

CENTENNIAL 2, LAKEVILLE SOUTH 0

### Centennial finds way to get a win

Centennial held a one-goal lead late in its state tournament quarterfinal Thursday and appeared poised to win, despite two goals from either Gabbie Hughes or Annelle Linner, a one-time occurrence this season.

The Ms. Hockey finalists and scoring mavens kept seeing goal chances denied by Lakeville South goalie Leri Baker, a finalist for senior goalie of the year.

Undaunted, the top-scoring duo in Class 2A co-authored a goal to seal a 2-0 victory. With Centennial on the power play, Hughes slid a pass for Linner to redirect past Baker. The goal with just over three minutes left clinched the program's first state tournament quarterfinal victory in three tries. Centennial previously reached state in 2005 and 2008.

"I heard her call for it and I saw her out of the corner of my eye," Hughes said. "I knew she would bury it, so I threw it backdoor."

Allison Patrick gave second-period Centennial (24-3-4) a 1-0 first-period lead, but tournament fitness and frustration brought on by Baker's excellence prevented more goals. Centennial outshot Lakeville South 20-4 in the scoreless second period.

"We were pretty determined," Baker said. "We knew it was a very close game regardless of the shots on goal."

On the other end, Centennial's Mackenna Ström stopped several good scoring chances by Lakeville South (09-10) and had 32 saves, 17 in the third.

"She's the backbone to our team," Centennial coach Kristi King said. "She was making saves even when she couldn't see her in the corner."

DAVID LA VAGUE



Centennial's Annelle Linner and Gabbie Hughes celebrated Linner's third-period goal to seal a 2-0 victory over Lakeville South in the Class 2A quarterfinals.

EDINA 4, BRAINERD 0

### Top-seeded Hornets dispatch Brainerd

Edina demonstrated why it was chosen the No. 1 seed in defeating tournament underdog Brainerd 4-0 in a Class 2A quarterfinal Thursday at Xcel Energy Center.

Four players scored goals for the Hornets (26-2-4) en route to their 12th straight victory of the season. Edina, the defending state champion, has not lost its regular season since a 3-2 loss to Centennial, which also advanced to the semifinals, on Dec. 22.

"I think we had a couple good periods, but I think we have another level," Edina coach Sam Fisher said.

Edina scored first on senior Emily Oden's leading 12nd goal of the season only 2 minutes, 2 seconds into the game.

Later in the first period, the Hornets capitalized on a 5-on-3 advantage on a pretty passing play from Jennifer



Edina's Emily Oden, who scored the game's first goal, tipped the puck away from Brainerd's Cassa Wicklow in a 4-0 victory.

EAGAN 2, HILL-MURRAY 1



Eagan's Taylor Anderson received an enthusiastic greeting at the glass after scoring against Hill-Murray in the second period.

### Eagan edges Hill-Murray

Wildcats make most of chance for rare quarterfinal upset

Keen game observation and film study of Hill-Murray revealed an opportunity, and when Eagan's Taylor Anderson got the chance in real time, she pounced.

Anderson intercepted an attempted breakaway pass by the Flyers and converted for the game-winning goal in Eagan's 2-1 upset victory Thursday in the Class 2A girls' hockey quarterfinals at Xcel Energy Center.

Eagan's defeat of third-seeded Hill-Murray broke a 25-game winning streak in the quarterfinals by higher-seeded teams.

"We were watching them try to do that stretch pass," Anderson said. "I figured, get up there and cut it off and I might have a breakthrough and that's exactly what happened."

Not exactly. An alert Hill-Murray (24-5) defender tried thwarting Anderson's rush.

"I knew I wouldn't get a good shot; she'd block it," Anderson said. "So I had to make a quick move."

Anderson's goal came with 34 seconds left in the second period. Ahead by two goals, Eagan (25-2-2) traded aggressive defense for a more controlled approach.

Hill-Murray outshot the Wildcats 13-2 in the third period but got only a Kennedy Moore goal. The Flyers also had a goal saved off because the puck was held.

Eagan's coach Bill Schuffhauer had never lost in six previous state tournament quarterfinal games.

"It was tough to know what to say after the game," he said. "I never had to make that speech. Eagan played awesome. If we would have played the first and second period like we did in the third, it might have been a better outcome. But it ended up being too late."

DAVID LA VAGUE

EDEN PRAIRIE 2, ANDOVER 0

### Eden Prairie breaks through, tops Andover

Eden Prairie senior co-captain Crystalya Hengler had a limited edition stick that broke a couple weeks back. So a replacement was shipped to her house.

"I literally just got it today right before I came to this game," Hengler said.

Just in time. Hengler scored the game winner with that lucky stick on part of Eden Prairie's 2-0 victory over No. 4 seed Andover in the Class 2A quarterfinal game Thursday at Xcel Energy Center. Off the back, her shot from the point got through traffic and found the net to break a scoreless tie just 1 minute, 15 seconds into the third period.

Before the old stick broke in practice, Hengler scored eight goals in three games with it, said coach Jaime Grossman. "Looks like that stick's a good stick for her," Grossman said of the replacement.

Hengler had a team-high nine shots on goal. Boca Kniss assisted on Hengler's goal and added an empty-netter with 1:22 seconds to play.

Senior goaltender Alex Dobchuk took care of things on the other end for Eden Prairie (19-9-1), earning her eighth shutout of the season with 29 saves. Andover's Cassidy Simms had 29 stops as well.

Andover (21-7-0) had 51 shot attempts but couldn't solve five-year starter Dobchuk for a goal.

"I think we could've done a better job of getting onpucks a little bit harder," said Andover coach Melissa Volk. "We did a good job the first 10 minutes of the game, and then after that kind of let off."

HEATHER HULE



Eden Prairie goalie Alex Dobchuk stopped a third-period shot with her arm while Andover's Claire Buhore waited for a rebound. The Eagles' Claire Fujares defended.