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## GIRLS' HOCKEY

STATE TOURNAMENT • CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES



Edina's Lolita Fidler positioned herself in front of Centennial goalie Mackenna Stotera, helping Emily Odem score the game's first goal in the second period.

# Perfect positioning

Edina captured its second consecutive title, avenging an earlier loss to Centennial

By DAVID LA VAGE  
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For the Edina girls' hockey team, defending its Class 2A state tournament title started with, well, defending.

The Hornets opened by attacking Brentwood/Little Falls in a shootout and then bushing Eden Prairie's young standouts in the semifinals. Saturday's championship game brought Centennial's Gabbie Hughes and Annabel Linsner, the state's finest offensive tandem.

Top-ranked Edina held them to a dull roar in a 2-1 victory. Whether, choking off shooting lanes, crowding prime scoring areas or maintaining a physical presence, the Hornets earned a second banner.

"You have to give them a lot of attention," senior defender Eva Hendrickson said of Hughes and Linsner, the top-scoring duo in Class 2A with a combined 156 points. "We gave them the credit they deserve, but in the end, our players took it to them as well."

Alayah Lance, one of eight Hornets players committed to a Division I college program, scored the deciding goal for a second

**CLASS 2A FINAL**  
**EDINA 2, CENTENNIAL 1**

consecutive game. No. 1 seed Edina (28-3-1) averaged a 3-2 loss at Centennial on Dec. 22.

The teams were tied 1-1 when Lance converted a power play opportunity. She raced in and fired the puck over Mackenna Stotera's glove at 2 minutes, 39 seconds of the third period for a 2-1 lead.

Moments earlier, Linsner's attempt at a go-ahead goal hit the post. Open locks were a rare commodity for Centennial's scoring area.


"Them and Kikae really gave us a dog-fight," said Linsner, who scored in the first two tournament games. "They were really on us. We tried our best and did what we could."

Edina's Emily Odem opened the scoring in the second period with her 34th goal of the season. She said the Hornets' title defense did not come easy.

"Coming back the second year, everyone's out to get us," she said. "To defend it is super hard and to win it again is definitely special."

Linemate Lolita Fidler added: "I think we

Photo by JUSTICE SCHULZ - ashley.schulz@startribune.com



Centennial's Alaska Bordenaux consoled teammate Hannah Bordenaux after their loss to Edina on Saturday.

## Smiles grow larger after 8-second heroics

By HEATHER BUELL  
Special to the Star Tribune

Watch Breck seventh-grade goaltender Ulina Cornea and there's one thing that stands out, other than her outstanding skills.

"She's always smiling," said Breck coach Ronde Engsthardt.

By Saturday evening, the goaltender had plenty of reasons to smile. She helped lead the No. 2-seeded Mustangs (19-10-1) to a 3-2 overtime victory over top-seeded Warroad to win the Class 1A championship at Xcel Energy Center.

Warroad (24-4-2) tied the game with 27 ticks left in regulation before Breck freshman Sadie Lindsay scored 8 seconds into overtime.

"I just had a quick shot at the end," Lindsay said after she got a pass from Gabby Billing.

"Our goal [was] to score quicker than we did in the section final overtime."

Mission accomplished, by a 1-0 margin.

Breck took a 1-0 lead into the third period after sophomore Olivia Mobley scored early in the second period. That lead held up until Warroad junior Kaitlyn Kotowski's point shot off a faceoff tied the score with 7:21 left in regulation, 6 seconds into a power play.

Then with 2:46 left on the clock, the real excitement started.

Lindsay appeared to put the puck in the

**CLASS 1A FINAL**  
**BRECK 3, WARROAD 2 (OT)**

net as she and a defender slid into the goal, knocking it off its pegs. It was ruled a goal on the ice but overturned upon review. The Warriors bench erupted in cheers as the momentum shift with the game still tied 1-1.

But 14 seconds later, Mobley took the momentum right back with the go-ahead goal off a rebound. Lindsay had the helper.

"There were a lot of emotions going on there," Mobley said. "We got back out on the ice...determined that we were going to score this next shift."

Then the Warriors pulled their goaltender with 1:40 to play, getting a 6-on-4 advantage with a Breck penalty in the final minute. Sophomore Marlie Johnston tied the game one final time.

"We were fortunate to still be in the game at that point," Warroad coach David Marvin said. "We battled hard, but you can't play one period and win a championship."


For Engsthardt, the season is made sure her team didn't go into its shell.

"Because we've been known to turtle, just get afraid and not go out there and compete," said Engsthardt, who became the first woman to win a girls' hockey state title as a player (Roseville, 1996 and 1999) and coach.

The win gives Breck its first state title since 2012, when it also won with a 3-2 score over South St. Paul in double overtime.

Cornell (19-5-1) made 25 saves but saw her shutout streak of 382-46, spanning four games, end with Warroad's first goal.

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Eight seconds of hustle ended with Breck forward Sadie Lindsay, right, and teammate Katherine Socoluk (21) celebrating Lindsay's winning overtime goal and the Class 1A championship.