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Champs: Hopkins, BSM, Providence, West Central



Jubilant after capturing state championships were Benilde-St. Margaret's (top left), Hopkins (top right), West Central Area (bottom left) and Providence Academy (bottom right).

Minnesota Basketball News photos

Hopkins is back on top

4A: 'No respect' Royals top Maple Grove for 9th title

By Bruce Strand

Hopkins, in most seasons, is the most feared girls basketball team in the state, but this year they felt disrespected and underestimated.

Which was fine with the Royals. They got to say a resounding "so there!" by claiming their ninth state championship Saturday night, tumbling top-ranked Maple Grove 81-67 with an awesome display of speed, muscle, tenacity and shooting.

Erma Walker, powerful 6-foot-1 sophomore, led with 28 points and eight rebounds, shooting 13-for-15. She scored 68 points in the tournament. Jaliyah Diggs delivered 15 points and seven assists, London Harris and Maliyah White 11 points each and Lauren Hillesheim 10.

"Everybody was saying that we're not going to make it no matter what," said Harris. "With our two players down, a lot of people were having doubts about us, But we live by 'We're still Hopkins.' We knew we had to work hard."

The Royals (27-5) lost two returning starters with injuries at the start of the season, Tatum Woodson (their top scorer back) and Ava Cupito. They had five regular-season losses, two of them to conference rival Wayzata.

"We weren't very respected this year, so, we had to show the state that we are Hopkins," said coach Tara Stark. "This is the expectation for us, whether anyone else believes it or not, it's our expectation, to be in this game every single year."

Stark said it's all about the work: "We work and we work hard. I'm a firm believer in there's no replacement for work. So if you want to get to this (championship) game, you consistently work, the same, until you get there."

Hopkins was runner-up to Minnetonka last year and St. Michael-Albertville the year before. "Last year was a feeling I never wanted to feel again," said Hillesheim, a returning starter. "We obviously struggled throughout the season but we played some really great basketball this weekend."

Some great basketball that gave Hopkins the record for most state titles; they had shared the record of eight with Rochester Lourdes, whose last one was 2005.

No doubt, the Royals were respected a lot more than they were letting on. They had, after all, beaten Maple Grove 59-55 on Dec. 28, and lost to powerhouses Providence Academy and Dowling Catholic (Iowa) and No. 2 ranked Eastview in close games. When they took down Wayzata 74-60 in the section finals, everybody knew Hopkins was back.

"They are a very talented basketball team and very well-coached," said Maple Grove coach Mark Cook.

"Every time we made a run, they hit a big shot when they needed it."

Asked if Hopkins did anything they didn't expect, Cook said, "Not really, We anticipated that we would see 90 feet of chaos. You know, that's what they do. And they are extremely physical. That's what we prepared for, and that's what we got."



Hopkins guard Jaliyah Diggs drove hard against Maple Grove during an 81-67 win.

Minnesota Basketball News photos

Hopkins led 35-31 at halftime. Maple Grove tied the score twice in the second half but Hopkins pulled away with great shooting: 33-for-57 on field goals and 9-for-18 on three's by six different players. White was 3-for-5 off the bench. Their scoring balance was typical, Stark said: "We always have four or five players in double figures. We don't have anyone averaging 30 points."

Jordan Ode, Maple Grove's Miss Basketball finalist, sank 26 points and snagged 12 rebounds, shooting 10-for-20 on field goals and 6-for-6 on free shots. Addie Hanna had 14 points and Bella Hanna 11. The Crimson, normally an excellent 3-point shooting team, were just 1-for-7 against Hopkins as the Royals made a point of harassing them on the perimeter. They were 18-for-20 at the line, though.

Maple Grove finished 28-3 and reached the state finals for the first time, following last year's fourth-place finish.



Erma Walker scored 28 points in the finals and 68 in the tourney.



Jordan Ode, pursued by Erma Walker and Londen Harris (21) here, led Maple Grove to their first title game (MSHSL photo).

going, 'I want to do what she did.' "

To reach the finals, Hopkins fought off Chaska 70-64, led by Walker with 22 points, eight rebounds and four steals. Diggs added 18 points. Addi Schneider hit 26 points for Chaska. The Royals thumped Eastview 68-48 in the semifinals (avenging a loss to them in December) as Walker sank 16 points and Harris 15 while Diggs made 12 assists.

Maple Grove clipped White Bear Lake 71-36 in the quarterfinal with Ode drilling 27 points and Lexi Hanna 17. They were 10-for-20 on three's with Ode 4-for-7. The Crimson repelled Lakeville North 69-50 in the semifinals as Ode netted 30 points and Bella Hanna 15.

Hopkins 35 46 — 81
Maple Grove ... 31 36 — 67

Hopkins — 33-57 FG (9-18 3FG), 6-12 FT, 32 rebounds, 11 turnovers, 16 fouls Scoring: Liv Bell 4 (3 ast), Lauren Hillesheim 10, London Harris 11 (5 reb), Jaliyah Diggs 15 (7 ast, 4 reb), Emma Walker 28 (8 reb, 3 blk), Inarah Nesbitt 2, Maliyah White 11 ... 3-pointers: White 3-5, Hillesheim 2-4, Diggs 2-4, Bell 1-4, Harris 1-1

Maple Grove — 24-52 FG (1-7 3FG), 18-20 FT, 25 rebounds, 10 turnovers, 14 fouls ... Scoring: Addie Hanna 14, Katie Holmquist 6, Lexi Hanna 8, Jordan Ode 26 (12 reb), Bella Hanna 11, Sophia Anderson 2 ... 3-pointers: A. Hanna 1-2

"While it stings right now, this group has obviously left a legacy in Maple Grove High School and the community," Cook said. "Parents are texting me, asking where they can buy a Jordan Ode jersey ... You want these little girls coming to camps and idolizing these players

It's Year 3 of BSM's reign

3A: Red Knights rumble past Marshall 73-57

By Bruce Strand

Benilde-St. Margaret, state champions the past two years, started this season 0-3 and were just 6-5 on Jan. 7, playing a killer of a schedule. But nobody counted out the Red Knights; certainly not themselves.

BSM, ranked No. 4, made it a three-peat with a 73-57 conquest of No. 2 Marshall in the Class 3A finals, finishing 26-6.

The Red Knights won 20 of their last 21, including a 74-53 section finals rout of No. 3 Orono, which had beaten them twice in conference play.

"I would argue that we had the hardest schedule in any class this year," coach Tim Ellefson reflected. "We started with (Iowa power) Dowling Catholic, and Hopkins and Minnetonka, all big schools and we lost close games. We played Alex and some other state tournament teams (Chaska and DeLaSalle) — and all that got us ready."

Kendall McGee tallied 17 points and made four assists, including two highlight-reel bounce passes to Zahara Bishop for layups as the Red Knights pulled away in the second half.

McGee missed the 2024 season with a knee injury after scoring 20 ppg for the 2023 state champions.

"I've been waiting a very long time," said the Creighton recruit, "to be able to get back here and have the opportunity to go on the court with the team. These guys are like my family, my sisters, and to be able to experience it out there with them means everything."

Bishop totaled 16 points, seven rebounds, and four steals, after scoring just two in the first half. Sydney Friedly hit 13 points (3-for-4 on three's) and Pressley Watkins 13 points (3-for-5 on three's).

