

- Sweet 16 team photos and action photos
- *All Sweet 16 scores
- MN, ND and SD teams win at Great 5-State
- Kunze spotlights Wolves

Apollo boys, Providence girls are Pacesetter Sweet 16 champs

BOYS TOP 3

1. St. Cloud Apollo
2. Sartell
3. Minnehaha Academy

GIRLS TOP 3

1. Providence Academy
2. Rosemount
3. Minnetonka



Above: St. Cloud Apollo's Trevor Terfehr soared to attempt a dunk in the finals against Sartell. He drew a foul on the play.

Left: Providence Academy's Beckett Greenway barrelled to the hoop against Rosemount in the finals.

Apollo caps super summer

Tips Sartell in finals to finish off-season with 27-2 mark

By Bruce Strand

St. Cloud Apollo emerged as the Pacesetter Sweet 16 boys champion in a tournament dominated by St. Cloud area teams at nearby College of St. Benedict's on Aug. 1-2.

Apollo defeated Sartell in the championship game 65-51. Along with that 1-2 finish for Granite City teams, St. Cloud Tech captured fifth place among 16 teams.

"This tournament win means a lot for the program," said Deon Pierce, Apollo coach. "The boys have put in a lot of work both on and off the court this off-season, so it is great that the team is getting the recognition they deserve."

Th Eagles, who were 19-8 last season, had a great summer season, going 27-2 overall in three tournaments and two team camps.



Apollo's Trevor Terfehr shoots a leaner in the finals.



Apollo's Goay Hoth heads for the hoop guarded by Sartell's Karson Lewis (4).

They are led by DeAnthony Sells, who averaged 20 points and nine rebounds last year; Trevor Terfehr, who averaged 16 points, eight rebounds and six assists; and Goay Hoth, who averaged 10 points. Sells will be a senior; Terfehr and Hoth will be juniors.

"Our main goals for the 2026-2027 season are to win our conference and win the section finals," said Pierce.

Minnehaha Academy, coming off a state Class 2A championship season, claimed third place with an 89-80 win over Orono.

Apollo beat Andover 80-70 in the first round, then Farmington 78-72 and Orono 59-55 in the semifinals. Sartell



Apollo's DeAnthony Sells (1), sprints up the floor with Sartell's Isaac Mancini in pursuit.

advanced with wins over Red Lake County 67-54, St. Cloud Tech 75-61 and Minnehaha Academy 72-71. St. Cloud Tech topped Farmington 75-63 for fifth place.

The Sweet 16, in its 36th year, invites the top four teams from Class 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A for a one-class showdown each August.

Title starts Lions' new era

Post-Maddyn, Providence nabs first Sweet 16 win

By Bruce Strand

Providence Academy, fresh from their fifth consecutive Class 2A championship in March, have added their first Sweet 16 title.

The Lions went 4-0, capped by a 63-25 win over Rosemount in the finals, Aug. 1-2 at St. Benedict's.

"We've always been pretty successful at this tournament, but this is the first time we've won," Lions coach Connor Goetz noted. "Very proud of our girls for accomplishing that."

Rosemount, the 4A champion in March, and last year's Sweet 16 champ, was missing most of what will be their regular lineup, due to other commitments, said coach Chris Orr. The Irish still placed second.

Providence Academy is getting acclimated to playing without longtime superstar Maddyn Greenway, now graduated.

"Our girls played great this weekend," Goetz said. "They're very excited to show the state that they were not just the 'Maddyn Greenway Show' but that they too can play some high level basketball."

Three starters return from the 2026 state championship team -- Beckett Greenway, Emma Millerbernd and Lexie Nicolai -- and former backups and players have stepped up nicely, Goetz said.

"We hope to continue to play a fast brand of basketball and push ourselves against all levels of competition to test our mettle."



Providence Academy's Emma Millerbernd drives against Rosemount's Amelia Kalstabakken.



Rosemount's Olivia Danner tosses up a 3-point shot that connected.

The Sweet 16 roster included Greenway, Lily Sabers, Blake Hudson, Millerbernd, Lilah Laughlin, Nicolai, Sydney Clemens, and Mallory Grande. They were coached by Doug Sabers.

