

- Boys, girls all-star teams
 - Ode is Miss BB
- Thompson, Grove get McDonald Award
- Gophers win WBIT

Paige Bueckers closes at UConn with “Destiny” Championship

By Bruce Strand

Paige Bueckers, in her decade of basketball brilliance, on two teams that each hold the record for most championships, had experienced just one championship herself — until this past weekend.

The UConn senior guard from Hopkins scored 17 points as the Huskies pummeled South Carolina 82-59 for the NCAA title Sunday, which was UConn’s 12th, but first since 2016.

Bueckers called it ‘extremely fitting’ and “destiny,” in a USA Today report. “Obviously, I have a great faith, so I believe God planned it perfectly in the way that it went out.”

Bueckers also had six rebounds, three assists, and two blocks while senior Azzi Fudd and freshman Sarah Strong each scored 24 points for the Huskies (37-3).

UConn also romped in the semifinals Friday, over UCLA 85-51 with Bueckers scoring 16 points. In the Spokane Regional, she had a career-high 40 points in an 82-59 win over Oklahoma, then 31 points in a 78-64 win over USC in the finals.

In her five seasons at UConn, her teams were 158-23, although she



Paige Bueckers finished cutting down the net.

UConn photo

missed 59 of those games with injuries. Her freshman year, she was an instant sensation, sweeping all four major Player of the Year awards. The Huskies were upset by Arizona in the semifinals at the Final Four. They lost in the finals the next year and the semifinals the last two years.

Bueckers, who averaged 19.9 points and 4.6 assists in 123 career games, will enter the WNBA draft and is expected to go No. 1.

“Seeing UConn win the national championship and Paige hoist the trophy was truly a moment of pride and joy,” said Brian Cosgriff, who coached her at Hopkins. “She has

overcome so many obstacles while never giving up. It’s been nothing short of inspiring.”

Hopkins, in her five years as a starter, went 151-8. They lost in the state finals during her 8th, 9th, and 10th grade years, to Minnetonka, Elk River and Eastview. The Royals were 62-0 her last two seasons and beat Stillwater for the 2019 title. In 2020, they were in the finals against Farmington, whom they had beaten badly earlier, but the tournament was halted due to the emergence of Covid-19. That 2019 state title was Hopkins’ eighth, tying Rochester Lourdes for the most. The Royals won their ninth crown this year.

A PAGE FOR PAIGE - Our National Champion!

Paige Bueckers of Hopkins leads her UConn team to a national championship
Yes, NICE GIRLS can finish first!

By Jeff McCarron

Paige Bueckers crossed our Pacesetter path several times. First, she played with her Hopkins team in multiple Pacesetter Sweet 16 tournaments - winning the prestigious summer championship each time. Secondly, she crossed the pages of Minnesota Basketball News for every high school state tournament for the Royals during her career.

But even more notably, she made off-court appearances by surprising her underclass teammates by showing up to support them at the Pacesetter Sweet 16 AFTER she had graduated!

Finally, she appeared last summer at a MN Lynx game, and posed with each of the daughters of Buffalo, SD, head coach Jay Wammen. She made a "dream come true" for the Buffalo girls, who traveled 12 hours to play in the Pacesetter Great Five-State championships at the Target Center.

"Nice Girls Do Finish First!"

Paige has proven it time and time again. We are so proud of her as she proves to be a great role model for all young girls as the consummate teammate on a national stage...and better yet...even when just one little girl wants a photo.



Maple Grove's Ode is Miss BB

Jordan Ode, who led Maple Grove to two state tournaments and a runner-up finish this season, was named Miss Basketball on April 4 during the coaches association all-star weekend at Carleton College.

The 5-foot-11 combo guard -- signed by Michigan State -- averaged 25 points and excelled in all facets of the game. Her team finished 28-3 and lost to Hopkins in the state finals. She averaged 21 points as a junior when the Crimson reached the state semifinals and placed fourth. She has scored more than 2,300 career points.

