

- \*C-I, Oehrlein ousted, and Greenway gets record
- \*Novak: all-time wins leader
- \*Letter to MN Head Coaches
- \* Coaches final polls

# 32 teams set for the show

*Here's highlights of girls sectionals around the state*

By Bruce Strand

Thirty-two teams have punched their tickets to the MSHSL girls state tournament with section championship games March 5-6-7. The complete list of final results appears on the next page. Following are section finals capsules.

\* \* \*

Top-ranked Minnesota prospects in the senior, junior, sophomore and eighth-grade classes will be showcased. Duluth Marshall sophomore Chloe Johnson scored 25 points to lead a 66-57 win over Pequot Lakes in 7AA finals. Hill-Murray eighth-grader Ashley Wilson tallied 28 points and junior Mya Wilson 23 points in a 75-55 win over DeLaSalle in 4AAA. And of course the top senior prospect, Maddyn Greenway, will play in her sixth tournament after Providence Academy beat Maranatha Christian 97-60 in 5AA.

Rochester Mayo (28-1) nipped Lakeville North 50-48 for the Section 1AAAA title, a year after losing to North 63-62 in the finals. Mayo was up 49-48 and needing a defensive stop in the last 10 seconds North was called for an illegal screen with :07 on the clock. Mayo made one of two free shots and North — which has won 17 of the last 19 section titles — missed a shot at the buzzer and finished 15-14. Amelia Mills had 15 points and



**Maple Grove players celebrate after beating Mounds View 55-47 for a state trip.**

Bruce Strand, MN BB News

Maggie Dyer 14 for Mayo, which last went to state in 2015.

Another section finals nail-biter was New Richland-Hartland-Elendale-Geneva edging Hayfield/Schaefer Academy 64-62 in Section 1A. Quinn VanMaldeghem's layup gave NRHEG a 63-62 lead with 1:20 left and they held on, with Hayfield/Schaefer missing a three-pointer at the buzzer. NRHEG beat the Vikings 78-35 two weeks earlier but the rematch was a different story with Lily Morrissey sinking 25

points to make it a close game.

Another heart-stopper was No. 3 Sleepy Eye St. Mary's slipping past No. 8 BOLD 62-60 in Section 2A, a year after stopping the Warriors 57-54 in the finals. Morgan Mathiowetz sank 34 points, capped by two free shots with 16.8 seconds left for a 61-60 lead. Olivia Schieffert added 18 points for SESM (29-1). Kyle Elfering had 15, Ema Flann 14 and Kenley Elfer-

ing 13 for BOLD.

Hopkins and Wayzata split in conference play but the No. 1 ranked Royals thumped the No. 3 Trojans 78-59 in the rubber game to capture their 12th consecutive Section 6AAAA championship. Ava Caputo sank 22 points (six 3-pointers), Jaliya Diggs 18 and Erma Walker 16. Wayzata's Creighton recruit Kate Amelotte scored 20 points before fouling out, to a standing ovation.

It was a typical year for Wayzata, a perennial top-five team with the misfortune of playing in Hopkins' section. The Trojans were 6-2 against state tournament teams this year and rang up 100 points on two of them, but will, as usual, be watching them play in the state tournament. During Hopkins' current 12-year dynasty they've ousted Wayzata eight times.

No. 2 ranked Maple Grove made 12 three-pointers to fend off an upset bid by Mounds View 55-47 in 5AAAA. Kate Holmquist sank 17 points, and Sophia Anderson and Sienna Meyer 15 points each. Mounds View eighth-grader Jayie Helmer pumped in 25 points.

Benilde-St. Margaret's lost twice in conference to No. 1 ranked Orono but the Red Knights, state Class 3A champs the last three years, will make another state trip after upending the Spartans 77-66 in the 6AAA finals. Zaida Jenkins, sophomore, led with 25 points. Mya Moore scored 23 for Orono.

Class 1A's top-ranked Mountain Iron-Buhl, which had a streak of 13 straight trips to state end last year with an upset loss to Cromwell-Wright, got back to the final in 2026 and this time left no doubt, beating Ely 87-43. "It's just a big relief," senior captain Aniyah Thomas told the Mesabi Tribune. "After last year, we were really down. The second that buzzer went off a year ago, we had to get back to work ..." Paige Norman and Izzy Wiita sank 18 points each and Farrah Thomas 14.

The teams with the two best won-lost records in Class 2A clashed in the Section 3 finals. No. 7 Fairmont (28-3) raced to a 23-6 lead against No. 4 New London-Spicer and still led 54-48 with three minutes left, but NLS (29-1) reeled off the last 13 points to pull it out 61-54. Eighth-grader Peycen Rutgers, 3-for-3 on three's in the second half, hit one for a 55-54 lead, and Ayla Caskey buried another to make it 58-54. NLS earned its 22nd state trip; Fairmont luminary Brylee Miller notched

24 points, 20 rebounds, six steals, six assists and three blocked shots. Korbin Tanner, freshman, had 18 point for NLS, Caskey 15 and Rutgers 12.

Central MN Christian School of Prinsburg will make its first state appearance since 2001 after the Bluejays (26-3) beat Hills-Beaver Creek 55-33 in the Section 3A final. Emmi Bream had 16 points and six steals, and Sienna Duininck 15 points and seven steals.