The Lions didn't enter any other summer tournaments, in order to give the girls time for their AAU programs.

"The Pacesetter Sweet 16 is my favorite event," Goetz said. "Having coaching mentors like Brian Cosgriff share the importance of this event was something that res-

onated with me. I hope that other programs will continue to come and be honored by the invitation to play in it."

They had a close call with Minnetonka in pool play, winning 57-56 on two late free shots by Greenway. In their other pool play games they beat Coon Rapids 88-39 and Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 76-28.

Minnetonka won the third place game over Albany 65-23. There were eight teams in the tournament.

SWEET 16 BOYS SCORES

FIRST ROUND

Orono 74, Blaine 49
Pequot Lakes 72, Upsala 38
St. Cloud Apollo 80, Andover 70
Farmington 75, Pelican Rapids 54
Minnehaha Academy 70, Hopkins 67
Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 98, Hibbing 62
St. Cloud Tech 54, Rushford-Peterson 36
Sartell 67, Red Lake County 54

QUARTERFINALS

Orono 90, Pequot Lakes 77
St. Cloud Apollo 78, Farmington 72
Minnehaha Academy 66, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 44
Sartell 75, St. Cloud Tech 61

SEMIFINALS

St. Cloud Apollo 59, Orono 55
Sartell 73, Minnehaha Academy 72

CHAMPIONSHIP

St. Cloud Apollo 65, Sartell 51

THIRD PLACE

Minnehaha Academy 88, Orono 80

FIFTH PLACE

Farmington 63, Red Lake County 58
St. Cloud Tech 88, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 63

St. Cloud Tech 72, Farmington 61

SEVENTH PLACE

Pequot Lakes 79, Janesville-Waldorf-Pem. 57

CONSOLATION

Quarterfinals

Blaine 58, Upsala 25
Pelican Rapids 82, Andover 52
Hopkins 76, Hibbing 69
Red Lake County 62, Rushford-Peterson 45

Semifinals

Andover 59, Blaine 24
Hopkins 101, Red Lake County 48

Consolation Championship

Andover 82, Hopkins 72

Consolation 3rd place

Red Lake County 58, Blaine 55

Consolation 5th place bracket

Pelican Rapids 57, Upsala 50
Rushford-Peterson 72, Hibbing 53
Rushford-Peterson 74, Pelican Rapids 49
Upsala 64, Hibbing 60

SWEET 16 GIRLS SCORES

EAST POOL

St. Paul Harding 60, Rosemount 57
Albany 60, Pequot Lakes 48
Rosemount 60, Pequot Lakes 33
Albany 61, St. Paul Harding 56
Rosemount 58, Albany 41
Pequot Lakes 59, St. Paul Harding 44

WEST POOL

Providence Academy 88, Coon Rapids 39
Minnetonka 76, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 31
Providence Academy 57, Minnetonka 56
Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 66, Coon Rapids 50
Providence Academy 76, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 28
Minnetonka 66, Coon Rapids 50

FINALS

Championship

Providence Academy 63, Rosemount 25

Third place

Minnetonka 65, Albany 23

Fifth place

Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 45, Pequot Lakes 38

Seventh place

St. Paul Harding 76, Coon Rapids 49



Minnetonka's Jazmin Diang goes up for a layup.

Sweet 16 champions



St. Cloud Apollo Eagles

Front, from left: Jailen Clark (11), Liam Pierson (33), Cameron Pick (23). Back: Trevor Terfah (5), Goay Hoth (0), Lang Bielkhan (12), Tyshawyn Patterson (10), DeAnthony Sells (1), Jonah Laumeyer (15), Nathan Ochan (14), Kognwa Alema (22), Lamont Moore (21), Coach Melvin Newbern



Providence Academy Lions

Front, from left: Beckett Greenway, Lily Sabers, Blake Hudson. Back, from left: Emma Millerbernd, Lilah Laughlin, Lexie Nicolai, Sydney Clemens, Mallory Grande and Coach Doug Sabers

