


CE STAR TRIBUNE ***** SPORTS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023

PREPS
GIRLS HOCKEY STATE TOURNAMENT

THE SEMIFINALS For a more detailed report on each semifinal game from both classes, go to startribune.com/preps



FRIDAY'S RECAP

THREE STARS

- 1. Maddy Kimbrel, Orono Freshman**
Scored 3:47 into overtime, her 71st goal of the season and third of the tournament, to send her team to its first state title game.
- 2. Kate Johnson, Warroad senior**
Scored a pair of third-period goals — No. 37 and 38 for her this season — to help Warroad pull away from South St. Paul and into another championship game.
- 3. Maya Engler, Andover sophomore**
She put her team ahead to stay with her 19th goal of the season.

BY THE NUMBERS

1
For the first time in the two-class era, the Class 1A semifinal game featured the same matchups as the year before. This year and last, Orono and Proctor/Hermantown faced each other, followed by Warroad and South St. Paul. The only change in the bracket involved seeds, with Orono going from No. 2 to No. 3 this game.

4
Times South St. Paul and Warroad have met in the Class 1A semifinals since 2012, the last time the Puckett advanced to the title game.

6
Edina goaltender Uma Cornea was a 6-for-6 on state tournament appearances in her high school career, the first two with Black and the past four with Edina. She won three titles.

1988
The year Larry Oltmew won the Mr. Hockey award for Warroad. Oltmew, who coached Orono against his hometown school in his first year coaching the program, Oltmew gave up a block away from Warroad coach David Marvin. Marvin said, "He's got his team playing well. I'm happy for them."

3
Minutes left in the game when Andover senior captain Ella Boeger committed a penalty in a one-goal game. It didn't fast Andover goaltender Courtney Stigman. "That's kind of the story of Andover hockey," Stigman said. "We always get a penalty last minute." Stigman kept Edina from tying the score, even when her counterpart between the pipes, the Hornet's Uma Cornea, was pulled for a sixth attacker. "It's always fun," said Stigman, who finished with 19 saves. "It becomes really intense, and I like the big moments."

ATTENDANCE

Class 1A
Wednesday early: 756
Wednesday night: 1,070
Friday: 2,381

Class 2A
Thursday early: 1,178
Thursday night: 1,807
Friday: 2,739

SCHEDULE

CLASS 1A

Thursday semifinals

- Andover vs. Orono 6 p.
- Edina vs. Proctor/Hermantown 6 p.
- South St. Paul vs. Warroad 6 p.
- South St. Paul vs. Warroad 6 p.

Friday championship

- Andover vs. Orono 7:30 a.m.
- Edina vs. Proctor/Hermantown 7:30 a.m.
- South St. Paul vs. Warroad 7:30 a.m.

CLASS 2A

Thursday semifinals

- Orono vs. Orono 6 p.
- South St. Paul vs. Warroad 6 p.
- South St. Paul vs. Warroad 6 p.

Friday championship

- Orono vs. Orono 7:30 a.m.
- South St. Paul vs. Warroad 7:30 a.m.

CLASS 2A GAME OF THE DAY ANDOVER 2, EDINA 1

After back-and-forth, Andover finds net and final

Edina took the first lead in Friday's Class 2A state tournament semifinal thanks to a scam in front of the Andover net. The Huskies drew even on a tipped shot. A matchup of Senior Goalie of the Year Award finalist Uma Cornea, the Hornet's queen bee, and the Huskies' Courtney Stigman seemed likely to be decided on another such goal.

That it will help hometown Maya Engler slide into the high slot and put Andover ahead 2:1 by rifling a pack high stick-side over Cornea's right shoulder. Engler's goal, her 19th of the season, held up as the game-winner, sending the defending state champion Huskies back to the title game.

"Uma is very good," Engler said. "But I have a shooting coach that always says I know where the net is. Passing the lead back and forth fit two

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME
ANDOVER VS. GENTRY ACADEMY
7 P.M. FRIDAY (CH. 45)

CLASS 1A GAME OF THE DAY OKONO 4, PROCTOR/HERMANTOWN 3 (OT)

Spartans get bounce, and a title shot

Orono cling to a one-goal lead throughout the third period of the first Class 1A semifinal Friday at Xcel Energy Center. The pressure from Proctor/Hermantown became too much, and the game was tied late in regulation.

The third-seeded Spartans didn't stop. Freshman Maddy Kimbrel scored the winner 3:47 into the extra period for a 4-3 victory, sending her team to its first state championship game.

"Oah, that was just how we planned it," Orono first-year head coach Larry Oltmew declared to open the postgame news conference.

Orono (22-3-4) scored the unanswered goal in the second period for a 2-2 tie at the second intermission over the second-seeded Mirage (20-7-2). In the third period, the Mirage skated with a 6-0-4 advantage for most of the final two minutes because of a power play and the goals off for an extra skater.

None enough, Ivy Fairchild tied the game with 32 seconds remaining. The shot went in off the top of Orono goaltender Colla Dahl's arm.

"I kind of popped up and," said Dahl, who made 24 saves. "Usually I'm able to keep those ones out. So I don't really know what happened on that one."

On the winner, Mirage coach Emma Stanbor said the Mirage didn't get the puck deep and it "turned into a bad bounce."

"Our goalie played it to the corner, it went off a skate and came back right to a stick," Stanbor said. "That's the game. And things like that are going to happen."

HEATHER HILL

WARROAD 4, SOUTH ST. PAUL 1

Warroad's back, at full power, for more

The difference: The dynamic top line of Kate Johnson (two goals, assist), Kylee Bartz (two assists) and Talya Hemdickson (goal, three assists) factored in all of the goals for Warroad, the tournament's top seed and defending champion and ranked No. 3 all season. Warroad (24-9-1) will play in its fourth title game in the past six years. South St. Paul, the fourth seed, heads to Saturday's third-place game with a 20-6-4 record.

The quote: "You get a little glimpse of what I get to watch every day. They're pretty elite players." — Warroad coach David Marvin, referring to Johnson's first goal, on an assist from Bartz.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME
ORONO VS. WARROAD
4 P.M. FRIDAY (CH. 45)