"I hope I've left a legacy for the younger girls to follow when they get to the level that I'm at," Ode told the Star-Tribune. "The biggest thing I can do is inspire the next generation of girls basketball players at Maple Grove."

The other finalists were Hope Counts of Providence Academy, Addison Mack of Minnehaha Academy, Kendall McGee of Benilde-St. Margaret's, Aneisha Scott of DeLaSalle and Hadley Thul of Alexandria Area.



Jordan Ode drove for two during the all-star games against Isabella Anderson (23) of Cromwell-Wright and Rae Ehrman of Eden Prairie.

Minnesota Basketball News photo

McDonald Award goes to Groves and Thompson

Nolan Groves of Orono and Chase Thompson of Alexandria are co-winners of the McDonald Award, presented by the Minnesota Boys Basketball Coaches Association as the best senior players in the state.

These awards were announced at the state all-star games held March 29 at Anoka-Ramsey.



Nolan Groves of Orono

The award is named for the late Bob McDonald, the all-time leader in victories with 1,012, mostly at Chisholm, including three state championships. His son Mike (Cambridge-Isanti coach) and Mike's son, Kyle



Chase Thompson of Alexandria got his plaque from Kyle (left) and Mike McDonald (right).

(Forest Lake coach) made the presentation to Thompson. Groves was absent, on a spring break vacation.

Thompson, who'll play for Clemson, previously received the Mr. Basketball Award. He averaged 25 points and 10 rebounds for the Class 3A state champions.

Groves, who led the state in scoring with 34.2 points per game and led Orono to a third-place finish at state, will play for Yale.

The other finalists were Tommy Ahneman of Cretin-Derham Hall, CJ Armstrong of Richfield, Isa El-Amin of Minnetonka, Sam Hondl of Albany, Brogan Madson of Mankato East, Anthony Smith III of Hopkins and Chase Watley of Totino-Grace.

Coaches' state boys All-Star games

Minnesota Boys Basketball Coaches' All-Star games were played March 29 at Anoka-Ramsey. Forty seniors were divided into four teams. The Maroon team beat the Blue 121-119 in the third place game and Gold beat the Green 115-114 in the championship game.



GOLD

Front: CJ Armstrong, Richfield; Damarius Russell, Waseca; Brogan Madson, Mankato East; Norbu Jenpa, Prior Lake; Mason King, Caledonia

Back: Coach Tony Ball, Mankato East; Emerson Droubie, Cambridge-Isanti; Miles Newton, Breck; Oliver Tordson, Fairmont; Chase Thompson, Alexandria; Ganden Gosch, Mankato East; Coach Joe Madson, Mankato East



GREEN

Coach Matt Schumann, Coon Rapids; Brooks Johnson, Duluth Marshall; Ethan Lee, Kasson-Mantorville; Allan Lankford Jr. St. Paul Central; Zane Nelson, Lewiston-Altura; Micah Curtis, St. Louis Park; Trayton Lenzen, Chaska; Jaxon Young, Coon Rapids; Isa El-Amin, Minnetonka; Azaya Washington, St. Cloud Apollo; **Coach** Mike Ogorek, Coon Rapids



MAROON

Coach Bill Cheney, Benilde-St. Margaret's; Marley Curtis, St. Louis Park; Peyton Podony, Anoka; Cedric Banks, Tartan; Max Dearborn, Byron; Will Brian, Byron; Alex Lester, Nevis; Noah Oberfeld, Mora; Jaleel Donley, Benilde-St. Margaret's; TJ Stutley, Benilde-St. Margaret's; Connor Peterson, St. Francis; **Coach** Damon Johnson, Benilde-St. Margaret's



BLUE

Coach Randy Hue, Red Lake County; Chase Watley, Totino-Grace; Owen Chervestad, Red Lake County; Sam Hondl, Albany; Ryan Hirst, Fergus Falls; Dorian Pruitt, DeLaSalle; JJ Samanko, Hopkins; Tommy Ahneman, Cretin-Derham Hall; Zeke Austin, Albany; Mohamed Madey, Faribault; Anthony Smith III, Hopkins; **Coach** Steve Phillion, Red Lake County

Gophers win WBIT title

The Minnesota Gopher women did not make the NCAA field but won the Women's Basketball Invitational Tournament and finished the season 25-11.

