

CLASS 2A SEMIFINALS EDINA 2, MINNETONKA 1

# Edina strikes last for the win

Annie Kuehl scored with 38.4 seconds to keep the Hornets' three-peat hopes alive



Minnetonka goaltender Brynn Dulac was unable to stop a shot by Edina forward Annie Kuehl in the last minute of the third period.

By DAVID LA VAGUE  
david.lavague@startribune.com

Minnetonka girls' hockey coach Eric Johnson thought he was complimenting Edina coach Sami Reber when he lauded the Hornets' defensive game plan.

Turns out the smothering performance was a product of necessity on a night when Edina's offense wasn't clicking.

"The team took it upon themselves to say, 'Hey, let's crush the D-zone and hopefully equal a few goals,'" Reber said.

Whatever works. Top-ranked Edina completed a three-game season sweep of its Lake Conference rival with a 2-1 victory in the second Class 2A semifinal Friday at Xcel Energy Center.

No. 1 seed Edina (26-4) advances to Saturday's title game to face Brainerd/Little Falls. The Hornets are seeking to become just the second team to win three straight state titles.

Defender Vivian Jampala, a sixth grader verbally committed to the Gophers, scored the game's first goal in the first period. As the game wore on, it looked like it might be the only one.

Minnetonka sophomore goalie Brynn Dulac settled in and kept her team within a goal despite zero shots on goal by the Skipper in the second period.

"They did a great job defensively," Johnson said of Edina. "They made it tough for us to break out of our zone. They took away our time and space, but our girls never quit."

In the third period, junior forward Jade Heiling scored her first goal of the season for No. 5 seed Minnetonka (15-14-1), clipping a puck high into the Edina net with less than five minutes left.

Senior forward Annie Kuehl's goal broke the 1-1 tie with 38.4 seconds left. "We work in practice on just getting pucks to net," Kuehl said. "It was a fun goal."

CLASS 2A SEMIFINALS BRAINERD/LITTLE FALLS 3, ANDOVER 2 (OT)

# Wait for signature moment takes only 10 seconds

By DAVID LA VAGUE  
david.lavague@startribune.com

Brainerd/Little Falls girls' hockey coach Jim Erster saw Friday's semifinal against favored Andover as a race to check out third goals. As the teams prepared for overtime, Warriors' assistant coach Carl Sneyer advised Erster to plan for a marathon.

The brained brain trust was half right.

The Warriors edged Andover 3-2 on Cherylene Abeer's goal just 10 seconds into the extra period. The victory sends No. 3 seed Brainerd/Little Falls (25-4-1) to Saturday's Class 2A championship game. Not since Grand Rapids/Greenway in 2008 has a northern Minnesota team reached the high-school class title game.

"We just needed to go out and embrace the moment and have fun," Erster said. "You've got to get away from this idea that it's a pressure-stricken that you're going to have trouble making decisions."

The pressure was on No. 2 seed Andover (24-5) going into the third period trailing 3-0.

despite outbowing Brainerd by a 20-16 margin. For two periods, Andover darted and dangled but could not beat Brainerd senior goalie Olivia King.

"There are a lot of kids in northern Minnesota that fly under the radar," Erster said. "So for her to perform at the level she has this Friday [of the tournament] is a credit to her and her preparation."

On her team's first shot of the game, Kennedy Little finally got Andover on the board. Then teammate Hannah Stauffer tied the score on her fourth goal of the season.

"I thought we had the momentum going into overtime," Stauffer said. "We were feeling it."

The Hornets weren't scored. They went back-to-back overtime games just to reach the state tournament.

But Friday was Abeer's turn.

"I definitely didn't think it was going to be 10 seconds but I just knew that no matter how long it took we just had to do everything we could," Abeer said.



Cherylene Abeer (5) and Brainerd/Little Falls stalled off with a win after only 10 seconds of OT.

CLASS 1A SEMIFINALS BRICK 11, MOUND WESTONKA/WATERTOWN MAYER/SOUTHWEST CHRISTIAN 1

# Big-time movers are unstoppable

After winning a tight defensive game in the state quarterfinal, Brick co-head coach Steve Perkin said he wanted to see crispier puck movement in the next game.

So the Mustangs picked up goals Friday in the Class 1A semifinal against Mound Westonka/Watertown Mayer/Southwest Christian, including one in the first period of an 11-1 victory.

"I think the first period is a testament to moving the puck and really crushing the net," Perkin said.

Junior Olivia Moberly and sophomore Sadie Lindsay scored last trick and five other players each scored a goal for the second-seeded Mustangs.

Eight-grader Stella Bertram scored 2 minutes, 21 seconds into the game to set the tone.

Lindsay and senior Carly Beniek scored 26 seconds apart to make 3-0. Two of Moberly's goals came 21 seconds apart in the first, the second coming on a mini breakaway.

"Coach stressed a lot getting the puck out just chipping it off the glass," said Moberly, who has a team-leading 33 goals this season.

"My linemate Alley Qualey, she shot it right through the center of the ice. It was such a nice play."

The defending champion Mustangs (21-8-0) handed the No. 3-seeded White Hawks



SHARL GROSS - shag.gross@startribune.com

Cathy Beniek (9) celebrated a score in the first period, and plenty more goals would follow.

(23-5) their first loss. Freshman defenseman Montana Curmeay scored late in the second.

"Our young kids really played like young kids," White Hawks co-head coach Bob Kaehli said. "Breck's good, and they're fast. And our girls didn't adjust very well."

HEATHER RULE

CLASS 1A SEMIFINALS WARSAW 5, PROCTOR/HERMANTOWN 2

# Warroad needs a rare rally to win

Tip-seed Warroad found itself in unfamiliar territory, trailing by goal heading into the third period against Proctor/Hermantown.

Warriors coach David Marvin could only think of a couple examples this season when his team trailed.

"But the difference is we were playing pretty good then," Marvin said. "So this, what we did in the third period, in my eyes, is even more special."

Warroad (28-0-1) stormed back with four third-period goals to earn a 5-2 victory over the Mirages in the Class 1A semifinal Friday.

Junior Hannah Cornelissen tied the game at 2-2 with just under 30 minutes to play, then senior defenseman Kaitlyn Kosloski put the Warriors in front for good 2:01 later.

Cornelissen scored again with under six minutes left. Teammate Genevieve Hendrickson also had two goals.

"Hannah's a freight train and she doesn't run out of gas," Marvin said. "The longer she goes without scoring, the more she comes and the more she brings it."

Alyssa Watkins gave the Mirages (19-8-3) a 2-1 lead with 1:51 left in the second period. It's only the fourth time this season the Warriors allowed two or more goals. They've outscored opponents 16-30 this season.



SHARL GROSS - shag.gross@startribune.com

Hannah Cornelissen, back, celebrated after scoring her second goal for Warroad.

"It was so fun knowing that we put two goals on a very good goalie," Watkins said.

"Then we just knew that we had to start playing defensive and to defend our net, and that's when we started thinking too much and the goals started going in."

HEATHER RULE