranked top 25 in the country several times



DANA CORDOVA
• Former Head coach at Minot State University (D-2)
• 19th year of college coaching
• Rebuilt two college programs to winning records
• Fundamentals-driven coach



LYNNE DEADRICK
• 2018 UMAC "Coach of the Year"
• 16 seasons at UW-Superior
• 12 seasons as Head Coach-Vermilion Community
College NCAA-Nationals 1999



PAWEŁ ELERYK
• Teacher and coach at American
School of Warsaw - 28 years
• 25 years Volleyball Varsity Girls & Boys
(10+ CUSA & CSC Championships)
• Top Pacesetter volleyball camp clinician - 30+ camps

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3 hours		\$105/player	\$135/player
4 hours		\$135/player	\$175/player
6 hours		\$195/player	\$255/player

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1:00-3:00 p.m.	Grades 7-9	\$75	\$95
3:00-4:30 p.m.	Grades 5-6	\$60	\$75
B. "Coaches' Choice" no elem. session		3 days	4 days
8:30-11:30 a.m.	Grades 10-12	\$105	\$135
1:00-4:00 p.m.	Grades 7-9	\$105	\$135
C. "Young Stars" Program		3 days	4 days
8:30-10:00 a.m.	Grades 3-4	\$60	\$75
10:00-12:00 noon	Grades 5-6	\$75	\$95
1:00-4:00 p.m.	Grades 7-9	\$105	\$135
D. Pacesetter Varsity Intensive Training		* 3 or 4 days	
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Mahtomedi players were all smiles after beating St. Paul Como Park in the Section 4AAA finals.

State field set; Wayzata, Marshall, SW Christian, RTR are top seeds

By Bruce Strand

Wayzata, champion of the last three state tournaments, and the lone unbeaten (31-0) in the state in any class, is top-seeded in Class 4A, heading into the state volleyball tournament,

Action starts Wednesday and concludes Saturday at Xcel Energy Center. See schedule on the next page.

The Trojans attack is led by Olivia Swenson with 313 kills, Avery Jesewitz with 212 kills and 47 aces, Katie Kelzenberg with 186 kills, and Stella Swenson with 57 aces and 784 assists. The Swenson twins are both among five Ms. Baden Volleyball finalists

The No. 2 seed is New Prague (25-5), winners of 21 of their last 22. No. 3 is Rogers (28-3), led by Anya Schmidt with 430 kills and 111 aces.

The other entrants are Edina, Eagan, Anoka, Minnetonka and Stillwater. It's the 16th appearance for Eagan, which has six titles, most recently in 2016.

Marshall (27-5), which has captured the last two championships and eight in all, making its 32nd state appearance, is top-seeded in Class 3A.

Delano (28-2), making its eighth appearance with no titles yet, is No. 2 seed. Byron (23-4) is No. 3 in just its second state trip, the other in 2009.

The other entrants are DeLaSalle, Detroit Lakes, Grand Rapids, Mahtomedi, and Monticello. Grand Rapids has a Miss Baden Volleyball finalist, setter Braya LaPlant.

Southwest Christian (26-5) is the top seed in Class 2A. The Stars, making their fifth state appearance, have one championship, in 2013. One of their stalwarts is Luca Bredenburg, who recently passed 1,000 career digs.

Pequot Lakes (27-5) is No. 2 and Caledonia (27-5) is No. 3. The rest of the field is Wadena-Deer Creek, Rush City, Annandale, Redwood Valley, and Concordia Academy.

There's only four previous championships in this field, two by Concordia Academy and one each by Southwest Christian and Wadena-Deer Creek.

Russell-Tyler-Ruthton (27-6), making its first state appearance, garnered the top seed in Class 1A.

The No. 3 ranked Knights toppled No. 1 Minnetonka, the defending state champion, with three of the last four titles, in the Section 3A finals 15-25, 25-23, 25-15, 22-25, 17-15.

