

- *Breakdown Tip-Off
boys coverage
- *Top 20 teams
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- *Late start for Nevis

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Pirates cash in



*No. 1 team nips
No. 3 Lakeville North
as Chavis takes over*

By Bruce Strand

They don't call him "Cash" for nothing. Casmir "Cash" Chavis was money in the bank down the stretch to lift top-ranked Park Center over No. 3 Lakeville North 81-79, capped by his game-winner as time ran out, in a marquee matchup at the Breakdown Tip Off Classic on Saturday.

Lakeville North led 76-72 after a 3-pointer by Tyler Christianson. Park Center missed three shots on the other end. Matt Drake sank one of two free shots to expand North's lead to 77-72. Park Center then gave up a turnover.

Chavis went to work.

Just as Drake drove for what would have been a seven-point lead, Chavis knocked the ball out of his hands, causing a turnover. Seconds later, Chavis knifed through lane for a layup, got fouled and hit the freebie, making it 77-75. Lakeville North traveled. Chavis darted up the gut again and tied the score 77-77. A moment later, his alley oop pass to Chiang Ring resulted in a lay-in basket for 79-77 lead with 30 seconds left.



Casmir "Cash" Chavis scores in the first half (top) and celebrates with teammates after his game-winner.

Bruce Strand, MN BB News

Drake was fouled on a drive and swished two free shots with 24 seconds left to regain a tie at 79 for North.

Chavis had the ball for the last 24 seconds. North didn't try to press him. He dallied 30 feet from the hoop on the left side until the clock dipped under eight seconds. He drifted to the right of the free throw circle, and with four seconds left, blew past his defender, right down the middle again, and laid up a feather-soft ball that rustled through the cords at the horn.

Then he disappeared under a mob of bounding, beaming teammates.

Chavis, a 6-foot-2 combo guard signed by Washington, totaled 23 points, nine assists, five steals and seven rebounds. Ring delivered 20 points and 10 rebounds, Jackson Fowlkes 16 points and Xavier Felix 14 points.

For Lakeville North, Wisconsin signee Jack Robison tallied 25 points and snagged nine rebounds. Drake had 17 points and seven assists, and James Fager 12 points and nine rebounds. The Panthers shot 10-for-27 on three-pointers.

Wayzata, Breck, Cherry win as powers joust at Breakdown

By Bruce Strand

Matchups of leading teams at the Breakdown Tip-Off Classic are not only a treat for the fans but also a big help for the scribes who compile the state rankings (i.e., myself and Kevin Anderson for MBBN, who've been able to sort out a few things the last two weeks).

The boys Breakdown on Saturday drew about 3,000 for the two biggest games: Class 4A's top-ranked **Park Center** beating No. 3 **Lakeville North** 81-79 (see page one) and Class 4A's No. 2 **Wayzata** edging Class 3A's No. 1 **Totino-Grace** 83-81.

Jackson McAndrew sank Wayzata's game-winner on a floating jumper as time ran out. The 6-foot-9 Creighton recruit tallied 38 points and nabbed 11 rebounds. Wyatt McBeth added 11 points, and Brayden Sandmann, Drew Nepstad and Ben Shaffer eight each. For the Eagles, Chase Watley tallied 19 points, and Dothan Ijadimbolla, Isaiah Johnson and Tian Chatman had 17 each.

Breck (No. 1, 2A) prevailed 71-68 over **Alexandria** (No. 3, 3A). Daniel Freitag, Breck's Wisconsin-bound senior guard, tallied 24 points and eight rebounds. DeAngelo Dunga and Miles Newton chipped in 12 points each and Newton nabbed nine rebounds. Chase Thompson sank 25 points and Mason Witt 12 for Alexandria.

Cherry (No. 1, 1A) squeezed past **Holy Family Catholic** (No. 2, 2A) 73-69. Isaac Asuma, Cherry's senior guard signed by the Gophers, led with 21 points, nine rebounds and excellent one-on-one defense against both a star guard and an imposing post player. Isaiah Asuma,

Breck's Daniel Freitag shoots a '3' against Alexandria.



Isaac Asuma of Cherry drives against Holy Family.

his freshman cousin, added 20 points.

Dawson-Boyd (No. 3, 1A) clipped **Cass Lake-Bena** (No. 2, 1A) 88-39 with Drew Hjelmeland scoring 30 points, Gunner Liebl 22 and Brayson Boise 17. Dominik Fairbanks sank 20 for the injury-riddled Panthers.



Albany's Hunter Hamann (left) and Lake City's Keegan Ryan joust for a rebound.

