

- State finals reports for all four classes
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# Champs: Wayzata, Alex, Albany, Dawson-Boyd



**Jubilant after capturing state championships were Wayzata (top left), Albany (top right), Dawson-Boyd (bottom left) and Alexandria (bottom right).**

Minnesota Basketball News photos

# Wayzata: 3 titles in 5 years

*4A: Trojans drub No. 1 CDH 80-55, in 5th straight final*

By Bruce Strand

Wayzata is making state basketball championship games every March an annual event, kinda like their James J. Hill Festival every September. The Trojans played for the Class 4A championship for the fifth straight season and won it for the third time in that span — in resounding fashion this time, an 80-55 conquest of No. 1 ranked Cretin-Derham Hall at Williams Arena on March 22.

“Five straight championship games, that’s not normal,” understated Wyatt McBeth, whose dunk was the most electrifying moment of the game. “We are expected to get to the state tournament every year.” He added, “That speaks to the culture Coach (Bryan) Schnettler has developed.”

Five straight finals is not quite a record as DeLaSalle made six straight in Class 3A and won them all from 2012 through 2017, but it’s an incredible feat in Class 4A, especially with Hopkins in their section.

“Hopkins is always one of the best teams in the state, and we’ve got to play them just to get here,” noted Isaac Olmstead, junior guard. After beating the Royals, he said, “We came into the tournament with a lot of confidence.”

Wayzata, 29-4 this season, is 130-17 in the last five years. The Trojans beat Cretin-Derham Hall in the 2021 finals, lost to Park Center in 2022, beat Park Center in an overtime win in 2023, lost in a huge upset to Minnetonka in 2024, and got back on top this year.

It’s Wayzata’s fourth state title. The first was in 1959 and they didn’t get back to state until 2017 and 2018. In fact, there were many lean years and they went 8-19 before Schnettler arrived 11 years ago and started to build a dynasty.

Wayzata’s brilliant performance included 11-for-29 on three-pointers while CDH was just 2-for-10, out-rebounding the Raiders 37-27, making just five turnovers, and holding CDH to 24 field goals.



**Christian Wiggins popped in two of his 21 points in the finals, over Ty Schlagel.**

Minnesota Basketball News photos

“Perfect. It was exactly what, if you’re game planning, what you want it to look like,” Schnettler acknowledged. Especially considering the opponents, who finished 31-2. “I mean, you don’t lose just two games all year without being really, really good. But, yeah, our kids were awesome.”

Three junior guards led the Trojans: Nolan Anderson with 24 points and 10 rebounds (4-for-8 on three’s), Christian Wiggins with 21 points, and Olmstead with 13 points and seven rebounds. McBeth, senior forward, had 11 points and nine rebounds.

Monteff Dixon, senior forward, led the Raiders with 18 points Tommy Ahneman, 6-foot-11 senior post,

had just four points at the half and finished with 15 points and eight rebounds. Junior guard Jojo Mitchell had 10 points and six assists. Ty Schlagel, soph forward, had nine points, half his average.

Snettler credited Tommy Shunmugavelu, burly 6-foot-5 junior, for strong defense on Ahneman, with

help from the 6-foot-6 McBeth. The Trojans were up 38-30 in the second half when McBeth fired them up with a slam-dunk on Ahneman that inspired a tremendous ovation. "Man, that felt awesome," McBeth said. "I had to look up at the replay, and I thought, 'Damn!' " He was seen trash-talking a little. "Oh, yeah, I let him (Ahneman) hear it. The ref told me not to, but I had to celebrate that a little." Another dazzling play quickly followed as Wiggins scored on an alley-oop pass from Olmstead after a steal. Then Wiggins sliced in for another layup. Those three buckets in a span of 50 seconds made it 44-30. The Trojans steadily pulled away after that.

CDH coach Jerry Kline, asked about Wayzata's stout defense, said, "Give them credit, but we just missed a ton of shots. We had looks that we normally make. Sometimes you have those nights." He added: "They were 11 for 29 on three's and it can get away from you pretty quick if they can shoot like that."



**Tommy Ahneman yanked down a rebound for Cretin-DH.**

About his team's three-point siege, Schnettler said. "These guys worked really hard to be the shooters that they are. It doesn't happen by accident. So it was really fun to see them do it on the big stage."

No. 4 Wayzata split with No. 2 Hopkins

in conference play and nipped the Royals 76-72 in the Section 6AAAA finals. At state, the Trojans got past Moorhead 61-52 with Olmstead scoring 18 points and McBeth 16. Shakopee, whom they had beaten 92-65 in December, gave them a battle in the semifinals. The Trojans pulled it out 59-55 with Wiggins netting 18 points and Olmstead 14, Luke Wherley had 15 points and 10 rebounds, and Luke Schroeder 13 points, for the Sabres.

Cretin-Derham Hall was ranked No. 1 all year, coming off a fourth-place finish last year while adding transfers Ahneman, last year's North Dakota player of the year, and sharpshooter Schlagel from Eden Prairie, both of



**Seth Anderson laid in two of his 24 points.**

whom averaged over 18 points. Their only previous loss was to East Ridge 89-70 and they beat the Raptors 83-64 earlier. In the section finals, they trailed 42-29 but handed No. 3 ranked Tartan its first loss 73-68.

At state, the Raiders tripped Rochester John Marshall 69-57 with Schlegel and Mitchell sinking 16 points each while Ahneman notched 14 points, 11 rebounds, six blocks and five assists. Against Maple Grove, the Raiders dominated the second half to win 63-49 behind Ahneman's 28 points and 15 rebounds.

Cretin-Derham Hall was not able to add to its three state titles, most recently 2018, in 16 state trips, but Kline said, "It was a heckuva run for us. We've got nothing to hold our heads down about. Thirty-one and two is a tremendous year. Tremendous group of seniors."

**Cretin-Derham Hall .... 26 29 — 55**  
**Wayzata ..... 38 42 — 80**

**Cretin-Derham Hall** — 24-54 FG (2-10 3FG), 5-12 FT, 27 rebounds, 9 turnovers, 8 fouls ... Scoring: Joe Mitchell 10 (6 ast), Monteff Dixon 18 (4 reb), Ty Schlagel 9 (5 reb), Tommy Ahneman 15 (8 reb, 3 ast), Isaiah Thom 2, Benjamin Coyle 1 ... 3-pointers Mitchell 1-2, Schlagel 1-3

**Wayzata** — 32-70 FG (11-29 3FG), 5-7 FT, 37 rebounds, 5 turnovers, 13 fouls ... Scoring: Isaac Olmstead 13 (7 ast), Christian Wiggins 21 (5 reb), Nolan Anderson 24 (10 reb, 2 stl), Wyatt McBeth 11 (9 reb), Tommy Shunmogavalu 6 (7 reb), Ryan Mann 3, Max Beeninga 2 ... 3-pointers: Olmstead 3-7, Wiggins 2-8, Anderson 4-8, McBeth 1-2, Mann 1-1

# Alexandria nabs 1st crown

## 3A: Cardinals top Mankato East 73-64 in 1-2 duel

By Bruce Strand

Alexandria and Mankato East, each looking for their first state title in boys basketball, battled in the Class 3A finals, with Alexandria grabbing the elusive prize 73-64.

