

- Great 5-State team photos and action photos
- Sweet 16 Schedules
- Top 100 Showcase photos
- Kunze spotlights Gophers

Pacesetter Great 5-State champs crowned at Target Center

Teams from five states dueled at region and state levels to reach Pacesetter's Great Five State held July 11-12 and 17-18 at Target Center.



Lily Schrage of Clear Creek-Amana scores at Target Center.

PACESSETTER GREAT FIVE STATE CHAMPIONS

4th grade boys: will be Aug. 8-9

4th grade girls: Crestwood (IA)

5th grade boys: Blue Earth (MN)

5th grade girls: Crestwood (IA)

6th grade boys: St. Cloud Tech (MN)

6th grade girls: St. Cloud (MN)

7th grade girls: Casselton (ND)

7th grade boys: Wagner (SD)

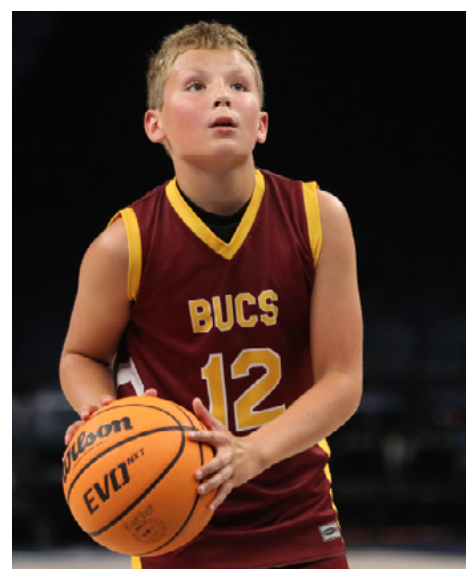
8th grade girls: Clear Creek-Amana (IA)

8th grade boys: will be Aug. 8-9

9th grade girls: will be Aug. 8-9

9th grade boys: Duluth Denfeld (MN)

Team photos on Pages 13-15



Drew Swanson of Blue Earth lines up a free shot.

36th Annual Pacesetter “Sweet 16” basketball championships set for August 1-2 at St. Ben’s

Pacesetter Sports will be conducting the 36th Annual Pacesetter “Sweet 16” Championships at The College of St. Ben’s on Saturday and Sunday, August 1-2.

Minnesota’s strongest varsity basketball teams annually gather at this event to battle for one championship as a test to see which teams are likely to play and prevail in the high school state tournament in March.

For the boys, one 2026 state champion, Minnehaha Academy 26-5 (2A), and seven other teams, Blaine 22-8 (4A), Minneapolis South 21-10 (3A), Sartell 22-10 (3A), Pequot Lakes 30-2 (2A), Red Lake County 20-5 (1A), Upsala 24-8 (1A), and the state 1A runner-up, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, were all 2026 high school state tournament teams.

“The teams fell into place almost perfectly with four of the top teams in each class accepting their invitation and registering early. It’s going to be a great tournament of high-level basketball,” said Pacesetter director, Jeff McCarron, who will be directing his 36th Sweet 16.

Each year the top four teams in each class as projected by Minnesota Basketball News are invited to play. The teams are then mixed by class within each group of four teams in the bracket. See the bracket for match ups.

“One of our 1A teams, Underwood, had to

drop due to injuries, so we took our next team on the waiting list, 4A St. Cloud Tech.” Other top teams include perennial 4A powerhouse, Hopkins 21-8; Farmington and Andover, both 4A and 19-10 last season; 3A Hibbing 20-9 and 3A St. Cloud Apollo 19-8, and 2A powers Rushford-Peterson 24-4 and Pelican Rapids 23-6.

For the girls, many top teams opted out with the volleyball season coming soon and family vacations on the schedule, but the field of eight teams will feature two defending state champions, 4A Rosemount 29-3 and 2A Providence Academy 28-4, who ran their state championship winning streak to a state record five consecutive years last March.