Mayer Lutheran (26-6), a four-time champion, most recently in 2021, is the No. 2 seed. Mable Canton (35-1) is No. 3. The rest of the field is Pine River-Backus, New Life Academy, West Central Area, Ely and Badger-Greenbush-Middle River.

MSHSL state tourney pairings

CLASS 1A

QUARTERFINALS THURSDAY

- 1-Russell-Tyler-Ruthon (27-6) vs. Pine River-Backus (22-9), 5 p.m.
4-New Life Academy (20-10) vs. 5-West Central Area (23-3), 5 p.m.
2-Mayer Lutheran (26-6) vs. Ely (26-5), 7 p.m.
3-Mabel-Canton (35-1) vs. Badger-Greenbush-Middle River (24-8), 7 p.m.

SEMIFINALS FRIDAY

- Upper bracket, 1 p.m.
Lower bracket, 3 p.m.

CHAMPIONSHIP SATURDAY

- Semifinal winners, 2:30 p.m.

THIRD PLACE SATURDAY

- Semifinal losers, 12:30 p.m.

CONSOLATION FRIDAY

- Upper bracket, 1 p.m.
Lower bracket, 3 p.m.

FIFTH PLACE SATURDAY

- Consolation winners, 10:30 a.m.

CLASS 2A

QUARTERFINALS THURSDAY

- 1-Southwest Christian (26-5) vs. Wadena-Deer Creek (22-9), 1 p.m.
4-Rush City (28-2) vs. 5-Annandale (22-8), 1 p.m.
2-Pequot Lakes (27-5) vs. Redwood Valley (30-2), 3 p.m.
3-Caledonia (27-5) vs. Concordia Academy (20-10), 3 p.m.

SEMIFINALS FRIDAY

- Upper bracket, 5 p.m.
Lower bracket, 7 p.m.

CHAMPIONSHIP SATURDAY

- Semifinal winners, 3 p.m.

THIRD PLACE SATURDAY

- Semifinal losers, 1 p.m.

CONSOLATION FRIDAY

- Upper bracket, 5 p.m.
Lower bracket, 7 p.m.

FIFTH PLACE SATURDAY

- Consolation winners, 10:30 a.m.

CLASS 3A

QUARTERFINALS WEDNESDAY

- 1-Marshall (27-5) vs. DeLaSalle (15-15), 5 p.m.
4-Detroit Lakes (25-7) vs. 5-Grand Rapids (22-9), 5 p.m.
2-Delano (28-2) vs. Mahtomedi (17-13), 7 p.m.
3-Byron (23-4) vs. Monticello (19-11), 7 p.m.

SEMIFINALS FRIDAY

- Upper bracket, 9 a.m.
Lower bracket, 11 a.m.

CHAMPIONSHIP SATURDAY

- Semifinal winners, 6:30 p.m.

THIRD PLACE SATURDAY

- Semifinal losers, 4:30 p.m.

CONSOLATION FRIDAY

- Upper bracket, 9 a.m.
Lower bracket, 11 a.m.

FIFTH PLACE SATURDAY

- Consolation winners, 8:30 a.m.

CLASS 4A

QUARTERFINALS WEDNESDAY

- 1-Wayzata (31-0) vs. Edina (12-17), 1 p.m.
4-Eagan (22-8) vs. 5-Anoka (25-3), 1 p.m.
2-New Prague (25-5) vs. Minnetonka (16-14), 3 p.m.
3-Rogers (28-3) vs. Stillwater (19-9), 3 p.m.

SEMIFINALS THURSDAY

- Upper bracket, 9 a.m.
Lower bracket, 11 a.m.

CHAMPIONSHIP SATURDAY

- Semifinal winners, 7 p.m.

THIRD PLACE SATURDAY

- Semifinal losers, 5 p.m.

CONSOLATION THURSDAY

- Upper bracket, 9 a.m.
Lower bracket, 11 a.m.

FIFTH PLACE SATURDAY

- Consolation winners, 8:30 a.m.

*All matches at Xcel Energy Center
in St. Paul*