Alexandria, ranked No. 2, ended the three-year reign of No. 5 Totino-Grace 73-65 in the semifinals, then vanquished No. 1 Mankato East, to whom they had lost in December and in last year's semifinals.

The Cardinals (29-3) were led by Chase Thompson, named Mr. Basketball after the tournament.

"Failure, failure, failure — success," reflected Thompson, referring to coming up short his first three seasons, including fourth-place finishes at state the last two years. "End it with a bang. We left our mark on the program for sure."

Coach Forrest Witt said Alexandria's first state boys hoops title was a tribute to "everyone involved in the program, the fans, the trainers, the administration, and all the players we've had before in my 17 years." He added, "I'm proud that we won as good a Class 3A field as I've seen in years."

Behind co-captains Thompson and Samson Hagstrom, he said, the team matured after making a good run last year. "We had a lot of fight in this game."

Thompson led with 28 points, seven rebounds and four assists. The 6-foot-8 Clemson recruit shot 10-for-18 overall and 3-for-6 on three's.

Cardinal senior guards Talen Witt and Mason Witt —

they're cousins, not twins, son and nephew of the coach — made their usual big impact, with Talen notching 16 points, seven rebounds and four assists, and Mason 13 points and six rebounds. Hagstrom added 10 points.

Mason said he and Talen started out playing one on one in the basement as little kids. "Growing up with him has been special and doing this together is awesome."

Brogan Madson, Mankato East's muscular, fiercely competitive 6-foot-1 senior guard, kept the Cougars in the game. The coach's son and Mr. Basketball finalist didn't shoot three's as well as usual but was 12-for-25 overall and poured in 27 points, sinking several difficult shots with remarkable body control. Lucas Gustafson added 12 points, Amari Nobles 10 and Ganden Gosch nine.

Alexandria raced to an 11-2 start and led all the way except for East's brief 20-19 lead. Alexandria led 37-28 at the half with Mason Witt scoring 11 points and Hagstrom 10.

East pulled within 65-62 on a three-pointer by Gosch with 1:27 left. Baskets in the paint by Thompson and Gavin Roderick made it 69-62, and a fast break dunk by Roderick sealed it at 71-64 with :21 left.

"We really wanted to push the pace and we had a lot of decent looks on three's that didn't go in," said Joe Madson, Cougar coach. "Last year we made a barrage of 3's to get back in (against Alexandria) and we just didn't quite have that today."

About falling behind 11-2, he noted, "We were down 14-0 against them last year and 10-0 earlier this year ... Maybe we didn't let them get far enough ahead!"



**Chase Thompson took aim for three of his 28 points against Mankato East.**

Minnesota Basketball News photos

Brogan Madson was 2-for-8 on three's and the team was 7-for-26. He assessed: "I got lot of looks that didn't go in. Usually if we're not great offensively we can hang our hat on our defense, but they played really well offensively."

Alexandria had runner-up teams in 1943 and 2021 and the two fourth-place finishes before getting to the top this year. Mankato East, in their 12th state trip, was runner-up for the second straight year.



**Alexandria's Talen Witt drives for two of his 16 points.**

In Alexandria's win over Totino-Grace, Thompson had 33 points, 12 rebounds and five assists, and Mason Witt with 25 points. Thompson was 12-for-13 on free shots and Witt 6-for-13 on three-pointers. Alexandria opened with an 82-70 win over Byron, fueled by 21 steals and a 33-6 edge in points off turnovers. Mason Witt had

18 points, Roderick 16, and Talen Witt 15.

Alexandria lost to Cretin-Derham Hall 77-61 and Sauk Rapids-Rice 81-66 in early December and beat SRR 101-88 later. They lost to Mankato East 81-77 on Dec. 28 and have won 24 straight since them.

Mankato East (29-2) had won 28 straight games since losing to Hopkins 87-75 in their second game. They were 16-0 in the Big Nine with just one single digit win, over Rochester Mayo 83-75.

The Cougars squeezed past Orono 64-62 in the semi-finals with Gosch hitting 16 points, Gustafson 15, and Madson 12 with nine assists. Nolan Groves logged 31 points for Orono. Fouled with two seconds left, he missed the free shot. He was 11-for-18 at the line. Mankato East opened with a 76-33 win over St. Paul



**Brogan Madson, chased by Samson Hagstrom here, tallied 27 points for Mankato East.**

Harding led by Madson with 24 points and Gosch with 12 points and 10 rebounds.



**Mason Witt sank 13 points for Alex**

Alexandria is enjoying as good a school year as it's ever had, with a volleyball state championship in the fall and the girls basketball team placing third. Thompson recalled "coming in as a freshman and wanting to just put put Alex on the map." To finish by "playing on the big stage and showing what our community is like, what our people are like, it means everything."

**Alexandria ..... 37 36 — 73**  
**Mankato East .... 28 36 — 64**

**Alexandria** — 27-59 3FG, 9-25 3FG, 10-14 FT, 32 rebounds, 7 turnovers, 11 fouls .... Scoring: Mason Witt 13 (6 reb, 3 ast, 2 stl), Chase Thompson 28 (7 reb, 4 ast), Talan Witt 16 (7 reb, 4 ast, 2 stl), Samson Hagstrom 10 (4 reb, 3 ast), Gavin Roderick 6 (7 reb, 4 stl) ... 3-pointers: M. Witt 3-7, Thompson 3-6, T. Witt 1-5, Hagstrom 2-3

**Mankato East** — 27-61 FG (7-26 3FG), 3-6 FT, 35 rebounds, 12 turnovers, 11 fouls ... Scoring: Amari Nobles 10 (4 reb), Brogan Madson 27 (5 reb), Lucas Gustafson 12 (7 reb), Dwuan Reliford 2 (6 reb), Ganden Gosch 9 (6 reb), Braden Petzel 4 (6 reb) ... 3-pointers: Nobles 2-4, Madson 2-8, Gustafson 2-7, Gosch 1-5

# Albany wins marquee match

*2A: Huskies tip Waseca 70-63; first duel of unbeatens since '85*

By Bruce Strand

Albany against Waseca for the Class 2A championship was the first matchup of unbeaten teams for a Minnesota boys basketball title in 40 years. You'd expect a great game in a matchup like that, and we got one, with Albany fighting off the small but tenacious Bluejays 70-63.

Albany finished 32-0 for its second title in a three-year stretch led by Sam Hondl and Zeke Austin, now seniors. The Huskies were 94-4 over three years. They won Albany's first title in 2023 and placed third last year after a semifinal loss to Lake City.

