



PROVIDENCE ACADEMY DOWNS MINNEHAHA ACADEMY IN 51-48 THRILLER

The undefeated Lions have had the recipe to success this season, scoring 63.6 points per game while giving up a meager 28.6 points a contest.

Heather Rule, SportsEngine02/03/21, 4:15PM CST

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Minnehaha Academy's Talia Graham and Providence Academy's Grace Counts battle for a loose ball along the baseline in the second half. Counts had 10 points in the Lions' 51-48 defeat of the Redhawks Wednesday night. Photo by Drew Herron, SportsEngine

Providence Academy
PRVDCE
51 - 48 Final
mnhaha
Minnehaha Academy

Team 1 2 T

Providence Academy 242751
Minnehaha Academy 272148
Final
Wed Feb 03, 2021 @ 7:00p Minnehaha Academy North Campus

The numbers going into Wednesday night's game speak volumes for Providence Academy. The Lions scored 394 total points (65.7 points per game) in their first six games of the season while allowing only 152. The closest margin of victory was 25 points in a 63-38 win over Rockford.

For their seventh game, it was time to face Minnehaha Academy, a fellow undefeated team and Independent Metro Athletic Conference (IMAC) rival, which came into the matchup scoring 78.5 points per game.

"All season we've been wanting some tough competition," said Providence Academy sophomore forward Grace Counts. "So these are the games we love to play, especially against a close rival like Minnehaha."

The intense game came down to the final minute of play, with Providence Academy, ranked No. 3 in Class 2A by Minnesota Basketball News, coming out on top with the 51-48 victory at Minnehaha Academy.

The win was "a fun checklist" item for Lions coach Conner Goetz, even though there wasn't a full gym to see it due to COVID-19 restrictions.

"In my four years, I've never won here," Goetz said. "Then Liv [Olivia Klammer], my senior, it was fun for her to get a road win here, too.

"Usually the atmosphere is just packed, and it's loud. We were happy; Minnehaha fans were great. They made the atmosphere as great as it could be."

The Lions (7-0) held a lead throughout much of the second half. But the Redhawks went on an 8-0 run to make it 43-42 with 4:44 to play. Down two points, Redhawks eighth-grader Addison Mack inbounded the ball to Aniyah Reuben who scored to make it 48 apiece with 56.1 seconds to play.



Photo Gallery: Providence Academy vs. Minnehaha Academy

Klammer then scored the go-ahead bucket for the Lions with under 40 seconds left. Minnehaha Academy (4-1) had another chance to tie it in the final 30 seconds but missed the shot. A made free throw from Lions sophomore Marie Heyda with 7.1 seconds left made it a three-point game.

Mack sailed a long three-point try off the rim right before the final buzzer. The energy was the difference in the end, she said.

"We had some good spurts of energy, but then there were some where we kind of got down on ourselves," Mack said.

Mack finished with a game-high 29 points — 21 of them came in the first half.

For a couple of very offensive-minded teams, the game actually started fairly slow. Shots weren't falling on either side for some of the first few possessions of the game. It was tied 4-4 when the Lions took a timeout nearly six minutes into the game.

"There's a lot of nerves," Goetz said. "So, both teams have really young kids, and this is a pretty big rivalry."

The offense came around, however.

A couple baskets from Grace Counts and then a layup from her sister, junior forward Maria Counts, gave Providence Academy a 6-0 run to build an 11-6 lead. But Mack had the answer on the other side, going 3-for-3 from three-point range for an even faster 9-0 run and a 15-13 Minnehaha Academy lead.

The Redhawks grabbed the lead going into the halftime break when Mack made all three of her free throws with under a minute remaining. She added a layup as the first half expired, giving Minnehaha Academy a 27-24 boost at the break.

But the Lions regrouped and rattled off an 8-0 run to start the second half. Part of that was two early free throws from Lions seventh-grader Maddyn Greenway, who was held off the scoresheet in the first half — a rare occurrence for a player averaging 20 points a game. That's what some double-team defense from the Redhawks will do.

"They tried to deny her the ball as much as they could," Goetz said. "We just told her how proud of her we were in the second half, because she really responded to adversity and took that challenge head on."

Greenway finished the game with 10 points. Her teammates helped make up the difference. Grace Counts tied her season-high 18 points, and Maria Counts added eight points. Brooke Hohenecker scored 12 for the Lions and has been a big scorer for her team this season, according to her coach.

"We didn't expect that," Goetz said. "Her sister last year was our starting point guard. For her to come in and score like she has, that wasn't something we expected.