"I told their coach," said Marshall coach Dan Westby, "that we lost to very good team that's playing probably



BSM's Zahara Bishop goes up for two against Marshall.

Minnesota Basketball News photos

their best basketball of this season, and he agreed with that assessment. We've been keeping an eye on them all season ... They were certainly hungry to win. They were very problematic for us."

Marshall finished 29-2. The Tigers were ranked first before their first loss, 59-56 loss to Orono, on Feb. 1, and thereafter ranked second behind unbeaten Monticello, which was missing its top scorer at state and went 0-2. Marshall collected its fourth runner-up finish since nabbing the 2001 and 2002 titles.

Taleigha Bigler led Marshall with 19 points, including 9-for-10 at the line. Avery Fahl sank 15 points, going 5-for-8 from 3-point range. Reese Drake had 11 points and six assists. All three are juniors. "This will motivate us to work harder next year," said Drake. "And

we'll have the experience," said Bigler.

BSM led by just 35-29 at halftime, but Watkins and McGee hit the three-pointers in the first minute of the second half that opened a 41-28 lead.

"The two three-pointers they hit," said Westby, "took the win out of our sails after we made a nice push right before the half to get it down to six. All of a sudden they push it back to 12 right away."



BSM's Sydney Friedly scores against Marshall.

BSM was constantly switching defenses which left the Tigers confused at times. And, as Bigler said, "They are all pretty long compared to a lot of teams we've played, so our passes were getting tipped."

Olivia Olson and McGee led the 2023 champs. Olson, the 2024 Miss Basketball, and Bishop led the second champ team. Bishop, Kate Kapsner and Friedly played on all three teams.

Marshall reached the finals tripping Rock Ridge 67-51 as Drake logged 26 points (11-for-11 at the line), six assists and four steals while Fahl was 5-for-11 on three's for 15 points. The Tigers held off Cretin-Derham Hall 57-48, powered by a Bigler with 30 points (13-for-15 at the line). Drake added 17.



Reese Drake hit this 3-point shot.

The Red Knights rolled past Stewartville 84-58 with Bishop netting 22 points and Watkins 21, and stopped Alexandria 60-52 in the semifinals, led by Friedly with 20 points. Hadley Thul had 18 points and nine rebounds for Alexandria.



Taleigha Bigler of Marshall drives against BSM's Pressley Watkins.

"We went through lot of diversity this year," Ellerson said, "with our style of play, and some details we needed to fix. And the girls got to a point where they said 'OK, we draw the line here, and we are ready to go.'"

Marshall 29 28 — 57
Benilde-St. Margaret's ... 35 38 — 73

Marshall — 20-53 FG (8-22 3FG), 9-12 FT, 30 rebounds, 15 turnovers, 16 fouls Scoring: Reese Drake 11 (6 ast, 2 stl), Taleigha Bigler 19 (3 ast), Avery Fahl 15 (6 reb), Paige Gillingham 2 (5 reb), Avery Schneekloth 4 (4 ast, 2 stl), Danielle Nubile 6 ... 3-pointers: Drake 3-5, Fahl 5-8

Benilde-St. Margaret's — 30-58 FG (7-16 3FG), 6-6 FT, 34 rebounds, 11 turnovers, 10 fouls ... Scoring: Kendall McGee 17 (4 ast), Sydney Friedly 13 (3 stl), Zahara Bishop 16 (7 reb, 3 ast, 2 blk), Pressley Watkins 13 (5 reb, 6 ast), Katherine Kapsner 4 (6 reb), Zaida Jenkins 2, Mirabel Wismer 6 (6 reb), Kiera Willis 2 ... 3-pointers: Friedly 3-4, McGee 1-2, Watkins 3-5



Benilde-St. Margaret, champions again

Lions win marque matchup

2A: Providence clips C-I for record 4th straight, 81-67

By Bruce Strand

Providence Academy vs. Crosby-Ironton for the Class 2A championship was the state tournament's marquee matchup — the first duel of undefeated teams in the finals since 2017, a matchup of two of the four players in state history with over 4,000 points, and a chance for PA to set a record for consecutive titles.

Providence Academy and Maddyn Greenway made some history with an 81-67 conquest of Tori Oehrlein and the Rangers. The Lions became the first team to win four in a row, and Greenway, a junior, hit 40 points in the finals and became the all-time leader in career state tournament points.

"This means everything," said Hope Counts, a Miss Basketball finalist who scored 21 points in her fourth state finals win. "These are my best friends on and off the court, and to do history with them is everything. I'm so proud of every single person."

Greenway's 95 points in the tournament, highlighted by her spectacular one-girl 14-0 run late in the first half, lifted her career total to 439. Crosby-Ironton led 24-23 before the Greenway unleashed her blazing speed and took over the game with two pull-up jumpers, then three straight breakaway layups (two after steals, one after grabbing a rebound), then, after causing a turnover with a deflection, a long three-pointer that had her pumping her first and screaming jubilantly.

Finally, fouled on a drive, she made the first free shot and showed she was human by missing the second.

That's 14 points in 3 1/2 minutes that opened a 37-24 lead. She had 23 at halftime and the Lions led 42-32. "If anyone was hitting shots, I was going to find them, and it just happened to be me (that was open)," said Greenway, asked about that streak. "I was excited to get our crowd unit it, too." Greenway shot 16-for-27, including 4-for-7 on three's, and made six steals.



Maddyn Greenway slammed on the brakes to score the last two of her 40 points.

MN Basketball News photos

The 6-foot-2 Counts had a big game to close her career with 21 points on 10-for-18 shooting, and 15 rebounds. She also prevented Rangers from launching the fast breaks they usually destroy opponents with. Said Oehrlein: "They took away our running game, Hope was in the paint 24-7."

On the other end of the court, two underclassmen played crucial roles as sophomore Emma Millerbernd held Oehrlein to 17 points and eighth-grader Beckett Greenway held Regan Juenemann to 11. The Ranger stars had scored 57 and 49 points, respectively, in the first two games. "Beckett and Emma, I think, are two of the best defenders in the entire state," said Lions coach Connor Goetz. "On top of that, our 'help' defense was incredible." The Lions were out rebounded 44-36, but, as Goetz assessed, "What we lacked in rebounding, we made up for in making them take tough shots."

C-I coach Pete Vukelich said there was another factor in Oehrlein, junior guard committed to the Gophers, being held 13 points under her average. "Tori was really hurting. People didn't get to see the real Tori. Minnehaha Academy really beat Tori up last night, and it took a toll on her."

Lucy Lewaldowski hit 16 points (3-for-4 on three's) for the Rangers and Sammie Hachey 11 points.

Crosby-Ironton, in its third consecutive state tourney, was seeking their school's first basketball title. Four Rangers boys teams have been runners-up. Vukelich played in their 2008 finals loss to New London-Spicer. "I really wanted to get one for the community, that first one for C-I," said Vukelich, tearing up.

The Rangers were 32-1, topped 100 seven times, and had just one single-digit win, 50-41 over Proctor. Oehrlein, Lewaldowski and Hachey will be back next year.

The Lions, as a hugely talented metro private school playing for state titles against small towns, take a lot of flack, and know everyone's rooting against them.