Northome-Kelliher is a first-time state qualifier as the No. 2 ranked Mustangs beat No. 9 Sacred Heart of East Grand Forks 66-45 in Section 8A, a year after losing to them in the finals. Kate Thayer will thus conclude a remarkable career — over 3,000 points, 1,000 rebounds and 1,000 steals (the first player to do that) — at state. Thayer had 24 points and caused a slew of Sacred Heart turnovers. The Mustangs are 104-12 the last four years and elated to finally break through.

## SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 1A — NRHEG 64, Hayfield/Schaefer Academy 62
- 2A — Sleepy Eye St. Mary's 62, BOLD 60
- 3A — Central MN Christian 55, Hills-Beaver Creek 33
- 4A — Mayer Lutheran 64, West Lutheran 45
- 5A — Braham 56, Pine River-Backus 37
- 6A — Hillcrest Lutheran 67, Breckenridge 52
- 7A — Mountain Iron-Buhl 87, Ely 43
- 8A — Kelliher/Northome 66, Sacred Heart 45
- 1AA — Rochester Lourdes 60, Red Wing 56
- 2AA — Norwood YA 58, Glencoe-Silver Lake 33
- 3AA — New London-Spicer 61, Fairmont 54
- 4AA — Minnehaha Academy 79, St. Croix Lutheran 46
- 5AA — Providence Acad. 97, Maranatha Christian 58
- 6AA — Sauk Centre 55, Milaca 41
- 7AA — Duluth Marshall 66, Pequot Lakes 57
- 8AA — Perham 71, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 63
- 1AAA — Stewartville 61, Byron 50
- 2AAA — Marshall 84, Jordan 69
- 3AAA — Cretin-Derham Hall 64, Tartan 54
- 4AAA — Hill-Murray 75, DeLaSalle 55
- 5AAA — Totino-Grace 70, Becker 60
- 6AAA — Benilde-St. Margaret's 77, Orono 66
- 7AAA — Rock Ridge 77, Cloquet 41
- 8AAA — Willmar 55, Little Falls 41
- 1AAAA — Rochester Mayo 50, Lakeville North 48
- 2AAAA — Chanhassen 79, Minnetonka 68
- 3AAAA — Rosemount 78, Eastview 43
- 4AAAA — East Ridge 73, Woodbury 46
- 5AAAA — Maple Grove 55, Mounds View 47
- 6AAAA — Hopkins 78, Wayzata 59
- 7AAAA — Blaine 75, Forest Lake 60
- 8AAAA — Monticello 78, Elk River 50



**Blaine's Rosie Reducki tries to block Forest Lake's Aubrie Hultman**

Todd Voit

# Pequot Lakes stuns Crosby-Ironton and Greenway passes Oehrlein

By Bruce Strand

The shocker of the sectionals was Pequot Lakes knocking out No. 2 ranked Crosby-Ironton and superstar Tori Oehrlein 61-58 in the Section 7AA semifinals. A three-point shot by sophomore Emerson Sullivan broke a 58-58 tie with 25 seconds left.

The Patriots led by as much as 16 points but the Rangers caught up at 48, 56 and 58 as Oehrlein scored 20 of her 26 points in the second half. Another Pequot soph, Claire Foote, scored seven straight points to open a 56-51 lead. Chelby Wothe led Pequot with 17 points. What bogged C-I down was going 2-for-19 on three's.

The Rangers' loss took Oehrlein out of the all-time points leader derby against Providence Academy's Maddyn Greenway. It was speculated that they would clash in the state finals — like they did last year — with



**Tori  
Oehrlein**



**Maddyn  
Greenway**

the record as an intriguing sub-plot.

Oehrlein finished with 5,485 points. Three nights later, Greenway tallied 43 points in the Section 5AA finals, a 97-60 win over Maranatha Christian, taking the lead with 5,505 points.

So, that settles that. Greenway's the all-time leader, and has the state tournament to add to it.

Greenway is also the state record-holder for career assists with 1,305 entering the state tournament and holds the all-time state tournament scoring points record, 439. Oehrlein is the state record-holder in career rebounds with approximately 2,480.

Pequot Lakes, after that huge upset, did not reach state. They lost in the section finals to Duluth Marshall — whose 3,000-point sophomore Chloe Johnson will likely take aim at Greenway's record.

## CLASS 4A STATE PAIRINGS

### QUARTERFINALS WEDNESDAY

#### Williams Arena

8-Blaine (21-8) vs. 1-Hopkins (25-2), 10 a.m.  
5-East Ridge (23-5) vs. 4-Maple Grove (24-5), noon  
7-Chanhassen (21-7) vs. 2-Rosemount (26-3), 2 p.m.  
6-Monticello (25-4) vs. 3-Rochester Mayo (28-1), 4 p.m.

### SEMIFINALS THURSDAY

Williams Arena, Upper bracket, 6 p.m. Lower bracket, 8 p.m.

### FINALS SATURDAY

Concordia-St. Paul, Third place, 4 p.m.  
Williams Arena, Championship, 8 p.m.