The Gophers were 5-0 in the tournament. They beat Toledo 65-53, Missouri State 78-71, and Gonzaga 82-77 in overtime to reach the semifinals.

The Gophers beat Belmont 75-63 in the final on April 2 in Indianapolis. Tori McKinney, freshman from Hopkins, scored 26 points, her season high. Mallory Heyer, junior from Chaska, had 18 points and 16 rebounds, and Amaya Battle, junior from Hopkins, 17 points and five assists.

In the semifinals, the Gophers beat Florida 66-52, with two former Hopkins teammates on opposite sides. McKinney had 14 points for the Gophers and freshman Liv McGill scored 18 for Florida. Grace Grocholski, sophomore from North Prairie, WI, led the Gophers with 20 points, six rebounds and four assists.



Tori McKinney hit 26 points in the WBIT championship game against Belmont.

University of Minnesota photo by Brad Rempel

Coached by Dawn Plitzuweit, the Gophers were 8-10 in the Big Ten regular season and lost to Washington in the first round of the conference tournament.

Top three scorers were Grocholski, averaging 13.1 points, Battle 12.8 and McKinney 10.6. Behind them were Sophie Hart (senior from Farmington) with 8.9, Heyer 8.6, Annika Stewart (senior from Wayzata) 8.5, and Taylor Woodson (sophomore from Hopkins) 8.1.

Mara Braun, junior from Wayzata, was averaging 13.5 points after five games when she had a season-ending foot injury. She missed 14 games last year with the same injury. She averaged 16 points in 56 career games.

Girls' All-Star Game photos



Aubrey Burkhart (with ball) of Southwest Christian tries to fight through a double team by Lakeville South's Dani Coleman and New Prague's Katie Boulanger.



Sauk Centre's Ciera Kortan and Crosby-Ironton's Regan Juenemann



Gabrielle Fineday of Cass Lake-Bena hits a 3-pointer.

MN BB
News photos

Coaches state girls All-Star games

The Minnesota Girls Basketball Coaches All-Star games were played April 5 at Carleton College in Northfield. Forty seniors were divided into four teams. The Stars team beat the Stripes team 78-73. The White team beat the Blue team 120-97.



STARS

Front: Bra'ja Torrey, Eastview; Addison Hoof, Lester Prairie; Aneisha Scott, DeLaSalle; Sophia Hawkinson, Wayzata; Makenzie Carrier, Kasson-Mantorville

Back: Coaches Sydney Hovland and Carly Jensen of Underwood; Lauren Hillesheim, Hopkins; Kallyn Grove, Underwood; Hope Counts, Providence Academy; Sam Wills, Visitation; Clarissa Sauer, Winona Cotter; Kendra Harvey, Byron; Coach Brian Hovland, Underwood



BLUE

Front: Vanessa Jordan, Eden Prairie; Regan Juene-mann, Crosby-Ironton; Kaitlyn Rohloff, Hancock; Rae Ehrman, Eden Prairie; Isabella Anderson, Cromwell-Wright.

Back: Coach Peter Vukelich, Crosby-Ironton; Kendall McGee, Benilde-St. Margaret's; Katie Boulanger, New Prague; Kendyl Lodermeier of Goodhue; Dani Coleman, Lakeville South; Chloe Nuss, Totino-Grace; Coach Kyle Bartels, Crosby-Ironton



STRIPES

Front: Coach Wendy Kohler, Alexandria; Myles Monahan, Glencoe-Silver Lake; Tori Schlagel, Eden Prairie; Aubrey Morrison, Walker-Hackensack-Akeley; Allie Haabala, Alexandria; Savi Borowicz, Jordan.