Minnehaha Academy (No. 4, 2A) beat **St. Thomas Academy** (No. 13, 3A) 74-66 with Lorenzo Levy sinking 29 points. Kingston Manning added 12 points and Fitta Jafar 10. Luke Hobbs scored 18 for the Cadets, and Lars Osteraas and Andrew Nolde 14 apiece.

Albany (No. 3, 2A) dominated the second half to defeat **Lake City** (No. 10, 2A) 67-49. The Huskies trailed 35-30 at the break, but outscored the Tigers 37-14 in the second half. Zeke Austin led with 22 points. Sam Hon-

Breakdown results (continued)

dl chipped in 13 and Jack Rieland 11. Keagan Ryan had 15 points and Jaden Shones 12 for Lake City, which is missing top scorer Hunter Lorensen (ankle injury).

Hopkins (No. 8, 4A) led **East Ridge** (No. 7, 4A) 50-30 at halftime and hung on to win 73-72 as the Raptors roared back with defensive pressure, 11 three-pointers and a big rebound edge. JJ Semanko led Hopkins with 25 points. Jayden Moore notched 18 points and 13 rebounds, and Anthony Smith 10 points. Cedric Tomes led East Ridge with 19 points, six rebounds and six assists. Bennett Skinner had 16 points, Charlie Theis 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Kyle Frendt nine points and 16 rebounds.



Ryan Beckwith of Farmington clutching a rebound against Cretin-DH.

Photos by Bruce Strand, MBBN

Stewartville (No. 6, 3A) edged **Delano** (No. 5, 3A) 62-58 as Henry Tschetter hit 16 points and Caleb Bancroft 14. Max Iverson sank 23 and Will Strandemo 16 for Delano.

Mankato East (No. 7, 3A) thumped **Buffalo** (No. 9, 4A) 83-51 with Carson Schweim drilling 24 points, Brogan Madson and Ganden Gosch 13 each, and Manaow Omot 12. Jordy Sorenson had 14 for the Bison.



Gunner Liebl, Dawson-Boyd, scores vs. Cass Lake-Bena.

Orono (No. 4, 3A) tripped **Eastview** (No. 19, 4A) 74-68, led by Nolan Groves with 27 points. Brady Wooley added 17 points and 13 rebounds, and Riley Nelson 11 points.



Alexandria's Talen Witt tries to get past Breck's Hannif Muhammad.

Osseo (No. 12, 4A) tripped **DeLaSalle** (No. 8, 3A) 69-59 with DeMaari Larkins and Ty Swanson hitting 18 points each and Jameson Travis 15. For DLS, Evan Miller had 13 points and Ray James Jr. 12.

Farmington (No. 13, 4A) outlasted **Cretin-Derham Hall** (No. 15, 4A) 74-65 with eight players hitting seven or more points led by Brandon Hm-cir's 17 and Ryan Beckwith's 14. Joe Mitchell had 19 for the Raiders and Keshion Jason and Aidan Macke 12 each.

Tartan (No. 17, 4A) topped **Robbinsdale Armstrong** 60-49 as Demetrius Weems and Kevin Wilson logged 14 points each. Novonn Fields led Armstrong with 13.



Lakeville North's Matt Drake scores against Park Center.

Minnetonka (No. 4, 4A) won a shootout 103-92 over **Lakeville South** (No. 4, 4A). The Skip-pers had Jordan Cain and Andy Stefonwicz with 27 points each, Greyson Uelman 20 and Kayden Wells 14. West's Lauson Schmidt netted 20, Ryan Johnson 19, Hudson Greene 18, Keaton Ressler 14 and DeMarcus Burks 14.

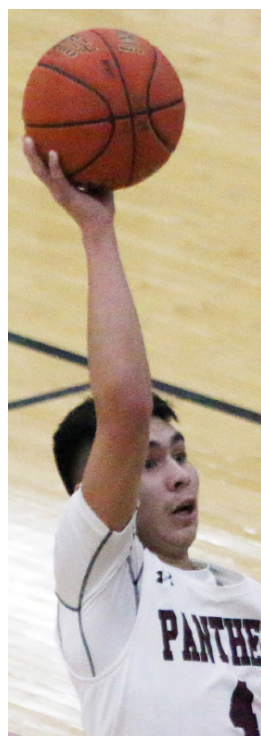
BREAKDOWN TIPOFF SNAPSHOTS



Alexandria's Chase Thompson puts up a shot challenged by two Breck defenders.



