

C10 · STAR TRIBUNE ***** SPORTS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2022

PREPS EXTRA
GIRLS' HOCKEY STATE TOURNAMENT

CLASS 2A SEMIFINAL MINNETONKA 2, EDINA 1

Minnetonka dethrones Edina



Minnetonka goalie Sophia Johnson made a save in the second period Friday as Edina's Lorelei Nelson skated to look for a potential rebound.

ALEX KORHONEN - startribune.com

CLASS 1A SEMIFINAL PROCTOR/HERMANTOWN 4, CRONO 1

Mirage breaks it open late

By HEATHER BUELL
Special to the Star Tribune

Proctor/Hermantown found itself down by a goal for most of its Class 1A semifinal against Crono on Friday. Coach Emma Sander knew what to do. "We just tried to get these girls to continue to believe in the process and believe in themselves," Sander said. The Mirage called for four third-period goals, winning 4-1 and advancing to the championship game of the Class 1A girls' hockey state tournament in Xcel Energy Center.

Second-second Crono grabbed a 1-0 lead 1 minute, 26 seconds into the game on Mia Grant's power-play goal.

In the third period, the third-second Mirage tied the score about a minute in on Hannah Groves' goal. Kyle Gilbertson could see Katie Sander's shot wasn't going to make it to the net, so she grabbed the puck. "I know Hannah Groves is always looking for it," Gilbertson said. "... I just passed it right behind my back and hoped it got through, and then I saw the puck in the back of the net."

The Mirage took the lead 3-0 minutes later on Reese Heitzman's goal. Jane Erickson made it two-goal lead before Heitzman added an empty-netter.

CLASS 2A SEMIFINAL WARROAD 5, SOUTH ST. PAUL 2

Warroad pulls away in a hurry

By HEATHER BUELL
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Top-seeded Warroad was up by a goal late in the third period against South St. Paul. That doesn't explain the 5-0 final.

That does: A flurry of goals in about two minutes, highlighted by junior Lisa Lantieri's first career hat trick in a record-quick 1 minute, 38 seconds. "I didn't even care that I was the one that put it away," Lantieri said. "We all worked together to find the back of the net."

Warroad's "hot line," as coach Dave Mervolinaka described it, jumped Kyla Sander and Lantieri after the game, helped seal the team's Class 1A girls' hockey state tournament semifinal victory Friday at Xcel Energy Center. Talya Hendrickson gave Warroad (25-11) a 1-0 lead in the second period. Then Lantieri and her linemates decided at the second intermission to go to grinding, she said. That led to a four-goal outburst in a 2:08 span. "That's how we scored almost every single goal, was just crashing the net, putting pucks to the net," Lantieri said.

No. 4 seed South St. Paul (6-12-27) is 0-3-0 this season when its opponent scores first.

CLASS 2A SEMIFINAL ANDOVER 5, GENTRY ACADEMY 1

Andover rolls with three goals in a minute

The unbeaten Huskies' burst broke open a close game.

By DAVID LA VAGRE
davidlav@startribune.com

Andover's depth was tested Friday night when top-line staple Iva Gventi left the game because of injury. Senior Emma Heath took Gventi's spot, and the undefeated Huskies started rolling. They scored a trio of goals in less than one minute of third-period action to pull away from Gentry Academy for a 5-1 victory in the Class 2A girls' hockey state tournament semifinals at Xcel Energy Center.

No. 1 seed Andover (29-0) returns to the championship game for the third consecutive year.

"It's fun to get your players who aren't your top scorers going," said Heath, who scored a goal and assisted on another during the surge. "It gets the whole team excited."

The teams traded power-play goals in the first period. Andover's Maya Engler gave the Huskies the lead at 11:02. With less than one minute to play in the period, No. 5 seed Gentry Academy (23-7) received a fortunate bounce. A puck shot by Jenessa Grandt hit goaltender Courtney Stageman, then bounced up and off Stageman and into the net.

"We needed to show up in the third period, and that did not happen," Gentry Academy coach Paige Jakobs said.

Andover had no such problem. Nora Sauer, a third-line forward, backhanded the puck into the net just 1:58 into the third period.

"It was very gratifying," Sauer said. "You go out there and work hard and you hope for that bounce."