"It's very special. It had never been done in Albany before, and we did it twice," said Hondl. "Losing last time really hurt. We wanted to get back on top."

Waseca, led by dynamic guards Deron and Damarius Russell, battled through two close games to reach the finals and finished 32-1. The two finalists were ranked 1-2 in the regular season and seeded 1-2 at state.

"Albany got through most of their games easily — and this one was tied with a couple minutes to go. After that, it's up to the basketball gods," said Seth Anderson, Waseca coach, who should know. His team won the 2021 state title over Caledonia 51-49.

Not since White Bear Lake beat Minneapolis North in the 1985 big-school finals had two unbeatens clashed for a boys hoops title. Albany is the first unscathed champion in any of the classes since Belgrade-Broten-Elrosa in 2012.

Albany's first 30 wins were by an average of 31 points with just one single-digit win, over Pequot Lakes 53-48 with Hondl not playing. The Huskies routed Pelican Rapids 80-57 at state, then finally had a couple meat-grinders, getting past Caledonia 59-54 and Waseca.

"We knew at some point we were going to face some adversity. We didn't have that in the regular season or section," said Albany coach Cory Schlagel.

Against Waseca, senior guard Austin scored 27 points, including 10-for-10 on free shots, and made five steals, while senior forward Hondl provided 23 points, shooting 9-for-11 from the floor, 5-for-6 at the line, along with six assists and seven rebounds. Elliott Burnett, senior forward, added nine points.

The Huskies were red hot, 24-for-40 on field goals (60 percent), 7-for-15 on three's and 15-for-18 at the line. And they had a 25-17 rebound edge. But the Huskies were bedeviled by 23 turnovers. Waseca made 15 steals, led by Damarius Russell with seven.



**Albany guard Zeke Austin scanned the floor while guarded by Waseca's Ethan Heller.**

MN Basketball News photos

"We had more turnovers today than we've had in the last month," winced Schlagel. "We have not seen (pressure) like that all season ... But we just kept grinding and grinding."

The Russell brothers were at their best, keeping Waseca in the game. Deron poured in 32 points, shooting 14-for-23 with two 3-pointers. Damarius 22 points, including 4-for-10 on three's. "They just made shot after shot," Schlagel marveled.

Albany raced to a 15-4 lead and it looked like it might be another Huskie rout, even in the state finals, of a much smaller opponent. Not so. Waseca took a brief 26-25 lead on a three-pointer by Damarius Russell after a turnover. Austin regained the lead on a three-point play and the Huskies were up 32-26 at the break.

Waseca spurred ahead 35-32 and the lead kept chasing hands. Albany was up 48-46 on two Austin free shots. Waseca caught up at 57-57 on a Damarius three-pointer. Burnett hit a three for a 60-57 lead and the Huskies held the lead this time.

Deron Russell slashed for a layups that pulled the Bluejays with 62-61 and 64-63. Against furious pressure, Albany got the ball to Hondl across mid-court and he flung it to Justin who laid it in for a 66-63 lead. After Deron missed a three, Hondl rebounded and fired a baseball pass to Austin for another breakaway that made it 68-63 with 17 seconds left. Two more Austin free shots sealed it.

“We broke the dam there,” Schlagel observed. “We said, ‘Throw it to Sam, he’s 6-7 he can see over everybody.’ I don’t even know how he got the ball to Braeden on that one.” About those two fast breaks, he said, “That was not coaching, that was just kids making great plays.”



**Damarius Russell pushes past Albany's Ethan Mayer.**

While Albany praised Waseca's defensive pressure, the Waseca coach praised Albany's defensive maneuvering: “They can switch every



**Albany's Sam Hondl got to the hoop for two of his 23.**

the lane and a feed to Ethan Mayer for a layup. Caledonia missed four of their last six free shots. Austin had 22 points while Mason King had 20 for Caledonia.

Waseca edged Pequot Lakes 49-45 with both teams shooting poorly in the first round. Deron had 16 points and eight assists, Deron 13 points and Carson Ohnstad 10. The Bluejays toppled defending champion Breck 68-60 as Deron pumped in 38 points, shooting 14-for-23 on field goals, 4-for-7 on three's and 6-for-6. Miles Newton powered Breck with 24 points and nine rebounds.

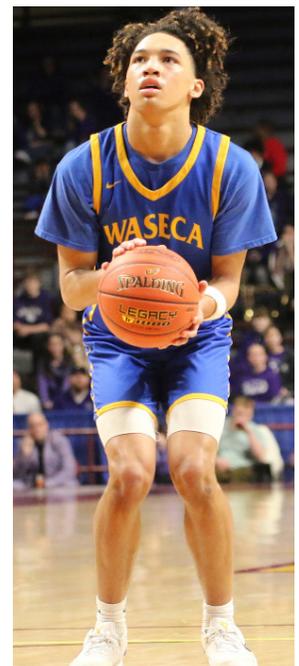
**Albany ..... 32 38 — 70**  
**Waseca .... 26 37 — 63**

**Albany** — 24-40 FG (7-15 3FG), 15-18 FT, 25 rebounds, 14 turnovers, 11 fouls ... Scoring: Zeke Austin 27 (2 ast, 5 stl), Braeden Justin 5, Elliott Burnett 9 (5 reb), Ethan Mayer 6 (10 reb, 3 ast, 2 stl), Sam Hondl 23 (7 reb, 6 ast) ... 3-pointers: Austin 3-8, Justin 1-4, Burnett 3-3

**Waseca** — 26-56 FG (7-21 3FG), 4-5 FT, 14 rebounds, 12 turnovers, 17 fouls ... Scoring: Ethan Hiller 2 (5 reb, 2 stl), Deron Russell 32 (2 stl), Damarius Russell 22 (7 stl), Carson Ohnstad 5 (3 reb, 1 stl), Isaac Feldkamp 0 (3 stl), Wyatt Hager 2 ... 3-pointers: Der. Russell, 2-6, Dam. Russell 4-10, Ohnstad 1-3

screen and all five guys can guard any position. That's the hardest thing to score against, because you can't really run a pattern against a team like that. You have to make a one-on-one play.”