Other girls’ teams battling for the summer crown as Minnesota’s No. 1 will be 4A Minnetonka 21-6, 4A Coon Rapids 10-16, a young upstart 3A St. Paul Harding 15-11, the always strong 2A Albany 14-14 and Pequot Lakes 20-10, and 1A Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 21-8.

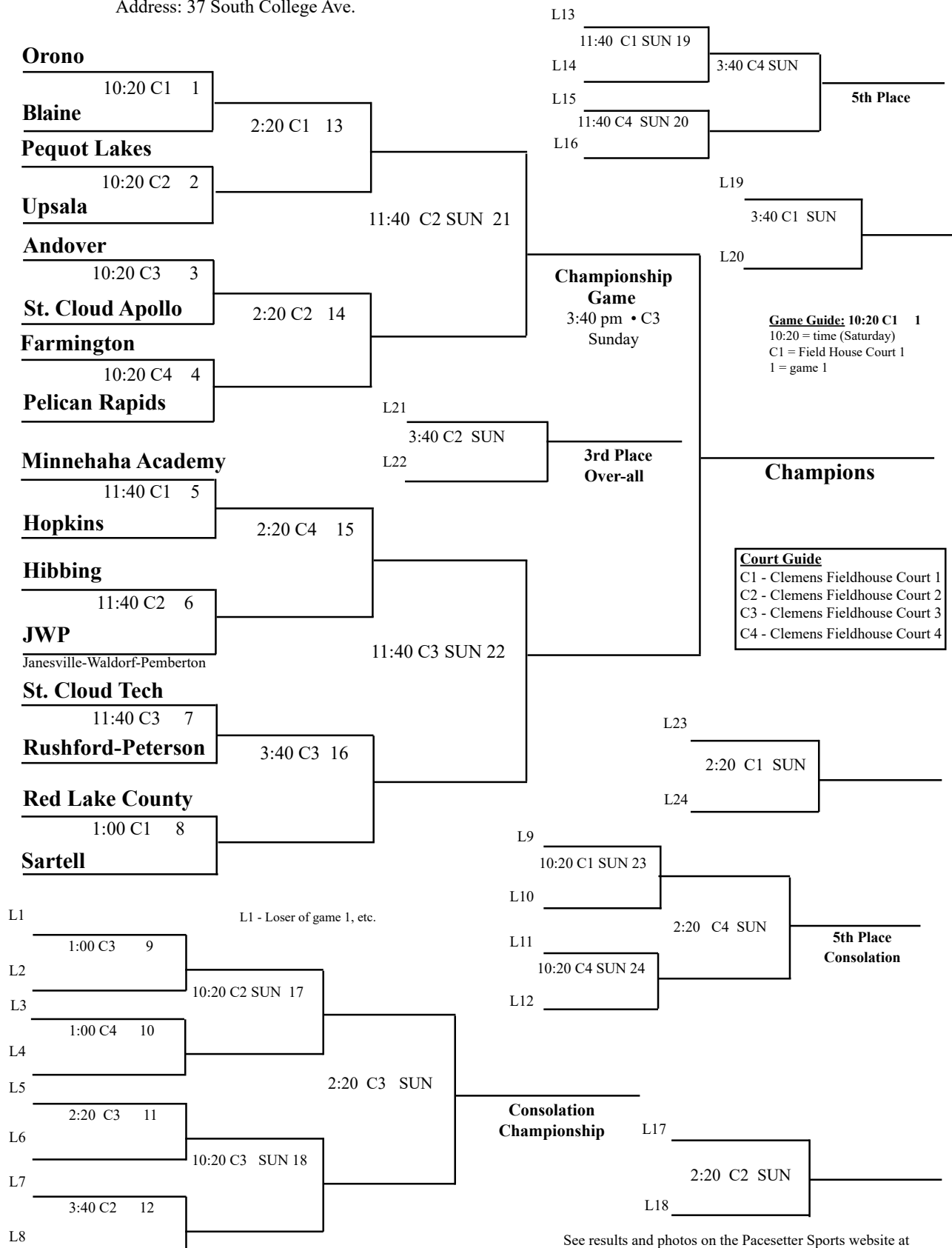
The girls will play three games in two pools of four teams, followed by the finals for the Division championships on Sunday afternoon. See schedule.

