

CE • STAR TRIBUNE
SPORTS
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PREPS
GIRLS' HOCKEY STATE TOURNAMENT

CLASS 2A QUARTERFINALS GENTRY ACADEMY 2, MAPLE GROVE 1

Gentry Academy's Jenessa Gaudin gathered up a loose puck in front of the Maple Grove net moments before scoring the Stars' first goal Thursday.

THURSDAY'S RECAP

THREE STARS

1. Edina senior defender Haley Maxwell She scored once and had three assists in the Hornets' 7-0 victory against Northfield.

2. Minnetonka junior forward Grace Sedara The Star Tribune All-Metro first-team selection scored two of the Skippers' first three goals in a 9-0 defeat of Burnsville. She later completed the hat trick.

3. Andover junior forward Lia Goettli Part of the team's high-scoring top line, she scored twice by crashing the net after she had a goal disallowed. She has 27 goals, nine in her past four games.

BY THE NUMBERS

21 Blocked shots by Burnsville falls against Andover.

1 Northfield, a Class 1A state tournament qualifier in 2016 and 2021, made its first trip to Class 2A. Coach Paige Inlay, a four-time state tournament participant as a player and first coach, Sami Reber, for the program's career record with 123 assists.

ATTENDANCE

Thurs. day: 3,210
Thurs. evening: 1,548
Wed. day: 2,089
Wed. evening: 1,308

Off the bar, into the semifinals

Gentry Academy broke a tie with 4:21 left, getting just the right bounce against Maple Grove.

By HEATHER BULE
Special to the Star Tribune

Junior Campbell Hegar said she "saw a clear lane" and Fred shot that went bar-down with 4:21 left in regulation to give Gentry Academy a 2-1 victory over Maple Grove in the Class 2A girls' hockey state tournament quarterfinals Thursday at Xcel Energy Center.

"I honestly feel like we just wanted it more," Hegar said. "It was a great team win."

Hegar's goal, her seventh of the season, came on the power play after each team went 0-for-6 with the advantage in the third period.

The Stars dominated the first period in shots — 13 — but couldn't find the back of the net. Maple Grove took a 1-0 lead in the second period on Stella Brevans' final goal of the season before Gentry Academy's Jenessa Gaudin tied the game on her own rebound.

Gentry Academy coach Paige Jaboke credited Maple Grove for the tight game.

"They put up a really tough battle for us," Jaboke said. "But like Campbell had said, in the end it was just a matter of will."

The fifth-seeded Stars (23-8) improved to 2-1 against the Crimson (20-2) this season. At the neutral site Thursday, Maple Grove coach Jim Koltes said it was a pretty even game.

"The second period, we thought we dominated that period and set the momentum," Koltes said. "I mean, I don't think there was any real difference between the two teams, except that they might get to practice a little more than we do."

CLASS 2A QUARTERFINALS EDINA 7, NORTHFIELD 0

Edina grinds down goalie Malecha in rout

By DAVID LA VAQUE
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Once the Edina girls' hockey team solved Northfield goalie Maggie Malecha, the rout was on in Thursday's Class 2A state tournament quarterfinals.

A 7-0 victory at the Xcel Energy Center means defending champion and No. 3 seed Edina (26-2) will face No. 3 seed Minnetonka at 6 p.m. Friday. The Skippers went 12 against the Hornets during the regular season.

On Edina's 17th shot original, Hannah Halverson tipped a pass from Jane Rault into the net. Halverson's power-play goal came with 4:12 seconds remaining in the first period.

"Any time we're facing a great goaltender, we have to get her moving side to side," Halverson said. "We know that shots straight on were most likely not going to go in."

Malecha, one of five finalists for the Let's Play Hockey Senior Goaltender of the Year award, kept Northfield (9-6-5) in the fight, but Edina bumped its lead to 4-0 with a third second-period goal. Lovisa Nelson jammed home a loose puck. Koethi berndt rebounded and Beek Lindberg added a goal.

"These guys figured it out, and I know once we could bury a couple more, then the goaltender would open," Edina coach Sami Reber said.

Malecha, who signed with the University of St. Thomas, finished with 57 saves.

"Maggie is unbelievable," Edina coach Paige Inlay said. "She definitely stopped the first, second and sometimes third shot. Very proud of her for how she displayed her talent today."

CLASS 2A QUARTERFINALS MINNETONKA 9, BURNSVILLE 0

Minnetonka starts out hot and keeps pressure on till end

By DAVID LA VAQUE
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Minnetonka junior forward Grace Sadara tallied her second goal of Thursday's game against Burnsville and brought teammates Kendra Distad, Lauren Karl, Stella Leiser and Ava Lindsay together for the celebration.

They posed for a moment as Sadara held up her hockey stick at an angle as if a camera were attached to the taped blade.

"I just need Minnetonka's performance could have been framed," The Skippers started their 9-0 victory by dominating the first period, outscoring the Blaze 5-0 while allowing zero shots on goal.

"Our goal was to have a hot start, and I thought that really set the tone for our team," coach Tracy Cassano said.

For Burnsville (22-6-1), the inability to find its footing owed to nerves early on and pressure from Minnetonka throughout.

"We weren't down on anything when we came back into the locker room," Blaze assistant coach Bob Sherry said. "We just said, 'Let's throw some pucks on net and see what happens.' Today, we ran into a very good Minnetonka team."

Sadara's second goal of the game gave Minnetonka a 3-0 advantage in the second period. She later completed the hat trick.

As for that goal celebration, or celly, as hockey types call it, Sadara said: "All week at practice we said, 'This is going to be our celly if we score.' We did it probably 20 times. Coach probably got a little tired of it."

Cassano said: "Actually, I loved it. Our team picks itself on good cellies."

CLASS 2A QUARTERFINALS ANDOVER 5, BRAINERD/LITTLE FALLS 0

Andover brings its intensity in time to triumph in shutout

By HEATHER BULE
Special to the Star Tribune

Considering all the shots, we just weren't executing, and that's frustrating for us."

The Huskies (28-0) realized they needed to come out and show what they could do, junior Lisa Goettli said. Goettli scored 29 seconds into the third period to make it 2-0.

Headmaster Jones added her sixth and seventh goals of the season on shots from the point, the second on the power play.

"I would have to say that I don't think our intensity was there today," and determination Collins Mumm. "I think we needed to get on pucks harder. We needed to execute more on the penalty kill, springing herself for a breakaway, backhanded, short-handed goal."

"Things could have gone two really different ways at that point," Andover coach Melissa Volk said. "So that was huge for Ella to score that goal."

Warrior goaltender Reyes Sanyer made 48 saves.

"I thought we did a good job containing them the first two [periods], absolutely," said Warriors coach Tate Bink, whose team is 17-12-0.

"Then a couple of whoopee goals there, the power play, a turnover short-handed."