"Honestly, this game was personal for me, and it's probably not good for an opponent when it's personal for me," Greenway said. "I don't think anyone quite understands the stuff that gets said about us ... Everything we see on social media and everything we hear from the stands ... We hear it and we take it and we never say anything back. Our parents never say anything. We are never disrespectful."

Counts said there's been pressure every year — to make it two in a row, then three, and "then here we are for the four-peat and history," said Counts. "Also, we are a private so (they say) we recruit, blah, blah blah. But every single one of us, we work so hard for this."

The Lions' 32-0 slate included wins over both Class 4A finalists, Maple Grove and Hopkins, along with



**Emma Millerbernd (4) took on Crosby-Ironton star
Tori Oehrlein and held her to 17.**

Downling Catholic, Iowa's big-school state runner-up. Their five starters attended the presser with their coach. A reporter asked if they were the best team in the state, regardless of class. In unison, they answered, "Yes!"

The Lions beat New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva 84-50 with Greenway scoring 29 and Millerbernd 18, and Minnewaska Area 88-43, as Greenway hit 26 points, her sister Beckett 19 and McKenna Schaefer 17.

Crosby-Ironton beat Barnesville 75-50 with Oehrlein scoring 30 points and Juenemann 18. Then, also a duel of 4,000-point scorers, they beat Addi Mack and Minnehaha Academy 85-72. Juenemann sank 31 points and Oehrlein 27 (with 19 rebounds) while Mack scored 28.

Crosby-Ironton 32 31 — 63
Providence Academy ... 42 39 — 81

Crosby-Ironton — 24-63 FG (5-18 3FG), 10-13 FT, 44 rebounds, 18 turnovers, 14 fouls Scoring: Ragan Juenemann 11, Sammie Hachley 11 (9 reb, 4 ast), Emma Silgen 4 (5 reb), Lucy Lewaldowski 16 (6 reb), Tori Oehrlein 17 (15 reb, 7 ast, 3 stl), Veronica Milsop 2, Hailey Doucette 2 ... 3-pointers: Lewaldowski 3-4, Hachey 1-1, Oehrlein 1-8

Providence Academy — 33-70 FG (8-26 3FG), 7-13 FT, 36 rebounds, 10 turnovers, 11 fouls Scoring: Beckett Greenway 6, Emma Millerbernd 7 (3 ast), McKenna Schaefer 5 (8 reb), Hope Counts 23 (15 reb), Maddyn Greenway 50 (5 reb, 5 ast, 6 stl) ... 3-pointers: M. Greenway 4-9, B. Greenway 2-7, Millerbernd 1-4, Schaefer 1-5



Hope Counts laid in two of her 21 points for PA.

STATE GIRLS BASKETBALL RESULTS

CLASS 4A

QUARTERFINALS WEDNESDAY

Maple Grove 71, White Bear Lake 36
Lakeville North 47, Brainerd 20
Eastview 62, Anoka 39
Hopkins 70, Chaska 64

SEMIFINALS THURSDAY

Maple Grove 69, Lakeville North 50
Hopkins 68, Eastview 48

FINALS SATURDAY

Championship

Hopkins 81, Maple Grove 67

Third place

Eastview 63, Lakeville North 43

CONSOLATION

Semifinals Thursday

Brainerd 68, White Bear Lake 63
Chaska 75, Anoka 63

Fifth place Friday

Chaska 72, Brainerd 57

CLASS 3A

QUARTERFINALS WEDNESDAY

Benilde-St. Margaret's 84, Stewartville 58
Alexandria 60, DeLaSalle 40
Cretin-Derham Hall 59, Monticello 50
Marshall 67, Rock Ridge 51

SEMIFINALS THURSDAY

Benilde-St. Margaret's 60, Alexandria 52
Marshall 57, Cretin-Derham Hall 48

FINALS SATURDAY

Championship

Benilde-St. Margaret's 73, Marshall 57

Third place

Alexandria 66, Cretin-Derham Hall 36

CONSOLATION

Semifinals Thursday

DeLaSalle 70, Stewartville 60
Rock Ridge 52, Monticello 50

Fifth place Friday

DeLaSalle 63, Rock Ridge 48

CLASS 2A

QUARTERFINALS WEDNESDAY

Providence Academy 84, NRHEG 50
Minnewaska Area 60, Sauk Centre 53
Crosby-Ironton 75, Barnesville 50
Minnehaha Academy 68, Caledonia 63

SEMIFINALS FRIDAY

Providence Academy 88, Minnewaska Area 43
Crosby-Ironton 85, Minnehaha Academy 72

FINALS SATURDAY

Championship

Providence Academy 81, Crosby-Ironton 63

Third place

Minnehaha Academy 61, Minnewaska Area 43

CONSOLATION

Semifinals Thursday

Sauk Centre 79, NRHEG 54
Caledonia 76, Barnesville 64

Fifth place Friday

Caledonia 69, Sauk Centre 63

CLASS 1A

QUARTERFINALS THURSDAY

Goodhue 76, Walker-Hackensack-Akeley 47
West Central Area 61, Cromwell-Wright 54
MACCRAY 55, Mayer Lutheran 52
Sleepy Eye St. Mary's 65, Sacred Heart 61, OT

SEMIFINALS FRIDAY

West Central Area 58, Goodhue 50
MACCRAY 60, Sleepy Eye St. Mary's 60

FINALS SATURDAY

Championship

West Central Area 58, MACCRAY 41

Third place

Goodhue 68, Sleepy Eye St. Mary's 61

CONSOLATION

Semifinals Friday

Walker-Hackensack-Akeley 69, Cromwell-Wright 51
Mayer Lutheran 57, Sacred Heart 41

Finals Saturday

Walker-Hackensack-Akeley 63, Mayer Lutheran 62

1st crown for West Central

1A: Knights cap upset-filled tourney beating MACCRAY

By Bruce Strand

West Central Area had never captured a state championship in any sport, nor had any of their towns, Elbow Lake, Wendell, Barrett, Hoffman and Kensington, when they were solo.

It didn't seem likely to happen this year, either, as the Knights entered the tournament with the most losses, six, in the Class 1A field.

But WCA will have a banner to hang in the gym soon. The Knights (26-6) became the first No. 4 seed to win a girls championship, capping their drive with a 58-41 win over MACCRAY (25-6) — also a surprise finalist as the No. 7 seed.

"It's huge," Addison Staples said about WCA's historic first. "It's just really exciting for us."

Macy Grosz recalled a team meeting in mid season when their coach Becca Holland made an observation that cracked everyone up.

"We were watching film, and she said, 'Um, we can make state.' And we all look at each other, like, 'You're so funny! Hilarious!'"

However, by sectionals, the girls started to think Holland might be right — they beat two-time state champion Hancock, No. 3 ranked Breckenridge and 2024 state semifinalist Underwood, three teams with a combined 68-18 record, for the 6A title.

"During sections, we believed in our ourselves," said Grosz. "We have a very hard section, and that boosted

our confidence."

The Knights had a hard conference, too, also named the West Central. They were 8-4 in conference, losing twice each to state Class 2A qualifiers Sauk Centre and Minnewaska Area. Heckuva year for that conference.



Jayden Styba eyed the hoop before muscling up for two of her 16 points.