Back: Zahara Bishop of Benilde-St. Margaret's; Rylie Cother, Jackson County Central; Anna Westby, Rock Ridge; Hadley Thul, Alexandria; Josie Foster, Caledonia; Coach Byron Negen, Rock Ridge



WHITE

Front: Lainey Braulick, BOLD; Gabrielle Fineday, Cass Lake-Bena; Aliem Agwa, Austin; Elise Groppoli, Hill-Murray; Aubrey Burkhart, Southwest Christian.

Back: Coach Jon Leyse, Maple Grove; Ciera Kortan, Sauk Centre; Abby Hoselton, St. Michael-Albertville; Emily Anderson, Martin County West; Jordan Ode, Maple Grove; Myah Maull, Eastview; Coaches Mark Cook and Stacy Olson, Maple Grove

Pacesetter crowns 12 state champions

By Jeff McCarron

The **33rd Annual Pacesetter Minnesota State Basketball Championships** for grades 4-9 boys and girls were held in St. Cloud on Saturday, March 29, as Pacesetter crowned 12 state champions.

4th Grade Boys	Cass Lake-Bena
5th Grade Boys	St. Cloud Tech
6th Grade Boys	East Grand Forks
7th Grade Boys	Minneapolis (Farview)
8th Grade Boys	Jackson Co. Central
9th Grade Boys	Pequot Lakes

4th Grade Girls	Blackduck
5th Grade Girls	Bemidji
6th Grade Girls	New London-Spicer
7th Grade Girls	Barnum
8th Grade Girls	Rock Ridge
9th Grade Girls	Mountain Iron-Buhl

Teams across Minnesota played off in five regions in grades 4-7:

SW Minnesota – Redwood Falls
SE Minnesota – Byron
Central Minnesota – St. Cloud
NW Minnesota – Bemidji
NE Minnesota – Mountain Iron/Grand Rapids

4th Grade Boys' State Championship Game
Cass Lake-Bena 44
Becker 15

3rd Place: Hawley
4th Place: Red Lake
5th Place: New Ulm
6th Place: Mahanomen-Waubun

5th Grade Boys' State Championship Game
St. Cloud Tech 41
Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 27

3rd Place: Ada-Borup West
4th Place: Maple River
5th Place: Luverne
6th Place: Mankato West

6th Grade Boys' State Championship Game
East Grand Forks 24
Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 23

3rd Place: Rochester Century
4th Place: Pipestone
5th Place: Clearbrook-Gonvick
6th Place: New London-Spicer

7th Grade Boys' State Championship Game
Minneapolis (Farview) 47
Wabasso-Cedar Mountain 26

3rd Place: Russell-Tyler-Ruthton
4th Place: Staples-Motley
5th Place: New London-Spicer
6th Place: Cass Lake-Bena

4th Grade Girls' State Championship Game
Blackduck 12
Clearbrook-Gonvick 11

3rd Place: Sebeka
4th Place: Jackson Co. Central
5th Place: Warroad
6th Place: Mountain Iron-Buhl

5th Grade Girls' State Championship Game
Bemidji 24
Warroad 20

3rd Place: Fergus Falls
4th Place: St. Cloud
5th Place: Cloquet
6th Place: Yellow Medicine East

6th Grade Girls' State Championship Game

New London-Spicer 24
Chisholm 13

3rd Place: North Woods

7th Grade Girls' State Championship Game

Barnum 27
Bemidji 24

3rd Place: Hawley

8th and 9th Grade State Championships

Teams in grades 8-9 entered the open state tournament as one field of teams since many players in grades 8-9 play on high school teams during February and March.