In the semifinals, Albany led Caledonia 25-5 early but Caledonia tied the score at 50 on a three-pointer by Mason King. Hondl sparked Albany back to a 56-52 lead with two free shots, a soft layup in



**Deron Russell hit 32 in the finals, 83 in the tourney.**

# STATE BOYS BASKETBALL RESULTS

## CLASS 4A

### QUARTERFINALS WEDNESDAY

Cretin-Derham Hall 69, Rochester JM 57  
Maple Grove 74, Apple Valley 51  
Wayzata 61, Moorhead 52  
Shakopee 85, Anoka 52

### SEMIFINALS THURSDAY

Maple Grove 69, Lakeville North 50  
Hopkins 68, Eastview 48

### FINALS SATURDAY

#### Championship

Hopkins 81, Maple Grove 67

#### Third place

Eastview 63, Lakeville North 43

### CONSOLATION

#### Semifinals Wednesday

Rochester John Marshall 78, Apple Valley 53  
Moorhead 85, Anoka 77

#### Fifth place Thursday

Moorhead 76, Rochester John Marshall 73

## CLASS 3A

### QUARTERFINALS WEDNESDAY

Mankato East 76, St. Paul Harding 33  
Orono 87, DeLaSalle 71  
Totino-Grace 88, Duluth Denfeld 71  
Alexandria 82, Byron 70

### SEMIFINALS THURSDAY

Alexandria 73, Cretin-Derham Hall 65  
Mankato East 64, Orono 62

### FINALS SATURDAY

#### Championship

Alexandria 73, Mankato East 64

#### Third place

Orono 87, Totino-Grace 85

### CONSOLATION

#### Semifinals Wednesday

DeLaSalle 61, St. Paul Harding 54  
Byron 63, Duluth Denfeld 60

#### Fifth place Thursday

Byron 80, DeLaSalle 66

## CLASS 2A

### QUARTERFINALS WEDNESDAY

Albany 80, Pelican Rapids 57  
Caledonia 72, Minnehaha Academy 56  
Waseca 49, Pequot Lakes 45  
Breck 73, Montevideo 49

### SEMIFINALS FRIDAY

Albany 59, Caledonia 54  
Waseca 68, Breck 60

### FINALS SATURDAY

#### Championship

Albany 70, Waseca 63

#### Third place

Breck 98, Caledonia 79

### CONSOLATION

#### Semifinals Wednesday

Minnehaha Academy 78, Pelican Rapids 51  
Montevideo 62, Pequot Lakes 39

#### Fifth place Thursday

Montevideo 83, Minnehaha Academy 80

## CLASS 1A

### QUARTERFINALS THURSDAY

Cherry 89, BOLD 57  
Nevis 58, Henning 52  
Dawson-Boyd 69, Heritage Christian 46  
Red Lake County 68, Goodhue 61

### SEMIFINALS FRIDAY

Cherry 79, Nevis 70  
Dawson-Boyd 80, Red Lake County 66

### FINALS SATURDAY

#### Championship

Dawson-Boyd 81, Cherry 74

#### Third place

Red Lake County 67, Nevis 62

### CONSOLATION

#### Semifinals Friday

Henning 61, BOLD 59  
Heritage Christian 84, Goodhue 82

#### Fifth place Saturday

Henning 73, Heritage Christian 69

# It's Dawson-Boyd's year

## 1A: Blackjacks dethrone Cherry 81-74 for first state title

By Bruce Strand

Dawson-Boyd spent the last two regular seasons ranked No. 2 behind Cherry, the team that won the 2024 state title in Class 1A while the Blackjacks glumly watched the tournament after being upset in sectionals. And the Blackjacks had a chance to take on Cherry at the start in the Tip-Off Classic, losing 70-64.

But this would prove to be Dawson-Boyd's year. The Blackjacks rolled through the sectionals and the first two rounds at state, then conquered the Cherry Tigers 81-74 in the finals to capture the school's first boys hoops crown.

"That showed us what a championship level team looks like," said D-B star Brayson Boike about the early loss to Cherry. "We knew we had a little ways to go, but we got there. I'm so glad to end with a W."

"It's a little town's dream come true. The whole town of Dawson was probably here," said point guard Gunner Liebl.

The Blackjacks finished their dream season 29-3, also losing to unbeaten 2A champion Albany and to Dell Rapids St. Mary's, which place third in South Dakota in Class B. Their state finals win was their 20th straight.

D-B's previous best year was a third-place finish in 1991 in the two-class tournament. They had not been back to state until this year. Cory Larson was a junior on that team. Now he's the coach, and he knew what they had to do. "In January, I thought that we had to start competing harder on the defensive end. And these

guys bought into it. We needed all five guys to play defense if we want to wear medals around our necks."

In the finals, Dawson-Boyd's big edge was 10-for-19 accuracy on three-pointers while Cherry, normally a great shooting team, was just 3-for-19. The Blackjacks shot 59 percent overall (29-for-49).

"Their defense changed a lot. The last time it was easier to get down hill," said Carson Brown, Cherry guard who gets most of his points on drives.

Boike scored 29 points, shooting 9-for-13 from the floor (3-for-4 on three's) and 8-for-8 at the line, while snagging eight rebounds. Liebl hit 20 points, shooting 8-for-14. Drew Hjelmeland had foul trouble but netted 17 points, shooting 7-for-10. And Carson Stratmoen, scoreless in the first half, nailed four of seven from long range in the second half for 12 points.

All of Cherry's points came from its four prolific scorers as Noah Sundquist had 21 points and seven rebounds, Isaiah Asuma 19 points, Noah Asuma 18 points, and Brown 16 points. "They've got four guys who are solid, really, really good," said Larson.

Cherry had a 15-11 lead before the Blackjacks took control and led 38-32 at the break with Boike scoring 13 points, Liebl 12 and Hjelmeland 10. Cherry, down 51-42, made its last strong run of the season, 13 straight points, seven of them by Sundquist, capped by Noah Asuma's three-point play on a fast break for a 55-51 lead. The Blackjacks caught up at 59 on a three by Hjelmeland and regained the lead on another trifecta, by Boike, 62-59. Another trey, Stratmoen's fourth,



**Brayson Boike was red hot with 29 points in the finals for Dawson-Boyd.**

MN Basketball News photos

opened a 67-61 lead, and the Jacks led by at least seven the rest of the way.

“Those three’s (by Stratmoen) were huge,” Larson said. “He’s been doing it all year. He’s a kid that just kind of floats around. He doesn’t seem to know where the three point line is. He’s about four or five feet behind it.”

Cherry was making its fourth consecutive state trip; they placed fourth twice before winning it all last year. Isaac Asuma, a Mr. Basketball finalist, is now playing for the Gophers. Everyone else was back.

“It was a lot of fun, but we don’t like to lose. Our program is based on hating to lose,” coach Jordan Christianson said. “But, end of the day, in a month maybe, we’ll realize that we were 31-2 — and 62-4 the last two years, and 90-10 the last three and 117-16 the last four.”

Cherry shot 66 and 58 percent in the first two games at state, constantly streaming to the hoop for high-percentage shots.



**Noah Sundquist, catching a pass here, sank 21 for Cherry.**

D-B held them to 49 percent. “They really packed it in,” said Christianson. “Our offense is based on getting good looks with passing and cutting. They didn’t let us get to our spots.” Larson credited Boike with crucial defense: “Brayson did a really good job not letting

Sundquist go downhill. He averages about 24 points, and he’s the emotion leader of that team.”  
  