## CLASS 3A STATE PAIRINGS

### QUARTERFINALS WEDNESDAY

#### Maturi Pavilion

8-Willmar (18-11) vs. 1-Stewartville (27-1), 10 a.m.  
5-Hill-Murray (26-3) vs. 4-Cretin-Derham Hall (21-8), noon  
7-Rock Ridge (20-9) vs. 2-Benilde-St. Marg. (23-6), 2 p.m.  
3-Marshall (25-4) vs. 6-Totino-Grace (17-12), 4 p.m.

### SEMIFINALS THURSDAY

Williams Arena, Upper bracket, noon, Lower bracket, 2 p.m.

### FINALS SATURDAY

Concordia-St. Paul, Third place, noon  
Williams Arena, Championship, 2 p.m.

## CLASS 2A STATE PAIRINGS

### QUARTERFINALS WEDNESDAY

#### Williams Arena

8-Norwood YA(22-8) vs. 1-Providence Acad (25-4), 6 p.m.  
4-Rochester Lourdes (24-6) vs. 5-Perham (24-4), 8 p.m.

#### Maturi Pavilion

7-Sauk Centre (23-6) vs. 2-Duluth Marshall (22-8), 6 p.m.  
6-Minnehaha Acad. (18-11) vs. 3-N. London-Spicer (29-1), 8 p.m.

### SEMIFINALS FRIDAY

Williams Arena, Upper bracket, 6 p.m., Lower bracket, 8 p.m.

### FINALS SATURDAY

Concordia-St. Paul, Third place, 2 p.m.  
Williams Arena, Championship, 6 p.m.

## CLASS 1A STATE PAIRINGS

### QUARTERFINALS THURSDAY

#### Maturi Pavilion

8-Braham (24-6) vs. 1-Mountain Iron Buhl (28-1), 11 a.m.  
5-NRHEG (27-3) vs. 4-Hillcrest Lutheran (28-2), 1 p.m.  
7-Mayer Luth. (25-5) vs. 2-Sleepy Eye-St. Mary's (29-1), 3 p.m.  
6-Central MN Christian (26-3) vs. 3-Kelliher/Northome (29-1), 5 p.m.

### SEMIFINALS FRIDAY

Williams Arena, Upper bracket, noon, Lower bracket, 2 p.m.

### FINALS SATURDAY

Concordia-St. Paul, Third place, 10 a.m.  
Williams Arena, Championship, noon

# Novak new No. 1 in victories

By Bruce Strand

**K**en Novak Jr., the coach with the second-best winning percentage and second-most state titles in state history, is now the coach with the most victories in boys basketball.

When his Hopkins Royals defeated Robbinsdale Armstrong 92-58 in their section opener March 6, it was Novak's 1,013th victory, one more than the record of 1,012 held by Chisholm's Bob McDonald. Novak tied the record with an 86-74 win over Buffalo on Feb. 26.

Numerous Royal alums were present for the occasion, including James Ware, his assistant and heir apparent. "I've had great, great players who worked their tails off," said Novak, crediting them for his record total.

Novak has an .873 winning percentage with just one losing season out of 44, in 1985-86, followed by a state runner-up finish in 1987. His records also include 28 straight 20-win and four straight 30-win seasons. One record he doesn't have is state championships; his eight are one less than Dave Thorson collected at DeLaSalle.

Statistics in this article are provided by Matt Pederson, state hoops historian. Pederson lists four coaches with winning percentages over .800 "that I know of, with ten or more years of experience." Novak's .837 is the second highest -- behind only, remarkably, another Hopkins coach. Russell "Butsie" Maetzold compiled an .845 percentage, including state titles in 1952 and 1953. The others are Clarence "Bun" Fortier of Bemidji with .822 and Thorson with .802.

McDonald, who passed away in 2020, posted his 581st win during the 1991-92 season, breaking the record held by John Nett of Winona Cotter. He went over 1,000 in his final season, 2013-14.

The top five also includes Rocori's Bob Brink with 936 (50 years), Crosby-Ironton's Dave Galovich with 824 (47 years) and Mounds View's Ziggy Kauls with 739 (45 years).

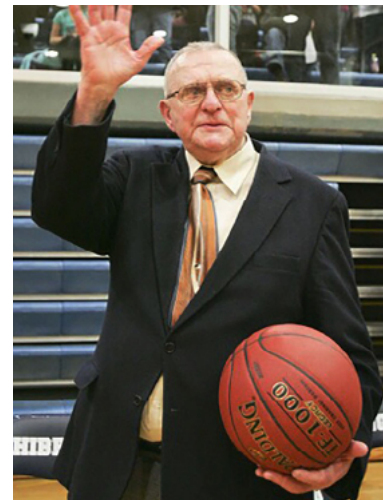
Novak was ESPN Rise National Basketball Coach of the Year for 2010-11. McDonald was 2008 national Coach of the Year and entered the National Federation Hall of Fame in 2014. Both, incidentally, coached at their alma maters. Novak played for his father, Ken Sr., whom he succeeded as Hopkins coach.



