


SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2022 SPORTS \*\*\* STAR TRIBUNE • C3

**PREPS**  
GIRLS' HOCKEY STATE TOURNAMENT

**CLASS 2A FINAL ANDOVER 5, MINNETONKA 4**



**CLASS 2A RECAP**

**THREE STARS**

**1. Sara Kaiser, Andover senior:** She scored the championship-winning goal with 1:40 left in regulation.

**2. Ella Roeger, Andover junior:** Her 30th goal of the season gave the Hawks a 1-0 seconds into the game and she tied it 3-3 with a power-play goal in the second period.

**3. Ava Lindsay, Minnetonka junior:** She scored two goals and had two assists.

**TWO NUMBERS**

**15** Seconds into the game when Andover's Ella Roeger, who wears jersey No. 15, scored the game's first goal. It was the fastest goal to start a Class 2A girls' state championship game. In 2015, Minnetonka scored 23 seconds in but lost 2-1 to Hill Murray.

**7** Division I committed players in the 2A championship game — five for Minnetonka and two for Andover.

**ATTENDANCE**  
Saturday: 4,261  
Friday: 2,277  
Thursday: 3,210  
Tuesday night: 1,548

**CLASS 1A RECAP**

**THREE STARS**

**1. Kate Johnson, Warroad junior:** She scored twice, bumping her team lead in scoring to 48 goals.

**2. Abby Chamerick, Warroad junior:** She tied her season high with three assists and finished the season with 31.

**1. Madison Lavigne, Warroad senior:** Fresh off a four-point performance in the semifinals, she scored two goals in the championship game.

**TWO NUMBERS**

**1** Saturday's final pitting Proctor/Hermantown and Warroad marked the first time in Class 1A that two teams from northern Minnesota played for the state title.

**4** Goals in a period a winning formula. Warroad dropped a four-spot on Proctor/Hermantown in the second period of the title game. In Friday's semifinals, the Mings and Class 2A top seed Andover scored four times in a period.

**ATTENDANCE**  
Saturday: 407  
Friday: 2,614  
Wednesday: 2,059  
Tuesday night: 1,508

Andover forward Sara Kaiser scored the game-winning goal against Minnetonka goalie Sophia Johnson in the third period Saturday night at Xcel Energy Center.

**Big push to perfection**

No. 1 Andover trails, twice, before topping Minnetonka on Kaiser's decisive goal

By DAVID LA VAGE  
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For the Andover girls' hockey team, perfection required persistence.

The top-rated team in Class 2A all season, the Hawks weren't accustomed to allowing more than two goals or trailing after two periods.

Pushed by Minnetonka, Andover showed back. A pair of third-period goals secured a 4-1 victory Saturday at Xcel Energy Center.

A year ago, Andover entered the state championship game undefeated but fell in Edina. Returning players vowed to create a different outcome Saturday at Xcel Energy Center.

"It's just so good to them," Huskies coach Melissa Volk said. "From the get-go, they've worked their tails off and have believed in each other."

Senior forward Sara Kaiser scored with 1:40, breaking a 4-4 deadlock that had stood since a little more than three minutes into the third period.

That's when Andover's Madison Brown buried her second goal of the game, on the power play.

No. 3 seed Minnetonka (24-7) had built a 4-2 lead in a similar manner. Ava Lindsay scored her second power-play goal of the game to put the Skyers ahead for what turned out to be the last time.

"It was a state-championship game," Skyers coach Tracy Cassano said. "I had everything — good tempo, it was intense, fence, physical. Both teams poured their hearts out today, and unfortunately we came out on the losing end of things. But I really felt it could have gone either way. There were a lot of momentum swings."

Ella Roeger swung first. First shot. First shot. Her 30th goal of the season put Andover ahead just 15 seconds into the game.

Roeger's linemates co-authored the second Hawks goal. Brown took a pass from Isa Goettl before sending the puck back for Goettl to fire home at 13:38 of the opening period.

Dared! but uninterested, Minnetonka cut its deficit with a Lindsay power-play goal. She blasted a puck at goalie Courtney Stigman, and for the second consecutive night, Stigman made the initial save, only for the puck to bounce over her head, off her back and into the net.

Second-period goals from the Skyers' Grace Bohren and Jordana Diehl ensured the energy stayed with Minnetonka into the second period.

Trailing 3-2, Andover received a lift from Roeger's dugged stick work. She took three whacks at a loose puck in the Minnetonka crease, finally lifting it over goalie Sophia Johnson for the tying goal.

Though Andover would once again lose its lead, Brown and Kaiser seemed all sea not lost.

"It's always fun playing against good teams," Goettl said. "I honestly think it's more fun playing in those high-scoring games because it's so close. During the game it's not that fun, but afterward it always feels great."

**CLASS 1A FINAL WARROAD 6, PROCTOR/HERMANTOWN 1**

**Drought for 1A hockey royalty ends**

Warroad rolls to first title since 2011, when coach's daughters raised trophy.

By HEATHER RULE  
Special to the Star Tribune

Finally, Warroad celebrated a Class 1A girls' hockey state title on Saturday.

The seedless Warroad scored four second-period goals on the way to a 6-1 victory over defending state champion Proctor/Hermantown in the all-northern Minnesota final at Xcel Energy Center.

Warroad coach David Marvin won titles in 2010 and 2011, when daughters Layla and Lia skated on the team. Layla is now an assistant coach.

"Well, it's not about me. It never has been," David Marvin said, as tears welled in his eyes. "But it's kind of cool to win one without my kids."

"We've been really close, and so, I can't say it never affected me. I wanted these guys to win over time."

Down 6-0 less than three minutes into the game, Warroad was down on the scoreboard at the first intermission. But the Warriors fought back in the second, tying the game at the 3:02 mark on Tyla Hendrickson's 10th goal of the season.

Madison Lavigne scored the go-ahead goal a couple of minutes later.

Then Warroad finished off the middle period with a pair of power-play goals from Kate Johnson, giving her 48 goals on the season.

For the second day in a row, Warroad had a few goal period. Scoring in bunches was pretty common for this team.

"Usually we just build off that momentum, and we can keep it going the rest of the game," Hendrickson said. "Just depends on the period we decide to start in."

Lavigne's second goal of the game, 46 seconds into the third period, canceled the lead. Lia Lantieri scored her fifth of the tournament with 11:09 to play.

Junior Abby Chamerick assisted on three of the second-period tallies. Warroad went 2-for-2 on the power play.

It outscored opponents 10-4 in its three state tournament games.

The state championship-winning feeling is the "best thing that's happened to me in a couple years," Hendrickson said.

"Hard to explain it right now," Johnson said. "Feeling like I've won the title."

The Warriors' 26-3-1 finish with their third state title in 13 tournament trips. They were undefeated against Class 1A opponents this season.

Nya Steyer scored for third seed Proctor/Hermantown (21-8-1) in the first period, her 21st of the season. But the first intermission break shifted momentum away from the Mings.

The team didn't play well in the second, said coach Emma Slesinger.

"The main thing was our energy," Mings senior Rylee Gilbertson said. "It wasn't there as much as it was the rest of the tournament."

"Once we got in that hole, we needed to respond, but we just couldn't in the second period."

Warroad players erupted in celebration after defeating Proctor/Hermantown in the 1A final at Xcel Energy Center.

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