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By Heather Rule

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ABOUT HEATHER RULE



Heather's love for watching hockey started when the Minnesota Wild came to town in 2000. Before that, she caught a few Minnesota Moose games as a youngster, and more recently she's kept up with the Austin Bruins and Fargo Force. She's a writer, freelance journalist and blogger who previously worked as a news reporter in Austin and Fergus Falls, Minn. She enjoys watching sports and closely follows the Wild, Minnesota Twins, IndyCar Series, tennis and prep sports. Heather keeps up her sports blog **Thoughts from the Stands**. You can follow her on Twitter @hrrule.

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Blake takes the Class 1A title behind a pair of hat tricks

St. Paul – The championship game included two hat tricks, a five-goal second period and a new tournament record. Blake coach Shawn Reid looked like he couldn't believe it: An 8-0 win in the state final.

Senior Carly Bullock and junior Lucy Burton tallied the hat tricks.

"I'm flabbergasted," Reid said. "I certainly didn't expect this result."

The Blake Bears (26-2-2) lost in the championship final last year to Thief River Falls. They made no mistake about putting an exclamation point on this season with the Class 1A state title victory over No. 3 seed St. Paul United (23-6-1) Saturday at Xcel Energy Center. Blake also won two regular-season meetings with St. Paul United, by scores of 3-1 and 3-2.

It marks the third title in four years for the Bears, as they also won back-to-back titles in 2013 and 2014. They've won a state-best six state titles overall.



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guess.”

Safe to say that icky feeling didn't stick around Saturday.

The first hat trick of the game came together in a span of 4:24 from Burton, who came into the game without a goal in this tournament. Reid moved her to Bullock's line early in the game. Bullock assisted on two of Burton's goals.

“After Lucy's second shift, it was very clear that she had something tonight,” Reid said.

Freshman Madeline Wethington and senior Sylvie Wallin scored the other two goals for Blake. Eighth-grader Addie Burton, Bullock and Wallin all added three assists.

For Bullock, she saved the best for last.

Her first two goals of the game gave Blake a 2-0 cushion in the first period.

“She buries them. That's what she does,” said St. Paul United coach Nate Mauer. “She opened it up. She's a naturally-gifted goal scorer.”

That second goal, her 21st in her state tournament career, tied the all-time tournament record for goals scored with Krissy Wendell. With 24 seconds left in the game, Bullock put her name solely at the top of the list with 22 goals. She had 10 in this tournament.

Bullock said she wasn't aware of the record before the game. She was just looking at the net on that 2-on-1 near the end.

“Twenty-two goals. That's ridiculous,” Reid said. “It's been so much fun coaching her.

“It's amazing. For the four years I've been with her, she has cored numerous overtime goals. Numerous times she has called her goal.”

That final goal also capped a Bullock hat trick for the second game in a row. The Ms. Hockey finalist finished the season with 58 goals. Yes, that led the Bears this season.

“For our team to play as well as we did, it's amazing,” Bullock said, who was still hoarse after taking a slash to the throat in the semifinal game Friday afternoon. “To walk away with a state championship senior year is just the best.”

Other notes:

Bullock, Grace Vojta, Lucy Burton, Wethington and Sylvie Wallin were named to the Class 1A All-Tournament team. Joie Phelps, of St. Paul United, was also named.

Proctor/Hermantown's Sophie McGovern was given the Herb Brooks Award. She was also named to the All-Tournament team.



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