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PREPS

BOYS' HOCKEY STATE TOURNAMENT

CLASS 1A QUARTERFINALS ALEXANDRIA 4, MINNEAPOLIS 1

JEFF WHEELER • jeff.wheeler@startribune.com

Minneapolis forward Evan Grimm tried to reach a loose puck on the other side of Alexandria defenseman Brennan Lattimer (12) and in front of goalie Teagan Pfeffer.

Alexandria keeps winning

Minneapolis tied it after giving up an early goal to the Cardinals, but the team didn't score again.

By HEATHER RULE • Special to the Star Tribune

Alexandria senior forward Brycen Berg scored twice, and the Cardinals beat Minneapolis 4-1 on Wednesday in a Class 1A quarterfinal of the boys' hockey state tournament at Xcel Energy Center.

Berg gave fifth-seeded Alexandria an early 1-0 lead, but Minneapolis controlled play the rest of the first period, and Zander Zoia tied the score late in the period.

Minneapolis, the fourth seed, outshot Alexandria 13-2 in the first period.

"Obviously the first period was not the greatest," Alexandria coach Josh Meyers said. "But we bounced back in the second and took care of the puck a lot better."

Berg scored the go-ahead goal for a 2-1 lead late in the second period when he deflected Henry Ramstorf's point shot.

About a minute after a huge save by Alexandria goalie Teagan Pfeffer in the third period, Gavin Olson scored for the Cardinals with 11:03 to play to make it 3-1.

"Once they scored, I was like, 'We're going to win this game,'" Pfeffer said.

The Cardinals (20-6-2) added an empty-net goal and extended their unbeaten streak (12-0-1) to 13 games.

"They put it in the net when they had their chances, and we got behind," Minneapolis coach Joe Dziedzic said. "I think we're a better team when we're obviously ahead."

The fan support for Minneapolis (21-7-1) was evident in St. Paul, with perhaps the largest student section ever for a Class 1A state tournament game.

CLASS 1A QUARTERFINALS MAHTOMEDI 4, MANKATO EAST/LOYOLA 1

Mahtomedi scores early, late for 'huge boost'

By DAVID La VAQUE
david.lavaque@startribune.com

In hockey, giving up a goal in the first or final minute of a period is a no-no, which means scoring one in those moments isn't easy.

Mahtomedi essentially got one of each in the second period against Mankato East/Loyola, goals that fueled a 4-1 quarterfinal victory.

"It's a huge boost," Zephyrs coach Jeff Poeschl said. "It's rare to get one early and late in the same period."

Carter Haycraft scored 1:30 into the period, and Poeschl said he "could feel a little tension leave the bench." Nick Beiendorf doubled the lead for No. 3 seed Mahtomedi (17-11-1) midway through the period.

A third goal, this one by Cavanaugh Bruner with just 7.8 seconds remaining, was one Poeschl called "quite a dagger."

Mankato East/Loyola (17-11-1) needed time to let the sting wear off.

"It took us a minute to get over that in the third period," Cougars coach Adam Fries said. "But I was proud with the way we battled back to give ourselves a chance."

Mankato East/Loyola received a tremendous toe save from goalie Caelin Brueske in the first period. His teammates finally generated offense to support him in the third period.

Aiden Prochaska raised his team's spirits by blasting a power-play goal past Mahtomedi's Ben Dardis, one of three Frank Brimsek Award finalists for the state's top senior goalie.

"That gave us a little bit of life," Fries said, especially because Prochaska's shot bested "a goalie who generally doesn't get beat on the first shot."

BRIAN PETERSON • brian.peterson@startribune.com

Mahtomedi and Mankato East/Loyola battled it out in front of the net in the first period Wednesday.

CLASS 1A QUARTERFINALS HERMANTOWN 5, NEW PRAGUE 1

Hermantown puts New Prague in big hole, cruises to victory

By HEATHER RULE
Special to the Star Tribune

Hermantown scored three quick goals in the first period, and that was all it took for the Hawks to keep the momentum throughout their quarterfinal game in the Class 1A boys' hockey state tournament.

The top-seeded Hawks defeated unseeded New Prague 5-1 Wednesday night at Xcel Energy Center.

"We had a great start, and that start kind of carried us," Hermantown coach Patrick Andrews said. "You could tell [the Trojans] was on their heels. And we have been really good when teams have been on their heels."