All games are played on four courts in Clemens Field House in the Hahn Center and are open to the public.

2026 Pacesetter Boys "Sweet 16" Championship

Haehn Campus Center • Clemens Field House • College of St. Benedict • St. Joseph, MN • Varsity Boys • Sat-Sun, Aug 1-2

Address: 37 South College Ave.



2026 Pacesetter Girls "Sweet 16" Championship

Haehn Campus Center • Clemens Field House • College of St. Benedict • St. Joseph, MN • Varsity Girls • Sat-Sun, Aug 1-2

Address: 37 South College Ave.

TEAMS

W

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Teams

Time

Court

EAST

Saturday Games:

1) Rosemount	1 vs. 2	9:00 am	Court 2
2) St. Paul Harding	3 vs. 4	9:00 am	Court 3
3) Pequot Lakes	1 vs. 3	11:40 am	Court 4
4) Albany	2 vs. 4	1:00 pm	Court 2

WEST

Saturday Games:

5) Providence Academy	5 vs. 6	3:40 pm	Court 1
6) Coon Rapids	7 vs. 8	3:40 pm	Court 4
7) Minnetonka	5 vs. 7	5:00 pm	Court 2
8) Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton	6 vs. 8	5:00 pm	Court 3

All teams will play two games on Saturday with each game being 9-minute stopped time quarters.

The third pool game will be Sunday morning.

Sunday Morning Games:

1 vs. 4	9:00 am	Court 1
2 vs. 3	9:00 am	Court 2
5 vs. 8	9:00 am	Court 3
6 vs. 7	9:00 am	Court 4

Teams will then be seeded 1-2-3-4 for the final championship round of games Sunday afternoon.

Tie-breakers: 1) Head-to-head 2) Lowest margin of loss 3) Coin flip

Sunday Championship Games:

Court 1	1:00 pm	East #4 vs. West #4	_____ vs. _____
Court 4	1:00 pm	East #3 vs. West #3	_____ vs. _____
Court 2	1:00 pm	East #2 vs. West #2	_____ vs. _____
Court 3	1:00 pm	East #1 vs. West #1	_____ vs. _____

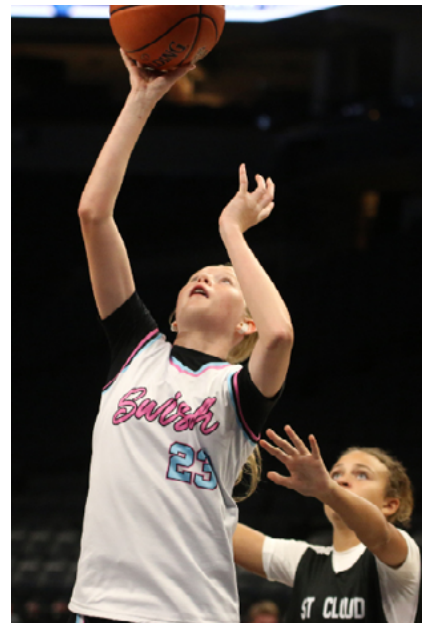
CHAMPION: _____

RUNNER-UP: _____



Great 5-state action

Karter Schoenrock (13) of Blue Earth works against Sioux Valley; Hayden Anderson (23) of Casselton; Hayden Zahasky of Crestwood shoots; Kira Pettrow of Clear Creek shoots while a Perham player goes for a block.



Minnesota Basketball News photos



Great 5-state action

Clockwise from top: Bria McCarville of Crestwood, and Kaia Hulst (4) and Zira Butler (54) of Roseau; Graeme Strouth (0) of Alexandria; Baron Burggraaf (24) of Sioux Valley and Will Johnson of Blue Earth; Olivia McCatherine (3) and Orly Reese (21) of St. Cloud and Nora Lotvect of Casselton.