MN Basketball News photos

"We're almost in debt to these teams," said Mya Foslien, "for making us better, and being in this hard (conference) that's really pushed us."

In the finals, Jayden Styba logged 16 points, 10 rebounds, four assists and three steals. One big play was a steal from Wolverine star Brielle Jansen which she took to the other end for a layup that opened a 10-point lead.

Grosz notched 15 points (3-for-9 on three's), four steals, seven rebounds and three assists. Staples added 13 points and seven rebounds. The Knights had a 40-27 edge in rebounds and outscored the Wolverines 34-16 in the paint.

Holland, their third-year coach, praised the Knights for "being fantastic players and having the basketball IQ's to come out and see what's on the floor; as much as us coaches guide them, they also guide themselves."

Brielle Janssen, who powered MACCRAY to a pair of upsets to reach the finals, tallied 28 points while logging seven rebounds, four assists and three steals.

The willowy, fluid 6-foot-1 guard fouled out with 3:31 left and the score 50-40, sealing the Wolverines' fate, having picked up her last three fouls in a span of 2:45. Emma Thein scored 10 points. Their only other player

to score was Ella Hultgren on a three-pointer.

MACCRAY, the Maynard/Clara City/Raymond fusion that goes by all caps, was technically making its first state trip, although a Clara City/Maynard pairing, Mid-west Minnesota, was the 1985 state champion.

The Wolverines edged No. 2 seed Mayer Lutheran 55-52 as Janssen logged 27 points, 14 rebounds and six assists. Sam Hultgren added 14 points. They prevailed 60-56 over No. 3 Sleepy Eye St. Mary's as Janssen notched 26 points and 18 rebounds. Thein added 12 points. Morgan Mathiowetz kept SESM in the game with 28 points.

Janssen, who tallied 81 points, 39 rebounds and 14 assists in the tournament, blinked back tears as she reflected the finals loss. 'It obviously sucks a lot but I wouldn't trade any of (the experience) for the world. It's not the way we wanted it to end, but, I mean nobody thought we would do that (reach the finals).'



West Central's Macy Grosz launched a 3-point shot.

West Central foiled Cromwell-Wright 61-54 with Foslien netting 17 points and Fagre 13. The Knights shocked No. 1 Goodhue, defending champion, 58-50 in the semifinals. Foslien had 15 points, Staples 12, Styba 12 and Grosz 10, Staples and Grosz each hooked 11 rebounds. Goodhue had a rare poor shooting game, 20-for-64 overall, 2-for-16 on three's.

WCA started four seniors Grosz, Foslien, Styba and Staples along with junior Madison Fagre. What a way to go out.



Brielle Janssen (1) sank 28 points for MACCRAY in the finals and 81 in the tournament.

Holland immediately grasped the magnitude of this moment: "That banner is going to be on the (gym) wall forever as the first (Knights) team to win a state championship, which is huge. They won't even know the effects of it until they're 40, 50 years old and they have family members that come to the school and they can be like: 'I was on that team that did that.'"

West Central Area 25 33 — 58
MACCRAY 18 23 — 41

West Central Area — 25-56 FG (5-22 3FG), 3-6 FT, 40 rebounds, 15 turnovers, 12 fouls Scoring: Addison Staples 13 (7 reb), Jayden Styba 16 (10 reb, 3 ast, 4 stl, 2 blk), Macy Grosz 15 (7 reb, 3 ast, 4 stl), Madison Fagre 4, Mya Foslien 3 (4 ast, 4 blk, 3 stl), Nora Anderson 4, Isabelle Puchalski 3 (5 reb) ... 3-pointers: Grosz 3-9, Staples 1-1, Foslien 1-10

MACCRAY — 12-44 FG (4-17 3FG), 13-19 FT, 27 rebounds, 15 turnovers, 12 fouls Scoring: Ella Hultgren 3, Brielle Janssen 28 (7 reb, 4 ast, 3 stele), Emma Thein 10 (6 reb, 3 stl) ... 3-pointers: Hultgren 1-3, Janssen 3-9

Top seeds for boys: Cretin-DH, Mankato East, Albany, Cherry

Cretin-Derham Hall, Mankato East, Albany and Cherry are the No. 1 seeds for the boys state tournament that starts Tuesday and will conclude Saturday.

In Class 4A on Tuesday at Target Center, No. 1 Cretin-Derham Hall (27-1) faces No. 8 Rochester John Marshall (25-4) at 10 a.m., No. 4 Maple Grove (21-8) vs. No. 5 Apple Valley (23-6) at noon, No. 2 Wayzata (25-4) vs. No. 7 Moorhead (22-7) at 2 p.m. and No. 3 Shakopee (23-5) vs. No. 6 Anoka (23-6) at 4 p.m.

In Class 3A on Tuesday at Williams Arena, it's No. 1 Mankato East (27-1) vs. No. 8 St. Paul Harding (18-10) at 10 a.m., No. 4 Orono (22-7) vs. No. 5 DeLaSalle (23-5) at noon, No. 2 Totino-Grace (22-5) vs. No. 7 Duluth Denfeld (20-9) at 2 p.m. and No. 3 Alexandria (26-3) vs. No. 6 Byron (26-3) at 4 p.m.

In Class 2A on Tuesday at Williams Arena, it's No. 1 Albany (29-0) vs. No. 8 Pelican Rapids (24-6) at 6 p.m. and No. 4 Caledonia (28-2) vs. No. 5 Minnehaha Academy (19-9) at 8 p.m. At Target Center, No. 2 Waseca (30-0) faces No. 7 Pequot Lakes (23-7) at 6 p.m. followed by No. 3 Breck (19-10) vs. No. 6 Montevideo (25-4) at 8 p.m.

In Class 1A on Thursday at Target Center, pairings are No. 1 Cherry (29-1) vs. No. 8 BOLD (20-10) at 11 a.m., No. 4 Nevis (26-4) vs. No. 5 Henning (27-3) at 1 p.m., No. 3 Red Lake (29-2) vs. No. 6 Goodhue (22-8) at 5 p.m., and No. 2 Dawson-Boyd (27-3) vs. No. 7 Heritage Christian (24-5) at 7 p.m.

Section finals notebook

Two clutch shots by Griffin Epema lifted No. 10 Montevideo (25-4) to a 62-61 win over No. 6 Jackson County Central in Section 3AA. JCC (24-5) led by seven with a minute left. Epema sank a 3-pointer with :24 left to pull Montevideo within 61-60 and the game-winner on a contested layup with :02 left.

Orono thumped Benilde-St. Margaret's 76-55 in Section 6AAA with Nolan Grove scoring 34 points -- their

third straight section finals win over BSM. Both have been Top Ten teams all along, TJ Shutley had 21 points for BSM (26-3). BSM beat Orono 76-72 on Jan. 30.

Cretin-Derham Hall turned back previously unbeaten, No. 3 Tartan 73-68 — after Tartan led 42-29 at half-time — in Section 4AAAA. JoJo Mitchell delivered 23 points and Tommy Ahnemann 21 for the Raiders. CJ Banks scored 26 points and KJ Wilson 21 for Tartan, which finished 27-1.



Montevideo's Griffin Epema, Gannon Reidinger and Gabe Lindeman celebrated.

