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PREPS

CLASS 1A GIRLS' HOCKEY • QUARTERFINALS

CHISAGO LAKES 4, MOUND WESTONKA 3

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Teammates celebrated with Chisago Lakes captain and forward Jenna Lawry after her go-ahead goal in the third period against Mound Westonka.

Power play has final say

Manpower advantage finally bears fruit for Chisago Lakes in quarterfinal win

Down a goal at the second intermission, Chisago Lakes girls' hockey players knew they could make something good happen in the third period.

"The message in the locker room was 'we score the next goal, we win this game,'" coach Dave Burgen said.

No. 4 seed Chisago Lakes tied the game with 6 minutes, 50 seconds left in regulation Friday before adding a game-winner 1:18 later on its third power play of the third period, capping a 4-3 victory over Mound Westonka in the Class A quarterfinal at Xcel Energy Center.

All four goals came from the Wildcats' top line of Division I recruits, led by junior Dani Burgen's sixth hat trick of the season. Linemate and senior Jenna Lawry scored the winner, with assist to Burgen and Dani Brunette.

"We've kind of coined them the three-headed monster," Burgen said. "You can try to shut down two, but that third one's always going to get an opportunity.

"They're tough to shut down, simply because they're all very dynamic players."

Mound Westonka (14-3-0) took a 1-0 lead in the first period before Chisago Lakes (19-2-0) tied it. Goals by White Hawks sophomores Gretta Pioske and Sydney Leonard made it 3-1.

But Burgen found a rebound later in the second, keeping it a one-goal game before the third-period comeback.

"I just think, one, our kids got a little bit tired," said Mound Westonka co-coach Rob Kuehl. "They've got that explosive first line. That was the difference."

HEATHER RULE

GENTRY ACADEMY 4, RIVER LAKES 1

Top seed falls behind but fights back

Top-seeded Gentry Academy, making its first state tournament appearance, had its hands full early on with unseeded River Lakes in the Class 1A quarterfinal Friday.

But two goals from sophomore Cara Sajevic led Gentry Academy to a 4-1 victory at Xcel Energy Center.

"River Lakes came out hard, and they made it a competitive game, but we did a good job of putting the puck in the net in the third period," Gentry Academy coach Paige Jahnke said.

River Lakes (13-6-2), also making its state tournament debut, struck first late in the first period. Senior Hannah Zimmer came from behind the net and sent a pass through the crease to senior Myckenzie Cremers, who scored for a 1-0 lead.

"I think we did really good at coming out hard right away and giving them a little show," River Lakes co-coach Alexis Klatt said. "I don't think they expected us to come at them as hard as we did."

The lead was short-lived. Gentry Academy sophomore Alex Hanrahan scored a second-effort, poke-check goal with a loose puck in the crease to tie the game with 1:07 left in the first period.

Sajevic made it a two-goal lead on a breakaway 31 seconds into the third period.

"It was obviously very important that we got that goal," Sajevic said.

Sajevic leads Gentry Academy (18-2-0) with 25 goals this season, coming off hat tricks in the Stars' last two section games.

HEATHER RULE

NOTES

Whitecaps player forgoes pro playoffs to coach at state

By DAVID La VAQUE
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Hockey continued Friday night for the Proctor/Hermantown girls' team, which drove home from St. Paul to watch the evening session state tournament games and their coach's professional team.

Proctor/Hermantown coach **Emma Stauber**, a top defender for the Minnesota Whitecaps, missed out on playing Friday in the Isobel Cup Playoffs in Brighton, Mass. Instead, she led the third-seeded Mirage to an 8-0 victory over Luverne in a Class 1A state tournament quarterfinal game Friday afternoon.

Stauber, a member of the Whitecaps' 2018 Isobel Cup Championship roster, joined them for two weeks earlier this season. She missed three high school games and so much more.

"It was extremely hard to leave my little ones," said Stauber, a product of the Proctor/Hermantown program. "We would FaceTime every day."

While players value Stauber's example as a professional hockey player, they were glad to have her on the bench for the state tournament.

"We wanted her with us," senior forward **Alyssa Watkins** said. "But we would've respected her decision if she had to leave again."