John Sherman, Sun Newspapers

## Ken Novak Jr.

**Seasons** — 44 (1983-current)  
**Teams** — Blaine 7 years, Hopkins 37 years  
**Won-lost record** — 1013-197  
**Winning percentage** — .837  
**State appearances** — 18  
**State championships** — 8 (2002, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2015, 2019)  
**State won-lost record** — 39-10 (.796)



Duluth News-Tribune

## Bob McDonald

**Seasons** — 59 (1956-2014)  
**Teams** — McGregor 4 years, Barnum 2 years, Chisholm 53 years  
**Won-lost record** — 1012-428  
**Winning percentage** — .703  
**State appearances** — 11  
**State championships** — 3 (1973, 1975, 1991)  
**State won-lost record** — 20-14 (.588)

# Letter to Minnesota Head Coaches

By Jeff McCarron

Dear Coaches,

**We need a favor please....**

*It will only take a minute.*

*Please click the link below...if you have not done it yet...and enter your name, email address and school. You will then be on our special head coaches' email list.*

*We promise we won't send more than 12 emails **ALL YEAR**... so no worries about spam.*

[GIRLS' HEAD VARSITY COACHES LINK](#)  
[BOYS' HEAD VARSITY COACHES LINK](#)

Thank you!

**Two FREE MN BB NEWS** issues will be emailed to you soon...and more the rest of the year:

March 17: Girls' STATE coverage and Boys' STATE preview

March 31: Boys' STATE coverage

**Which Minnesota 8th and 9th Grade Teams Will Represent Minnesota in the Pacesetter Great Five-State Championships?**

The Top Two Teams at Pacesetter STATE – Sunday, March 29 – in St. Cloud!

All Minnesota school/community teams in grades 8 & 9 are invited to register – max. 16 teams.

REGISTER NOW: [www.pacesettersports.net](http://www.pacesettersports.net). Teams will play 3-4 games.

**Where are the 7th-8th- 9th grade girls' teams?**

Are these grades no longer playing as teams and now filling B and C teams?

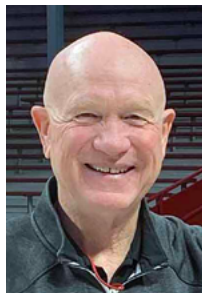
I'm worrying about participation in girls' basketball.

I hate to believe it, but I was told St. Cloud Tech and St. Cloud Apollo combined for girls' basketball to have enough players to form a one team.

Yes, there are some great players coming out of Minnesota. But is the number of girls playing dropping? It feels that way. I know girls love basketball and the teamwork involved, so why aren't more girls' teams at grades 7-8-9 playing?

**Here comes the GIRLS' STATE TOURNAMENT!**

I can't wait to watch the girls' games this week. Two coach-



es that I – and the state of Minnesota – know well are BACK! Mike Dreier of New London-Spicer in Class AA with over 20 state appearances and Jeff Buffetta from Mountain Iron-Buhl in Class A, who has been in state almost every year the past ten years. What's their secret? Start early and get teams playing together early. No one has put more teams in our Pacesetter tournaments than those two. Good luck Wildcats and Rangers!

All eyes are on Providence Academy this week as they reach for a first in Minnesota basketball history – a FIVEPEAT. Tori Oehrlein of Crosby-Ironton, a future Gopher, matched stats with Providence's Maddyn Greenway all season, but the Rangers lost to Pequot Lakes, who lost to Duluth Marshall, who is led by another stat standout, Chloe Johnson, who the state will finally get to see under the big top.

I have seen Kelliher/Northome (Class A) play – last season when they defeated Walker-Hackensack-Akeley in Walker... and Walker-HA came to state. They have quickness and talent, not to be overlooked.

Look out for the Rosemount girls to surprise in Class AAAA. Hopkins is the favorite. Rosemount won our Pacesetter Sweet 16 last summer in a battle of all classes in one bracket, but Hopkins didn't play in it. A rare absence for the Royals, who have played almost every year for 10-15 years. Good luck to all girls' teams, coaches, and fans!

Personally, I'm excited to attend some of the semi-finals on Friday with my daughter, Maggie, who has been teaching – and coaching basketball at times – in the international school system. She's been working in India, Qatar, Spain, and most recently, Amsterdam. She attended school 8th grade through graduation at the American School of Warsaw, so she has never been able to attend the Minnesota girls' state tournament.

**Pacesetter Sweet Sixteen set for SAT-SUN, August 1-2, at St. Ben's**

The top teams in every class will be invited to attend the 36th Annual Pacesetter "Sweet Sixteen", where four teams from each class will be mixed into one 16-team bracket.

Teams will play two games each day. Providence Academy, Hopkins and Minnetonka are recent champions for the girls. Wayzata and Alexandria are recent champions for the boys. Any team that knows they will be strong next season and is interested in challenging the best in Minnesota, please email me at [jmac8144@yahoo.com](mailto:jmac8144@yahoo.com). Your team will be considered along with the others for the coveted 16 spots. The Sweet 16 is open to the public with constant games over two days on the four adjacent floors in Clemens Field House (St. Ben's – St. Joseph, MN).

Minnesota's greatest basketball fan, Terry Kunze, never misses it!

## GREAT COACHES – GREAT CAMPS! Check out this line-up of coaches for 2026

This is Pacesetter's 47th year. We started by sending a letter to 50 Minnesota head coaches and set up 8 camps - 400 players attended. My high school teammate, Paul Krohn, joined me, and we ran one camp a week and had great fun with kids and coaches...and caught a lot of fish!