West Central Tribune photo

Dawson-Boyd, ranked No. 2 behind Cherry in Class 1A for the last two seasons, was an upset victim in last year's playoffs (by Minnetonka) but earned the elusive state trip this year. The Blackjacks (27-3) beat Hill-Beaver Creek 59-52 in the Section 3A title game, led by Brayson Boike with 19 and Drew Hjelmeland with 17.

No. 4 Wayzata got 31 points from Christian Wiggins including six three-pointers and defeated No. 2 Hopkins 76-72 in Section 6AAAA. Anthony Smith led Hopkins (26-2) with 21. It's the fifth straight year Wayzata has beaten 10-time state champion Hopkins in the section finals. The two teams split in conference play.

Rochester John Marshall became the first Rochester team to reach the Class 4A tournament since Mayo in 2008 by defeating Lakeville North 68-66 in 1AAAA. Brayson Sawyer sank 19 points, Eli Ladu 17, Markese Simpson 13 and D. Lueth 12 for the Rockets (25-4). Drew Kolander scored 18 and James Fager 17 for Lakeville North (18-11). It's RJM's first trip since 2003.

Albany and Waseca are the only unbeaten teams. Albany (29-0) downed Spectrum 82-42 in the Section 6AA finals. Zeke Austin scored 23 points, Sam Hondl 18 and Elliott Burnett 17. Waseca (30-0) beat Belle Plaine 76-66 in the Section 2AA finals.

Totino-Grace, aiming for a fourth consecutive Class 3A crown, beat Monticello 78-52 in the Section 5AAA finals. Chase Watley hit 23 points, Dothan Ijadinbola 17 and Melachi Hill 16 for the No. 5 ranked Eagles (22-5).

Pacesetter State Championships for grades 4-9 next weekend in St. Cloud

The Pacesetter Minnesota State Basketball Championships for grades 4-9 will be held in four facilities in St. Cloud next weekend, March 29-30.

Teams in grades 4-7 played in five regions from February 15-March 16 in Grand Rapids/Mountain Iron-Buhl (Northeast Region), Bemidji (Northwest Region), Byron (Southeast Region), Redwood Falls (Southwest Region) and St. Cloud (Central Region). Teams from over ----- schools played.

Teams in grades 8-9 were able to register directly into the state tournament - and there were still a few openings in each group: 8th boys, 8th girls, 9th boys and 9th girls. Registration deadline is 7:00 p.m. Saturday, March 22, or when capacity is reached.

The state championships will feature 8-team brackets with all teams playing 3-4 games in one day. The groups will be divided between Clemens Field House at St. Ben's, The Whitney Rec Center, Sauk Rapids-Rice High School, and St. Cloud Apollo High School.

Pacesetter Sports has conducted the Minnesota state championships since 1993.

The state champion and runner-up will then represent Minnesota in the Great Five-State Championships at the Target Center in June, competing against teams from Iowa, Wisconsin, North Dakota and South Dakota in an 8-team bracket.

Teams from North Dakota qualify through the Jr. Grand Am in Grand Forks, South Dakota teams through the Willie Mac state tournament in Brookings, Wisconsin teams through the Badgerland state tournaments, and Iowa teams through the Pacesetter Playoff in Mason City.

Pacesetter has conducted the "Great State" championships at the Target Center since 2010, so this is the 16th year.

Each team is guaranteed to play at least one game on the main Target Center floor. Other games will be played offsite at Maple Grove Middle School.

Each player, coach and spectator at Great State also attends a Lynx home game, so players get to see the

Target Center in action. At the Great State games in the Target Center, music is played for all player and coach introductions, and an announcer provides play-by-play commentary, giving teams a big-time experience. Top teams are also recognized at center court prior to the Lynx game.

These teams have qualified to play in the 2025 Pacesetter Minnesota State Championships:

4th Grade Boys

Becker
New Ulm
Hawley
Byron
Cass Lake-Bena
Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg
Stephen-Argyle
Mahnomen-Waubun

5th Grade Boys

Rock Ridge
Ada-Borup
Grand Rapids
Maple River
Luverne
Mankato West
St. Cloud Tech
Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton

6th Grade Boys

Clearbrook-Gonvick
East Grand Forks
Mountain Iron-Buhl
Duluth Denfeld
Rochester Century
New London-Spicer
New Ulm
Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton

7th Grade Boys

Staples-Motley
Mankato West
Red Lake
Minneapolis Farview
Cass Lake-Bena
New London-Spicer
Wabasso-Cedar Mountain
Westbrook-Walnut Grove

Pacesetter STATE teams - March 29-30 (continued)**4th Grade Girls**

Clearbrook-Gonvick
Blackduck
Dover-Eyota
Mountain Iron-Buhl
Tower-Soudan
Sebeka
Jackson Co. Central
Warroad

5th Grade Girls

Warroad
Bemidji
Cromwell-Wright
Carlton-Wrenshall
Yellow Medicine East
Fergus Falls
St. Cloud
Cloquet

6th Grade Girls

Wayzata
Minnewaska
New London-Spicer
Pine Island
North Woods
Chisholm
Windom
Leech Lake

7th Grade Girls

Barnum
Bemidji
Cass Lake-Bena
Hawley
Benson
Dassel-Cokato
OPEN - Interested teams write jmac8144@yahoo.com
OPEN - Interested teams write jmac8144@yahoo.com

8th Grade Girls - Limit: 8 teams 1 opening

Dassel-Cokato
Waseca
Bemidji
Rock Ridge
Red Lake
Red Lake Co. Central
Stephen-Argyle Central/Tri-County Central/Marshall Co. Central
1 OPEN - Deadline 7:00 p.m. Saturday or capacity

Interested teams: Register at www.pacesettersports.net.

9th Grade Girls - Limit: 8 teams 1 opening

Warroad
Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin
East Central
Dover-Eyota
Mountain Iron-Buhl
United South Central
Sibley East
1 OPEN - Register at www.pacesettersports.net

8th Grade Boys - Limit: 16 teams 3 openings

St. Cloud Tech
East Grand Forks
Jackson Co. Central
Pillager
Pipestone
Alexandria
Ashby
Redwood Valley
Two Harbors
Mountain Iron-Buhl
Warroad
Staples-Motley
Hillcrest Lutheran (Fergus Falls)
OPEN - Register at www.pacesettersports.net
OPEN - Register at www.pacesettersports.net
OPEN - Register at www.pacesettersports.net

9th Grade Boys - Limit: 16 teams 3 openings

Cass Lake-Bena
Chatfield
Northome-Kelliher
Blackduck
Lac qui Parle Valley
Littlefork-Big Falls
Pine Island
Randolph
Tri-County/Marshall Co. Central/Grygla-Gatzke
Wabasha-Kellogg
Zumbrota-Mazeppa
Mountain Iron-Buhl
Red Lake
OPEN - Register at www.pacesettersports.net
OPEN - Register at www.pacesettersports.net
OPEN - Register at www.pacesettersports.net

The 8th-9th grade teams did not have playoffs due to so many players in these grades playing on high school teams.

They were allowed to register directly into State, where they will play 3-4 games in one day to determine the Minnesota champion and runner-up to represent Minnesota in Great State at the Target Center..

