

*Great Five-State results and team photos *Top 100 Camp results and honor teams

Volume 27

Summer Issue

July 26

2023-24

Sweet 16 field unveiled

Five state champs, three runners-up among gala's lineup

By Bruce Strand

 $\mathbf{F}^{\mathrm{ive}}$ of the eight reigning state champions and three runners-up are among the teams signed up for the 35th annual Pacesetter Sweet 16 Championships.

The state's most high-profile and longest-running summer tournament as always, an old-fashioned one-class free-for-all with entrants from all four MSHSL divisions — is slated for Aug. 3-4 at College of St. Benedict's.

Totino-Grace, Breck, and Cherry are the boys state champs who'll be duking it out along with runners-up Wayzata and Mankato East. Minnetonka and Providence Academy are the girls state champs in the field along with runnerup Hopkins.

Minnetonka is the defending girls champion. Last year's boys champion, Delano, is not in the field this year.

Pairings for the Sweet 16 tournaments are listed on Page 9 at the end of this article. Championship games Sunday will start at 12:15 p.m. for the boys and 4:30 p.m. for the girls.

Boys entrants

Class 4A — Wayzata (24-2, second at

state) returns Christian Wiggins (13 ppg), Wyatt Mc-Beth (10.2) and Isaac Olstead (10.2). Mr. Basketball, Jackson McAndrew, is among the graduates. Hopkins (23-6) returns over 70 ppg with Anthony Smith (23), Jayden Moore (19), JJ Semanko (16.6) and Dave Continued on Page 9



Brogan Madson of Mankato East is among state tourney stars set for the Sweet Sixteen tournament.

Hart (12). Sauk Rapids-Rice (18-9) returns almost 60 ppg with Spencer Swenson (20 ppg), Izayah Cook (13), Hudson Omoke (11.7) and Keller Hanson (11.0). Farmington (24-8, state entrant) is led by Ryan Beckwith (10 ppg) and Nik Domier (9.7).

> **Class 3A** — Totino Grace (27-5, riding three consecutive state titles), brings back Tyler Wagner (13.5 ppg), Dothan Ijadimgola (13), Chase Watley (12.8) and Tian Chatman (9.4) while graduating Mr. BB finalist Isaiah Johnson-Arigu. Mankato East (28-3, second at state) is led by Brogan Madson (16 ppg) and Ganden Gosch (10). Alexandria (23-7, fourth at state) is led by Chase Thompson (18.9), Mason Witt (12.7) and Talan Witt (9.0). Oro**no** (19-12) returns over 50 ppg led by Nolan Groves (27) along with Brady Wooley (14.2) and Mitchell Kauch (10.5).

> **Class 2A** — Breck (31-1, state champs) graduated Mr. BB finalist Daniel Freitag but returns Hanif Muhammad (16.2 ppg), Miles Newton (13.2), JJ Muskoke (11.6), and DeAngelo Dungy (7.9). Albany (30-3) features Zeke Austin (20 ppg) and Sam Hondl (16.8) who've starred on state champion and third-place teams. Caledonia (23-5) brings back Mason King (17.8), Reid Klug (14.8), Garrett Konz (13.3) and

Ethan Stendel (8.5). Waseca (20-12, state entrant) is powered by Deron Russell (18 ppg) and Damarius Russell (13).

Great Five-State results

Pacesetter's Great Five State Championships were held July 5-6-7 at Target Center. Boys champs were St. Cloud Tech (4th), Fargo Shanley (6th), Holmen (8th) and New Ulm (9th). Girls champs were Alexandria (4th), West Central Area (5th), Dover-Eyota (8th) and Menahga (9th)

4th grade boys

St. Cloud Tech 27, Litchfield 12 Milbank (SD) 40, Benson 26 **Championship** St. Cloud Tech 44, Milbank (SD) 27 **Third place** Benson 29, Litchfield 26