Cherry’s lone regular season loss was against Red Lake County 78-77, snapping a 44-game win streak. Along with beating D-B, the Tigers beat No. 3 Nevis 74-59 during the regular season. Cherry opened at state with an 89-57 win over BOLD shooting 37-for-56 led by Sundquist with 32 (11-for-14, and 10-for-10 at the line). Noah Asuma had 23 points. The Tigers shook off Nevis 79-70 in the semifinals, shooting 33-for-58, led by Brown with 22 points (8-for-9 field goals, 6-for-7 free shots). AJ Bessler scored 39 points for Nevis.



**Drew Hjelmeland blocks a shot by Cherry’s Isaiah Asuma late in the game.**

Dawson-Boyd beat Heritage Christian 69-46 as Boike notched 31 points and Liebl 18. In the semifinals, the Blackjacks stopped Red Lake County 80-66, shooting 60 percent (33-for-55). Boike netted 28 points. Hjelmeland had 17 points, 13 rebounds, and eight assists. Jaxton Hastad added 15 points and eight rebounds. Connor Duden poured in 30 points for RLC.

Boike, D-B’s all-time leader with 2,506 points and 1,106 rebounds, closed the press conference with a tribute to his guys: “I’ve been blessed to play with a lot of really good teammates who’ve helped me be the player and the person I am, and I want to thank them.”

**Dawson-Boyd ..... 38 43 — 81**  
**Cherry ..... 32 42 — 74**

**Dawson-Boyd** — 29-49 FG (10-19 3FG), 13-18 FT, 26 rebounds, 19 turnovers, 15 fouls ... Scoring: Gunner Liebl 20 (4 reb, 3 ast, 2 stl), Carson Stratmoen 12 (5 reb), Brayson Boike 29 (8 reb, 2 stl), Drew Hjelmeland 16 (5 reb, 6 ast, 2 stl), Jaxton Hastad 3 (4 reb), Beau Johnson 3 ... 3-pointers: Stratmoen 4-7, Liebl 1-4, Boike 3-4, Johnson 1-1

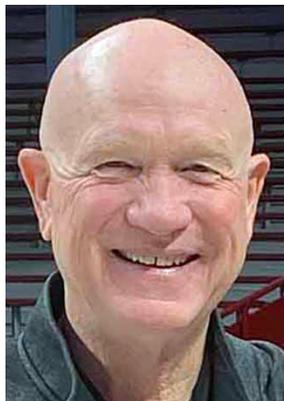
**Cherry** — 28-57 FG (3-17 3FG), 15-20 FT, 23 rebounds, 14 turnovers, 15 fouls ... Scoring: Noah Sundquist 21 (7 reb, 3 stl), Noah Asuma 19 (4 stl, 4 ast), Isaiah Asuma 19 (3 stl), Carson Brown 16 ... 3-pointers: N. Asuma 1-7, I. Asuma 1-1, Brown 1-5

# Pacesetter “Sweet 16” Teams Capture Six of Eight Minnesota State Championships

Jeff McCarron

Each August for the past 34 years, Pacesetter Sports has held a “Sweet 16” championship by inviting the top four high school teams in each class - boys and girls – as projected for the next season, to play in a 16-team summer tournament.

One team from each class is placed into each group of four teams in the bracket. Teams play two games Saturday and two games Sunday for one over-all championship. The 2025 Pacesetter “Sweet 16” tournament will be held SAT-SUN, August 2-3, at Clemens Field House again on the campus of The College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph.



Jeff McCarron

Last summer the Alexandria boys and Hopkins girls won all four games to win the two Sweet 16 over-all titles. Both teams just won the Minnesota High School state championships – Hopkins girls the 4A title and Alexandria boys the 3A title.

Four other Pacesetter teams from the 2024 Sweet 16 field also won state championships: Providence Academy won the girls’ 2A title, their fourth in a row; Wayzata boys’ won the 4A boys’ title, Albany won the 2A boys’ title, and the Dawson-Boyd boys won the 1A championship.

Each March our editors provide a list of the top teams projected for the next season, and Sweet 16 invitations are sent to the top four teams in each class.

Identifying the top teams for 2025-2026 is not a perfect science, so we welcome as much input as possible. If you are a head coach or a parent or player and feel your team could be one of the Top 10 teams in your class in Minnesota for the 2025-2026 season, please email me at [jmac8144@yahoo.com](mailto:jmac8144@yahoo.com). We would like to make every effort to identify and rank the top teams.

The other two 2025 state champions were the Benilde-St. Margaret’s girls (3A champion) and West Central girls (1A champion). BSM was a recent Sweet 16 participant. West Central has been an annual Pacesetter basketball camp host for over 10 years. See the Pacesetter camp ad on page \_\_\_ to set up a camp at your school. Schools that provide an annual Pacesetter camp teaching “Fundamentals for Champions” strengthen their programs across all ages.

## Pacesetter Sports and Minnesota Basketball News set College Prep Camp and Top 100 Expo Showcase at St. Ben’s June 30-July 1

Pacesetter Sports and Minnesota Basketball News will again collaborate to provide the “College Prep” camp on Monday, June 30, and the Top 100 Expo Showcase on Tuesday, July 1.

All varsity-level players interested in playing college basketball are eligible to participate through an invitation. Head high school coaches may nominate “college-potential” players from their projected 2025-2026 team by emailing me at [jmac8144@yahoo.com](mailto:jmac8144@yahoo.com).

Players in the “College Prep Camp” will receive a 7-hour program, provided by the Top 100 Expo staff of college coaches and former college players.

Players attending the Top 100 Expo Showcase will be placed on one of eight teams. Each team will play three games while players are evaluated by college coaches in attendance and the Minnesota Basketball News staff. MBBN publishes a Top 100 Player List annually for each class – 50 girls and 50 boys – in the pre-season issues in November.

Each Expo player field is limited to 72 boys and 72 girls. A 10-player All Star team and a Most Valuable Player will be selected at the conclusion of the Expo on July 1 and published in Minnesota Basketball News in July.