8th Grade Boys' State Championship Game

Jackson Co. Central 37
East Grand Forks 28

3rd Place: St. Cloud Tech

4th Place: Alexandria

5th Place: St. Paul

6th Place: Pipestone

9th Grade Boys' State Championship Game

Pequot Lakes 57
Tri-County Cental/Marshall Co. Central/Grygla-Gatzke 29

3rd Place: Zumbrota-Mazeppa

4th Place: Mountain Iron-Buhl

5th Place: Pine Island

6th Place: Chatfield

8th Grade Girls' State Championship Game

Rock Ridge 30
Red Lake Co. Central 26

3rd Place: Stephen-Argyle Central/Northern Freeze

4th Place: Waseca

5th Place: Dassel-Cokato

6th Place: Red Lake

9th Grade Girls' State Championship Game

Mountain Iron-Buhl 48
Dover-Eyota 34

3rd Place: United South Central

4th Place: Warroad

5th Place: Sibley East

6th Place: East Central

The Minnesota state champion and runner-up team in each grade/gender have been invited to represent Minnesota in the **2025 Pacesetter Great Five-State Championships** at the Target Center in Minneapolis. The boys in grades 4-9 will play Saturday-Sunday, June 14-15 (grades 8-9 on June 14 only), and the girls in grades 4-9 will play Saturday-Sunday, June 28-29.

Teams from Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota will make up the 8-team bracket. All teams will play three games with at least one game guaranteed on the main Target Center floor.

All teams will attend a Minnesota Lynx game on their weekend – boys June 14 at 12:00 noon and girls June 29 at 6:00 p.m.

All Pacesetter brackets and results will be posted on the main website at www.pacesettersports.net.

2026 Pacesetter STATE Playoffs

5 Regions - Grades 4-7

Direct registration into STATE - Grades 8-9

Planned Pacesetter STATE championships
SAT-SUN, March 28-29

Facilities are being scheduled now for 2026. Teams will be contacted through their head coaches and basketball associations. Organize your teams and plan to play in 2026.

Girls state champs & runners-up

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Champions
Minnesota State**
4th Grade Girls-Blackduck

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Runner-Up
Minnesota State**
4th Grade Girls-Clearbrook-Gonvick

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Champions
Minnesota State**
5th Grade Girls-Bemidji

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Runner-Up
Minnesota State**
5th Grade Girls-Warroad

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Champions
Minnesota State**
6th Grade Girls-New London-Spicer

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Runner-Up
Minnesota State**
6th Grade Girls-Chisholm

Girls state champs & runners-up

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Champions
Minnesota State
7th Grade Girls-Barnum**

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Runner-Up
Minnesota State
7th Grade Girls-Bemidji**

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Champions
Minnesota State
8th Grade Girls-Rock Ridge**

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Runner-Up
Minnesota State
8th Grade Girls-Red Lake County Central**

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Champions
Minnesota State
9th Grade Girls-Mountain Iron-Buhl**

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Runner-Up
Minnesota State
9th Grade Girls-Dover-Eyota**

Boys state champs & runners-up

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Champions
Minnesota State**
4th Grade Boys-Cass Lake-Bena

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Runner-Up
Minnesota State**
4th Grade Boys-Becker

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Champions
Minnesota State**
5th Grade Boys-St. Cloud Tech

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Runner-Up
Minnesota State**
5th Grade Boys-Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Champions
Minnesota State**
6th Grade Boys-East Grand Forks

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Runner-Up
Minnesota State**
6th Grade Boys-Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton

Boys state champs & runners-up

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Champions
Minnesota State**

7th Grade Boys-Minneapolis Farview

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Runner-Up
Minnesota State**

7th Grade Boys-Wabasso-Cedar Mountain

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Champions
Minnesota State**

8th Grade Boys-Jackson County Central

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Runner-Up
Minnesota State**

8th Grade Boys-East Grand Forks

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Champions
Minnesota State**

9th Grade Boys-Pequot Lakes

**2025 Pacesetter
Minnesota State
Basketball Championships**



**Runner-Up
Minnesota State**

9th Grade Boys-TCC/MCC/GG

Who are THE BEST coaches?

By Jeff McCarron

This summer will mark my 50th year working in summer camps. My first camp was in Pierre, SD, in May of 1976. The water in the Missouri River was COLD - but we swam anyway. Yeah!

There were 37 players in the camp. They each paid \$30 for a 15-hour camp. Let's see...\$2/hour in 1976 is worth what in 2025? \$11.12/hour

We would be charging \$170 today for a 15-hour camp. That comes to...let's see...\$11.33/hour. Almost exactly the same!