4th grade girls

West Fargo (ND) 24, Warroad 10 Alexandria 22, Watertown 7 Warroad 16, Watertown (SD) 13 **Championship** Alexandria 22, West Fargo (ND) 19 **Third place** Warroad 16, Watertown (SD) 13

5th grade girls

Pine City 23, Chatfield 20 West Central Area 27, Pine City 6 Brookings (SD) 15, Windom 13 **Championship** West Central Area 19, Brookings (SD) 9 **Third place** Windom 25, Chatfield 21 Windom 24, Pine City 22

6th grade boys

Lancaster (WI) 42, Pine Island 29 Brookings (SD) 52, Lancaster (WI) 32 Fargo Shanley (ND) 42, Sauk Centre 13 **Championship** Fargo Shanley (ND) 36, Brookings (SD) 35 **Consolation** Sauk Centre 28, Pine Island 25 **Third place** Lancaster (WI) 51, Sauk Centre 27

8th grade boys

Holmen (WI) 33, Wabasha-Kellogg 12 Brookings (SD) 43, Jackson County Central 29 St. Cloud Tech 39, West Central Area 30 Chatfield 30, Wabasha-Kellogg 12 Semifinals Holmen (WI) 40, Brookings (SD) 36 St. Cloud Tech 37, Chatfield 28 Championship Holmen (WI) 51, St. Cloud Tech 40 Third place Chatfield 48, Brookings (SD) 41 Consolation Jackson County Central 36, West Central Area 30 West Central Area 35, Wabasha-Kellogg 23 Jackson County Central 44, Wabasha-Kellogg 36 **Consolation champion:** Jackson County Central

8th grade girls

Dover-Eyota 35, Staples-Motley 11 Florence (SD) 32, Staples-Motley 20 Dover-Eyota 32, Florence (SD) 30 **Champion:** Dover-Eyota

9th grade boys

New Ulm 52, Sauk Centre 28 New Ulm 41, Montevideo 33 Sauk Centre 35, Montevideo 30 **Champion:** New Ulm

9th grade girls

Menahga 24, Lancaster (WI) 15 United South Central 22, Stephen-Argyle 17 **Championship** Menahga 27, United South Central 18 **Third place** Lancaster (WI) 33, Stephen-Argyle 10 Minnesota Basketball News

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GREAT 5-STATE GIRLS CHAMPS



ALEXANDRIA 4TH GRADERS

Front: Kajsa Sugden, Dani Haabala, Delaney Erickson. Back: Coach Charis Sugden, Cora Simon, Cece Anderson, Hadley Beving, Lyla Kruse, Ava Schlichting, Brynley Lennes, Coach Luke Erickson



DOVER-EYOTA 8TH GRADERS

Bottom: Phoebe Piotrowicz, Lorra Wilcox, Luka Thompson. Top: Kennedy Gust, Peytin Welsh, Aby Greibenow, Grace Vollrath. Not pictured: Coach Greg Thompson





WEST CENTRAL AREA 5TH GRADERS

Front: Amelia Anderson, Mya Fernholz, Sophia Jannette, Charlie Schoenbauer. Middle: Lola Thompson, Kendall marks, Lila Willard, Sophie Schoenbauer, Brielle Elmer. Back: Coach Eric Schoenbauer, Coach Dan Willard

MENAHGA 9TH GRADERS

Front: Cora Pinoniemi, Emme Hodge, Kylie Anderson, Kalle Pinoniemi, Claire Kapphahn. Back: Coach Cody Pulju, Alexis Davidson, Kaisa Hendrickson, Dreah Christiansen, Julia Hendrickson, Mayme Pinoniemi, Coach Mari Hendrickson

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GREAT 5-STATE BOYS CHAMPS



HOLMEN 8TH GRADERS



FARGO SHANLEY 6TH GRADERS

Zach Palm, Landon Barg, Johnny Sheetz, Jackson Jungen, Alex Rodebaugh, Cohen Kendhammer, Ayden Reister. Not pictured: Coach Andrew Palm, Coach Chris Reister