Delano's Will Strandemo lined up a free shot.



Dominic Fairbanks of Cass Lake-Bena flips in a basket.



Isaiah Asuma of Cherry leans to sink a jumper against Holy Family Catholic.

Photos by Bruce Strand, MBBN



Lake City's Jaden Shones lays in two.



Joe Mitchell of Cretin-DH drives the lane against Farmington.

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Aaron 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

Eli 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

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• Minnesota State IA Coach of the Year 1998, 2018
• National Coach of the Year 2018 Finalist



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• 18-time state coach MNC
• 2-time HS state champion
• Record: 538-248 at Vermillion Community College

... and many more (see inside)

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3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Boys Grades 9-12	\$75	\$95
B. Single-gender Program	Boys or Girls	3 days	4 days
8:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Grades 9-12	\$105	\$135
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Grades 5-8	\$105	\$135
C. "Young Stars" Program	Boys & Girls	3 days	4 days
8:00 - 9:30 a.m.	Grades 3-4	\$60	\$75
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Grades 5-6	\$60	\$75
11:00 - 12:00 noon	Grades 1-2	\$45	\$55
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Grades 7-8	\$105	\$135
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SCL's Hauge sets new 3-point mark

By Bruce Strand

Laura Hauge of St. Croix Lutheran is the new state all-time leader in career three-pointers. The senior guard sank four of them during a 77-13 win over Trinity on Tuesday evening, lifting her career total to 460, reported Crusaders coach David Mielke. The previous record of 458, by Marissa Janning of Watertown-Mayer (Miss Basketball in 2012) had stood for 11 years.



Laura Hauge, St. Croix Lutheran, has 460 three's

Hauge, who has committed to St. Thomas, is averaging 23.3 points, 4.9 rebounds and 4.3 assists for the Crusaders (3-4). She has made 26 three's. The most she had in one season was 112 as a sophomore. (Zubich has the single season record of 137.) Hauge scored her first 122 points in seventh grade and currently has close to 2,300. Her three-point accuracy was around 44 percent as a sophomore and junior.

In last week's article on Mountain Iron-Buhl star Jordan Zubich, we speculated that she would soon break the three-point mark. Zubich has 430, through Wednesday. State historian Matt Pederson's three-point list at the time did not include Hauge. After reading the Zubich article, Mielke let the MBBN and Pederson know that Hauge would soon break the record. He didn't previously know where to report this information.

Pederson can be reached at mattpederson@hccinet.net for anyone with questions or information on the state basketball record in all team and individual categories.

Minnesotans leading 'U' women

Four of the top five scorers for the Minnesota Gopher women are home state recruits, led by Mara Braun, sophomore from Wayzata, with 20.2 points per game. Grace Grocholski (North Prairie, WI) averages 10.8 points, Sophie Hart (Farmington) 10.2 points, Amaya Battle (Hopkins) 10.0 points, and Mallory Heyer (Chaska) 9.8 points and a team-leading 8.6 rebounds. The Gophers, under new coach Dawn Plitzuweit, are 10-1, and won their Big Ten opener over Purdue 60-58.

Nevis 0-0 on Dec. 15 after Prep Bowl win

Nevis has gone to three consecutive boys state tournaments and the Tigers are ranked in the top five, but they have not played a game yet. The Tigers sat out the first two weeks of the basketball season after most of the roster played on the football team that won the state nine-man championship. Nevis is slated to open tonight (Dec. 15) at LaPorte. "We had a game scheduled earlier that got changed, and then our football team won the state title," coach Scott Kramer explained, "We will make up for it later with a busy schedule, but it worked out for us, with letting our football guys get healed up." Nevis capped a 13-0 football season beating Kingsland 14-12 in the Prep Bowl on Nov. 25. Nevis stopped Kingsland inches short of the end zone late in the game. The basketball team has four starters back from a 26-7 season and state fifth-place finish.

Richfield's Armstrong sinks 50 & 52

C.J. Armstrong of Richfield opened the season with a 50-point game against Two Rivers, leading a 109-92 win, and followed with 52 points in an 83-66 win over St. Cloud Tech. The 6-foot-3 junior guard tallied 30 in an 80-77 win over DeLaSalle on Tuesday evening with Xavier Hayes adding 26. Armstrong averaged 23 points as a sophomore and 7.9 as a freshman. He is just the fourth player in state history with two straight games of 50 or more. The others were Jibrahn Ike of St. Anthony Village (1999 graduate), Kevin Noreen of Minnesota Transitions (2010), who did it twice, and Bjorn Broman of Lakeview Christiann (2015), who did it five times.