Just 22 seconds later, Madison Brown bumped the lead to 3-1. And 28 seconds after Brown's goal, Heath extended the lead to 4-1.

Andover forwards Madison Brown (10) and Emma Heath (9) celebrated after Heath scored a goal in the third period against Gentry Academy.

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THE TEAMS TRADED POWER-PLAY GOALS IN THE FIRST PERIOD. ANDOVER'S MAYA ENGLER GAVE THE HUSKIES THE LEAD AT 11:02. WITH LESS THAN ONE MINUTE TO PLAY IN THE PERIOD, NO. 5 SEED GENTRY ACADEMY (23-7) RECEIVED A FORTUNATE BOUNCE. A PUCK SHOT BY JENESSA GRANDT HIT GOALTENDER COURTNEY STAGEMAN, THEN BOUNCED UP AND OFF STAGEMAN AND INTO THE NET.

"WE NEEDED TO SHOW UP IN THE THIRD PERIOD, AND THAT DID NOT HAPPEN," GENTRY ACADEMY COACH PAIGE JAKOBS SAID.

ANDOVER HAD NO SUCH PROBLEM. NORA SAUER, A THIRD-LINE FORWARD, BACKHANDED THE PUCK INTO THE NET JUST 1:58 INTO THE THIRD PERIOD.

"IT WAS VERY GRATIFYING," SAUER SAID. "YOU GO OUT THERE AND WORK HARD AND YOU HOPE FOR THAT BOUNCE."

JUST 22 SECONDS LATER, MADISON BROWN BUMPED THE LEAD TO 3-1. AND 28 SECONDS AFTER BROWN'S GOAL, HEATH EXTENDED THE LEAD TO 4-1.

ANDOVER FORWARDS MADISON BROWN (10) AND EMMA HEATH (9) CELEBRATED AFTER HEATH SCORED A GOAL IN THE THIRD PERIOD AGAINST GENTRY ACADEMY.

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FRIDAY'S RECAP

THREE STARS

Warroad senior forward Madison Lavigne: She factored in four of Warroad's five goals in the semifinal, scoring a goal and getting a season-high three assists for a season-high four points.

Andover senior Emma Heath: She scored her second goal of the season and added an assist as the Huskies pulled away from Gentry Academy with three goals scored 59 seconds apart early in the third period.

Minnetonka center goaltender Sophia Johnson: She shined throughout her first crack at a state tournament semifinal. She made 23 saves, including 12 in the final period.

STATE TOURNAMENT SCOREBOARD

CLASS 2A

Thursday • Quarterfinals

- Andover 5, Brainerd/Little Falls 0
- Edina 3, Herkimer 0
- Gentry Academy 2, Maple Grove 1
- Minnetonka 3, Burnsville 0

Friday • Semifinals

- Edina vs. Minnetonka
- Andover vs. Gentry Academy

Saturday • Championship

- Minnetonka (24-6-0) vs. Andover (23-0-0), 7 p.m.

CLASS 1A

Wednesday • Quarterfinals

- Crono 7, Mankato East 1
- Proctor/Hermantown 6, Albert Lea 2
- South St. Paul 3, Luverne 1
- Warroad 5, Rose Lake 0

Friday • Semifinals

- Proctor/Hermantown 4, Crono 1
- Warroad 5, South St. Paul 0

Saturday • Championship

- Proctor/Hermantown (21-7-1) vs. Warroad (25-9-1), 4 p.m.

NUMBERS

23 Victories for Minnetonka's Tracy Cassano. Minnetonka's leader for a women coach. She's bringing a team to the state tournament championship game for the first time.

3 Assists for Proctor/Hermantown's Mia Siegel in the semifinal, including the game-winner. She has 30 assists this season.

5 Edina's streak of six game appearances, most by a Class 2A team, ends. The Hornets are tied with Class 1A Lake (2013-17) for the overall mark.

17 Shots on goal in the third period of Crono's 3-0 against Proctor/Hermantown.

11 Shots in this season for Warroad's Kendra Nodick, who made 16 saves Friday.

3 Goals for Warroad's Lisa Lantieri, assists for Kyla Sander (a season-high), assists for Madison Lavigne.

ATTENDANCE

Friday day: 2,614
Friday evening: 3,327
Thursday: 2,210
Saturday: 1,648
Wednesday: 2,089
Wednesday evening: 1,308