# ALL-STATE TOURNAMENT TEAMS



## CLASS 4A

Christian Wiggins, Wyatt McBeth and Isaac Olmstead of Wayzata; Joe Mitchell, Tommy Ahneman and Monteff Dixon of Cretin-Derham Hall; Nathan Hromodka and Keegan Harney of Maple Grove; Luke Wherley of Shakopee; Reign Battle of Moorhead



**CLASS 2A** -- Sam Hondl, Zeke Austin and Elliot Burnett of Albany; Damarius Russell, Deron Russell and Carson Ohnstad of Waseca; Miles Newton and Waleed Muhammad of Breck; Reid Klug of Caledonia; Gannon Reidinger of Montevideo



**CLASS 3A** -- Mason Witt, Talan Witt and Chase Thompson of Alexandria; Lucas Gustafson, Gaden Gosch and Brogan Madson of Mankato East; Nolan Groves and Brady Wooley of Orono; Chase Watley of Totino-Grace; Will Brian of Byron

**CLASS 1A**  
Drew Hjelmeland, Brayson Boike and Gunner Liebl, Dawson-Boyd; Noah Sundquist, Noah Asuma and Carson Brown, Cherry; Connor Duden and Owen Chervestad, Red Lake County; AJ Bessler of Nevis; Kale Misegades of Henning



# STATE CHAMPS

WAYZATA  
TROJANS



ALEXANDRIA  
CARDINALS



ALBANY  
HUSKIES



DAWSON-BOYD  
BLACKJACKS



# Coach's 51st season most special

By Bruce Strand

Steve Phillion's 51st season as a basketball coach is probably his most memorable as his Red Lake County team went 31-3, were the only team to beat Cherry in the regular season, and earned third place in Class 1A. A year ago, RLC was one of the last two unbeaten teams in the state at 22-0 but didn't make it to the big show. This year they beat Kittson County Central in the Section 7A finals (avenging one of their two regular-season losses) and got past Goodhue 68-61 in the quarterfinals, then lost to eventual champion Dawson-Boyd 80-66 in the semifinals. The shortest of the 32 teams at state, nobody topping six feet, the Mustangs were able to close with a W against Nevis 67-62 for third. RLC, in its 18th year as an entity, is a co-op of Red Lake Falls and Red Lake County Central in nearby Oklee. Phillion had two state tourneys teams three decades ago with Clearbrook-Gonvick in 1992 and 1993. He has 695 career wins.

## 1ST TIME IN 40 YEARS

The Waseca vs. Albany championship game in Class 2A was the first duel of unbeaten teams in the boys basketball finals in 40 years. Oddly, it happened three straight years back then, with White Bear Lake beating Minneapolis North in both 1985 and 1984, and Woodbury beating Coon Rapids in 1983. That research was provided by state basketball record-keeper and historian Matt Pederson.

## AHNEMAN'S MINNESOTA ROOTS

Tommy Ahneman, the 6-foot-11 Notre Dame recruit who transferred to Cretin-Derham Hall for his senior year, was North Dakota's player of the year last season. He played in two state championship games, winning in North Dakota with Sheyenne of West Fargo, and losing with the Raiders this year. Ahneman has plenty of Minnesota connections, as John Mellea pointed out in a feature on Ahneman for the MSHSL website. Ahneman's mother, Erin Ditty, was a state champion with Hastings in 1996, in fact sinking the game-winning shot in the finals against Osseo. His grandfather Tom Ditty was a multi-sport star for Delano and made the St. Cloud State Hall of Fame as a basketball player. The Ahneman family moved to Minnesota when his father took a job in the Twin Cities.

## ONE SPECIAL PLAYER

Waseca coach Seth Anderson choked up when talking about Demarius Russell, senior guard, whom he met when the future star was in fourth grade. "He is so respectful, he works his butt off, and he's a good leader, so others follow his example, and I will never coach a player like that again." Anderson had an interesting tidbit about Carson Ohnstad, an all tournament pick along with Damarius and Deron Russell: "This guy's dad was running the wrestling program when he came out for basketball. He came over to the good side."

## THIRD PLACE TEAMS

Maple Grove (23-9) finished third in Class 4A, turning back Shakopee 65-60 with Nathan Hornmadka, Henry Knutson and Baboucarr Ann 14 points each and Keegan Harney 13. Devin Pass led Shakopee with 18. Maple Grove capped off a great year of basketball for the school as the Crimson girls were state runners-up.

Orono (24-8) won a third-place barnburner over Totino-Grace 87-84 in Class 3A with Nolan Groves and Brady Wooley pumping in 29 points each. They beat DeLaSalle 87-71 and lost to Mankato East 64-62. Chase Watley had 27 for Totino-Grace.

Breck, last year's Class 2A champion, garnered third place this year, making the Mustangs 5-1 in their only two state trips. Breck (23-11) roared to a 98-79 third-place win over Caledonia led by Miles Newton with 30 points and 12 rebounds and Mu Mahammad with 26 points. Ethan Stendal had 29 and Reed Klug 26 for Caledonia. Breck beat Montevideo 73-49 and lost to Waseca 68-60.

Red Lake County placed third in 1A in its first state appearance, nipping Nevis 67-62 with Connor Duden scoring 18 points and Will Gieseke 15. Alex Lester scored 23 for Nevis.

# Thompson is Mr. Basketball

Chase Thompson of state Class 3A champion Alexandria was named Mr. Basketball last weekend by the nine-member committee.

The nimble 6-foot-8, 225-pound power forward averaged 25 points and 10 rebounds while excelling as a shot blocker, defender and outlet passer. He can hit three-pointers with high accuracy and blow past defenders for explosive dunks.

His coach, Forrest Witt, expected the honor. “He is the best player in the state, hands down,” said Witt after the Cardinals beat Mankato East in the state finals, adding that Thompson is “the most complete player.”

Thompson will play in South Carolina with Clemson, which was 27-7 this year and lost in the first round of the NCAA. The Tigers are coached by Brad Brownell.

When Thompson signed, the [clemsonsportsmedia.org](http://clemsonsportsmedia.org) website assessed: “Thompson gets to the basket with ease and feasts in the post using his skilled footwork and beautiful touch around the rim. He also can hit threes off the catch and shoot at a solid rate.”

Also an outstanding quarterback — he passed for 3,982 yards and 38 touchdowns, with just six interceptions, for a 10-3 team this fall — Thompson got looks from Minnesota, Iowa State, North Dakota State, and several other D-1 teams for football.



**Chase Thompson of Alexandria called for the ball in the finals against Mankato East.**

MN Basketball News photos

The other Mr. Basketball finalists were Chase Watley of Totino-Grace, Nolan Groves of Orono, BJ Armstrong of Richfield and Brogan Madson of Mankato East.

Miss Basketball will be announced April 4.  
--Bruce Strand

## MBBN picks all-tourney super five

Minnesota Basketball News reporter Bruce Strand endeavors to pick the five outstanding players in the four classes at each state tournament.

**Chase Thompson** of Alexandria heads this year’s quintet. The leader of 3A champion Alexandria was also named Mr. Basketball and Star-Tribune state Player of the Year. The 6-foot-8 Clemson recruit contributed 71 points, 28 rebounds, 11 assists, and pinpoint shooting, including 19-for-22 on free shots and 4-for-9 on three’s.

**Brayson Boike**, 6-foot-8 guard/forward, led Class 1A champion Dawson-Boyd, logging 88 points and 22 rebounds, shooting 6-for-10 on three’s.

**Zeke Austin**, floor leader for Class 2A champion Albany, totaled 63 points, 17 rebounds, 11 assists, nine steals, was 20-for-21 on free shots and committed just five turnovers.

