

C12 • SPORTS • STAR TRIBUNE • SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2015

# preps girls' hockey state tournament

THIEF RIVER FALLS 4, SOUTH ST. PAUL 1

## Prowlers power past Packers for title shot

The River Falls peppered South St. Paul goaltender Sydney Cooley with plenty of shots, yet only led 2-1 for most of the game. Prowlers coach Whitney Rostenmeyer, however, knew her players could handle the pressure. They scored twice in the third period and went on to a 4-1 win over South St. Paul in Friday's Class 1A girls' hockey state semifinal at Xcel Energy Center.

"They didn't let up at all," Rostenmeyer said. "They weren't worried... I could hear it on the bench."

The Prowlers kept pressuring until all the shots paid off. Junior defenseman Briana Jovic made 11-14 with a shot move to the net with 1:42 left.

"It gave our team lots of motivation to keep going," she said.

Sybil Marshall added an empty netter for top-seeded Thief River Falls, which got seven saves from Frances Marshall. Cooley stopped 49 shots.

The River Falls (28-3) got on the board early when senior Emily Berglund scored her 31st of the year off a rebound 36 seconds into the game. The best chance that didn't go for the Packers came about six minutes later when the puck was on the goal line but didn't sneak into the net behind Marshall before she froze it.

Morgan Martell made it 2-0 late in the second before Cooby Jenkins got the Packers 0-10-20 within one minute of the third.

The Prowlers, in their first state tournament, hope to finish their debut with a championship. They meet two-time defending champion Blake on Saturday for the Class A title.

"We're trying to make a history for ourselves," Rostenmeyer said.

HEATHER HULE

### BLAKE 2, RED WING 0



BLAKE 2, RED WING 0  
Blake teammates hug Sarah Chase (far left) after she scored the first goal of the game against Red Wing in Friday's semifinal.

## Blake gets a chance for three in a row

Blake and Red Wing were scorers through nearly two periods during the semifinal game Friday. Then Blake freshman Sarah Chase left alone to the side, fired a shot through traffic to give her team a 1-0 lead with a minute remaining in the second period.

"Someone had to do it," Chase said. "It was great to get great momentum for our team."

Senior Jordan Chancellor added two goals a minute apart in the third period and Anna Kruseel had 19 saves as Blake won 3-0. The No. 2-seeded Bears will meet Thief River Falls in Saturday's Class 1A title game.

The two-time defending champion Bears are seeking their sixth state championship. Blake and Red Wing were no strangers in the state tournament. Blake won last year's semifinal between the two in double overtime. After Friday's game, Blake coach Shawn Reid said the Wingers outworked and outplayed his team in the first period.

"Red Wing played an awesome game," Reid said. "We had to pick up our work ethic."

Red Wing senior goalie Ashley Crocco kept her team in the game by holding Blake scoreless until Chase's goal. She faced 47 shots.

"We knew she was going to play excellent," Red Wing coach Scott Hasey said of Crocco. "We needed a break or two. We needed to be perfect on our execution."

HEATHER HULE

HILL-MURRAY 2, EDINA 1



Hill-Murray's Laura Anderson celebrated her winning goal against Edina's goalie Anna Goldstein, who stopped 45 other shots.

## Pioneers sneak into finals

A late power-play goal gave Hill-Murray a chance to defend its title.

Both Hill-Murray and Edina saw opportunities to score on third-period power plays. Only the Pioneers (24-6) converted.

However, earning a 2-1 victory in a Class 2A semifinal Friday and the chance to defend their state title.

Laura Anderson's rebound goal with less than five minutes left made Edina pay for its first-minute major penalty.

"It was a great shot from the point and I turned around to see the puck and an empty net. I was hoping I wouldn't whiff."

Anderson said. "I was hoping I wouldn't whiff."

Pioneers laughs came easy. But Edina's two-man advantage for the final minute, 44 seconds of the game made the tension palpable. Edina coach Laura

Sloiminski believed her team would tie and likely force overtime. The equalizer never came.

Edina (21-8) trailed 0-1 until Taylor Williamson, the Star Tribune Metro Player of the Year, tied the game with a great individual effort. She got three chances near the Hill-Murray goal and finished the third.

Monsters swung Hill-Murray's way after Williamson was whistled for contact in the head and received a five-minute major penalty. Sloiminski grieved for all her players after the loss, particularly Williamson.

"When a kid is sitting in the penalty box it's tough on them," Sloiminski said. "But I reminded Taylor that we wouldn't be where we are without her."

A Hill-Murray player only meeting earlier in the day helped create a collective focus.

"Our saying is, 'Perfect effort,'" Anderson said.

DAVID LA VAGUE



Edina's Anna Glan tucks her stick in the second period of the Class 2A semifinal game against Hill-Murray on Friday.

MINNETONKA 5, LAKEVILLE SOUTH 1



Lakeville South's Anna Haeg pinned Minnetonka's Presley Nortby against the boards during the first period.

## Minnetonka maintains perfection at state tourney

Top-seeded Minnetonka beat Lakeville South 5-1 and secured a championship game berth for the fourth time in five seasons.

The Skippers will face defending Class 2A champion Hill-Murray at 7 p.m. on Saturday. They defeated the Pioneers in the 2013 championship game.

"We're very excited," Minnetonka coach Eric Johnson said. Kippin Keller scored twice for

Minnetonka, winners of three consecutive titles from 2011-13. Minnetonka (28-0) has never lost a state tournament game, going 11-0 through three state title runs and two victories this year.

A fortunate bounce got Minnetonka on the board first. A Lakeville South clearing attempt hit Emma Bigman in the state and deflected past goalie Chloe Crosby.

Then Keller struck for goals at times teams hate to give them up. Though falling, she used her backhand to sweep a puck home with just three seconds remaining in the first period.

Keller came right back with a goal at 1:08 of the second period — her fourth of the tournament — to hold a 3-0 Minnetonka lead.

"I think those goals got us more confidence and more momentum," Keller said.

The opposite was true for Lakeville South (24-4-1).

"It's a game of momentum and those types of goals are tough on your confidence," Cougars coach Natalie Darwitz said.

Morgan Moore ruined Minnetonka's bid for a second shutout with a third-period goal. Kate McMillan and Annaliese Rice also scored for Minnetonka.

DAVID LA VAGUE