Pacesetter Top 100 Showcase

The annual Top 100 invitational showcase was attended by 64 boys and 64 girls at St. Ben's on July 2.



The boys (top) and girls Top 100 invited players posed prior to playing 3 games each.



Paul McDonald, longtime college coach, spoke to the players about what's ahead for them in college

Pacesetter Top 100 Showcase



3-0 boys team: Purdue

Coach Eric Coleman, Eli Jensen (23, Granada-Huntley), Karsten Miller (55, Zumbota-Mazeppa), Carson Kettner (57, Nicollet), Henry Stavnes (8, Red Rock Central), Gavin Doherty (10, Orono), Cam Moore (15, Eastview), Will Adams (34, LeSueur-Henderson), Nathan Kaiser (East Grand Forks Sacred Heart)



3-0 girls team: Texas

Samantha Konz (20, Morris Area), Leah Berlinger (40, Morris Area), Clare Rasset (14, Kimball), Reese Millerbernd (17, Buffalo), Addison Campion (54, Jordan), Emersyn Berge (18, Hillcrest Lutheran), Lilly Henriksen (59, BOLD), Kinnley Colligan (68, Rogers), coach Abby Notch

Pacesetter Top 100 Showcase



Boys all-tournament

Henry Stavnes (8, Red Rock Central, tourney MVP), Nick Young (63, Pierz), Mika James (19, Westonka), Preston Bernander (62, Brainerd), Santiago Connell (6, Shakopee), Isaac Allen (39, West Central), Gavin Olson (35, Blaine), Reid Defeyter (51, Mounds View), Lance Johnson (11, Andover), Carson Kettner (57, Nicollet), Tate Hartman (28, Red Wing)



Girls all-tournament

Lilly Henricksen (59, BOLD), Mazie Jurek (56, Kimball), Kinnley Colligan (68, Rogers, tourney MVP), Kamryn Kirkwood (2, Pelican Rapids), Aubrey Halverson (34, Red Lake County), Karla Hedrick (28, Farmington), Jenna Christopherson (33, Hayfield), Zuri Hayes (55, Richfield), Calee Hirst (37, Fergus Falls), Brielle Gray (19, East Ridge), Emmerson Nelson (71, Blooming Prairie)



Showcase Action



Clockwise from left: Grant Henjum (52, New London-Spicer) and Coy Thone (58, Luverne), Santiago Connell (6, Shakopee) and Ross Stoeher (24, Chatfield), Eli Jensen (23, Granada-Huntley); Connor Watts (Eastview, left), Owen Birkholz (18, MN Valley Luth.) and Ben Gillingsrud (Red Lake County)



Minnesota Basketball News photos



Show case action



Clockwise from top: Addy Jorgenson (26, Lakeview), Brynlee Koenigs (9, Southland), Kamryn Kirkwood (2, Pelican Rapids) and Rose Keating (29, Minneapolis Southwest); Kirkwood again, Ella Ling (29, PACT); Marie Jurek (56, Kimball) and Samantha Konz (20, Morris Area); Konz again and Marissa Kelly (3, Southwest Christian); Carly Mitchell (51, Holdingford) and Elaine Schwartz (67, Blooming Prairie); Addison Campion (Jordan)



Kunze's take on Gophers

Terry Kunze, former Gopher guard, leader of a state champion Duluth Central team, and college and European pro coach, is a MBBN contributor as an analyst.

The Minnesota Gophers and coach Milo Medved are looking to improve on last season's surprising results. Short-handed and picked last in the Big Ten, they surpassed all expectations with eight conference wins and several surprise showings against ranked opponents. All this was accomplished with seven players playing 30-40 minutes per game. With that season behind them, we will look at the new roster that is making the coaching staff and boosters excited about the coming season.