I loved working in the camp immediately. Spending time with kids who want to learn is really enjoyable. In a camp, in a gym, you can have fun! Kids are active, learning, happy to be there.

I've had several different basketball coaches myself as a player - a former NBA player, an All-Big Ten player, a Big Ten champion coach who was later an NBA coach. My baseball coach, my football coach, my golf coach...all different in their own way as basketball coaches.

The No. 1 thing that makes THE BEST coaches...in my opinion...is that they care about your learning and improvement...and, as a bonus, they care about you as a person.

Players who have played at a high level have an advantage in that they've experienced most everything they are teaching - but not all understand it well enough to teach it. Good coaches who haven't played basketball or didn't play much can still understand it and teach it well. They see it. So it is really an individual thing.

For our Pacesetter Camps, we look for coaches with a successful background who love to teach and care about kids.

Our 1-2 day Pacesetter Tour of Champions Camps require one of the following credentials:

- 1) *State champion as a coach or player*
- 2) *Head college coach*
- 3) *Hall of Fame coach or player*

For our 3-4 day Area Camps, we seek coaches that fit one of these profiles:

- 1) *Young Gun - A young coach who was a good player and is excited to coach and learn.*
- 2) *An experienced coach who loves kids and teaching and makes the camp fun.*
- 3) *A director with Tour of Champions credentials.*

Rates/Fees

We use a basic guideline - \$10/hour + plus \$20 registration fee.

6 hours = \$80

8 hours = \$100

12 hours = \$140

Here are a few of the THE BEST coaches who could possibly direct a camp at your school.

Tom Vix **Rushford-Peterson**
16 state tournament teams

John Carlson **Litchfield**
Three state championships

Alex Carlson **Litchfield**
Two state championships, all-conference college

Wendy Kohler **Alexandria**
Multiple state tournament teams

Sascha Hansen **Marshall**
Two-time state champion • HS/college coach

Paul McDonald **Chisholm**
Two-time state champion • college head coach

Steve Lingenfelter **Bloomington Jefferson**
State champion, Gopher, NBA player

Jeff Wall **Anoka**
State champion

Mike Durbin **St. Ben's**
Head women's coach

Call Tracey at 320-243-7460 or email me at jmac8144@yahoo.com to set up a camp.

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 WOHLBERG
• Winnetonka Female Basketball Coach in MN
• Class AAA State Champions - 1997 State appearance in MN
• 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 VICI
• 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)

**To become a Champion,
Learn from a Champion"**



Website: www.pacesettersports.net
Email: pacesettersportsmbbn@gmail.com
Phone: 320-243-7460

CAMP OF CHAMPIONS! ...that comes to YOUR school!



PACESETTER BASKETBALL CAMPS

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Contact Tracey: pacesettersportsmbbn@gmail.com for more information and to book a camp at YOUR school

46th Year!

2025 PACESETTER BASKETBALL CAMPS

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 Vici, Dave Golevich, John Carlson, Wendy Kohler, Paul McDonnell, Larry McKenzie, Dave Walker, Steve Lingenfelter, Jeff McCarron, Sascha Hansen, Katie Baranowicz, 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!

Email pacesettersportsmbbn@gmail.com

"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

website: www.pacesettersports.net

email: pacesettersportsmbbn@gmail.com

phone: 320-243-7460

Pacesetter Summer Coming Soon

By Jeff McCarron

I love Minnesota!

I remember being in a general store somewhere in northern Minnesota, when a customer mentioned - surprise, surprise - something about the "bad weather". One of the clerks jumped into the conversation: "There's no such thing as bad weather or good weather - there's just weather! You dress for it. Then go enjoy it!"

Whatever the weather, in our Pacesetter and MN BB News world, we are turning a corner in mid-April. Our last major edition is out, and our Minnesota Youth Basketball State Championships are finished. See the champions and results on these pages.

