



### **BROZ AND BURTON HELP CATAPULT BLAKE OVER TOP-RANKED EDINA**

**An eighth grader who usually isn't part of the power play unit, Broz scored a big first-period goal for the Bears.**

Heather Rule, SportsEngine01/18/19, 12:00PM CST

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Blake's Madison Tix attempts a spin move in front of Edina's goaltender Elli Strittmater Friday night in the third period. The Bears went on to beat the Hornets 2-1. Photo by Earl J. Ebensteiner, SportsEngine

Blake  
BLAKE  
2 - 1 Final  
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Edina  
**Team123T**  
Blake 1102  
Edina 1001  
Final  
Fri Jan 18, 2019 @ 7:00p Braemar Ice Arena



Blake's Sam Broz celebrates after scoring the first goal tying the game 1-1 in the first period. Blake beat Edina 2-1 on Friday. Photo by Earl J. Ebensteiner, SportsEngine

Blake eighth-grade forward Sam Broz wasn't slotted to be on the power play unit at the start of Friday's game against Edina. Heck, she said she hasn't really even practiced on the power play.

But she found herself in the situation anyway, and she scored a backdoor goal to tie the game in the first period. Technically, it came two seconds after the power play expired, but the Bears were cycling the puck with the advantage and finally connected. It was just the third goal of the season for Broz and helped Blake, ranked No. 2 in the Class 2A coaches' poll, defeat top-ranked Edina 2-1 Friday at Braemar Arena.



Photo Gallery: Blake vs. Edina

"Because of things happening in the game, we threw her out there," said Blake coach Shawn Reid. "She just slid right in and saw where the backdoor was and scored."

With Blake's upperclassmen players like Lily Delianedis, Addie Burton and Izzy Daniel leading the way at the top of the team scoresheet — each player has at least 19 goals and 40 points — Broz isn't typically one of the nightly goal scorers. She has three goals and six points this season. But Reid talked after the game about players stepping up, and Friday, Broz was one of them.

"Like with most of our players, they're opportunistic," Reid said. "They get an opportunity, they take advantage of it."

On the play, Broz was left all alone just to the goaltender's left as eighth-grader Ellie Morrison fired the puck over toward Broz from the opposite circle. Broz made no mistake with the direct pass and jammed the puck in the net. It was also Morrison's first assist and third point of the season.

For Broz, it was "for sure" the biggest goal she's scored for Blake (18-2, 3-0).

"I stand in front of the net a lot," Broz said. "Her pass was really good on my goal, and it was the only reason why I scored."

In a 1-1 game to start the second period, Burton scored the eventual game-winner just 2 minutes, 35 seconds into the period for the Blake junior's 19th tally of the season after the Bears crashed the net following a shot on goal from Delianedis off the rush into the zone. Burton pounded the rebound home.

For the rest of the period, Edina (17-4, 4-0) put the pressure on to try and tie the score. The Hornets had their chances but came up empty on three power-play opportunities in the period, including 16 seconds of 5-on-3 time.

Edina kept pressing in the third period but registered just two official shots on goal. All the blocked shots from Blake players definitely had a lot to do with that. Reid wasn't certain on the exact number of blocked shots for his team.

"I just told them they probably blocked more shots than we have all year," Reid said. "We just knew that we had to play tough defense and get into the shooting lanes.

"The girls really sacrificed their bodies and sacrificed themselves, and that's what you have to do in these late-season games."

Along with the solid defense, the Bears got a great start from junior goaltender Ava Christie, who did not play against Edina in the first meeting this year. Christie (13-1-0) made 20 saves Friday. She's played six of the past seven games with freshman goaltender Molly Haag out injured.

"Ava's been great," Reid said. "She's very even-keeled.

"She just goes about her business and plays really well."

Christie said afterward that she was tired after facing so much pressure from Edina in the final period, but her mindset going in was to stay in the present and not get too nervous.

"You just have to kind of stay focused throughout the whole game," Christie said. "Even if you're not facing shots, you just have to be in the moment, because you never know when a play's going to come."

The Bears penalty kill finished the game 5-for-6. Edina's lone goal came 14 seconds into the game's first power play in the first period on senior CC Bowlby's 19th of the season. She picked up where she left off against Blake; Bowlby recorded a hat trick in the first meeting between the teams in the second game of the season when Edina spoiled Blake's home opener with a 4-3 victory.

The two Class 2A, Section 6 rivals finish with a split regular season, with the road team getting the victories, previewing what has potential to be another entertaining section final. Two-time defending Class 2A champion Edina defeated Blake 4-2 in the section final last season. No. 4-ranked Wayzata is also in the mix for the stacked section.

The Bears have won 17 of their past 18 games. The Hornets have now lost three of their past seven games.

## First report

For a couple of Class 2A heavyweight teams that came in averaging more than four goals per game, the evenly matched section rivals kept the score close throughout the night.

But it was Blake, ranked No. 2 in the Class 2A coaches' poll, that prevailed with a 2-1 victory over top-ranked Edina Friday night at Braemar Arena.

Special teams were key as Edina took a 1-0 lead with a power-play goal from CC Bowlby, and then Blake tied it up just two seconds after a power play had expired. In the second period, Blake's penalty kill went 3-for-3 to keep the Hornets off the board. Edina came up empty on two more early power plays in the third period.

Blake (18-2, 3-0) scored 2 minutes, 35 seconds into the second to take a 2-1 lead on a goal from junior Addie Burton.

Like last season, this matchup could be a preview for the Class 2A, Section 6 final. Two-time defending Class 2A champion and Edina (17-4, 4-0) defeated Blake 4-2 in the section final last season. No. 4-ranked Wayzata is also in the mix for Section 6.

In net, junior Ava Christie made 20 saves for Blake while senior Elli Strittmater stopped 16 shots for Edina.



Edina's Annie Kuehl takes a shot on Blake's goaltender Ava Christie in the second period. The Hornets lost to the Bears at home 2-1. Photo by Earl J. Ebensteiner, SportsEngine

## Which team will win?

- **Blake**  
48%
- **Edina**  
52%
- **Total Votes: 54**

The MN Girls' Hockey Hub poll is for entertainment purposes only.

## Comments