

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2022 SPORTS *** STAR TRIBUNE • C5

PREPS
BOYS' HOCKEY STATE TOURNAMENT

CLASS 1A CHAMPIONSHIP GAME HERMANTOWN 3, WARROAD 2



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Hermantown players piled on one another Saturday as the Hawks celebrated their victory over Warroad and the northern Minnesota school's first Class 1A state championship since 2017.

Hermantown, coach in the pink

The Hawks won a state title and rewarded Patrick Andrews with a highly cherished helmet

By HEATHER RULE
Special to the Star Tribune

Patrick Andrews grew up in the Hermantown hockey program, starting when he was 4 years old and graduating in 1996. He didn't win a state title as a player, but Andrews has his state championship as Hermantown's head coach Saturday.

Junior defenseman Ty Hanson gave the team's traditional pink player-of-the-game bicycle helmet to his coach after Hermantown's 3-2 victory over Warroad for the Class 1A boys' hockey state championship at Xcel Energy Center.

"I said, 'This is the greatest honor of my life to be able to put this helmet on a state champion as a coach,'" Andrews said.

Hermantown (25-2) won its fourth state title in 18 trips to the state tournament and a dozen Class 1A finals. The Hawks last won in 2016 and '17, the final seasons for longtime Hermantown head coach Bruce Plante.

Saturday, two of Plante's grandsons took the ice for the top-seeded Hawks: junior Zane Plante and sophomore Max Plante, brothers who sat in the Xcel Energy Center seats for years watching the Hawks finish as the runner-up.

"I've been watching it since I can remember, since my grandpa was coaching," Zane said. "Second place, second place. Finally got to do it myself, it's the best feeling in the world."

The duo skates on a line together and led their team in scoring this season. Zane scored a pair of goals in the title game, although defense was the name of the game for Hermantown.

"That was that game," Andrews said. "Our emphasis on team defense, our unbelievable defenders."

And then obviously Zane and his line — but it's not just the offense. They play 200 feet and shut them down."

Before the defense took over, goal scoring came in bunches. Warroad struck first with Garrett Hermon's fourth of the season in the first period. But Hermantown senior forward Thomas answered 1 minute, 31 seconds later with a wraparound goal.

Zane Plante gave Hermantown the lead 55 seconds into the second period before Warroad tied it 1-1 later on Griffin Marvin's third of the season. Three minutes into the second period, Zane Plante scored the eventual game-winner.

Hermantown's defense stifled the Warriors from three, holding them to 20 shots across the final two periods and only three in the third.

Hermantown's shut down Warroad (24-20) by limiting its chances, said Warroad coach Jay Herwick.

"We like to get up and go and score goals," Herwick said. "And they made it very difficult for us, both how they played defensively and then just the way they stretched it a little bit and came with speed in the offensive end."

CLASS 1A RECAP

THREE STARS

1. Zane Plante, Hermantown: The junior forward gave his team 2-1 and 3-2 leads in the second period and added two blocked shots and a game-high nine shots on goal.

2. Beau Jantzig, Hermantown: The senior defenseman and captain recorded an assist, three shots on goal and three blocked shots.

3. Ty Hanson, Hermantown: The junior defenseman won a plus-3 and earned the second assist on the team's third goal, his 32nd assist of the season.

BY THE NUMBERS

2 Losses this season for Hermantown, both coming against Class 2A state tournament entrants in Curtin-Darum Hall and Maple Grove.

4 State championships for Hermantown in 12 appearances in the state title game.

61 Total points for Zane Plante in 22 games this season, after missing nine because of injury. He scored 24 goals, including two Saturday.

CLASS 1A ATTENDANCE

Wednesday day: 4,465
Wednesday night: 8,593
Friday day: 9,178

Saturday: 7,628
Tournament (including 2A): 107,550

CLASS 2A STATE TOURNAMENT

Drive to title a community effort

Andrews' boys' and girls' teams drive on broad support network

By HEATHER RULE
Special to the Star Tribune

Andrew made his state tournament debut in 2020 in No. Lovell and was promptly upset by St. Thomas Academy in the quarterfinals. That team was special, Andrews coach Mark Manny said earlier this week.

"Our kids never take the attitude of getting to the state tournament isn't good enough," Manny said. "We've done that before. Now it's time to go down there and make some noise."

Well, this year the Huskies showed how loudly they can bark.

As the girls need this time, they defeated conference rival Maple Grove 6-1 in double overtime to win their first state title in 18 years.

Andrews' boys' team also beat Moorhead in double overtime and knocked off top-seeded Hill-Murray to advance.

"We're playing with house money, no doubt," Manny said Saturday. "I don't think the kids believe that."

The spirit was a lot of confidence coming in, according to Andrews senior defenseman Kyle Lane.

"We knew that we could play with any of these teams," Lane said. "We just had played with a chip on our shoulder. We knew we could do it."

The championship comes on the heels of the Andrews girls' second state title in three years. So what is it about Andrews and his hockey?

"I think there's a lot of community pride in Andrews in sports and just

CLASS 1A STATE TOURNAMENT

Hermantown stifled two top players

The Hawks held Warroad scorers Dairnon Gardner and Jayson Shaughey in check

By DAVID LA VAGUE
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Beau Jantzig is the big brother within Hermantown hockey's program.

"These guys are psychopathic competitors and they want each other's throats all the time," Hawks coach Patrick Andrews said. "And Beau is the biggest, tallest, strongest stud in the room. He keeps them all under wraps and says, 'All right, enough.'"

Jantzig, with help from defensive partner Ty Hanson, treated Warroad's top line in the same manner throughout a 3-2 victory in Saturday's Class 1A boys' hockey state championship game.

In two previous state tournament games, the Warriors received combined eight goals and six assists from Dairnon Gardner, a McHockey Award finalist, and junior Jayson Shaughey, who has made a verbal commitment to Minnesota Duluth.

Jantzig said he considered Shaughey and Hermantown's Zane Plante "the two guys that are the hardest to guard over."

Hermantown figured out Gardner and Shaughey combined for six shots and nothing on the score sheet.

Hanson added 15 goals and 32 assists to Hermantown's offense this season. Standing 6'2 and weighing 201 pounds, Jantzig did his best work rendering the opposition powerless.

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Hermantown's Ty Hanson (22) stayed between the puck and Warroad's Dairnon Gardner on Saturday in the Class 1A championship game.

"They were good," Warroad coach Jay Herwick said. "There's a reason why Ty is committed to Minnesota Duluth. He's in your face and he skates well. And Jantzig is a steady defensive defenseman back there that makes it hard on people."

Warroad lost 2-1 in overtime on Jan. 15 at Hermantown, a game marked by cautious play from both teams.

Saturday's rematch at the Xcel Energy Center started in opposite fashion. The teams were tied 2-2 after two periods.

"I didn't want to get into a racehorse game with them," Andrews said.

"Our greatest attribute would be playing great team defense," Warroad head coach Jerry Hanson said in the second period. But Andrews began making his team's defensive efforts change the game's flow. Later in the period, he said, he yelled at the scoreboard and thought of Warroad. "They haven't had a shot in a long time," Jantzig became one of four Hawks to be a team captain and a state champion.

"Beau will forever be in the pantheon of Hermantown hockey stars," Andrews said. "I wonder if brother of how Beau has turned into a tremendous man and leader this year."