ALL-STATE TOURNAMENT TEAMS



CLASS 4A

Addie Schneider, Chaska; Gracie Winge, Lakeville North; Bra'ja Torry and Myah Maull, Eastview; Kate Holmquist, Jordan Ode and Lexi Hanna, Maple Grove; London Harris, Erma Walker and Jaliyah Diggs, Hopkins



CLASS 2A -- Aubrey Klug, Caledonia; Sydney Dahl, Minnewaska Area; Addi Mack, Minnehaha Academy; Tori Oehrlein, Regan Juenemann, Sammy Hachey, Crosby-Ironton; Maddyn Greenway, Hope Counts, Beckett Greenway, and Emma Millerbernd,,Providence Academy



CLASS 3A -- Aneisha Scott, DeLaSalle; Hadley Thul and Chloe Scholl, Alexandria; Reese Drake, Taleigha Bigler and Avery Fahl, Marshall; Kendall McGee, Sydney Friedly, Pressley Watkins, and Zahara Bishop, Benilde-St. Margaret's

CLASS 1A

Aubrey Morrison, Walker-Hackensack-Akeley; Morgan Mathiowetz, Sleepy Eye St. Mary's; Kendyl Lodermeier and Lola Christianson, Goodhue; Brielle Janssen and Emma Thein, MACCRAY; Jayden Stybe, Mya Foslien, Macy Grosz, and Addison Staples, West Central Area.



STATE CHAMPS

HOPKINS
ROYALS



BENILDE-
ST. MARGARET'S
KNIGHTS



PROVIDENCE
ACADEMY LIONS



WEST CENTRAL
AREA KNIGHTS



Greenway has state points record

By Bruce Strand

Maddyn Greenway became the all-time leader in career state tournament points when she scored 29 in the quarterfinal win over New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva — ironically, the school for whom the previous record-holder played.

points and 12 rebounds. Alex beat DeLaSalle 60-40 in the first round (avenging a semifinal loss to DLS last year) and lost to Benilde-St. Margaret's 60-52.

Minnehaha Academy (22-10) won the Class 2A third-place game over Minnewaska Area 61-42, led by Addi Mack with 32 points. The Redhawks beat Caledonia 68-63 and lost to Crosby-Ironton 85-72.



Maddyn Greenway (middle) enjoyed the press conference after the championship game win over Crosby-Ironton with the other starters: from left are Beckett Greenway, Mckenna Schaefer, Emma Millerbernd and Hope Counts.

Playing in her fifth state tournament, with probably one more to go, Greenway has scored 439 points in 15 games, an average of 29.3, with a high of 49. Carlie Wagner of NRHEG held the record of 371 points in three state tournaments, a 41.2 average for nine games, with a high of 53. She led two championship teams.

Neither holds the tournament single game record, which might never be touched: the 67 points by Gianna Kneepkens for Duluth Marshall, also the overall state record, in a 94-91 loss to Providence Academy in 2021. Greenway, a seventh grader, scored the first 32 of her state points in that game.

THIRD PLACE TEAMS

Eastview (27-4) won the Class 4A third-place game 63-43 over Lakeville North with Myah Muall scoring 24 points. Eastview beat Anoka 62-39 and lost to Hopkins 68-48.

Alexandria (26-5) placed third in Class 3A with a 66-36 win over Cretin-Derham Hall. Hadley Thul logged 23

Goodhue (26-6), the No. 1 seed upset by West Central Area 58-50 in the semifinals, claimed third place in Class 1A over Sleepy Eye St. Mary's 68-61 with Kendyl Lodermeier scoring 18 points and Ava Wallaker 17. They beat Walker-Hackensack-Akely 76-47 in the first round.

TOURNEY NOTEBOOK

Morgan Mathiowetz scored 89 points in three games for Sleepy Eye St. Mary's. In an overtime win over Sacred Heart 65-61, she had 30 points and 15 rebounds and scored twice off steals in the OT.

Monticello, one of two unbeaten teams entering the state tournament, fell to Cretin-Derham Hall 59-50 in the first round. The Magic were missing their scoring leader, Samantha Ball (22 points per game), reportedly due to an MSHSL rule violation. Sage Gilbert had 17 points (4-for-7 on three's) and Madeleine Hamiel 15 for the Raiders. The Magic lost again to Rock Ridge 52-50 in consolation and finished 29-2.

Minnewaska Area, which reached the Class 2A semifinals, ended a 27-year losing streak against New London-Spicer to reach state. The Lakers last beat NLS in 1998 and had lost close to 30 straight against the Wildcats including 54-47 in December. But they finally foiled the Wilcats 42-36 in the sub-section finals, then beat Fairmont for the Section 3AA title. NLS, ranked No. 3, finished 27-2. That was the first time anyone held them under 50 points.

The Providence Academy vs. Crosby-Ironton title game was the first match of unbeaten teams since 2017 when Elk River beat Hopkins 64-60.

Miss Basketball finalists listed

Miss Basketball finalists have been announced by the committee. The winner will be announced April 4. They are:

Hope Counts, Providence Academy 6-foot-2 forward who averaged 13.8 points and 10.5 rebounds, signed by Lipscomb

Addison Mack, Minnehaha Academy 5-foot-8 guard who averaged 34.2 points, 5.9 rebounds, 6.3 assists and 4.1 steals, signed by Maryland

Kendall McGee, Benilde-St. Margaret's 5-foot-10 guard who averaged 12.1 points, 5.7 rebounds, and 4.9 assists, signed by Creighton

Jordan Ode, Maple Grove 6-foot guard who averaged 25.2 points, signed by Michigan State

Aneisha Scott, DeLaSalle 5-foot-7 guard who averaged 19.8 points, 5.3 rebounds, and 4.8 assists, signed by Richmond

Hadley Thul, Alexandria 6-foot-2 guard, had over 2000 points and over 1000 rebounds, signed by South Dakota State

Mr. Basketball finalists named

Mr. Basketball finalists have been announced by the committee. The winner will be announced March 22. They are:

Nolan Grove, Orono, 6-foot-5 guard who's averaging 34.7 points, 8.6 rebounds and 6.0 assists, signed by Yale

Chase Thompson, Alexandria 6-foot-9 forward averaging 25.5 points, 9.7 rebounds and 4.3 assists, signed by Clemson

Chase Watley, Totino-Grace, 6-foot-2 guard averaging 21.5 points, signed by South Carolina

B.J. Armstrong, Richfield, 6-foot-4 senior guard who averaged 31.4 points, signed by Augustana

Brogan Madson, Mankato East 6-foot-1 guard averaging 22.8 points and 5.0 assists, signed by Sioux Falls

MBBN picks all-tourney super five

Minnesota Basketball News reporter Bruce Strand endeavors to select an All-Tournament Super Five from all classes each year. Here it is.

Maddyn Greenway heads this year's quintet. The junior guard for unbeaten Providence Academy, also the Minnesota State Tribune's state player of the year, rang up 95 points, 21 rebounds, 23 assists and 11 steals.

Erma Walker, 6-foot-1 sophomore forward for Class 4A champ Hopkins, muscled in 66 points, shooting 29-for-39, and snagged 23 rebounds.

Jordan Ode, senior guard for Class 4A runner-up Maple Grove, poured in 83 points and grabbed 19 rebounds, shooting 50 percent at 30-for-60.