Sweet 16 runners-up



Sartell Sabres

Front, from left: Will Sieben (10), Deven Schumann (1), Kameron Lewis (20), Emmitt Hemmesch
Back: Coach Maddox Lewis, Bryce Willardsen (25), Brady Peters (11), Isaac Mancini (6), Daylon Holter (14),
Karson Lewis (4), Cayden Flynn, Parker Smith, Coach Kai Lewis



Rosemount Irish

Front, from left: Hildey Chappuis (50), Olivia Danner (22), Greta Kemming (11), Hana Tyrell (21), Amelia Kalstabakken (43). Back: Isla Silk (Injured), assistant coach Hattie Chappuis, Maya Kemming, Bella Puccinelli (30), Dakota Johnson (5), Shayla McDonald (34), head coach Emma Theisen

Sweet 16 Action



Clockwise from top left: Alex Pilakowski of Orono scores; Farmington's Tommy Shabert (57) scores; Farmington's Tim Bell Jr. is guarded by Tech's Alan Woods Jr.; Farmington's Brayden Harris (28) shoots; Apollo's DeAnthony Sells (1) lays one in; Minnehaha Academy's Kellen Troupe scores on a breakaway.





Sweet 16 action

Clockwise from top: Izzy Austin of Minnetonka eyes the basket; Lylah Findley (20) of Albany drives to the hoop; Minnetonka's Tate Adler clutches a rebound; Providence Academy's Lilah Laughlin takes aim.



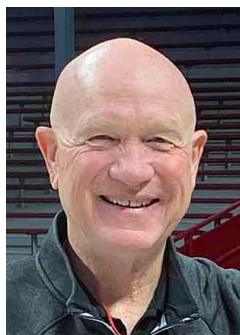
MN Basketball News photos

What can we do about the drop in kids playing basketball?

By Jeff McCarron

There are many reasons I feel grateful for being a kid in the 60's. When I was twelve and dreaming of holding a girl's hand, the Beatles were hot with "I Wanna Hold Your Hand". What timing!

We had one channel on TV, which made us very diversified - due to no other choice. Yes, we watched *John Deere Bandwagon*, *As the World Turns*, *Twilight Zone*, and *Andy Griffith*. Life was simpler then. First, you got a job, because your parents didn't give you money, so I delivered papers, walked beans, babysat, painted, rouged seed corn, and drove truck. Again, very diversified!



I also swam, fished, played golf and baseball, shot baskets, joked around at the drive-in, and stayed overnight in tents. I didn't attend basketball camps, play AAU or organized basketball - in fact, it wasn't allowed. I'm actually thankful for that. Maybe a little bit would have been fun, but what would I have wanted to give up?

The number of basketball players is dropping today. Fewer schools can field a team. Can you imagine St. Cloud Apollo (3A) and St. Cloud Tech (4A) needing to combine to field a team for girls' basketball? Yet how many players are in youth basketball in St. Cloud? What happens to all of the kids that were involved in grades 3-4-5?

Basketball is one of the greatest sports in the world! Running, jumping, trying to steal the ball, making baskets, playing as a 5-player team in front of a crowd around the court - so close you can hear them cheer, clap, and yell. Great exercise, teamwork, sportsmanship all at play in a small, exciting area. *Kids love it*. So what are adults doing to turn them off? What's correctable and what isn't?

Time commitment is too long - correctable

November to March - 4-5 months - Practices, games, extra workouts. How many seasons last that long?

Coming and going in the winter - dark and cold. A high school season used to be 18 games - now it's 26 games. *Why?* St. Cloud Apollo boys were 27-2 "for the summer"! 60 games in a year? That doesn't include AAU in the spring and summer. Some players play 100 games.

Injury risk is higher playing so much - correctable
Kids are getting injured more often. The NBA cites this risk about players coming to them, having already played 500+ games. "They have the bodies of old men."

The cost is too high - correctable

Most school programs now charge for players to play a sport. Add the cost for shoes, camps, tournaments, hotels, AAU fees, and the cost becomes too much.

Pressure is too high - correctable

Coaches and parents and other teammates often push players to do more and to specialize in one sport. I have heard of many cases where players graduate from high school and opt out of college basketball. *Why?* They are exhausted from their high school experience.

What can we do?