DAVID LA VAQUE

Eagles' independence ends

With no state tournament consolation bracket because of COVID-19 restrictions, teams that lose quarterfinal games are one-and-done this year.

But for Rochester Lourdes, its loss Friday took on extra finality.

The Eagles will not exist as an independent program next season. Dwindling numbers are forcing a cooperative agreement with another school, coach **Laura Vannelli** said.

The other program in the co-op is still being negotiated, Vannelli said, but she is confident that Lourdes' seven underclassmen will skate for the new-look team next season.

DAVID LA VAQUE

Eight-school salute

River Lakes made its first state tournament appearance representing of the Central Lakes Conference and Section 6. River Lakes also represents eight schools as a co-op program.

The team was allotted about 114 tickets for the game, which was unfortunate "with such a big venue," according to River Lakes co-coach **Alexis Klatt**.

"Coming from so many different communities, there's so many more people that would like to be there and like to be a part of this," Klatt said. "So, we had a good showing."

Klatt added that River Lakes had a couple of seedoffs earlier Friday for the trip to St. Paul. Plus, they had a huge fan base watching the livestream of the game at home.

HEATHER RULE

WARROAD 10, ROCHESTER LOURDES 0

Warriors' top scorer leads way

A record 74 shots, Henderson's hat trick overpower Lourdes.

A record-setting offensive barrage fueled Warroad's 10-0 rout of Rochester Lourdes.

The No. 2 seed Warriors posted records for shots on goal in a game (74) and in a period (34) and dominated the first Class 1A quarterfinal at Xcel Energy Center.

"I thought we played well," Warriors coach Dave Marvin said. "We moved our feet and we moved the puck."

Senior forward Genevieve Hendrickson, a Ms. Hockey Award semi-finalist, opened the scoring by finishing a give-and-go with younger sister Tayla. For the elder Hendrickson, tallying a goal after posting just one assist in two section playoff games signaled Warroad's leading scorer had not lost her touch.

"I don't think it was a crisis or anything," Marvin said. "All she cared about is that we won those section games. And then today, it was her turn."

Hendrickson later completed a hat trick, giving her 30 goals this season.

Marvin said he enjoyed seeing his half-dozen new varsity players gain experience at Xcel, a stage that players at Rochester Lourdes (9-9) struggled to navigate.

"Only about half the players on our team returned from the state tournament last year, and I think the size of the moment got the better of us," said coach Laura Vannelli, adding that the speed and depth of Warroad (20-1) also played a role.

"They have disciplined, smart hockey players up and down the roster," Vannelli said. "We have similar abilities, but we only have 11 skaters to work with."

DAVID LA VAQUE

PROCTOR/HERMANTOWN 8, LUVERNE 0

Teammates celebrate 5-goal night

Watkins' output sets tone. Three shorthanded tallies set record.

As her goals kept coming, Proctor/Hermantown senior forward Alyssa Watkins heard it from teammates.

Watkins' five-goal performance ignited an 8-0 victory against Luverne on Friday in the Class 1A quarterfinal. The outburst matched Watkins' scoring output from her past three games combined.

"My teammates were like, 'Save some goals for the other teams we have to play,'" Watkins said. "I don't know what it was. I think the adrenaline helped."

Watkins has 22 goals this season for the third-seeded Mirage (19-0). Meanwhile, sophomore forward Kamryn Van Batavia, the state's leader with 47 goals, was held without a goal for just the third time all season for Luverne (16-3).

"Their defensemen were very strong, and they caused problems for us," Cardinals coach Tony Sandbulte said. "We had our chances, but they were all over us."

The timing of Watkins' goals played a big role in the outcome. She broke a state tournament record, one shared by Park Center legend Krissy Wendell, with three shorthanded goals in a game. All three came in the same period — another record.

"She has really stepped up this year," Mirage coach Emma Stauber said. "She is not a selfish player. She usually looks to make a play before taking a shot. We've been telling her to look for her shot more."

Watkins, who is receiving Division I interest, said her team's depth means more than any remarkable day.

"We have four lines that are all equally good," she said.

DAVID LA VAQUE

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