


SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023 SPORTS STAR TRIBUNE • C5

PREPS
GIRLS HOCKEY STATE TOURNAMENT

CLASS 2A CHAMPIONSHIP GENTRY ACADEMY 4, ANDOVER 1



SATURDAY'S RECAP

STAR TRIBUNE'S THREE STARS

1. Talya Hendrickson, Warroad senior Finished the game with a goal and an assist. She scored the eventual game-winning goal in the second period with a great play from behind the net by teammate Kate Johnson. "Kate, she just put that right on the top in the slot," Hendrickson said. "I was lucky to be there."

2. Alex Hamrahon, Gentry Academy senior Scored a hat trick in the Class 2A title game, giving her team the lead each time, first with a power-play goal for 1-0 and then a 2-1 lead in the second period. She finished with four goals in the state tournament.

3. Julianna Ozadik, Gentry Academy senior Assisted on the first two Hamrahon goals in the Class 2A title game and helped lead a defensive effort that kept Andover's top line off the scoreboard.

BY THE NUMBERS

4 State title for Warroad girls hockey, coming in back-to-back fashion in 2020-21 and 2022-23, all under head coach David Martin.

4 Consecutive Class 2A championship games for Andover, winning every other year, in 2020 and 2022.

9 Sophomores on the Gentry Academy roster that finished as the Class 2A runner-up in the 2023 state tournament.

2 Times Andover was held to one goal this season, losing 9-1 to Gentry Academy in the Class 1A title game and 2-1 against Hill Murray on Feb. 14. Andover came into Saturday averaging 5.86 goals per game this season.

ATTENDANCE

Saturday: 4,735

Class 1A
Wednesday early: 756
Wednesday night: 1,070
Friday: 2,391

Class 2A
Thursday early: 1,578
Thursday night: 1,907
Friday: 2,739

CLASS 1A CHAMPIONSHIP WARROAD 3, ORONO 1

Gentry rises to top fast

Charter school in its third season offering girls hockey emerges as champion

BY DAVID LA VAGE
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The Gentry Academy girls hockey team pulled its second upset in as many nights Saturday, and this one made it a state champion. The Stars dethroned defending Class 2A state champion Andover with a 4-1 victory in the title game at Xcel Energy Center.

No. 4 seed Gentry (27-2) controlled much of the game, proving a 4-3 victory earlier this season against the No. 2 seed Huskies (27-4) was no fluke. On Friday, the Stars stunned top-ranked Minnesota.

"It was fun to take the road we took," Gentry coach Billy Hengen said. "We thought we would need four goals to win each game." Turns out, two each game would have been enough.

All season long, the second period was Gentry's strongest. In their Nov. 20 meeting against Andover, the Huskies jumped to a 2-1 lead after one period and first-year coach Hengen blamed for a crushing loss. It never came.

Gentry Academy, a public charter school in Medina Heights, opened its first season in 2020. The team's second period hat game. The Huskies held true in the title game as well.

Second-period goals from amateur Alex Hamrahon, who finished with a hat trick, and Grace Delmonico bumped the Stars' lead to 3-1. Holding a two-goal advantage, the Stars leaned on their defense. Andover's top line of Madison Brown, Ella Boegner and Isa Goettl combined for 71 goals this season, 40% of the team's total. They had zero Friday and Saturday.

"As a team, we didn't play our best hockey these last three games," Huskies coach Melissa Volk said. "We lacked intensity at times." Gentry, meanwhile, showed the

posse of a roster with 12 seniors. The Stars will lose 60% of their goal scoring and both goalies to graduation this spring. Their time had to come. "We played calm and collected," Delmonico said. "We tried to not let them get the nose. But if they did, we get [the puck] right back out."

Hamrahon completed her first career hat trick by finding the empty Andover net. She finished with 17 goals this season.

"All we talked about this year was making it to state and winning it," said Hamrahon, a sophomore on the 2022 Stars team that lost in the Class 1A title game.

Warroad players celebrated after defeating Orono to finish 26-9-1 and win their second state championship in a row.

Warroad goes wire-to-wire, back-to-back

The Warriors, ranked No. 1 from start to finish, attack to their goal and repeated as champs.

BY HEATHER BUELE
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Warroad coach David Marvin sat at the postgame news conference table and put his arms around the backs of the chairs where his girls hockey players sat, looking at seniors Talya Hendrickson and Cahliyah Lindquist. "No better way to go out, you guys," Marvin said. "This is the best way."

Winning back-to-back state championships after being ranked No. 1 in Class 1A from start to finish qualified as Warroad defeated third seed Orono 3-1 Saturday at Xcel Energy Center.

The victory for the Warriors (26-9-1) was a result of playing their own game and all three lines doing their job, Lindquist said. Sophomore Katy Sandy amplified that.

"I think every single person on the team knew exactly what we needed to do," Sandy said. "I wanted to do it again really bad. So we all just beared down and finished it out."

Senior Rylee Barte gave the Warriors a 1-0 lead in the first period when she went her down for her 39th goal of the season.

But Orono made it 1-1 by the first intermission on a winner in the slot from sophomore Zoe Lepus. Warroad grabbed the lead back in the second period on Hendrickson's 88th goal of the season when senior Kate Johnson picked the pocket of a defender behind the Orono net and sent the puck out front to Hendrickson.

Later in the period, Sandy extended the lead with a breakaway tally for her 15th goal of the season and a 3-1 lead. Orono had three third-period power plays but failed to score.

"Our power play's been good all season," Orono coach Larry Olmab said. "We've got two groups that we're not with, and they've both had success. Warroad just didn't give us anything."

It was the second time Warroad defeated Orono (22-4-1) this season; it was also 3-1 on Nov. 19 in Warroad, with second-period natural hat trick from Barte.

Orono finishes as the state runner-up in its second state tournament after taking third place last year.

"I think their ability to trap us in our zone, it kind of got the best of us, in a way," Lepus said. "They used that and their pressure that they put on us."