Addi Mack, senior guard for Class 2A's third-place Minnehaha Academy, pumped in 94 points and made 13 steals.

Tori Oerhleim, junior forward for Class 2A runner-up Crosby-Ironton, racked up 74 points, 53 rebounds and 17 assists, mostly on long heaves downcourt.

Court Captain officiating - a new concept

Jeff McCarron

Here's a new method for basketball officiating. Today there are two options: two officials or three.

This new alternative is one official. I'll call it Court Captain, for now. Not unlike volleyball officiating, where 12 players are involved, the court captain has control of all calls for 10 players.

Here's how it works: The captain greets both coaches and assures them he/she will be calling the most obvious infractions and keeping the game as smooth as possible. The official assures the coaches he will be right in front of them the whole game, moving between the free throw lines, so if they have any questions, he will always be close to answer them. There will be no need to shout for subbing, timeouts, or questions.

The captain will administer the ball for all free throws from a position "free throw line extended" about 6-8 feet from the shooter. One significant change: the captain will not check the ball to players passing the ball inbounds in the back court. Whenever the ball goes out of bounds and the possession has been indicated by the captain, he will also point to the spot out-of-bounds for the inbound player to stand. The player may then pass it in to a teammate as soon as he/she chooses, similar to the process after a made basket – when the official doesn't touch the ball. "Step out and go!"

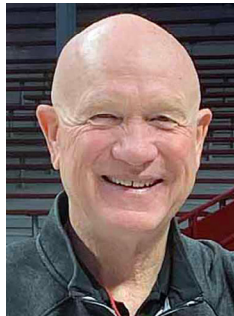
However, for an inbounds pass in the front court – anywhere inside the half court area on the end where a team will be scoring – the player inbound the ball must "check it" with a player on the defensive team – who should check first to see that their defense is ready. Once the player OB has the ball back in his hands, he has 5 seconds to pass it in. If players make any error where they are standing or forget to check it in the front court, the captain blows the whistle, and they replay.

Benefits:

- 1) The captain doesn't need to run to cover the distance from free throw line to FT line.
- 2) The captain is always close to the coaches to establish a collaborative relationship.
- 3) The captain takes fewer steps, so he stays fresher, he's less fatigued – and can officiate more games easily without exhaustion becoming a factor. In the

case of high school games, he could ref all three games.

- 4) The captain doesn't worry about making a call in another official's area. He "calls it when he sees it".
- 5) The game can be played faster as players pass it in quicker.



I've used this method in camps the past several years and feel it is a much easier way to officiate. Players pick up on it quickly. It's actually quite simple – don't check it in the back court, BUT DO check it with a defensive player in the front court.

We tried Court Captain as an experiment yesterday in the Pacesetter Central Region tournament for 6th grade girls in St. Cloud. The two officials at the court each took one half. There was a bit of a learning curve – by the captain as well as the players – to try to remember when to check and when not to check, but they got used to it the more they did it.

6) There would likely be less complaining by fans and coaches. The captain is not near the spectators – since he doesn't go to the baseline or to the far sideline, so most fans do not have the access to express their displeasure as easily. I only saw one missed call on an obvious foul in the whole game. A few fans reacted to it as did the player fouled, but the captain and the action went the other way quickly, so those responding had no one to talk to. Play on! The coaches from both teams were very cooperative and supportive.

7) If traveling officials get caught in bad weather – it is much easier to find one captain to officiate the game than two. Each school could have a back-up captain on call for emergencies.

8) The cost savings would be a major savings for schools that could get passed on to the families. Paying \$500 per game for a 3-man crew is not uncommon. A captain could do all three games for \$200, for example. With 13 home games, that's savings of \$4000, possibly enough to eliminate the player fees for all 3 teams – a savings of \$100's per family, for example.

9) There is a shortage of good officials, so if the Court Captain format could become acceptable, it would make the life of athletic directors much easier.

Next week I'll share the comments of the officials and coaches who participated.

Enjoy this issue of the girls' state recap and enjoy the boys' tournament this week!

Top 100 Showcase notebook

Pacesetter invited players who attended our Top 100 Showcase last summer to tell us about any highlights this season. These are some responses from players, coaches and parents.

When Perham won at Frazee 75-60 on Feb. 7, it was their first win over the Jackets since 2019 and just the second since 2015, said coach TJ Super. Brilliant shooting by freshman Regan Hemberger made it happen — she was 11-for-12 on three's and totaled 34 points. Perham was 17-for-25 on three's, tying their school record set a week earlier against Park Rapids. Super said Hemberger's shooting was no surprise. "If you walk by the gym, in the summer, fall, or winter, you're bound to see Regan shooting. She made 75,000 shots this summer." Perham finished 15-13 and Frazee 13-14.

Grant Freking and Weston Rowe of Jackson County Central, veterans of multiple Top 100 Camps and Pacesetter tournaments, both passed 1,000 points this year. JCC was missing starting guards Roman Voss and Ben Gallagher for a stretch, Rowe said, but reserves stepped up and improved the team's depth and versatility. "Really hoping," Rowe said, "that we can turn all those Pacesetter Championships we won in our early years into a State Championship." JCC lost to Montevideo 62-61 in the Section 3AA semifinals and finished 24-5.

Maddison Molacek, Willmar sophomore, was named Central Lakes player of the week for the third straight week Jan. 23 when she logged 34 points, 15 rebounds and four steals in two games.

Hunter Nicholas, Crookston senior, snagged his 1,000th rebound on Feb. 10 against Stephen-Argyle. He passed

1,000 points his junior season when he also had a 30-rebound game.

Morgan Rysdam, Braham sophomore guard, emerged as a big scorer this year including 32 points against Mountain Iron-Buhl, 26 against Swanville, 30 against Ogilvie, and 20 points, 12 rebounds and 12 steals against Mille Lacs. Braham lost to Walker-Hackensack-Akeley 61-59 in the Section 5A finals and finished 23-6.

Morgan Turn, Kittson County Central senior, has passed the 2,000-point marker while leading her team to a 24-3 record. They had four senior starters. KCC lost in the sectionals to Mahnomen/Waubun.

Anna Neyens, who led Mt. Iron-Buhl with 15.9 points per game, reported in mid-season: "Our season started off slow. We lost an awesome group of six seniors who helped us get ready to lead the next generation at MIB. With no seniors, we are young, aggressive and a little bit immature at times, but we are really starting to figure it out." MIB fell short of state this year as Cromwell-Wright beat them 62-58 in the Section 7A finals.

Jensyn Storhoff, Lanesboro junior, had a five-game stretch in January where she averaged 23 points, 5.8 assists, 4.6 rebounds, 4.6 steals and 5.8 defections. She has gone past 1,500 points. The Burros finished 11-15. "Our team is a bit young, but has been working hard and we really enjoy playing together," Storhoff said.

Five girls at Schaeffer Academy made 90-mile round trip every day to play for Hayfield/Schaeffer Academy. One of them, Betsy Gillette, averaged 10 points, seven rebounds, three assists and two steals and shooting around 50 percent. The team finished 15-11.