The summer of 1980.... The demand for camps was high as they were something new. Girls' basketball in Minnesota had just begun (1976). High school coaches weren't allowed to run a camp then. We added volleyball in 1986 and were holding over 130 camps by 1990. Thousands of players have attended, and hundreds of coaches have worked as coaches. I'm grateful for the experience.

One of the most notable players was Carol Ann Shudlick, a little 6th grader, who attended at the Minnesota Lake camp with her Kiester friends and teammates. She was a willowy 5-8 at the time. I remember her well for two reasons: She listened so intently...even asking questions for clarity...and she was the best teammate you could imagine, always encouraging each teammate. Kiester didn't have enough older players to field a team, so they suspended their program for a couple years.

Carol Ann and her family moved to Apple Valley, where she made the varsity team as a sophomore, then standing 5-11. She had a great career at Apple Valley and was recruited by the Gophers! It gets better. Her senior year she was awarded the Ware Trophy as THE BEST PLAYER IN THE USA. What a story. And she was kind of enough to write to me, "I would never have achieved what I did without my great start at Pacesetter." To be honest, I get a little teary even now reading that. She had a great nose for the basket, but the part about being the best teammate took her a long way...and probably still does. If you read this, Carol Ann, "Thank You, and best wishes always."

We continue to try to provide the best possible experience for players and coaches. Our "Tour of Champions" Camps, where the best coaches share their best tips, will feature some of the best coaches available. The camps are shorter in days, so players could easily be taught by more than one great coach in the summer.

Here's our line-up so far:

### Seth Anderson

- MIAC MVP and All American (Gustavus 2012)
- Head Coach at Waseca
- 5 State appearances - Champions 2021
- Minnesota Coach of the year 2021
- 250-96 career record

### Tim Anderson

- 22 years Head Basketball Coach
- Record 408-158 - 3 State tournaments
- State champions - assistant 1992
- 10 conference championships
- Member of MBCA Hall of Fame

*"This father-son team is a Dynamic Duo! Great opportunity to learn their secrets."*

### Dave Cresap

- Head Coach, M State-Fergus Falls (former Perham HS)
  - 30-4 record, 4th at Nationals (2024-25)
  - Perham HS State Champ (2011), 5 state appearances
  - MBCA & Valley City State HOF (2022)
  - 2011 National Coach of the Year, 700+ wins
- "Known as a great teacher of the game, Dave is one of the top college coaches in the Midwest."*

### Paul McDonald

- Former head men's coach Vermilion Comm. College
  - 18 state tournaments – MCC
  - Record: 538-248
  - Director of MN BB News Top 100 Expo Showcase
  - 2-time HS state champion as player
- "Few coaches understand shooting like Paul. He's a great teacher...and FUN!"*

### Gary Thomas

- Former Augustana head men's coach
  - HS Class AA state champions - Watertown, SD
  - Led Class AA team to state 5 of 6 years
  - Camp director since 1978
  - Former elementary principal - Brookings, SD
- "Gary is a passionate teacher of basketball and reached the top at each level - HS and college."*

### Tom Vix

- Former head coach – Rushford-Peterson
  - 16 State tournaments – 684-239 record
  - State Champion 3 times, Runner-up 2x
  - Minnesota State 1A Coach of the Year 1998, 2018
  - National Coach of the Year Finalist – 2018
- "Tom Vix is a master coach – one of the best ever in the USA!"*

### Jeff Wall

- Former head coach - Anoka & Maranatha Academy
  - MBCA Hall of Fame - 2022
  - MN Class A Coach of the Year - 2001
  - State Appearances: 5 times
  - Record: 640-302
- "One of the nicest guys in basketball, Jeff loves teaching kids in camp!"*

See our ad in this issue and the camps scheduled so far. If you are interested in hosting, there may still be a good match for your school with one of our directors. Email [jmac8144@yahoo.com](mailto:jmac8144@yahoo.com).

Our next issue will be Tuesday, March 17. See you then.

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# **PACESETTER** Basketball **TOUR OF CHAMPIONS** **CAMPS**

## **Sartell**

June 8-9 • Director: Tom Vix  
Boys & Girls Grades 7-12

June 10-11 • Director: Tom Vix  
Boys & Girls Grades 4-9

## **Austin**

June 15-16 • Director: Tom Vix  
Boys & Girls Grades 7-12

June 17-18 • Director: Tom Vix  
Boys & Girls Grades 4-8

## **Rochester**

June 22-23 • Director: Tom Vix  
Boys & Girls Grades 7-12

June 24-25 • Director: Tom Vix  
Boys & Girls Grades 4-9

## **Willow River**

June 15-16 • Director: Jeff Wall/Dave Cresap  
Boys & Girls Grades 3-12

June 24-25 • Director: Gary Thomas  
Boys & Girls Grades 3-12

## **Grand Rapids**

July 24 • Director: Paul McDonald  
Boys & Girls Grades 3-12

## **Redwood Falls**

July 20-21 • Director: Tom Vix  
Boys & Girls Grades 7-12

July 22-23 • Director: Tom Vix  
Boys & Girls Grades 4-9

July 29-30 • Director: Jeff Wall/Dave Cresap  
Boys & Girls Grades 3-12



**"Bringing Championship Coaches to You! More coming soon!"**



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# Coaches Assn. polls (final)