Great Five-State Championships - Target Center

We are now registering teams in grades 4-9 for our Pacesetter Great Five-State Championships, which will be held SAT-SUN, June 14-15, for boys in grades 4-7 and June 14 only for grades 8-9. Teams from Iowa, Wisconsin, North Dakota and South Dakota will join Minnesota's best to play off for the 5-state titles. Teams will also attend the Minnesota Lynx game at 12:00 noon on June 14.

The girls' teams in grades 4-9 will play on SAT-SUN, June 28-29, and attend the Lynx game at 6:00 p.m. on June 29.

All teams are guaranteed to play at least one game on the main Target Center floor. The off-site games will be played at Maple Grove Middle School.

Eighty-eight teams will play over the two week-ends. Brackets will be posted on the Pacesetter website a few days before the tournaments. Results will be published in a July issue.

Minnesota Basketball News Top 100 Expo Showcase

High school coaches are asked to nominate players from their teams who have "college potential" to play in the Top 100 Expo Showcase on Wednesday, July 1, at The College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph.

Eight teams of 8-9 players will be selected to play three games for the over-all Expo championships. All college coaches in a 6-state area are being invited to attend along with the MN Basketball News staff, who will be creating the Top 100 Player Lists for the 2025-2026 Pre-season issues in November. A Top 50 Boys and Top 50 Girls in each of the four classes will be selected.

Player Profiles with detailed information on each player will be created and provided to each college coach in attendance and all not in attendance who request one (\$30). Coaches can pre-register [here](#).

An 10-player All-Star team will be selected along with a Most Valuable Player award for both boys and girls.

Players will be invited over the next two weeks. Send head coach nominations to jmac8144@yahoo.com.

College Prep Camp - Monday, June 30

Top 100 players are invited to attend a 7-hour camp on the day before the Expo, featuring teaching by the Expo staff of college coaches or former college players. Players will be taught the most important skills to practice to prepare for college basketball.

Pacesetter SWEET 16 Championships SAT-SUN • August 2-3

The top four teams for boys and girls in each class as projected by MN Basketball News will be invited this week.



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



**GIRLS & BOYS
GRADES 9-12
ANY SPORT**



NOMINATE A POSITIVE ATHLETE FOR AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

PositiveAthlete.org to learn more and nominate a future leader.

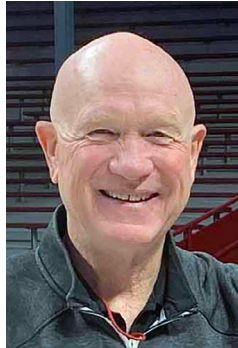
[NOMINATE HERE](#)

Hello, Goodbye, and Thank You!

By Jeff McCarron

Another season of high school basketball has come to an end. The robins and Canadian geese and green grass have arrived again. The snow and ice are grudgingly disappearing south to north.

A few head coaches are celebrating championships. We introduce the new champions on these pages and celebrate their success with photos and stories. A few coaches just coached their final season. I hope their schools and communities and players recognize their contributions.



Jeff McCarron

Brian “Cos” Cosgriff Retires

One retiring coach who is making headlines is Brian Cosgriff, who won seven state championships at Hopkins before retiring the first time. Then he returned as head coach of Minnetonka and won the 2024 state championship for his 8th state title. Dave Shama has written a piece on Brian in his weekly column of Minnesota sports at www.shamasportsheadliners.com.

With Dave’s permission, an edited version of the column is printed below:

In breaking news this afternoon Minnesota high school girl’s basketball coaching legend Brian Cosgriff told Sports Headliners he is leaving the profession.

Cosgriff plans to meet with his Minnetonka team tomorrow morning to inform them of his decision to retire. He coached the Skippers to the State Class 4A championship last season and Minnetonka is expected to have a standout team in 2025-2026.

Cosgriff leaves coaching having won over 600 games (631-93 record) and eight girls state titles. The first seven came at Hopkins. He won the

league title 19 of 20 seasons at Hopkins.

Last season Cosgriff’s energy was challenged by an 80-plus hours work week split between coaching the Skippers and his physical education assignment at DeLaSalle High School. Looking ahead, Cosgriff knew he faced a difficult situation with his energy and passion to coach.