Rough start for CLB boys

Cass Lake-Bena, perennial Class 1A boys power, ranked No. 2 on the preseason top twenty, has been hit hard with injuries at the outset of the season. The Panthers lost their opener to Ada-Borup West 66-64 in overtime, then got humbled by Dawson-Boyd 88-39 at the Breakdown, before notching a W on Tuesday over Pine River-Backus 83-41. Kaydin Lee, a fourth-year starter, suffered a fractured ankle against Ada-Borup West and will likely miss six weeks, reported coach Alvin Wind, contacted by the MBBN. Brandon Wind, a junior, will miss three weeks with a back injury. Brandon Masten, sophomore, dislocated his shoulder during the pre-season jamboree and will miss four to six weeks. Coach Wind said this could be a blessing in disguise, as his backups are getting plenty of action. "Stronger bench for the playoffs," he speculated.

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Region 2

Lake Crystal • March 23 • Boys & Girls Grades 4 & 6
Lake Crystal • March 24 • Boys & Girls Grades 5 & 7

Region 3

Redwood Falls • March 9 • Boys & Girls Grades 5 & 7
Redwood Falls • March 10 • Boys & Girls Grades 4 & 6

Region 4

St. Cloud • February 25 • Boys Grades 4-7
St. Cloud • March 3 • Girls Grades 4-7

Region 5

St. Cloud • February 24 • Boys Grades 4-7
St. Cloud • March 2 • Girls Grades 4-7

Region 6

Alexandria • February 17 • Boys & Girls Grades 4 & 6
Alexandria • February 18 • Boys & Girls Grades 5 & 7

Region 7

Grand Rapids • February 17 • Boys & Girls Grade 5
Grand Rapids • February 18 • Boys & Girls Grade 4
Mt. Iron-Buhl • February 17 • Boys & Girls Grade 7
Mt. Iron-Buhl • February 18 • Boys & Girls Grade 6

Region 8

Bemidji • March 16 • Boys & Girls Grades 5 & 7
Bemidji • March 17 • Boys & Girls Grades 4 & 6

Southeast Super Section-Regions 1 & 4

Rochester • March 17 • Girls Grades 8 & 9
Rochester • March 24 • Boys Grades 8 & 9

Southwest Super Section-Regions 2 & 3

Lake Crystal • March 17 • Girls Grades 8 & 9
Lake Crystal • March 24 • Boys Grades 8 & 9

Central Super Section-Regions 5 & 6

Monticello • March 17 • Boys Grades 8 & 9
St. Cloud • March 24 • Girls Grades 8 & 9

North Super Section-Regions 7 & 8

St. Cloud • March 17 • Girls Grades 8 & 9
St. Cloud • March 24 • Boys Grades 8 & 9

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MBBN GIRLS TOP 20

CLASS 4A

1. Minnetonka 4-0
2. Hopkins 6-1
3. Lakeville
North 3-1
4. St. Michael-
Albertville 6-0
5. Maple Grove
5-0
6. Eden Prairie 6-1
7. Wayzata 4-2
8. Stillwater 4-1
9. Rosemount 3-2
10. Eastview 4-2
11. Andover 3-2
12. Elk River 3-1
13. Chaska 3-2
14. White Bear
Lake 5-3
15. Roseville 5-1
16. Centennial 2-3
17. Anoka 4-2
18. Prior Lake 2-4
19. Shakopee 4-2
20. Rochester
John
Marshall 5-0

CLASS 3A

1. Benilde-St.
Margaret's 2-3
2. DeLaSalle 3-2
3. Alexandria 5-1
4. St. Peter 6-0
5. Totino-
Grace 5-0
6. Delano 6-0
7. Byron 2-0
8. Minneapolis
Roosevelt 4-2
9. Cretin-Derham
Hall 4-1
10. Marshall 3-1
11. Cloquet 5-0
12. Rock
Ridge 5-0
13. Monticello 6-1
14. Stewartville
5-2
15. Mankato
East 3-1
16. Winona 3-1
17. New Ulm 4-1
18. Hill-Murray 1-4
19. Orono 3-3
20. Two Rivers
6-0