GUARDS

Isaac Asuma (6-3 junior, 10.2 ppg) is a two-year starter and potential All-Big Ten candidate who can score and is a super defender. At point or 2, he's a leader. He's improved his 3-point shooting and should have a great year.



Jr. guard Isaac Asuma
Mesabi Tribune photo

Kyan Evans (6-2 senior), a transfer from North Carolina, gives the Gophers an experienced back court paired with Asuma. He averaged about 10 points with consistent shooting and play making. Medved coached him at Colorado State.

Kai Shinitolster (6-4 sophomore) is an athletic player who gained a lot of experience and improvement last season. He had good quickness and can shoot it. He can play 1-2-3 and may have a breakout season.

Cedric Tomes (6-1 freshman) averaged 30 points for East Ridge last year. He could be tough to cover once he gets accustomed to the speed of major college ball. He's an excellent 3-point shooter with great ball skills and not afraid of the big stage.

FORWARDS

Bobby Durkin (6-7 senior) showed his pure shooting ability last year averaging 10-plus points. Not quick but has a quick release and ability to move without the ball.

His shooting should open up space for the posts. Must be guarded or he can kill you from 3.

Jalen Crocker Johnson (6-8 senior) will be the backbone of the team. He is a beast on the glass and a capable 1-on-1 threat to go inside and draw fouls. At the 4 spot he will board with anyone in the league. He can knock down 3's also. Averaged 13 points with Colorado State.

Nolan Anderson (6-8 freshman) is a shooter-shooter-shooter and started doing other things halfway through the season at Wayzata, including becoming a solid rebounder. He will have to get used to the strength and quickness of the Big Ten and work on his defense at this level. Has all the skills to potentially become a solid Big Ten forward.

Nolan Grove (6-6 freshman) averaged about 35 points at Orono. Coach Barry Wohler praised his skills and toughness. I feel he will play this season and can't see anyone who is a tougher all-around player. He will draw fouls, really defend, and be an outstanding rebounder.

CENTERS

Grayson Grove (6-9 sophomore) really grew up last year and made great contributions down the stretch. The Alexandria product has a nose for the ball on the boards, runs the floor well, is a good defender and a wonderful passer; if you're open he will find you. Must work on his outside shooting.

Malick Kordel (7-2 275-pound sophomore), from Germany, has coaches raving. I have not seen him but rest assured he will be the starting center. He transferred from Michigan.

Winters Grady (6-6 freshman), a transfer from Michigan, is a four-star shooter. He was injured last year and did not play a lot. This was a good get for the Gophers and should be a solid contributor.

Chadrick Mpoyi (6-11 freshman) is another player I have not seen. A four-star from California. We should expect big things from this young man.

Malachi Palmer (6-7 junior) started for Villanova last year and had a high game of 15 points. I have not seen him but he should get some playing time.

Great 5-State champions



4TH GRADE GIRLS: CRESTWOOD (IA)

Crestwood (IA) beat Roseau (MN) in the finals 29-9. Benson (MN) placed third. Players: Bria McCarville, Emma Hoskovec, Bell McCabe, Soryn Hvitved, Laney Lickteig, Marie Klimesh, Addy Shimek, Sienna Zahasky, Hayden Zahasky, and manager Brynn McCarville. Coaches: Kyle McCarville, Courtney Shimek.



5TH GRADE GIRLS: CRESTWOOD (IA)

Crestwood (IA) beat Pillager (MN) 30-9 in the finals. Mt. Iron-Buhl (MN) placed third. Crestwood players: Sully McCarville, Landree McCarville, Emeryn Teeling, Emmaline Rogne, Cora Kach, Tatum Mun- kel, Ellie Sajdak and Harper Riley. Coach: Samantha McCarville



5TH GRADE BOYS: BLUE EARTH (MN)

Blue Earth (MN) beat Sioux Valley (SD) in the finald 45-30, after edging Alexandria 27-23 in the semi-finals. Alexandria placed third. Blue Earth players: Kody Schoenrock, Cole Hartman, Preston Jones, Kyser Brandt, Anchor Johnson, Drew Swenson, Karter Schoenrock, Karter Preusse, Will Johnson. Coaches: Colby Swanson, Matt Schoenrock