I think all of us who have a role should ask that question. My business, Pacesetter Basketball, provides low-cost camps anywhere we are invited. We put on a camp in Langdon, ND, for over 100 players this summer. Cost was \$45 to \$75 per player for 3-6 hours. They received teaching in the best fundamentals for each level, and they played various games 1-1, 2-2, 3-3 and 5-5. Most were left wanting more rather than wanting less. But a few wanted less! The camp was three days.

We offer a region and state playoff system for grades 4-9 - to motivate players with an exciting ending to their season. We offer one off-season event - a 5-state playoff that involves teams playing in the Target Center in the summer. It's 3-4 games in 1-2 days. We're trying to offer the best experiences for the least time and cost.

This is just the beginning of the discussion, but each group involved should ask themselves this question:

Is more better, or is it driving too many kids from the game?

Kunze's take on Wolves

Risky moves must pay off or team could slip

Terry Kunze, former Gophers guard, leader of a state champion Duluth Central team, European pro star, and former college and European pro coach, contributes to the MBBN as an analyst.

What happened with the Wolves? In my estimation, they had the third best roster in the NBA last season. Rather than bring in a piece to strengthen this team they decided to go in another direction and totally are rebuilding it.

After meeting ownership, Coach Finch changed his whole demeanor and actually said that Julius Randle and Terance Shannon are no longer Minnesota Timberwolves. Randle, former NBA all star, gave them 24 points, 8 rebounds and 5 plus assists, but was given away for nothing to Brooklyn. Randle is a top four power forward in the league and no replacement will provide his numbers. At times he carried the Wolves last season.

The other questionable decision was trading Naz Reid (former Sixth Man of the Year) for LaMelo Ball (NBA all-star point guard) who is talented with great passing skills and ability to average 20 points and 7-plus assists but has gotten Charlotte into the playoffs only once in six years. Reid is a coveted power forward, wanted by many teams, and will be hard to replace.

After several attempts to trade Rudy Gobert he will remain the starting center next season unless a multi-team trade can be made. I did see Rudy playing for France in a World Cup elimination game and he appeared in good condition and played well in a win.

The Wolves under-achieved last season. At times they refused to move the ball, choosing to go one on one instead.

Anthony Edwards dominated the offense and ran the shot clock down and showed poor shot selection. It seemed like they were always down after the first quarter. When they played their all, they were GOOD.

Edwards walking down to the San Antonio bench to congratulate the Spurs with seven minutes left showed that they had problems off the court. I feel these problems figured in these moves and Finch's attitude change was a call to shape up so if anyone wants out, they will grant your wish. All these moves are risks. The pressure is on to win now and the win window is short.

Chasing Oklahoma and San Antonio is a big challenge. The Wolves need to improve; those two sure did. Let's look at the roster and players that can make them better.

Ball, 6-7 point guard, big time pass first player, can do it all. He is the key. He will take Edwards, 6-5 scorer, off the ball and allow him to do what he does best, score. Ball will also make the Wolves a running team and spread the floor with more emphasis on 3's. But they will lose lots of points in the lane due to lack of size.

Rudy Gobert, 7-1, must board and defend and catch lobes. Scoring not needed. Jaden McDaniels, 6-10, will stay at the 3, and with Ball will increase his scoring. Ayo Dosunmu, 6-4, is a good defender and rebounds well for his size. He just signed for 3 years.

The Wolves unfortunately won't have the services of guard Donte Divincenzo, an outstanding catch and shoot guard and pesky defender. He is a winner. The knee injury that knocked him out of the playoffs will cause him to miss most of not all of the season.

Regarding team depth:

Jaylen Clark, 6-5, elite defender, not a scorer. Bones Hyland, 6-3 shooter, did not get game time vs. San Antonio. Isaiah Evans, 6-6, from Duke, arrived late at Las Vegas because the trade was not finished. An athletic shooter who can defend 1 through 3 and can run. He will score on broken floor. Joan Beringer, 6-11, from France, 19 years old, an athletic big who should back up Gobert. A big rebounder and shot blocker with good hands and plays hard. Foul prone at times due to his intensity. Rocco Zikarsky,



LaMelo Ball



Anthony Edwards

7-3, from Australia, an active big who, at 19, has skills and is learning to play at this level. A little raw.