**Nolan Groves**, Yale recruit, a 6-foot-5 guard for Orono (third in Class 3A) tallied a tournament high 104 points, with a 44-point game, 25 rebounds and 15 assists.

**Deron Russell**, junior guard for Class 2A runner-up Waseca, pumped in 38 points in the semifinals, 32 in

# LOVE LETTERS from Former Players...



***"I am so fortunate and grateful to call you my coach. Much love..."***



***"You are the reason I became a teacher!"***



***"The lessons you taught me shaped my life."***



***"I hope you know and feel all the love we all feel for you..."***



***"You went down on one knee, fist in hand, celebrating the basket! You shared it all with us."***



***"Thanks so much for being you!"***



***"Lien, you are one of a kind! You have shaped so many minds and hearts."***



***"I thank you from the bottom of my heart...."***



***"You always told me, 'Don't cry because it's over - smile because it happened.'"***

# Lien on me...when you're not strong

By Jeff McCarron

The words, "Lien on me" take on a very different meaning throughout the woods and beautiful lakes of Walker, Hackensack, Akeley and Nevis....and especially at the high school on the hill in Walker.

Known for its monster muskies in Leech Lake, Walker is a bustling center of tourism in the summer months, as people golf, fish, camp, and enjoy the glorious lake country in the area. But in the cold, dark winter months, the sound of basketballs bouncing in the gym...or in the cool, wet spring as the sound of baseballs crack off bats or smack into gloves, there is one man the kids know will be there and they can lean on: Coach Jim Lien.

Jim has coached for 48 years, beginning during the Gerald Ford presidency – long before computers and cell phones. For the last 38 years he has been the head coach of the Walker-Hackensack-Akeley Wolves girls' basketball team. He retired from elementary teaching in 2007, but high school students probably never noticed – since he kept coaching the girls in the winter and the boys in the spring and subbed whenever needed. The school and the kids know they can always count on Jim...as did our country during the Viet Nam War when he served in the Air Force 1966-70.

Jim was featured by Mike Max on WCCO-TV last week at the girls' state basketball tournament. While most coaches would be thrilled, it was likely the last place Jim wanted to be. You see, his coaching has always had little to do with him. He simply loves young people – and loves coaching and being part of their lives in his supportive, friendly, positive manner. He doesn't want to be in the spotlight – it's always the players' team, their season, and their worlds that matter.

But like it or not, Jim's team put him in the spotlight by making it to the state tournament last year for the first time in his long career and did it again this year! His life has been altered by lung cancer, so he now travels with a walker and sits in his chair throughout each game. He probably wouldn't have even mentioned it to anyone had it not become obvious. That's Jim – it's simply not about him...and he'll get there any way he can.

That brings in Linda, his loyal, lifelong companion and wife. They work together perfectly. She keeps the scorebook and crosses all the t's in his life. His gratefulness to have her in his life may be his strongest emotion

– especially now when he needs to lean on her. That's not easy for a man – but they are not an ordinary pair.

I met Jim in the hallway of Walker High School during one summer in the 1990's. Talk quickly turned to fishing, and I soon discovered his other passion – walleye fishing! Under the sandy hair and tanned forehead, his intelligent eyes beamed. It was June – and he already had stories.

So began our relationship. Jim and Linda have coordinated Pacesetter tournaments for over 20 years, and Jim has coached kids throughout Minnesota in many Pacesetter camps.

As I see Jim's coaching career and life reaching the final steps of a long journey, I see him as a symbol of goodness. God is interpreted in many ways – as in God is Goodness. Jim is just a "regular guy" like so many hundreds - thousands - of teachers and coaches who grace our schools, who love teaching and sharing their passion. Jim will receive the Carl Pierson Legacy Award at the Minnesota High School Girls' Basketball Association All-Star game banquet on Friday night, April 4, in Northfield. His award honors all positive, humble coaches and teachers showing up every day, impacting the lives of children.

There is no doubt that when his girls were behind by 16 points at halftime in the sectional final two weeks ago, the dream of returning to state was fading in the minds of fans - but what they may have forgotten was the passion for "Coach" in the heart of every player. There's no doubt...that as they looked at him in his deep royal blue Wolves shirt in his wheelchair beside the bench... they dug deeper...and found whatever it took to claw their way back into the game and win it in overtime. What a gift for The Giver...to see their joy.

I can almost hear his girls singing as a choir of angels, "Lean on us...when you're not strong...and we'll be your strength...that you can lean on...."

Feeling their strength...what a tribute for a great coach... and an even greater human being.

And, by the way, the gym in that high school on the hill is now named Jim Lien Court. Some wonderful people live in those woods.

# Play! Play! Play! Are you getting any better?

By Jeff McCarron

*Players play more games now than ever, but are they getting better?*

OK, here's a great story that may help you. It was 1976. I was 24 years old - a prime age for basketball. I was heading to Europe to play on an all-star team of former college players. I stopped into Bierman at the U of M to shoot around and met Terry Kunze for the first time. He was 33 years old and taking on all "comers" in one-on-one. Long story short, he schooled me. He had become a master of the footwork to shoot or drive at will, and on defense, he crowded me on my right side, so I couldn't use my footwork to break him down. Of course, he also officiated all action in his favor!

A few years later I was running a basketball camp in Fairfax. Terry was then the head coach of the Minnesota Fillies women's team. We had a large group of 56 girls in one session, so I wanted to do something special for them. I invited Terry to the camp. He brought one of his players. He demonstrated the one-on-one moves he had used to pummel me years earlier. One of our camp coaches was about 6-6 and 220 pounds - a former Winona State player. He stood in to play defense against Terry. Terry leaned forward head down with a foot angled slightly to his right. He stepped. "Thanks, Mike!" he said a nanosecond before rising up and nailing a 3-pointer from the top of the key. Then he repeated the stance and Mike crouched with determination to stop him this time. "Thanks, Mike!" Another 3-point swish. Two more times he did the same thing. Mike was really getting agitated and crouched even further. Terry took his stance, breaking Mike down...he then bounced the ball off Mike's head, "Thanks, Mike!", and turned to the wide-eyed girls before the ball found the bottom of the net for his 5th 3-pointer in a row.

He was an absolute master. I have been teaching his techniques and footwork for the past 48 years! They work. It is great to watch kids learn and score on others at will. I watched Michael Jordan teach one-on-one at a camp in the 1990's. There was very little difference. He held the ball on his hip instead of under his waist - probably to avoid the long

arms of NBA players - but the footwork was the same: 1) Step and shoot "Thanks, Mike!", 2) Step-hesitate-drive right, 3) Step and cross drive left, 4) Shot fake up and drive, and 5) Drive and pull up jumper - the move he used to win their 6th NBA title. If a defender will allow you to break him/her down with your strong foot forward, it's over - you can be unstoppable. Head low, foot forward, step fake, done deal. How many players do you see make this move on the perimeter? Watch for it in the next game you watch. Anthony Edwards is learning to do it at times. No dribble. "Thanks, LeBron!" Most will not break down if there's a defender present. That wouldn't have stopped Terry - and it shouldn't stop you.