CLASS 2A

1. Providence
Academy 7-0
2. Albany 5-0
3. Minnehaha
Academy 8-0
4. Crosby-
Ironton 5-0
5. Jordan 6-0
6. Duluth
Marshall 4-1
7. New London-
Spicer 4-0
8. Pequot
Lakes 3-0
9. Perham 5-1
10. Sauk Centre 4-1
11. Pelican
Rapids 4-0
12. Dover-
Eyota 8-0
13. Winona
Cotter 5-0
14. Holdingford 3-1
15. Watertown-
Mayer 6-0
16. Minnewaska
Area 3-2
17. Pine City 5-1
18. Fairmont 3-1
19. St. Croix
Lutheran 3-4
20. New Richland-
Hartland-Ellen-
dale-Geneva 5-1

CLASS 1A

1. Mountain
Iron-Buhl 6-1
2. Hayfield 5-0
3. Hancock 5-0
4. Goodhue 3-2
5. Sleepy Eye 7-0
6. Kelliher-
Northome 5-0
7. Walker-
Hackensack-
Akeley 4-0
8. Cass Lake-
Bena 2-0
9. Nevis 3-0
10. Buffalo Lake-
Hector-
Stewart 2-2
11. Fosston 5-0
12. Southwest MN
Christian 4-0
13. Minneota 3-0
14. Mayer
Lutheran 3-3
15. Underwood 4-1
16. Cromwell-
Wright 5-2
17. Braham 5-0
18. Hills-Beaver
Creek 2-0
19. Park
Christian 4-0
20. Kittson Coun-
ty Central 4-0

*Records are
through Tuesday*

MBBN BOYS TOP 20

CLASS 4A

1. Park Center 4-0
2. Wayzata 4-0
3. Lakeville North 1-1
4. Shakopee 3-1
5. Minnetonka 3-0
6. Farmington 4-0
7. Lakeville South 3-1
8. Hopkins 3-1
9. Osseo 2-0
10. Eastview 1-1
11. Rochester Century 2-1
12. Buffalo 3-1
13. East Ridge 1-2
14. Eden Prairie 1-2
15. Cretin-Derham Hall 1-1
16. Tartan 2-0
17. Cambridge-Isanti 3-1
18. Prior Lake 2-2
19. Eagan 3-0
20. Anoka 3-1

*Records are
through Tuesday*

CLASS 3A

1. Totino-Grace 1-1
2. Benilde-St. Margaret's 3-0
3. Alexandria 2-1
4. Orono 2-1
5. Mankato East 4-0
6. Stewartville 2-0
7. Delano 3-1
8. Richfield 3-0
9. DeLaSalle 0-2
10. St. Cloud Tech 2-1
11. South St. Paul 2-0
12. Mankato West 4-1
13. Hutchinson 4-0
14. North Branch 4-0
15. Minneapolis South 2-0
16. Columbia Heights 2-0
17. New Ulm 2-1
18. Chisago Lakes 3-1
19. St. Paul Johnson 1-0
20. St. Thomas Academy 1-2

CLASS 2A

1. Breck 2-0
2. Holy Family 2-1
3. Minnehaha Academy 2-1
4. Esko 3-0
5. Caledonia 3-0
6. Minneapolis North 2-0
7. MN Valley Lutheran 3-0
8. Maranatha Christian 2-0
9. Jordan 4-1
10. Waseca 3-0
11. Belle Plaine 3-1
12. Eden Valley-Watkins 2-1
13. Albany 1-1
14. Sauk Centre 3-1
15. Mora 1-0
16. Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial 3-0
17. Paynesville 3-0
18. Osakis 3-1
19. Redwood Valley 4-0
20. Hiawatha Collegiate 4-2

CLASS 1A

1. Cherry 5-0
2. Dawson-Boyd 4-0
3. West Central Area 4-0
4. Ada-Borup West 5-0
5. Nevis 0-0
6. Fertile-Beltrami 2-0
7. Henning 3-0
8. Sacred Heart 3-0
9. Sleepy Eye 4-1
10. Sleepy Eye-St. Mary's 4-1
11. Deer River 3-1
12. Heritage Christian 3-1
13. Southwest MN Christian 3-1
14. Rushford-Peterson 3-1
15. Cass Lake-Bena 1-2
16. Mt. Lake Area /Comfrey 4-1
17. Goodhue 2-1
18. Brandon-Evansville 2-0
19. Browerville 4-1
20. Upsala 3-1



2024 Minnesota Basketball News • An Invitation-only Event

TOP 100 EXPO SHOWCASE

College of St. Benedict
St. Joseph, MN

Tuesday, July 2

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

Seeking player nominations from head coaches for the 2024-25 Watch List. Email player name and school to Jeff McCarron at jmac8144@yahoo.com

COLLEGE PREP BASKETBALL CAMP

Monday, July 1

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.

