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Mustangs escape Tigers

By [Heather Rule](#)

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Breck's Charlie Gamer begins his celebration after Breck scored in double overtime to defeat Delano 3-2 Thursday night in the championship game of the Section 2A playoffs at Parade Ice Garden. (Photo / Matt Kane, Delano Herald Journal)

Breck beats Delano 3-2 in double OT thriller

MINNEAPOLIS – You could feel it coming. Something had to give.

With 2:10 left on the clock near the end of the second overtime, Breck junior Will Blake scored the game-winning goal for a 3-2 win against Delano in the Section 2A final Thursday evening at Parade Ice Garden.

“Just got a breakout pass, got it on net,” Blake said. “I was pretty tired, just wanted to get off the ice.”

Both teams had their chances all night, and then Breck got a 2-on-2 breakaway.

“We told these guys just to shoot,” Breck coach Les Larson said. “We just told them don’t make any mistakes. We can play all night if we have to.”

“Thank goodness it worked out.”

The thrilling finish wasn’t the only excitement in the game.

The standing-room-only crowd was electric with about 3:41 left in regulation. That’s when Delano senior defenseman Jeff Linna buried a cross-ice pass from sophomore Brian Halonen to tie the game at 1-1. The game was scoreless through nearly the first two periods.

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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goaltender with about a minute remaining in regulation.

Time ticked down as the Tigers quickly tried to get something going offensively. The equalizer came with 37.5 seconds left from sophomore Ben Meyers.

Blake credited senior goaltender Stephen Headrick for making his game-winner possible. Headrick faced 23 shots. Delano senior goaltender Tyler Rizzardi faced 46 shots and came up with some key saves early in the game.

Delano and Breck each had a few close chances in overtime. Delano Coach Gerrit van Bergen saw the game-winning play as pretty routine.

“Once the puck left his stick, I thought it was going wide,” he said. “Unfortunately, it just snuck by. “It’s a heartbreaker.”

Still, after the medals were awarded and the gear picked up, van Bergen talked to his team about why they love this game so much. They played a great game, and he couldn’t be more proud of them, he said.

“You couldn’t write a much better storyline,” van Bergen said. “I could’ve found a better ending, but it’s a great storyline.”

A new season starts next week for Breck, as it heads back to the state tournament for the 11th time and sixth in seven years. They’re hoping for a fifth state title.

“It’s our goal every year,” Larson said. “Thank goodness it went our way this time.”



Boys Class A boys high school hockey Breck Delano home Section 2A

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