Front: Coltin Kollross, Benjamin Boway, Mason Graham, Landon Anderson. Back: Coach Travis Anderson, Gasper Hakim, Sam Strand, Jack Strand, Bear Pollert, Darius Dorley, Henry Dahl, Head coach Nick Kollross



NEW ULM 9TH GRADERS

Front: Joey Wise, Lendale Dunmars, Jayden Broste, Michael Hopp. Back: Levi Hopp, Tanner Backer, Noah Mertz, Isaiah Friese, Landon Kapolczynski. Not pictured: Coach Kyle Kapolczynski



ST. CLOUD TECH 4TH GRADERS

Front: Gabriel Johnson, Grayson Gall, Reid Kunkel, Coy Wickline. Middle: Ajwon Ojullu, Deniz Miller, Devan Zimmer, August Martin-Brantley, Grayson Goerger. Back: coaches Ryan Zimmer, Derek Miller, Bruce Brantley

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Pacesetter Top 100 Expo

Team champions and all stars at St. Ben's, July 2



BOYS CHAMPS: Gonzaga

Left to right: Coach John Robinson of Tartan, Ethan Martin (79) of Bella Plaine, Hudson Risbrudt (11) of Underwood, Hudson Jenniges (48) of Westbrook-Walnut Grove, Johanes Piscikas (67) of Lakeville North, Tyrese Hagler (3) of Richfield, Lucas O'Malley (43) of Chisago Lakes, Quentin Guannella (39) of Alden-Conger, Thomas Larsen (16) of Littlefork-Big Falls

GIRLS CHAMPS: South Carolina

Left to right: Jensyn Storhoff (17) of Lansboro, Quinn Kemper (2) of Edina, Avah Waldal (33) of Thief River Falls, Maddison Molacek (37) of Willmar, Greta Kuznia (13) of Kittson Co. Central, Samantha Konz (20) of Morris Area/Chokio-Alberta, Alexis Schaefer (32) of Chaska, Samantha Bennett (12) of New Life Academy, Anna Neyens (56) of Mountain Iron-Buhl, coach Krystal Brodeen of Central Lakes College





GIRLS ALL-TOURNEY -- Front: Sophia Vogel (6) of Central MN Christian, Trinity Baker (24) of Underwood, Lily Henriksen (16) of BOLD, Bree Thieschafer (25) of Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa, Ayla Caskey (3) of New London-Spicer ... Back: Sophia Amundsen (26) of Two Rivers, Ella Knutson (48) of Hillcrest Lutheran, Quinn Kemper (2) of Edina, Maddison Molacek (37) of Willmar, Isabelle Kirchner (21) of Two Rivers and Expo MVP Alexis Schaefer (32) of Chaska



BOYS ALL-TOURNEY -- Front: Sawyer Brown (28) of Robbinsdale Cooper, Expo MVP Ethan Martin (79) of Belle Plaine, Soren Leafblad of Burnsville, Alexander Franson (42) of Marshall Back: Wyatt Bir (40) of Maple River, Jack Frigstad (31) of Eastview, Hudson Jenniges (48) of Westbrook-Walnut Grove, Johanes Piscikas (67) of Lakeville North, Weston Rowe (68) of Jackson County Central, Grant Freking (44) of Jackson County Central, and Ole Skrien (21) of St. Croix Lutheran

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TOP 100 EXPO PARTICIPANTS

Pacesetter's annual Top 100 Expo Showcase was held Tuesday, July 2, with 56 girls and 54 boys on display for parents and college scouts at College of St. Benedict's. They were divided into six boys and six girls teams that played three games each. All-star teams and MVP's were chosen by college coaches. Named MVP's were Alexis Schafer of Chaska, a 6-foot senior forward; and Ethan Martin of Belle Plaine, a 6-foot-4 junior guard.