Zyon Pullin, 6-4 point guard from Florida, was outstanding in Las Vegas averaging about 23 points and 8 assists. A nice NBA pass first point and fine shooter. But since the Wolves have not really developed young players, he could be traded. He would be an ideal backup for Ball. Trey Kaufman-Renn, 6-9, from Purdue, is a solid rebounder who must impress in camp to get minutes. Shannon, 6-6 guard forward, a rocket, was outstanding in playoffs vs. SA. Finch does not want him, but he is better than all the above players listed and should flourish in another NBA roster. Trey Lyles, 6-9, NBA veteran who also played for Real Madrid in Spain, I think, is an insurance policy for the first line if he has a good camp. Josh Green, 6-6, from Arizona, a shooter, might prove invaluable if there's more emphasis on the 3.

I don't believe this is a championship roster because of too many unknowns. It could blossom if Ball and Edwards do what is expected from them and develop and move the ball unselfishly with everyone involved.

The Wolves and coaches face a season of unknowns with the pressure from management to win now.

John "Pat" Dewey to enter Minnesota Boys' Basketball Coaches' Hall of Fame October 24

John "Pat" Dewey, former head coach at Sandstone and East Central (Sandstone-Askov) has been named to the Minnesota High School Boys' Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame. Dewey will be honored along with additional recipients at the annual banquet on Saturday, October 24, at the Marriott Hotel Northwest in Brooklyn Park.

Coach Dewey's contributions to basketball in addition to his high school roles have been monumental for Pacesetter Sports, the provider of Minnesota Basketball News and annual camps and tournamens

When Jeff McCarron was asked about Dewey's contributions, he said: "At a basketball camp in Moose Lake in 1981, my wife said, 'There's a guy over there taking notes,' I was intrigued, so I walked over to meet him. It was Pat Dewey, who'd become one of my best friends for 45 years! He said, 'We could fill

The changes resulted in developing a whole new team. With fewer points in the paint, they will put more emphasis on 3 pointers and attacking in a semi-broken floor style which should give them more transition shots. Attacking before the opponents' defenses is set up will free up Edwards and Ball to operate without doubles on them.

It is too bad LeBron did not come on board; if he had, a lot of the problems would have vanished and these moves would not have been made. Edwards and Ball must show professionalism and work ethic which will help role players fit, but is that something they will do or can do? This is the risk! I have never seen a team at this level where just two players determine success.

Also since Edwards and Ball are not catch and shoot players, will ball movement again be a problem? Rebounding will be tougher and points in the paint will not come easy, and scoring will be needed for wins. Defense and rebounding win games while shooting is up and down.

I think one more move is necessary because right now third place is attainable if everything works and sixth or lower is possible if it does not.

a camp next year in Sandstone.' He followed through the following year, and he also joined us on the Pacesetter coaching staff in 1982 at the Elk River camp."

Dewey then directed over 250 camps in 6 states over the next 40 years. He has also directed over 100 tournaments for Pacesetter, including the Sweet 16, for 36 years.

McCarron added, "It has been said that character is revealed by what one does 'when no one is watching' There is no one watching in a warm gym with a bunch of kids in the summer. No one was better at getting kids to love the game, love being there, and enjoy each moment - than Dew. He has a magic with kids - and even coached until he was 75. I can't wait to see him get the honor he deserves in front of a crowd of his peers. He set a perfect example — at all times in all places — of what a coach should be."

Pacesetter Great 5-State champs

St. Paul Harding, Sioux Falls, and Fargo/West Fargo won championships Aug. 8-9 at Target Center



8th grade boys Sioux Falls

Sioux Falls (SD) edged Russell-Tyler-Ruthton (MN) 32-30 in the finals after beating New Ulm (MN) 53-29 in the semi's. Byron (MN) beat New Ulm 33-17 for third place. Sioux Falls players were Tre Bohannon (0), Omran Adam (4), Akok Akok (5), Saber Abdalla (7), Gowdit Yol (11), Jaquan Dentzler (21) and Braxton Stewart (21). Coach was Parker Stewart.