## Girls

### CLASS 4A

1. Hopkins (4) 23-2
2. Maple Grove 21-5
3. Wayzata 21-5
4. Minnetonka 20-5
5. Rochester Mayo 25-1
6. Rosemount 23-3
7. East Ridge 21-5
8. Monticello 22-4
9. Eastview 18-8
10. Chanhassen 18-7

**Others receiving votes** —  
Lakeville South, Elk River,  
Forest Lake

### CLASS 3A

1. Orono (4) 22-3
2. Stewartville 25-1
3. Benilde-St.  
Margaret's 20-6
4. Marshall 22-4
5. Hill-Murray 23-3
6. Cretin-Derham  
Hall 18-8
7. Delano 20-6
8. Northfield 21-5
9. DeLaSalle 18-7
10. Becker 19-7

**Others receiving votes** —  
Byron

*First place votes in  
parentheses*

*Won-lost records listed  
are final regular season*

### CLASS 2A

1. Providence  
Academy (4) 22-4
2. Crosby-Ironton 21-5
3. Red Wing 23-4
4. New London-  
Spicer 26-1
5. Duluth Marshall 19-7
6. Rochester Lourdes 21-6
7. Fairmont 26-2
8. Perham 21-4
9. Foley 21-5
10. Milaca 21-4  
Minnehaha  
Academy 15-11

**Others receiving votes** —  
Proctor, Menahga, Dilworth-  
Glynton-Felton

### CLASS 1A

1. Mountain Iron-  
Buhl (4) 24-1
2. Kelliher-Northome 25-1
3. Sleepy Eye St.  
Mary's 25-1
4. Hillcrest Lutheran 24-2
5. New Richland-Hartland-  
Ellendale-Geneva 24-3
6. Central MN  
Christian 23-3
7. Mayer Lutheran 22-5
8. BOLD 21-5
9. Sacred Heart 22-4
10. Breckenridge 19-7  
Braham 20-6

**Others receiving votes** —  
MACCRAY, Hills-Beaver Creek

## Boys

### CLASS 4A

1. Tartan 26-0
2. Wayzata 23-3
3. Maple Grove 20-6
4. East Ridge 21-5
5. Hopkins 19-7
6. Prior Lake 20-6
7. Cretin-Derham  
Hall 21-5
8. Buffalo 21-5
9. Chaska 22-4
10. Lakeville South 20-6

**Others receiving votes** —  
Eagan, Alexandria, Osseo, Eden  
Prairie

### CLASS 3A

1. Totino-Grace 22-2
2. DeLaSalle 23-3
3. Richfield 24-2
4. Mahtomedi 23-3
5. Northfield 23-3
6. Mankato East 19-7
7. St. Paul Johnson 19-6
8. St. Cloud Apollo 19-7
9. Grand Rapids 21-5
10. Orono 16-10

**Others receiving votes** —  
Becker, Sartell-St. Stephen,  
Minneapolis South

### CLASS 2A

1. Morris Area/  
Chokio-Alberta 26-0
2. Goodhue 26-1
3. Pequot Lakes 25-1
4. Montevideo 25-2
5. Minnehaha  
Academy 20-5
6. Zumbrota-  
Mazeppa 22-4
7. Holy Family  
Catholic 21-5
8. Belle Plaine 21-5
9. Southwest  
Christian 19-7
10. Albany 20-6

**Others receiving votes** —  
Jackson County Central,  
Annandale

### CLASS 1A

1. Henning 26-0
2. Central MN  
Christian 26-1
3. Southland 25-1
4. Janesville-Waldorf-  
Pemberton 24-3
5. Pelican Rapids 21-5
6. Hills-Beaver  
Creek 24-3
7. Fertile-Beltrami 23-3
8. Red Lake County 24-3
9. Liberty Classical 24-2
10. Dawson-Boyd 21-5

**Others receiving votes** —  
Nevis, Wabasso, Cherry,  
Mountain Iron-Buhl, Hillcrest  
Lutheran

# RECENT PREP MILESTONES

## Points - Game - Girls

- 57 - Maddyn Greenway, Providence Academy, 2/6/26  
vs. Hill-Murray
- 53 - Tori Oehrlein, Crosby-Ironton, 2/21/26 vs.  
Minnehaha Academy
- 50 - Chloe Johnson, Duluth Marshall, 2/2/26 vs. Rice Lake

## Points - Game - Boys

- 70 - Jordan Borowicz, Roseau, 2/17/26 vs. Warroad
- 51 - Ethan Sonju, Glencoe-Silver Lake, 2/24/26 vs.  
Dassel-Cokato
- 50 - Mat Matejka, Dover-Eyota, 1/15/26 vs.  
Rushford-Peterson

## 3000 Points - Boys

- Jordan Borowicz, 2027, Roseau, 2/17/26 vs. Warroad

## 2000 Points - Boys

- Ethan Martin, 2026, Belle Plaine, 2/2/26 vs. Fairmont
- Jaxon Boschee, 2026, Bemidji, 2/10/26 vs. Moorhead
- Luke Roschen, 2026, Goodhue, 2/17/26 vs.  
Stewartville
- Jo Jo Mitchell, 2026, Cretin-Derham Hall, 2/17/26  
vs. Irondale
- Cole Jacobson, 2026, Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop, 2/20/26 vs.  
Madelia
- Daulton Bauer, 2026, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, 2/20/26  
vs. United South Central