Great 5-State champions



6TH GRADE BOYS: ST. CLOUD TECH (MN)

St. Cloud Tech (MN) beat Brandon (SD), in the finals 46-41. Bismarck, ND, placed third. Players: August Martin, Deniz Miller, Devan Zimmer, Gabriel Johnson, Coy Wickline, AJ Jackson, Grayson Gall, and Ajwon Ojullu. Coaches: Derek Miller, Bruce Brantley. Ryan Zimmer



6TH GRADE GIRLS: ST. CLOUD (MN)

St. Cloud (MN) beat Red Lake (MN) in the finals. St. Cloud players: Jacey Ceaser, Olivia McCatherine, Lucy Heine, Aniya Benoit, Orly Reese, Lydia Bierne, Kenzi Butler, Addison Breth, Rainbow Brufahr. Coaches: Betsy Reese, Karen Heine, Macy Ceasar



7TH GRADE GIRLS: CASSELTON (ND)

Casselton (ND) beat St. Cloud (MN) in the finals. Red Lake (MN) placed third. Casselton players were Mila Reed, Maddie Rudie, Macy McGrath, Quinn Gunkel, Nora Lotvedt, Hayden Anderson, Oaklyn Hedin, Mallory Faller. Coaches: Joe Hedin, Josh Rudie

Great 5-State champions



7TH GRADE BOYS: WAGNER (SD)

The Wagner Nakota Coyotes beat Sioux Falls (SD) in the finals 41-23. Clearbrook-Gonvick (MN) placed third. Wagner team members: Isnala Joseph, Houston Paxton, Cristian Knudsen, Noah Kampshoff, David Sully, Elijah Sully, Cashyss Gunhammer, Jahvel Hare, Cartyr Gunhammer, Kingston Hart. Coaches: Travis Holiday (head) and Dennis Ross



8TH GRADE GIRLS: CLEAR CREEK-AMANA (IA)

Clear Creek-Amana (IA) beat Perham (MN) in the finals 39-5. West Mountain Windom (MN) placed third. Clear Creek-Amana players: Amara Bila, Mya Conover, Charley Carlson, Key Ra Cooney, Brecklyn O'Hare, Mya McElliott, Elia Sheehan, Hadley Karsjens, and Lily Schrage. Coaches: Tom Schrage, Holly Carlson.



9TH GRADE BOYS: DULUTH DENFELD (MN)

Duluth Denfeld (MN) beat Pipestone (MN) 48-28 and St. Cloud Tech (MN) 39-28 to win a round robin format with Tech second and Pipestone third. Denfeld players: Easton Huggins, Ethan Jeanette, Ethan Gould, Jamir Lofton, King Phillips, Carter Worley, Joseph Durpre, Tristan Latimore. Coaches: Phill Homere, Ray Gamble

TO BECOME YOUR BEST, LEARN FROM THE BEST!
OPEN TO ALL AREA PLAYERS!

2026 **PACESETTER**
TOUR OF CHAMPIONS
Basketball Camp

"Championship Coaches - BEST TEACHING TIPS!"

Rochester Community & Technical College - MN

Wednesday-Thursday, July 29-30

Grades refer to the 2026-2027 school year

ONE group - Two 6-hour sessions
 12-hour program • \$15/hour

Boys & Girls Entering Grades 4-8

9:00 am - 12:00 pm AND 1:00 - 4:00 pm • \$180/player
 Players need to bring a lunch

Limit of 48 players per session

WHY PACESETTER?

- Midwest leader in HIGH QUALITY, LOW COST programs
- Successful coaches who love kids and love to teach
- Focus on "Fundamentals for Champions" at each level

"I wouldn't have achieved what I did without my great start at Pacesetter!"