BOYS SCORES

Pool play

Gonzaga 73, UCLA 59 Michigan 93, Minnesota 68 Gonzaga 91, USC 75 Ohio State 86, Minnesota 78 UCLA 78, USC 75 Michigan 88, Ohio State 86 Championship Gonzaga 80, Michigan 67 Third place UCLA 75, Ohio State 64 **Fifth place** Minnesota 84, USC 82

GIRLS SCORES

Pool play

South Carolina 60, Iowa 58 UConn 60, Minnesota 48 Iowa 61, Oregon State 60 Wisconsin 70, UConn 59 South Carolina 66, Oregon State 52 Wisconsin 73, Minnesota 47 Championship South Carolina 66, Wisconsin 39 Third place UConn 68, Iowa 63 Fifth place Minnesota 68, Oregon State 53

BOYS ROSTERS

GONZAGA – Ethan Martin, Bella Plaine; Hudson Risbrudt, Underwood; Hudson Jenniges, Westbrook-Walnut Grove; Johanes Piscikas, Lakeville North; Tyrese Hagler, Richfield; Lucas O'Malley, Chisago Lakes; Quentin Guannella, Alden-Conger; Thomas Larsen, Littlefork-Big Falls UCLA – Soren Leafblad, Burnsville; TJ Duchamp, Mountain Iron-Buhl; Braxtyn Cameron, Battle Lake; Josh Heggemes, Mora; Nathan Weiss, Becker; Ryan Beckwith, Farmington; Eleazar Staley, Mankato West; Jakhi Richmond, Tartan; Weston Rowe, Jackson County Central **SOUTHERN CAL** – Cooper Maras, Mountain Iron-Buhl;

Tyler Loeb, Park Christian; Will Gieseke, Red Lake County Central; Josh Sockeye, Heritage Christian; Owen Haag, Heritage Christian; Ole Skrien, St. Croix Lutheran; Micah Fuller, Brandon-Evansville; Caden Dahl, Ada-Borup; Cole Reuter, Perham; Derek Thissen, Eastview

MINNESOTA – Isaac Jacobson, Park Christian; Luke Means, Redwood Valley; Easton Nelson, Ashby; Fisher Killins, Irondale; Sawyer Brown, Robbinsdale Cooper; Noah Hamburge, Minnehaha Academy; Teigan Bjerke, Henning; Cole Rueckert, Foley; Liam Grover, Warroad

MICHIGAN – Gavin Giese, Park Christian; Austin McCraven, Ada-Borup; Jack Frigstad, Eastview; Wyatt Bir, Maple River; Grant Freking, Jackson County Central; Kaden Plerce, Warren-Alvarado-Oslo; Elway Berg, Redwood Valley; Hunter Nicholas, Crookston; Nils Johansson, East Ridge Academy

OHIO STATE – Marcus Horton Jr., Bloomington Jefferson; Ja' Carlon (JC) Green, Eastview; Josh Wohlers, Lake City; George Norsman, Minnehaha Academy; Dre Collins, Richfield; Izaiah Alto, Mountain Iron-Buhl; Brayden Sturm, Springfield; Alexander Branson, Marshall; Connor Duden, Red Lake County Central

GIRLS ROSTERS

SOUTH CAROLINA – Jensyn Storhoff, Lansboro; Quinn Kemper, Edina; Avah Waldal, Thief River Falls; Maddison Molacek, Willmar; Greta Kuznia, Kittson County Central; Samantha Konz, Morris Area/Chokio-Alberta; Alexis Schaefer, Chaska; Samantha Bennett, New Life Academy; Anna Neyens, Mountain Iron-Buhl

IOWA – Anna Saari, Duluth Marshall; Jodi Schneider, Chaska; Chloe Reedy, Royalton; Trinity Baker, Underwood; Betsy Gillette, Hayfield; Lauren Hust, Rochester Lourdes; Kaydence White, Kittson County Central; Aniya Thomas, Mountain Iron-Buhl; Emily Wagner, Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg; Elsa Retzlaff, Hillcrest Lutheran; Annika Dunrud, Perham