## 3000 Points - Girls

- Kadence Pierce, 2026, Ogilvie, 2/5/26 vs. Mille Lacs
- Chloe Johnson, 2028, Duluth Marshall, 2/19/26  
vs. Aitkin
- Brielle Janssen, 2026, MACCRAY, 2/24/26 vs.  
Lakeview

## 2000 Points - Girls

- Camryn VanMaldeghem, 2026, NRHEG, 2/6/26 vs. Hayfield/  
Schaeffer Academy
- Marissa Tusler, 2026, West Lutheran, 2/7/26 vs. Spectrum
- Tatem Votava, 2026, East Grand Forks, 2/12/26 vs. Dilworth-  
Glyndon-Felton
- Katelyn Olson, 2026, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, 2/16/26  
vs. Waseca
- Peyton Hoffman, 2028, Climax-Fisher, 2/17/26 vs. EGF Sacred  
Heart
- Parker Yaggie, 2026, Breckenridge, 2/18/26 vs. Underwood
- Aubrie Klug, 2026, Caledonia, 2/19/26 vs. La Crescent/Hokah
- Kinley Soiney, 2026, Spring Grove, 2/19/26 vs.  
Grand Meadow
- Brooklyn Lewis, 2026, New Ulm, 2/20/26 vs.  
Coon Rapids
- Chloe Carlson, 2026, Proctor, 2/24/26 vs.  
Two Harbors

Lexi Lamppa, 2026, Rock Ridge, 3/8/26 vs. Cloquet

## 1000 Rebounds - Girls

- Chloe Johnson, 2028, Duluth Marshall, 1/20/26  
vs. Proctor
- Quinn VanMaldeghem, 2026, NRHEG, 1/30/26  
vs. Kenyon-Wanamingo
- Brooklyn Mitchell, 2026, La Crescent/Hokah, 2/6/26 vs.  
Caledonia
- Kathryn Thayer, 2026, Kelliher/Northome, 2/7/26  
vs. Nevis
- Aubrey Steffl, 2027, Cedar Mountain, 2/10/26  
vs. Wabasso
- Addison Hudalla, 2028, Swanville, 2/20/26 vs.  
Brandon-Evansville
- Maya Kilian, 20237, New Prague, 2/20/26 vs.  
Bloomington Jefferson

## 1000 Rebounds - Boys

- Benjamin Carlin, 2026, East Central, 1/26/26 vs. Rush City
- Isaac Asmus, 2026, Aitkin, 2/5/26 vs. Chisholm
- Raymond Brau, 2027, Hibbing, 2/12/26 vs. Cloquet

## Rebounds - Game - Boys

- 34 - Caden Frericks, Wabasso, 2/28/26 vs. Minneota

## Assists - Career - Boys

- 1275 - Jayden Moore, Hopkins, 2/17/26 vs. Wayzata (new  
career record)

## Quadruple-Doubles

- Tori Oehrlein, Crosby-Ironton, 2/5/26 vs. Mora  
(47p, 17r, 15a, 13s)
- Tori Oehrlein, Crosby-Ironton, 2/28/26 vs. Aitkin (42p, 14r,  
10a, 11s)

## Triple-Quadruple

- Kathryn Thayer, 2026, Kelliher/Northome (1,000th rebound  
to go with points and steals)

## Wins - Girls Coaches

- 700 - Bill Gottenborg of Barnesville, 2/7/26 vs. Wadena-  
Deer Creek

## Wins - Boys Coaches

- 200 - Destry Sterkel of EGF Sacred Heart, 2/7/26 vs.  
Northern Freeze

Boys & Girls Grades 8-9

Scan Code

Register/More Info:

[www.pacesettersports.net](http://www.pacesettersports.net)

\$240/team

3-game guarantee



# STATE

Minnesota

## Championships

Sunday,  
March 29, 2026

St. Cloud

Use Link or Scan QR Code Above:

<https://www.pacesettersports.net/mn-state/>

Registration Deadline: March 19 or until filled with 16 teams



*DREAMS DO COME TRUE!*

All Minnesota school/community teams in 8th and 9th grade are invited to register directly the Pacesetter Minnesota State Championships in St. Cloud on Sunday, March 29, for a chance to qualify for the Pacesetter Great Five-State Championships at the Target Center this summer.

**16-team limit per grade/gender**

## ROAD TO THE TARGET CENTER!

### GREAT 5-STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

IA • MN • ND • SD • WI

The Minnesota state champion and runner-up in each grade will receive a bid to represent Minnesota in the Pacesetter Great Five-State Championships at the Target Center in Minneapolis this summer.



# BOYS & GIRLS GRADES 4-7

Register Online:  
[www.pacesettersports.net/mn-state/](http://www.pacesettersports.net/mn-state/)  
Registration Deadline: March 18 or until full  
\$240/team • 3-4 game guarantee



## Invitational Tournament

**Sat, March 28**  
**St. Cloud**

The 2026 Pacesetter Minnesota Invitational Tournament (MIT) will be held in St. Cloud, MN, where teams in grades 4-7 will battle for the prestigious MIT State championship. All MIT teams will play 3-4 full games on Saturday, March 28. Teams will be accepted on a first-come, first served basis with a limit set at 16 teams per grade.



