


SPORTS

PREPS

GIRLS' HOCKEY STATE TOURNAMENT

CLASS 2A FINAL

EDINA 4, BRAINERD/LITTLE FALLS 3 (2OT)



Edina's Tella Jung (19) and Olivia Swain celebrated in the second overtime, when Swain found herself alone with the puck in front of the net and punched it in for a championship.

By DAVID LA VANCE
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A milestone girls' hockey state tournament was capped by one of the event's greatest title games.

Edina outlasted Brainerd/Little Falls for a 4-3 victory in double overtime to claim the 28th tournament crown. Olivia Swain scored on a rebound 2 minutes, 20 seconds into the fifth period after a shot from the point rebounded off substitute Brainerd/Little Falls goaltender Olivia King.

Her fifth goal of the season, what Swain called "the best thing I've ever experienced," gave top-ranked Edina its only lead. The Hornets (27-4) became the second program to win three consecutive state championships, the latest by coming back three times against No. 3 seed Brainerd/Little Falls.

"It took a lot more heart for this one," Edina coach Sami Reber said of the differences in the Hornets' three championship game victories.

THE FIRST 25 YEARS

MOST 2A TITLES

Edina Prairie	3
Edina	3
Minnetonka	3
Shoreville	3
South St. Paul	3

*Not yet titles during these 25 years

Undaunted, Edina scored on the same power play on junior defender Sophia DeW's shot.

Reber came Brainerd/Little Falls, this time with senior forward Abby Pahlkamp's goal at 4:22. She drew even against the period's most tremendous effort from CC Rowley. Dipped upon a rush into the Warriors zone, Rowley played the puck from her stomach for freshman defender Vivian Jungels to bury.

The game turned physical. Both got called for checking and Ahear later went off for roughing. Both penalties led to power-play goals in the third period. Sophomore defender Emma Booth gave Brainerd a 3-2 lead. And Hornets junior forward Tella Jungels tied the score 3-3.

"We knew Brainerd was going to give it everything they've got and we were going to do the same, because it's hard to back up one state championship, but two is even harder," said Rowley, Edina's captain. "So it was great to see our players get dirty in the corners and keep battling through everything."

King, the Brainerd/Little Falls senior, labored to keep the Hornets from fully catching in on a 55-20 advantage in shots. Edina shot into a few goals but mostly by King, who turned away close encounters with attacking Hornets forwards and rigid-fire rebounds with aplomb, making 51 saves in all.

Amie Koehl, who scored Edina's game-winning goal in the semifinals against Minnetonka on Friday, got in alone mid-way through the second period, but King stopped her.

"She had our backs even when we didn't have hers," Ahear said of King.

Reber heard from doubters who believed that if gradates wouldn't trigger Edina's demise, then a Section 6 championship game against Blaine certainly would. But an experienced core group eager to extend the Hornets' title run dug deep and created a dynasty.

"They weren't going to go down without a fight," Reber said. "It was a battle in both ways, and I knew our girls wanted it."

THREE THE HARD WAY

Edina falls behind three times before scoring in second OT for third title in row

CLASS 1A FINAL BRECK 6, WARROAD 1

Championship repeat arrives loudly

Breck routs Warroad for its second title in a row.

By HEATHER BELL
Special to the Star Tribune

A rematch from last year's Class 1A championship game set the same result for Breck's state title.

No. 2-seeded Breck, on the strength of eighth-grade goaltender Uma Corcoran's 41 saves and a four-goal burst in the third period, won its third state title and second in a row with a 6-1 victory over top-seeded Warroad on Saturday at Xcel Energy Center.

"They're both such an honor," said junior forward Olivia Mobley. "The feeling is the same."

The Mustangs (22-8-0) handed the Warriors (28-4-1) their only loss. Breck outscored opponents 36-2 in the tournament. The Warriors came into the title game having allowed just 20 goals this season. Six goals was a season high — by three goals.

Breck took early 10 leads in each state tournament game and did the same on Saturday when Carly Breck scored with four minutes left in the first period.

THE FIRST 25 YEARS

MOST 1A TITLES

Blake	7
Breck	3
Brainerd-St. Margaret's	2
Warroad	2

scored with four minutes left in the first period.

"The team has consistently brought a really strong effort to start the game," Breck coach Steve Persian said before Saturday's game. "I would expect nothing different."

That Mustang momentum lasted only about 30 seconds. Warroad answered 1:41 later on a power play, tying the score with Marie Johnston's fourth goal of the season.

It was a bit of the same in the second period. Breck took a 2-1 lead at the 4:09 mark when eighth-grader Elly Cispinger's point shot deflected in for her third goal of the season. But when Breck went on the penalty kill, nine seconds later, it didn't allow Warroad to tie it again.

Mobley added the dagger with a top-shelf slapshot at the 2:05 mark of the third period for the two-goal lead on her fifth goal of the tournament.

With about 7 minutes to play in regulation, Warroad put the puck in the net, which would have made it a 2-2 game. But the whistle had already blown the play dead after the initial save. With 4:44 on the clock, Warroad was called for delay of game after the puck was loose in its crease. Officials awarded Breck a penalty shot, and Sadie Lindsay scored to make it 4-1.

Warroad coach David Marvin was not happy.

"I thought it was rotten," Marvin said. "... That whole turn of events."

It turned into a momentum killer for Warroad. Breck added an empty-netter and then another goal to seal the victory.

Corcoran (10-3-0) came up big again. She also made 40 saves Nov. 30 when the two teams faced each other in a 3-0 Warroad victory at Breck. She stopped 25 shots in last year's state title game.

"No one does it alone," Corcoran said. "We're a team. You have to have all six people play at their best to win games, and that's what we did today."



Forward Carly Breck hefted the hardware after Breck turned the Class 1A title game into a blowout with four goals in the third period.