OREGON STATE – Hadley Baune, Brandon-Evansville; Kiersyn Hulzebos, Minneota; Kenzie Dahl, Greenbush-Middle River; Sophia Amundsen, Two Rivers; Kylee Brinkley, Norhome-Kelliher; Emly Gowin, Breckenridge; Libby Suckert, Park Christian; Elliana Hahn, New Life Academy; Katelynn Ebert, South St. Paul; Kate Arneson, Sibley East MINNESOTA - Charli Hallstrom, Northome-Kelliher; Sophia Vogel, Central MN Christian; Cairin Berger, Esko; Elizabeth Kite, Edina; Annika Johnson, Park Christian; Drea Ferhnholz, Brandon-Evansville; Liliana Devick, Rochester Lourdes; Madelyn Rowe, Jackson County Central; Julia Schmidt, Wheaton

UCONN – Lilly Henricksen, BOLD; Morgan Turn, Kittson County Central; Isabelle Kirchner, Two Rivers; Morgan Rysdam, Braham/Rysdam Academy; Mia Elmer, Brandon-Evansville; Taylor Hansen, Irondale; Paige Norman, Mountain Iron-Buhl; Leah Carter, Westbrook-Walnut Grove; Ma'Lon McCoy, St. Agnes

WISCONSIN – Allison Lundin, Norhome-Kelliher; Ayla Caskey, New London-Spicer; Malin Youngberg, Little Falls; Leah Wagner, Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg; Bree Thieschafer, Belgrade-Brooten-Elrose; Drea Christiansen, Menahga; Ella Knutson, Hillcrest Lutheran; McKinley Folland, Kittson County Central; Izzy Gibbons, Irondale

TOP 100 EXPO BOYS SNAPSHOTS



Belle Plaine's Ethan Martin, the tournament MVP, drives against Foley's Cole Rueckert



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Jesse Heggemes of Mora went up for two.



Fisher Killins of Irondale took aim.

Photos by Bruce Strand, Minnesota Basketball News



Ole Skrien of St. Croix Lutheran eyed the hoop, guarded by Noah Hamburg of Minnehaha Academy.

Austin McCraven of Ada-Borup clutched a rebound.



Hudsen Jenniges of Westbrook-Walnut Grove launched a 3.

TOP 100 EXPO GIRLS SNAPSHOTS



Ayla Caskey of New London-Spicer scored on a break with MIB's Anna Neyens trailing.



Alexis Schafer (32) of Chaska, the tournament MVP, drove the lane, guarded by Malin Youngberg of Little Falls.



Quinn Kemper of Edina sliced through the lane.



Trinity Baker of Underwood eyes the hoop as Chloe Reedy of Royalton, Lilly Henriksen of BOLD Elsa Retzlaff of Hillcrest Lutheran look on.



Katelyn Ebert of South St. Paul darted to the basket.



Samantha Konz of Morris Area/Chokio-Alberta battled a double team.

Photos by Bruce Strand, Minn. Basketball News



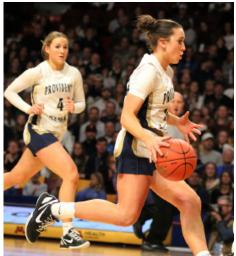
Samantha Bennett of New Life Academy took aim.

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Sweet 16: Tonka, Providence girls back

Continued from Page 1

Class 1A — Cherry (31-2) graduated Mr. BB finalist Isaac Asuma but returns Noah Sundquist (15 ppg), Noah Asuma (13), Isaiah Asuma (11.8), and Carson Brown (11.8). **Dawson-Boyd** (26.3), ranked No. 2 all season before a section upset loss, is powered by Brayson Boike (23 ppg), Gunner Liebl (17.8), and Drew Hjelmeland (14.8). Heritage Christian (23-8, fifth at state) returns its top six scorers led by Joshua Sokeye (18), Abu Tarawallie (13.7), Owen Haag (12), and Jonah Moulton (12). Ada-Borup West (24-6) brings back Cayden Dahl (14 ppg), Austin Mc-Craven (11), and Mason Larson (10).