-Carol Ann Shudlick, MN Gopher, Wade Trophy - Top Female Player in the USA

Camp Director: Tom Vix

- 16 State tournaments - 684-239 record
- State Champion 3x, 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 McCamron, Pacesetter founder

**Space is Limited -
 REGISTER EARLY!**

www.pacesettersports.net

To register - or scan QR code



TO BECOME YOUR BEST, LEARN FROM THE BEST!
OPEN TO ALL AREA PLAYERS!

2026 **PACESETTER** **TOUR OF CHAMPIONS** **Basketball Camp**

"Championship Coaches - BEST TEACHING TIPS!"

Willow River High School - MN

Monday-Tuesday, August 3-4

Grades refer to the 2026-2027 school year

Session 1:

Boys & Girls Entering Grades 7-12

9:00 am - 12:00 pm • \$90/player

Session 2:

Boys & Girls Entering Grades 4-8

1:00 - 4:00 pm • \$90/player

Limit of 48 players per session

7th and 8th graders may attend either or both sessions

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-Carol Ann Shudlick, MN Gopher, Wade Trophy - Top Female Player in the USA

Camp Director: Joel McDonald

- Boys & Girls Head Coach (24 Years Total)
- 300+ Career Wins
- 30 Years of Camp Director Experience
- Specializes in Skills Specific Training
- MN HS State Champion - 1991
- 1991 MN Mr. Basketball



"Joel was a scoring machine averaging 39 ppg. He's a gentleman and a wonderful teacher!"

-Jeff McCarron, Pacesetter founder

Camp Director: Ayden McDonald

- Member of University of MN-Duluth Men's Coaching Staff
- Skills Training Specialty
- 2,400+ Career Points
- 1,000+ Career Assists
- 500+ Career Steals



"Ayden is living proof of what practicing can do. He's learned from a master!"

-Jeff McCarron, Pacesetter founder

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2026 **PACESETTER**
TOUR OF CHAMPIONS
Basketball Camp

"Championship Coaches - BEST TEACHING TIPS!"

Willow River High School - MN

Shooting & Offensive Skills! Wed, August 5

Grades refer to the 2026-2027 school year

Session 1:

Boys & Girls Entering Grades 4-12

9:00 am - 12:00 pm AND 1:00 - 4:00 pm • \$90/player

Players need to bring a lunch

Limit of 48 players per session

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OPEN TO ALL AREA PLAYERS!

2026 **PACESSETTER**
TOUR OF CHAMPIONS
Volleyball Camp

"Championship Coaches - BEST TEACHING TIPS!"

Redwood Valley High School - MN

Monday-Tuesday, August 3-4

Grades refer to the 2026-2027 school year

Session 1:

Players Entering Grades 8-12

9:00 am - 12:00 pm AND 1:00 - 4:00 pm • \$180/player

Players need to bring a lunch

Limit of 36 players per session

WHY PACESSETTER?

- Midwest leader in HIGH QUALITY, LOW COST programs
- Successful coaches who love kids and love to teach
- Focus on "Fundamentals for Champions" at each level
- 41st year of volleyball camps!

Camp Director: Nicholas Erdman

- Current Assistant Coach & Recruiting Coordinator, Nebraska Wesleyan University (NCAA DIII - Lincoln, NE)
- Club Coach at VC Nebraska (UIZ top-ranked program); USAV Official (Great Plains); 2026 U19 Great Plains All-Star Coach
- 10+ years coaching experience: High School, Club, NCAA & NCAA Division III
- Former Men's Club Volleyball Player, Concordia University Wisconsin



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2026 **PACESSETTER**
TOUR OF CHAMPIONS
Volleyball Camp

"Championship Coaches - BEST TEACHING TIPS!"

Redwood Valley High School - MN

Wednesday-Thursday, August 5-6

Grades refer to the 2026-2027 school year

Session 1:

Players Entering Grades 4-7

9:00 am - 12:00 pm AND 1:00 - 4:00 pm • \$180/player

Players need to bring a lunch

Limit of 36 players per session

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