“There were times this year I was just really tired. It just kind of hit me this year.”

Cosgriff, a beloved coach by so many players and others, turned 64 last month. He said his health is fine, but he wants to be proactive and protective of it.

“The key to this life is you gotta be healthy and happy.”

Cosgriff has been thinking about his decision to step away from the stress of coaching for a while. “I am at peace with it. I really am.”

The input of coaching friends helped with his decision. They told him, “You just know when it’s time to get out.”

“I am very sad about it from the standpoint of I won’t be working with my brother (Barry), who I have had hand-in-hand with me for 24 years,” Cosgriff said. “He’s the best in the business. I am hoping whoever gets the new job wants to keep him on because he’s very much a part of the Minnetonka community. ...”

Cosgriff will continue at DeLaSalle but has no plans to coach anywhere else in the future, happy to leave the demands of the profession behind. He plans to work on the football chain crews at DeLaSalle and the University of Minnesota and has other part-time ideas in mind to remain involved with sports and the community.

(Continued next page.)

"I don't ever envision coaching again," he said.

A Golden Valley native, Cosgriff lives two blocks from the house he grew up in. "I went away to college (Macalester), though. I went to St. Paul," he teased.

Publisher's Note: Thank you, Cos. It has been great to meet you and have your teams in our tournaments. I'm sure your contributions will live on, making our state a better place. See you along the trail. -Jeff

Kevin Anderson, Girls' Basketball aficionado, retires

Kevin Anderson, who has provided the rankings for girls' basketball teams and players over the past 30+ years for Minnesota Basketball News and kept a daily blog on girls' basketball, has decided to retire. He has also been on the Miss Basketball committee since 2004. He prepared a series of booklets previewing the basketball seasons 1996-2008. He started blogging and covering games online in 2005. He was recognized by the Minnesota Coaches' Association Hall of Fame in 2012.

Kevin started as head boys' coach at Ellsworth, made the leap to girls' head coach at Minneapolis South, and has been both head coach and assistant at a number of schools during a tenure that has included coaching stints at Osseo, Bethel, Mahtomedi and Stillwater.



His passion for girls' basketball and his contributions have been immense behind the scenes as he has slipped into gym and after gym with his customized chair and notebooks and cap and glasses down his nose as he uses a unique system of hieroglyphics that he scrawls constantly, analyzing the effectiveness of each player and team. His analytics recognized Paige Bueckers at an early age as a future great. "I was at Ames, IA, when Paige Bueckers first met Caitlin Clark."

Kevin once traveled to Roseau on Monday, Winona on Tuesday, a Metro game on Wednesday, East Grand Forks on Thursday, and Pine Island on Friday. "I don't recall my destination that Saturday, but my mileage from that week equaled the distance from Key West, Florida to Maine."

He has seen many great games. "There was one stretch of three games in a row where the team behind hit the winning shot at the buzzer: Buffalo Lake-Hector on Thursday, Benilde-St. Margaret's on Friday, and Buffalo on Saturday."

He has also seen "countless amazing players. I saw Lindsay Whalen's first high school game, and still have the program, vs. Glencoe-Silver Lake."

He will still watch games, but "now my radius has narrowed. I will be more local-based (sorry, Roseau) and not every night or day. Thanks for all the memories, Minnesota...and the region."

Thank YOU, Kevin, for adding insight, excitement, analysis, opportunities, coaching, and generally uplifting and enhancing girls' basketball in Minnesota and the Midwest, making it an even more special place to play. Your contributions will long be appreciated.

Jim Lien Receives Carl Pierson Legacy Award

Jim Lien, head girls' coach at Walker-Hackensack-Akeley, received the Carl Pierson Legacy Award to a standing ovation at the Girls' Basketball Coaches' All-Star banquet on Saturday, April 5, in Northfield.

After 38 years of high school coaching, Coach Lien's Wolves made it to two straight state tournaments in 2024 and 2025.