9th grade girls St. Paul Harding

St. Paul Harding (MN) beat Towner-Granville-Upham (ND) 40-25 in the finals and Richardton-Taylor (ND) 41-34 in the semi's. Stephen-Argyle Central/Northern Freeze/Goodridge-Grygla (MN) beat Richardton-Taylor 28-26 for third. Harding players were Niyah Gullons (1), Money Uribe (3), Lara Ray (10), Nadia Badowicz (11), Janessa Gullons (23), Kyla Ranson (24), Samia Gomez (25), and Learyn Bovan (31). Coach was Samuel Gomez.



4th grade boys Fargo/West Fargo

Fargo/West Fargo (ND) defeated Perham Black (MN) 25-15 in the finals and Jackson County Central (MN) 52-15 in the semifinals. Perham Gold (MN) placed third beating JCC 36-31. F/WF players were Caleb Schillinger (0), Carter Ganske (1), Ayden Azure (5), Bennett Ubben (8), Finn Samson (10), Rory Walter (23), Brad Branca (24) and Ramsford Kolliie (26). Coaches were Todd Branca (head) and Jeff Ubben.



Clockwise from top: Christian Marthaler (1) of Perham retrieves a loose ball and scores, chased by JCC's Connor Voss; Gowdit Yol (11) of Sioux Falls muscles up for a 3-point play against RTR; Finn Samson (10) of Fargo/West Fargo drives against Graham Carstens of Perham; Ramsford Kollie (26) of Fargo/West Fargo goes for a reverse layup with Perham's Hudson Moch on defense; Bentley Lensing (10) of RTR elevates for two; Grayson Pencille (5) of Byron rebounds against New Ulm.

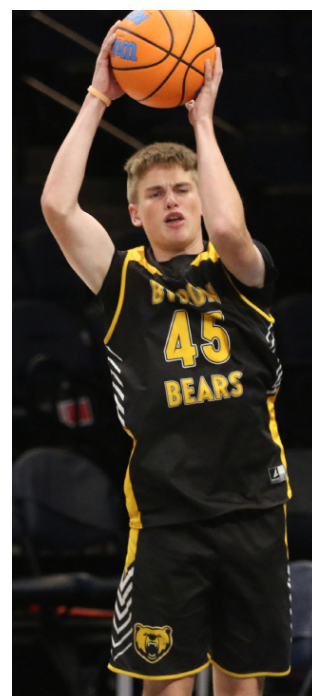


MN Basketball News photos

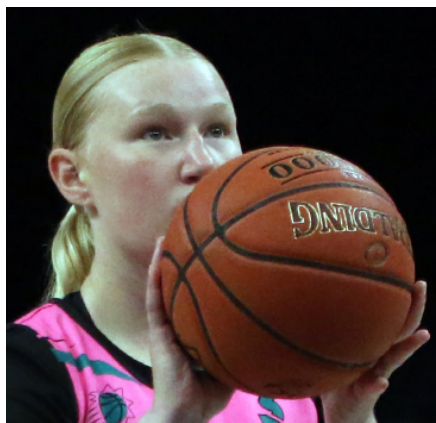
Great 5-State action



Clockwise from top left: Gavin Hook (5) of Russell-Tyler-Ruthon pulls up before scoring on a break against Sioux Falls; Grady Dager (54) of Jackson County Central snags a rebound; Keeran Bush (45) of Byron shoots; a New Ulm player clutches a loose ball against Byron's Colton Eggert and Logan Packer; Jack Rohan of Perham drives for a layup against Fargo/West Fargo.



Great 5-State action



Clockwise from top:
Samia Gomez of
Harding battles for
a rebound against
Towner-Granville-
Upham; Alana Rae
of Harding slices
through TGU defend-
ers; Graycin Johnson
(23) of Towner-
Granville-Upham
soars for two; Corbyn
Bring of Stephen-
Argyle Central/
Northern Freeze/
Goodridge-Grygla
lines up a free shot;
Paige Christensen
of Richardton-Taylor
rebounds against
SAC/NF/GG's Adley
McGregor.



MN Basketball News photos