Maddyn Greenway (with ball), Emma Millerbernd and Providence Academy should be contenders again.

donia (20-9) will return all-conference picks Josie Foster, Nicole Banse and Aubrie Klug.

Class 1A— Mayer Lutheran (21-11, fifth at state) returns Isabelle Keaveny and Clara Keaveny, each close to 15 ppg). Hancock (27-3) is led by Kaitlyn Rohloff (22 ppg) and Brooke Versteeg (10 ppg). Cass Lake-Bena (21-7) features Gabrielle Finaday (2,203 career points) with Alexia Rose and Rayahna Staples-Franklin also back. Minneota (27-4) has just one double-digit scorer back but always seems to re-load. A team looking for its first state trip, Kelliher-Northome (25-4), graduated two high-scoring sisters while returning Kylee Binkley (15.3 ppg) and Allison Lundin (10.6).

Girls entrants

Class 4A — Minnetonka (29-2) is powered by Division I bound stalwarts Aaliyah Crump (24.5, signed by Texas), Lanelle Wright (13.6), and Ari Peterson (12.3), a freshman transferring from Providence Academy. Last year most of their top players missed the Sweet 16 because they were busy with AAU or taking a break, and the Skipper backups won it anyway. Coach Brian Cosgriff said the top players will probably not be involved this year either. Hopkins (27-4) graduated Miss BB finalist Liv McGill but returns six of their top seven including Tatum Woodson (13 ppg), Lauren Hillesheim (12) and three junior high girls who averaged 23 ppg. Hopkins had a long run of Sweet 16 titles before being not able to attend the tournament last year. St. Michael-Albertville (24-8, third at state) is paced by Cali Jahnke (14.8 ppg) and Abby Hoselton (12.1). Eden Prairie (20-9, section runner-up to Tonka by 41-39 score) returns about 60 ppg with Tori Schlagel (18.2), Rae Ehrman (14.4), Ella Hardwick (11.6, Vanessa Jordan (9.6) and Cam Dennin (6.3).

Class 3A — Stewartville (22-10, fourth at state) is led by two-time state tourney veterans Audrey Shindelar (14.9) and Jayci Rath (7.8). They're the only 3A team in the fold.

Class 2A — **Providence Academy** (28-4, riding three consecutive state titles) is propelled by junior superstar Maddyn Greenway (34.2 ppg). The Lions, Sweet 16 runners-up to Minnetonka last summer, also return Hope Counts (9.2) and Emma Millerbernd (9.7). **Cale-**

Boys pairings

Top bracket

Sauk Rapids-Rice vs. Breck, 8:30 a.m. Totino-Grace vs. Ada-Borup West, 8:30 a.m. Hopkins vs. Orono, 8:30 a.m. Waseca vs. Cherry, 8:30 a.m.

Bottom bracket

Wayzata vs. Dawson-Boyd, 9:45 a.m. Alexandria vs. Caledonia, 9:45 a.m. Farmington vs. Mankato East, 9:45 a.m. Albany vs. Heritage Christian, 9:45 a.m.

Girls pairings

North pool

A - Eden Prairie vs. Stewartville 1:30 p.m.
Kelliher-Northome vs. loser A, 3 p.m.
Kelliher-Northome vs. winner A, 4:30 p.m.
West pool
A - Hopkins vs. Caledonia, 1:30 p.m.
Cass Lake-Bena vs. loser A, 3 p.m.

Cass Lake-Bena vs. winner A, 4:30 p.m. **South pool**

A - Minnetonka vs. Minneota, 1:30 p.m.

Hancock vs. loser A, 3 p.m.

Hancock vs. winner A, 4:30 p.m.

East pool

A - STMA vs. Providence Academy, 1:30 p.m. Mayer Lutheran vs. winner A, 3 p.m. Mayer Lutheran vs. winner B, 4:30 p.m.