At Pacesetter, we offer some of the best coaches in the country for special 1-2 day camps called "Tour of Champions". I pay these people well so they will travel to teach their championship techniques to kids wherever coaches invite us. Terry Kunze is on our staff, of course. Each coach is a champion - former state champion as a player or coach, former head college coach, or Hall of Famer. Why aren't more players trying to learn from the masters? I wish I had in high school. There's no better time than now.

I was visiting with a friend at the state tournament last week. Long story short, he made 393 straight free throws in a high school practice one day! How is your free throw? Have you mastered it yet? There's no better time than now. Maybe play less and practice more.

The Gopher men lost to Ohio State in overtime this year - even though they had dominated them. Ohio State made 17 more free throws than the Gophers but only shot 4 more. We were 12-29, they were 29 for 33. I wonder how many games the Gopher players have played from youth teams on up - over 500, probably, and how much time have they worked on their free throws in comparison?

*Where are you the weakest? How can you improve the most between now and next year? There's no better time than now.*

**PACESSETTER "Formula for Success"**

- 1) TOP COACHES:** Who do you prefer?
  - Master Coaches: Coaches who love to teach and have shown exceptional ability in relating the most important fundamentals for basketball success at all levels.
  - Championship Coaches: Coaches who have won championships as a coach or player and have an intense motivation to share their secrets for success.
  - Young Guns: Young coaches who have had early success as a player or coach and have demonstrated great enthusiasm and insight.
- 2) Strong Fundamental Teaching:** Through 45 years Pacesetter has provided top coaches who teach the most important skills for game success at every age.
- 3) Low Costs:** Pacesetter continues to keep fees at very a affordable levels for the high quality of the program.
- 4) Low Ratios:** Pacesetter averages one coach for every 9-10 players and tries not to exceed 15:1 for any session.

**COMMENTS FROM COACHES:**

*The Tour of Champions camp was exactly what my players needed! Coach Walker connected with athletes, remembering them from one year to the next, and he individualized workouts based on my team's needs. Every kid got better after just a few hours!*  
Ally Meserole, Abbotsford, WI

*Kids had a blast and did not even know they were increasing their basketball skills. I look forward to having them in the future.*  
Aron 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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Meet a few of our coaches....



**JOHN CARLSON**  
- Former Litchfield Boys' Head Coach  
- 3-time MN State champion  
- MN Coach of the Year 2010  
- MN BS Coaches Assoc. Hall of Fame



**WENDY WOHLBERG**  
- Winningest Female Basketball Coach in MN  
- Class AA State Champions - 1997, State appearances 11  
- Minnesota "Coach of the Year" - 31 times  
- National Coach of the Year finalist - 2019



**SASCHA HANSEN**  
- Two-time state champion at Marshall 2001, 2002  
- Played basketball at SCU 2003-2006  
- Three-time captain and All conference  
- Senior Athlete of the Year at St. Cloud State



**TOM VIX**  
- 16 State championships - 6M-238 record  
- State Champion 3 times, Runner-up twice  
- Minnesota State A Coach of the Year 1989, 2018  
- National Coach of the Year 2018 Finalist



**PAUL MCDONOUGH**  
- Former Head men's coach Vermillion Comm. College  
- 18-time state coach MOC  
- 2-time HS state champion  
- Record: 539-248 at Vermillion Community College

...and many more (see inside)

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Area Camp Session Length	3-day camp	4-day camp
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2.5 hours	\$95/player	\$120/player
3 hours	\$110/player	\$140/player
4 hours	\$140/player	\$180/player
6 hours	\$200/player	\$260/player

Sign up soon! Directors' dates fill up quickly!

Choose any dates: **May 27 - Aug. 8**  
Camps preferably should be:  
**Mon-Thurs, Mon-Wed or Tues-Thurs.**

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Prices per player

A. All-School Program	Boys & Girls	3 days	4 days
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Girls Grades 9-12	\$80	\$100
10:00 - 12:00 noon	Girls Grades 5-8	\$80	\$100
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Boys Grades 5-8	\$80	\$100
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Boys Grades 9-12	\$80	\$100
B. Single-gender Program	Boys or Girls	3 days	4 days
8:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Grades 9-12	\$110	\$140
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Grades 5-8	\$110	\$140
C. "Young Stars" Program	Boys & Girls	3 days	4 days
8:00 - 9:30 a.m.	Grades 3-4	\$65	\$80
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Grades 5-6	\$65	\$80
11:00 - 12:00 noon	Grades 1-2	\$50	\$60
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Grades 7-8	\$110	\$140
D. Pacesetter Varsity Intensive Training		3 or 4 days	
9:00 - 12:00 noon & 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., daily			
3 days = 18 hours		\$200/week	
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E. Create your own (fees listed to left)  
Camp format should involve five or more hours/day to attract top directors.

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2025 Minnesota Basketball News • An Invitation-only Event

# Top 100 Expo Showcase

College of St. Benedict • St. Joseph, MN  
 Tuesday, July 1

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

## College Prep Camp

Monday, June 30

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.





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# VARSITY BOYS & GIRLS "SWEET 16" CHAMPIONSHIPS



By Invitation Only

# SWEET SIXTEEN TOURNAMENT

## August 2-3

### College of St. Benedict St. Joseph, MN

The Pacesetter "Sweet Sixteen" Basketball Championship has become the premier summer tournament for varsity players as 32 top boys' and girls' teams in Minnesota gather to play for two over-all championships.

Four Class A, four Class AA, four Class AAA and four Class AAAA teams are invited to make up the 16-team fields for both boys and girls. One team from each class will be placed into each 4-team section of the 16-team bracket.

All teams will play 4 regulation-length games in a 16-team format. Teams that win the championships will receive beautiful individual plaques. Top finishers will be awarded individual medals with neck ribbons.

The College of St. Benedict Fieldhouse in St. Joseph, MN, is a first-class facility with four full air-conditioned courts with ample seating.



## FOUR CLASSES...ONE CHAMPION

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**Target Center, Minneapolis, MN**

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**June 28-29: Girls grades 4-9**



Entry Fee: \$270/team

Guarantee of 3 games with at least one game on the main Target Center floor



*8 teams maximum per grade/gender • Top teams from IA, MN, ND, SD and WI*

### How to Qualify:

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IA - Pacesetter IA State Tournament February 23

SD - Brookings Willie Mac Tournament March 28-30

MN - Pacesetter MN State Tournament March 29

ND - Grand Forks Jr Grand Am April 4-6

WI - Badgerland State Tournament March 8-9 & 15-16



*DREAMS DO COME TRUE!*



**Scan Code**

For More Info:

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

### Eligibility Guidelines:

All players must either live in or attend school in the same city, or cities that are part of the same school district.