Hermantown (27-2-0) pumped in a variety of highlight-reel goals to go up 3-0 only 3 minutes, 1 second into the game, getting goals from Wyatt Carlson on the power play, junior Zam Plante and Dominic Thomas. Plante added another goal about halfway through the first period.

"I mean, after the section final, we knew we could come out and do that again," Plante said of the quick start.

Zam's younger brother Max, a sophomore, scored early in the third period.

New Prague (11-16-2) ended Hermantown's shutout streak of 192 minutes and 33 seconds, going back to its final regular-season game against Grand Rapids, with a power-play goal from Will Andersen later in the first.

"Obviously we'd love to have that first seven minutes back," New Prague coach Brad Drazan said. "Once we settled down a little bit, I thought we did some really good things."

CLASS 1A QUARTERFINALS WARROAD 7, MONTICELLO 1

Monticello scores first goal but Warroad has last laugh

By DAVID La VAQUE
david.lavaque@startribune.com

After an early hiccup, Warroad swallowed up Monticello in a 7-1 victory.

Monticello (13-15-1) gained the early edge as Quintin Brooks buried a rebound for a 1-0 lead at 10:44 of the first period. The goal conjured memories of 2017, when the Moose started fast and engineered two upsets to reach the championship game.

Warroad (25-3-1), the No. 2 seed, killed that buzz a little more than two minutes later. Carson Pilgrim tied the score with an absolute snipe, and the Warriors found their game.

"Right when I saw it hit the net, I was like, 'Here we go,'" Warroad junior forward Jayson Shaugabay said. "That was big."

Warroad took flight while Monticello began its fall. Murray Marvin-Cordes spurred the go-ahead goal with deft stickwork and a sent a puck for Jack Jones to slam home.

"We knew to get any life, we were going to have to pop the first one," Moose senior forward Wilson Dahlheimer said. "But they regrouped, came back strong and took the life out of us."

Shaugabay kept the Warriors in control. His wrap-around goal in the second period required video review to confirm, and his team led 3-1. Just 54 seconds later, Daimon Gardner tallied his 40th goal of the season. Gardner added two goals in the third period to complete the hat trick.

"We played some tough competition this year," Monticello coach Eric Nelson said. "But they've got some kids that are on another level than we faced."

WEDNESDAY'S RECAP

THREE STARS

1. Warroad senior Daimon Gardner: He pulled off a hat trick against Monticello. The Clarkson-committed forward ranks fifth in the state with 42 goals this season.

2. Mahtomedi junior Corey Bohmert: A forward, he assisted on two goals in a 4-1 victory against Mankato East/Loyola. Zephyrs coach Jeff Poeschl hailed Bohmert as "probably our most improved player from last year."

3. Hermantown junior Zam Plante: He scored goals No. 21 and 22, plus added his 36th assist in his 20th game of the season. He had a game-high 11 shots on goal; New Prague recorded 11 as a team. He missed games earlier in the season recovering from a dislocated shoulder.

BY THE NUMBERS

247:54
Consecutive minutes and seconds Mahtomedi's Ben Dardis held opponents without a goal, spanning six starts from Feb. 15 until the third period Wednesday.

50
Shots on goal Warroad threw at Monticello in a 7-1 victory.

3:01
The time it took Hermantown to build a 3-0 lead to start its quarterfinal victory over New Prague.

ATTENDANCE
Wednesday day: 4,485

SCHEDULE

CLASS 2A
Thursday • Quarterfinals
• Dodge County-Kasson-Mantorville (26-3-0) vs. Pine Love (18-10-1), 11 am
• Edina (20-8-0) vs. Moose Lake/Willow River (21-6-2), 1 pm
• Hill-Murray (23-4-2) vs. Lakeville South (25-1-4), 4 pm
• Andover (22-1-2) vs. Moorhead (21-6-2), 8 pm
Friday • Semifinals
• Quarterfinal winners, 4, 6 & 8 pm
Saturday • Championship
• Semifinal winners, 7 pm

CLASS 1A
Wednesday • Quarterfinals
• Mahtomedi 4, Mankato East/Loyola 1
• Warroad 7, Monticello 1
• Hermantown 5, New Prague 1
• Alexandria 4, Minneapolis 1
Friday • Semifinals
• Mahtomedi (17-11-1) vs. Warroad (25-3-1), 11 am
• Hermantown (27-2-0) vs. Alexandria (20-6-2), 1 pm
Saturday • Championship
• Semifinal winners, noon

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