

PREPS

TRACK AND FIELD STATE MEET



Blaine's Madison Schmidt cleared the bar Friday on her way to repeating as the Class 2A girls' high jump champion Friday at the track and field state meet at Hamline University.

Blaine high jumper has a little extra

Madison Schmidt repeated by winning a jump-off.

By GAVIN LA VOIGIE

Repeating as the Class 2A girls' high jump champion required Blaine junior Madison Schmidt to do something new: Win a jump-off.

With the bar set at 5 feet, 10 inches, Schmidt and Benilde-St. Margaret's senior Madison Johnson went to overtime Friday. Day 1 of the track and field state meet at Hamline University.

Correct count

A year ago, Blaine senior Isaac Basten miscounted the number of laps in the 3,200-meter race and never celebrated his finishing kick.

New team, same result



Blaine senior Isaac Basten repeated as the Class 2A boys' 3,200-meter race champion Friday at the track and field state meet at Hamline University.

Correct count

Peterston led out to finish, and her time of 10:38.03 beat Stillwater sophomore Annlee Weaver (10:40.0) and Minneapolis Washburn senior Emily Covert (10:52.19).

Cold comfort

Peterston led out to finish, and her time of 10:38.03 beat Stillwater sophomore Annlee Weaver (10:40.0) and Minneapolis Washburn senior Emily Covert (10:52.19).

Fighting back

The Royals won the state 4x200 record in the 4x200 preliminaries (1:25.66), but the Royals were later disqualified in the 4x100 following a botched baton exchange.

the first-place 4x400 relay (3:22.14) and Joe Fahnbulich paced the 200.

Fantastic four

Maintaining excellence in four events proved to be its own event for Blake senior Robbie Grace.

Pole vaulter repeats

East Ridge senior Alec Williams repeated as Class 2A pole vaulter champion, clearing 15 feet.

TENNIS INDIVIDUAL FINALS CLASS 2A

Late sister inspires freshman champ

Bjorn Swenson of Mounds View won the singles title in straight sets.

By HEATHER BULE

First freshman Bjorn Swenson won the team title with Mounds View on Wednesday.

So a straight-set championship match Friday was easier, right?

"No, definitely not," Swenson said. "It was a long match. In fact, this was probably one of the most tiring matches that I had. I just kept telling myself to fight and keep having energy."

Swenson again relied on his powerful and well-placed ground strokes, breaking Iyer's serve six times.



Blaine senior Bjorn Swenson won the 2A singles title in straight sets.

"It's an amazing feeling that I'll have to remember for the rest of my life," Swenson said.

One face was missing from Swenson's crowd of family and friends cheering him on: His older sister Marie, who died in August 2007 from an aggressive pediatric brain tumor.

Swenson again relied on his powerful and well-placed ground strokes, breaking Iyer's serve six times.

"She loved watching me play," Bjorn said. "I'm always thinking about her."

Marie was one of Bjorn's biggest fans, Jennifer said. "We believe that she is with us, just in a different way," Jennifer said. "She would be cheering this."

Iyer, a senior, also needed a third set to win his semifinal match, 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (7-2) over Ragan senior Max Zagrebel, the No. 2 seed and the 2018 state runner-up.

TENNIS FINALS CLASS 1A

Mounds Park senior wins with his very best

By NATE GOTTLIEB

Special to the Star Tribune

Parker Law played what he called his "perfect game" to win the Class 1A singles final Friday at the Joe C. Sweet Family Tennis Center in Minneapolis.

"I executed everything I needed to do," the 6-6 Mounds Park Academy senior said. "I had my game plan when I went to court and I think I could have executed it much better."

Law, the top-ranked player in his class, defeated Rockwood Valley junior Richard Wilkens 6-2, 6-1, winning five break points and not double-faulting once during the 61-minute match.

"In all the years that I've been coaching him, that is his best match that I've ever seen," Mounds Park Academy coach Bryan Beyer said. "He was able to stay in the moment and focus one point at a time. ... There was just no drop in his level."

A year ago in the state final, Law won a 6-2, 6-0 victory against Rochester Lourdes sophomore Jonathan Orsigh and senior Thomas Eckel.

more locked in" which gave him confidence he could return to the championship match.

Law said the key point in the match Friday was the first game, which he won despite Wilkens having the serve.

"From there, I knew I had my game plan when I went to court and I think I could have executed it much better."

Law clinched the first set about half an hour later with a drop shot that Wilkens was unable to reach.

"It's a good player," said Wilkens, a foreign exchange student from Sweden who has spent the past year in Rockwood Falls. He played football, hockey and tennis at Rockwood Valley and had been undefeated in tennis heading into his match with Law.

So, Paul Academy senior Jeffrey Huang and junior Benjamin Krogg won the Class 1A doubles championship with a 6-2, 6-6, 6-2 victory against Rochester Lourdes sophomore Jonathan Orsigh and senior Thomas Eckel.