"She really stepped up in the second half and was stellar on trying to slow down Addi Mack."

It wasn't an easy game, Hohenecker said, since Minnehaha Academy is such a good team.

"They were definitely our biggest challenge yet this season," Hohenecker said. "So it'll be good when we play them again."

The rivals are scheduled to meet again at the end of the regular season at Providence Academy on March 13.



Minnehaha Academy's Aniyah Reuben and Providence Academy's Maddyn Greenway fight for position at the edge of the paint Wednesday night. The Lions edged the host Redhawks 51-48. Photo by Drew Herron, SportsEngine

First Report

Providence Academy made a late bucket and a free throw in the final minute of the second half to seal a 51-48 victory over Independent Metro Athletic Conference (IMAC) rival Minnehaha Academy on Wednesday at Minnehaha Academy.

Providence Academy, ranked No. 3 in Class 2A by Minnesota Basketball News, trailed at halftime 27-24, but held a lead late into the second half before No. 5-2A Minnehaha Academy rattled off an 8-0 run to tie it at 48 apiece with just under a minute to play.

But senior Oliva Klammer scored an important two points for the Lions (7-0) with a bucket underneath the hoop with about 38 ticks remaining in regulation. The Redhawks (4-1) had another shot but missed in the final 30 seconds. A made free throw with 7.1 seconds remaining gave the Lions a three-point lead.

Redhawks eighth-grader Addison Mack, who scored a game-high 29 points, sailed a long three-point try off the rim as time expired.

Grace Counts led the Lions with 18 points. Teammates Brooke Hohenecker and Maddyn Greenway chipped in with 12 and 10 points, respectively.







Redhawks eighth-grader Addison Mack (in red) faces a double-team while driving to the basket in the second half. Mack led all scorers with 29 points in Minnehaha Academy's 51-48 loss to Providence Academy. Photo by Drew Herron, SportsEngine

Which team will win?

- **Providence Academy**
50%
- **Minnehaha Academy**
50%
- **Total Votes: 10**

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

Comments

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Heather Rule · 23 days

51-48 final.

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Heather Rule · 23 days

4.4 ticks left. PA up 51-48. MA with the ball after this timeout.

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Heather Rule · 23 days

43-42 PA with 4:44 left in second half.

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PA leads 41-34 with 9:05 to play.

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Second half underway.

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Half time. 27-24, Minnehaha.

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Heather Rule · 23 days

9-0 run for MA. Lead 15-13 with 8:38 left in first half.

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12:10 left in the first half. 4-4 score.

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Starting lineups announced. Tip-off shortly.

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Teams are on the floor for warm-ups.

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MN Girls' Basketball Hub

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Girls' Basketball Hub Headlines



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- By Tim Kolehmainen, SportsEngine 01/18/2021, 4:45pm CST
- We selected returning girls' basketball players from all four classes from around the state as members of a dream that that are poised to make an impact this season.
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- By David La Vague, Star Tribune 06/02/2020, 7:30pm CDT
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- By David La Vague, Star Tribune 04/27/2020, 3:30pm CDT
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- **Forty players selected to the 2019-20 all-state teams**
- By Paul Patane, SportsEngine 03/16/2020, 3:15pm CDT
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Sports

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By Marcus Fuller02/26/2021, 9:22pm

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Minnesota Twins reliever Hansel Robles COVID victim without getting sick

By Phil Miller02/26/2021, 8:32pm

The coronavirus pandemic contributed to Hansel Robles' miserable 2020. "It got to me," he said of remaining indoors then worrying about the virus when permitted to leave.

Replacing Malik Beasley will be a team effort for Minnesota Timberwolves

By Kent Youngblood, Star Tribune02/26/2021, 10:04pm

No one player is going to replace the 20.5 points Malik Beasley had before his suspension. Wolves coach Chris Finch said he's expecting everyone to do a little bit more.

Ex-Lynx guard Renee Montgomery becomes part-owner of WNBA's Dream after Kelly Loeffler sells team

By Michael Rand02/26/2021, 1:54pm

The team was sold after former Sen. Kelly Loeffler came under fire from players in the league. Messaging from players played a role in Loeffler's U.S. Senate defeat.

40 years ago, the meek, mild, Minnesota North Stars started the greatest brawl in NHL history

By Jeff Day02/26/2021, 9:39pm

It took seven seconds for the first punch to be thrown and the first period lasted 91 minutes. The North Stars lost the game but, because of what took place that night, won a bigger battle later that season.

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