2,000 for Duluth freshman

Duluth Marshall freshman Chloe Johnson, middle at left, nailed her 2,000th point on a free throw during a 92-63 win at home against Mesabi East on Feb. 13, reported coach Matt Berger. She had 44 points that night. Her team finished 22-8 with a 46-44 loss to Proctor in the Section 7AA semifinals. Johnson, rated a five-star recruit already, with the Gophers among her suitors, averaged 28.9 points this year.





2025 Minnesota Basketball News • An Invitation-only Event

Top 100 Expo Showcase

College of St. Benedict • St. Joseph, MN
Tuesday, July 1

Top 100+ Players in each class will be invited along with select players from North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Iowa.

College Prep Camp

Monday, June 30

The Pacesetter "College Prep" program is designed for male and female players entering grade 9 through college freshman seeking to play basketball in college. Players will be taught high-level skills by college coaches in a comprehensive one-day, 7-hour format. Players will be given the best tips to become a successful college player on and off the court.





VARSITY BOYS & GIRLS "SWEET 16" CHAMPIONSHIPS



By Invitation Only

SWEET SIXTEEN

TOURNAMENT

August 2-3

**College of St. Benedict
St. Joseph, MN**

The Pacesetter "Sweet Sixteen" Basketball Championship has become the premier summer tournament for varsity players as 32 top boys' and girls' teams in Minnesota gather to play for two over-all championships.

Four Class A, four Class AA, four Class AAA and four Class AAAA teams are invited to make up the 16-team fields for both boys and girls. One team from each class will be placed into each 4-team section of the 16-team bracket.

All teams will play 4 regulation-length games in a 16-team format. Teams that win the championships will receive beautiful individual plaques. Top finishers will be awarded individual medals with neck ribbons.

The College of St. Benedict Fieldhouse in St. Joseph, MN, is a first-class facility with four full air-conditioned courts with ample seating.



FOUR CLASSES...ONE CHAMPION

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 basketball 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 45 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:

The Tour of Champions camp was exactly what my players needed! Coach Walker connected with athletes, remembering them from one year to the next, and he individualized workouts based on my team's needs. Every kid got better after just a few hours!
Ally Meserole, Abbotsford, WI

Kids had a blast and did not even know they were increasing their basketball skills. I look forward to having them in the future.
Aron Morris, Park Rapids, MN

This was an exceptional camp and every player that was there is better because of it. Players worked hard and had fun while learning several skill drills they can do on their own.
Tony Herder, Hankinson, ND

Elvi is very knowledgeable and the children really enjoyed his energy and how he taught different skills. Camp was well run, engaging for kids, a great combination of fun and skills learning. Communication with Pacesetter leading up to camp was fantastic! Pacesetter was very easy to work with, did all the work, and was very organized.
Naomi Moerke, Barrett, MN

Do you want THE BEST for your players?

"Tour of Champions" Meet a few of our coaches....



JOHN CARLSON
• Former Ulfeld Boys' Head Coach
• 3-time MN State champion
• MN Coach of the Year 2000
• MN BS Coaches Assoc. Hall of Fame



WENDY WOHLIS
• Winning Female Basketball Coach in MN
• Class AAA State Champions - 1997 State appearance II
• Minnesota "Coach of the Year" - 31 times
• National Coach of the Year finalist - 2019



SASCHA HANSEN
• Two-time state champion at Marshall 2001, 2002
• Played basketball at SCU 2003-2006
• Three-time captain and All conference
• Senior Athlete of the Year at St. Cloud State



TOM VOT
• 16 State tournaments - 6M-239 record
• State Champion 3 times, Runner-up twice
• Minnesota State A Coach of the Year 1999, 2008
• National Coach of the Year 2018 Finalist



PAUL McDONNELL
• Former Head men's coach Vermillion Comm. College
• 16-time state coach MCC
• 2-time HS state champion
• Record 539-248 at Vermillion Community College

...and many more (see inside)

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Learn from a Champion"**



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This summer will be Pacesetter's 46th year providing high-quality, low-cost camps.

"Seeking the BEST for players and coaches since 1980"



TOUR OF CHAMPIONS CAMPS • 1-2 days

6-8 hour program/day
(Option of one to four sessions per day)

College coaches • State champions • Coaching legends

Recent TOC directors:
Tom Vot, Dave Golevich, John Carlson, Wendy Kohler, Paul McDonnell, Larry McKenzie, Dave Walker, Steve Lingenfelter, Jeff McCarron, Sascha Hansen, Katie Barowicz, Barry Wohler, Alex Carlson, Gary Thomas

"TOC" CAMP OPTIONS

8-hour day:

One group - 8 hours - \$100/player/day
Two groups - 4 hours each - \$60/player/day
Four groups - 2 hours each - \$40/player/day

6-hour day:

One group - 6 hours each - \$80/player/day
Two groups - 3 hours each - \$50/player/day

For two-day camps, double fees.
Invite a champion to your gym!
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"To become a Champion, Learn from a Champion"

TOC Camps:

- High-profile coach directing
- Directors coach 100% of camp
- Host coaches get free clinic
- Players receive best coaching tips
- If no tent, 100% of fees donated back to program.* *TOC camps only
- Open to all players from area
- Ideal for players grades 5-12
- 1-day or 2-day camp options



TRADITIONAL AREA CAMPS • 3-4 days

It's easy! Select one of the most popular "Area Camp" options from the samples on the right... or create your own using the following hours and fees:

Area Camp Session Length	3-day camp	4-day camp
1.5 hours	\$65/player	\$80/player
2 hours	\$80/player	\$100/player
2.5 hours	\$95/player	\$120/player
3 hours	\$110/player	\$140/player
4 hours	\$140/player	\$180/player
6 hours	\$200/player	\$260/player

Sign up soon! Directors' dates fill up quickly!

Choose any dates: May 27 - Aug. 8
Camps preferably should be:
Mon-Thurs, Mon-Wed or Tues-Thurs.

**To Become the BEST,
Learn from the BEST!**

BOOK YOUR 2025 SUMMER CAMP SOON!
(Book by April 15 to participate in the free t-shirt program)



AREA CAMP OPTIONS

Select one of these popular choices or create your own:
Prices per player

A. All-School Program	Boys & Girls	3 days	4 days
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Girls Grades 9-12	\$80	\$100
10:00 - 12:00 noon	Girls Grades 5-8	\$80	\$100
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Boys Grades 5-8	\$80	\$100
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Boys Grades 9-12	\$80	\$100
B. Single-gender Program	Boys or Girls	3 days	4 days
8:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Grades 9-12	\$110	\$140
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Grades 5-8	\$110	\$140
C. "Young Stars" Program	Boys & Girls	3 days	4 days
8:00 - 9:30 a.m.	Grades 3-4	\$65	\$80
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Grades 5-6	\$65	\$80
11:00 - 12:00 noon	Grades 1-2	\$50	\$60
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Grades 7-8	\$110	\$140

D. Pacesetter Varsity Intensive Training
9:00 - 12:00 noon & 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. daily
3 days = 18 hours \$200/week
4 days = 24 hours \$260/week

E. Create your own (fees listed to left)
Camp format should involve five or more hours/day to attract top directors.

Area Camps:

- Great Directors
- Directors coach 100% of camp
- Low-cost options most families can afford
- Flexible hours/grades - customize the schedule to fit your needs
- Close camp or open to all area players
- Ideal for players of all ages
- 3-day or 4-day camp options

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