

SECTION 6 EDINA 3, WAYZATA 2



Edina's Emma Conner (14) and Tella Jungreis (19) skated to goalie Uma Cornies after the Hornets beat Wayzata on Friday.

# Nothing easy this time

But No. 1 Edina still navigated its way back to state.

By DAVID LA VAKSE  
Special to the Star Tribune

A year ago on Feb. 14, goaltender Uma Cornies and Beck eased to a lopsided section final victory. Not so this year. Cornies, who transferred to Edina, found herself under siege in the final minutes of the Hornets' 3-2 victory over determined Wayzata in the Class 2A, Section 6 championship game Friday at Paradise Ice Gardens in Minneapolis.

"Class 2A is so much faster-paced," said Cornies, a ninth-grader with skill and poise beyond her years. "Last year at Brock we won big and this year it almost went overtime. It was definitely a lot more intense."

Top-ranked Edina escaped with a victory and preserved two streaks in



Wayzata goalie Micah Bengerson sat on the ice after losing her glove attempting to make a save in the third period.

the process. The Hornets, headed to the state tournament for a sixth consecutive season, seek their fourth state championship in a row.

Edina (26-1) controlled the first period and led 1-0 on Emma Conner's goal. No. 11 Wayzata (17-10) held a lead in play through the second period's first seven minutes. The Trojans skated with purpose, snatched the puck and got bodies in front of Cornies.

"Section hockey is always different," junior forward Hannah Chonka said. "You can't base anything off previous games. And Wayzata is a team that doesn't give up."

Some enough, Shosne Matthews' power-play goal at 7:15 of the third cut the Trojans' deficit to 2-1.

Edina answered, however, as Chonka took a pass from Conner and tucked the puck into the Trojans' net with just less than five minutes to go.

Wayzata wasn't finished. With their goalie pulled, the Trojans again made it a one-goal game when Sophie Ullman scored with 2:24 left. Only once all season had Edina given up two goals in a game.

"We're human and things are going to happen," Hornets coach Sami Haber said. "We expect every team's best game, and hats off to Wayzata, they gave it 100 percent. But I'm glad we faced some adversity and found a way out of it."

SECTION 4 HILL MURRAY 3, STILLWATER 1



Rachel Kennedy made 18 saves for Hill Murray as the Pioneers won the Class 2A, Section 4 girls' hockey championship.

# Pioneers land ninth state berth since '11

By PAUL HODONOWSKI  
Special to the Star Tribune

A year after missing the state tournament for the first time since 2012, the Hill Murray girls' hockey team is headed back to Xcel Energy Center.

The Pioneers topped Stillwater 3-1 in the Class 2A, Section 4 final at Aldrich Ice Arena in Maplewood on Friday to earn their ninth state tournament appearance since 2011, averaging a 2-0 loss to White Bear Lake in last year's section final.

"It's definitely a great feeling to get back," Hill Murray co-head coach Bill Schaffner said. "You can never take it for granted."

Stillwater (24-1) played from behind for all but 3 minutes, 24 seconds as Hill Murray senior forward Alex Balke put the Pioneers (26-3) up quickly in the first period and senior forward Nina Stojadin added another before the period was over.

"We took the period off.

That's the story of the game," Stillwater coach Mira Jolosa said. "When you don't start playing hockey when the puck drops, that's the outcome."

Still, Hill Murray wasn't comfortable sitting on its lead.

"In the locker room between the first and second period I was like, 'We need to get one more goal,'" Balke said. "Just to put it in there that we're ready to play this game and we're in it to win it."

Balke did just that, scoring midway through the second period for a 3-0 lead. Stillwater's Morgan Winkler scored early in the third.

Hill Murray goaltender Rachel Kennedy finished with 18 saves.

The Pioneers are looking for their first state championship since they won back-to-back in 2014 and 2015.

Paul Hodonowski is a sports writer in Minneapolis on assignment for the Star Tribune.

SECTION 2 MINNETONKA & EDEN PRAIRIE 2

# Special teams make the difference

The Skippers scored two shorthanded goals and another on the power play.

By HEATHER HULE  
Special to the Star Tribune

The Minnetonka girls' hockey team scored two shorthanded goals this season. One game, and the tally is up to four.

The Skippers scored a pair of shorthanded goals, plus one on the power play, in a penalty-filled game to defeat Eden Prairie 6-2 on Friday in the Class 2A, Section 2 championship at Bremer Arena in Edina. First-year Minnetonka coach Tracy Cassano focused on special teams this week, since the Skippers were facing Eden Prairie for a fourth time.

"We figured if it was a back-and-forth trading penalties that we needed to do our job on special teams," Cassano said. "The girls did a phenomenal job tonight."



Minnetonka's Grace Sadum fired a shot past Eden Prairie goalie Ashley Goegen during the first period Friday night in Edina. The Skippers eventually pulled away to best the Eagles 6-2.

Nicholson, who finished with three assists. "I saw the pass coming, and I fortunately enough, picked it off."

Top-seeded and fifth-ranked Minnetonka (21-6-1) got goals from six players to successfully defend its section crown. Defenseman Rory Galinsky finished the

scoring with the Skippers' second shorthanded goal. That depth is something that sets Minnetonka apart from other teams across the state, according to Cassano.

Sydney Langweh tied the score twice for third-ranked Eden Prairie (20-7-1), but the Eagles couldn't overcome the

three-goal third period from Minnetonka.

"It's disappointing to have 17 penalties in a championship game," Eagles coach Jaimie Grossman said. "I thought 5-on-5 we absolutely controlled play and I wish we could have had more 5-on-5 time."

# Maple Grove digs in after early deficit

By NATE GOTTLIEB  
Special to the Star Tribune

Maple Grove scored three unanswered goals after Blaine took an early lead before holding on to defeat the Bengals 4-3 Friday in the Class 2A, Section 5 girls' hockey championship game at Roseville Ice Arena.

Lauren Stenslie scored the first of the three goals, corraling a pass from teammate Chloe Corbin and chipping the puck into the net less than a minute after Blaine took a 1-0 lead. Sun Nordstrom scored the go-ahead goal 30 seconds into the second period, and Britt Goetsch gave the Crimson a two-goal lead over 15 minutes later.

Stenslie added an empty-netter with 31 seconds remaining in the game, after Blaine had cut the lead to one.

"We played a little tentative to start," Maple Grove coach Amber Hegland said. "When the puck went in and Blaine was ahead, I think our girls dug their heels in and decided that it was going to be something they were going to have to fight for."

Stenslie, a junior, said the team was a "little nervous" after the lead was cut to one late in the game but remained focused.

"We just got going and took it to them," she said. Brooke Cassab made 25 saves for Maple Grove, while Blaine's Hilarly Hansen saved 29 shots for the second-seeded Bengals (16-11-1). That included two saves on breakaway opportunities for Stenslie late in the third period.

Eden scored in the first period and Britya Fussy scored in the third period for Blaine.

"The third period, I was exceptionally proud of our kids," Bengalis coach Steve Goider said.