Or For More Info/To Register:  
[www.pacesettersports.net](http://www.pacesettersports.net)

*Teams are asked to register ASAP as the field will be limited to the first 16 teams per grade to register*

Scan Code



★ GRAND FORKS FAST BREAK CLUB ★

# JR. GRAND AM

## YOUTH BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



GRADES 3-12  
BOYS & GIRLS

APRIL  
**10-12**

Games will be played at local schools, the Betty Engelstad Sioux Center, Alerus Center, Choice Health & Fitness, and the UND Wellness Center.

**GIRLS: FRIDAY-  
SATURDAY**

**BOYS: SATURDAY-  
SUNDAY**



REGISTRATION  
FEE

**\$225**

PER TEAM

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

★ [HTTPS://SITES.GOOGLE.COM/  
VIEW/GFFASTBREAK](https://sites.google.com/view/gffastbreak) ★



# TOUR OF CHAMPIONS

## Basketball Camps

Coming soon to a gym near you – or even YOUR gym

*These state champions are getting ready to teach your kids!*



**Paul McDonald**

- Former head men's coach Vermilion Comm. College
- 18 state tournaments – MCC
- Record: 538-248
- Director of MN BB News Top 100 Expo Showcase
- 2-time HS state champion as player



**Dave Cresap**

- Head Coach, M State-Fergus Falls (former Perham HS)
- 30-4 record, 4th at Nationals (2024-25)
- Perham HS State Champ (2011), 5 state appearances
- MBCA & Valley City State HOF (2022)
- 2011 National Coach of the Year, 700+ wins



**Jeff Wall**

- Former head coach - Anoka & Maranatha Academy
- MBCA Hall of Fame - 2022
- MN Class A Coach of the Year - 2001
- State Appearances: 5 times
- Record: 640-302



**Tom Vix**

- Former head coach – Rushford-Peterson
- 16 State tournaments – 684-239 record
- State Champion 3 times, Runner-up 2x
- Minnesota State 1A Coach of the Year 1998, 2018
- National Coach of the Year Finalist – 2018



**Sascha Hansen**

- 2x state champion at Marshall 2001, 2002
- Played basketball at St. Cloud State 2002-2006
- Three-time captain and All-conference player
- Senior Athlete of the Year at St. Cloud State
- College coach at SW MN State & HS coach at SC Tech



**Gary Thomas**

- Former Augustana head men's coach
- HS Class AA state champions - Watertown, SD
- Led Class AA team to state 5 of 6 years
- Camp director since 1978
- Former elementary principal - Brookings, SD



**Katie Borowicz**

- Played for the MN Gophers
- Started in Big Ten at 17 years old
- Roseau HS State champion 2017
- Played varsity as 7th grader
- State record - 21 assists in a single game



**Wendy Kohler**

- Winningest Female Basketball Coach in MN
- Class AAA State Champions – 1997
- State appearances – 11 times
- Minnesota "Coach of the Year" - 3 times
- National Coach of the Year finalist – 2019

Host a 2-day 12-hour camp in your gym...by one of the best coaches in MN/SD.  
 \$180/player - the "BEST TIPS" of champions with one-on-one guidance over 12 hours.  
 A few openings are still available.



## RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE YOUR HIGH CHARACTER STUDENT-ATHLETES

We recognize and celebrate **high character student-athletes** who have given back to their school or community, positively overcome difficult circumstances, or have an infectious positive attitude that makes everyone around them a better person.

## POSITIVE ATHLETE IS MORE THAN A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. WE HELP PREPARE ATHLETES FOR LIFE.

Nominees are eligible for sport-specific awards, scholarships, character development resources, and career readiness opportunities, in addition to exclusive access to partner benefits.

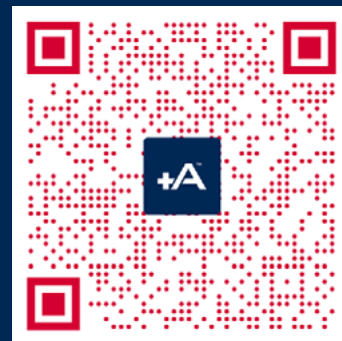
Our mission is to encourage student-athletes to **recognize their value beyond just athletic ability** and to make an impact in their communities.

### FREE AND EASY TO NOMINATE

- Takes less than **5 minutes** to nominate.
- There is **no limit** on the number of athletes you can recognize. Any boy or girl, **Grades 9-12**, participating in **any sport**, can be nominated.
- **Special category** for coaches and athletic directors.
- Every nominated student-athlete is immediately eligible to win a **\$2,500 scholarship**, and will receive access to the **Positive Athlete App**. Scholarship funds are increasing daily, with **over \$100,000 available** to be awarded in 2026!
- **Nominations close April 15th, 2026.**

### NOMINATE TODAY!

POSITIVETHLETE.ORG/MINNESOTA  
OR SCAN THIS QR CODE



**GREAT LAKES REGION**

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
ZPHILLIPS@POSITIVETHLETE.ORG