

CE STAR TRIBUNE \*\*\* SPORTS THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023

**PREPS**  
BOYS HOCKEY SECTION FINALS

**CLASS 2A, SECTION 3 FINAL**  
CETIN-DERHAM HALL, 4  
ST. THOMAS ACADEMY 2

# Raiders' big early lead key to upset win

Cetin-Derham Hall knocked off the top-seeded Cadets with its best opening period of the season.

By HEATHER BULL • Special to the Star Tribune

Cetin-Derham Hall struggled in first periods this season, senior end Mr. Hockey finalist Jake Fisher pointed out. But the Raiders showed a reputation for quick early in Wednesday's section championship game against St. Thomas Academy. That ended the first-period problem.

"We came out flying, and we kind of got them on their heels early," Fisher said. "I think that set the tone for the rest of the game."

The second-seeded Raider's pressure resulted in three goals — thanks to a pair of goals from Fisher — by the first intermission on the way to a 4-2 victory over top seed St. Thomas Academy in the Class 2A, Section 3 title game for a spot in the boys hockey state tournament.

"That first period was 'by far' the best of the Raiders' season," Fisher said. Coach Matt Funk agreed.

Cetin-Derham Hall (18-9-1), ranked No. 11 in Class 2A in the latest coaches poll, came out with intensity from puck drop, peppering the Cadets' goaltender with shots.

Freshman winger Max Anderson cleared up a juicy rebound in front of the net on a power play for a 3-0 lead. Fisher and Anderson have played on a line together all season, and the freshman is extremely detailed, Funk said.

"He's just built different," Funk said. "He's wired different. He's a lot like Jake in a lot of ways."

Anderson's second goal, a shot along the half-wall with seven minutes to play, ended up being the backbreaker.

"I didn't even know it went in," Anderson said. "I just threw it on net and it bounced, went through the five-hole."

Mike Randolph, a longtime coach in his first year with the No. 9 Cadets (19-0-1), said his team showed the game all night.

"At the end of the day, like I told the guys, you can't give a team like that a three-goal lead," Randolph said. "The fourth goal sealed everything out of us."



Cetin-Derham Hall goalie Leo Miller celebrated a 4-2 win over St. Thomas Academy in the Class 2A, Section 3 Final.

CLASS 2A, SECTION 6 FINAL EDINA 2, WAYZATA 1

# Edina slips past Wayzata and into state tournament

Two Frank Brimsek Award-winning goalies faced off.

By DAVID LA VAGLE  
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Edina senior goaltender Robbie Clarkowski perfectly summarized his feelings about a recent seven-goal loss to Wayzata.

"That one stung," he said after his near-perfect performance in Wednesday's 2-1 victory against those same Trojans in the Class 2A, Section 6 boys hockey championship game.

Edina's ability to regroup just 10 days after the 7-0 understudy started with Clarkowski, one of three finalists for the Frank Brimsek Award given to the state's top senior goalies. With the victory, the social program will make its 30th state tournament appearance, counting those by Minneapolis and Edina East.

"His maturity is the reason he was able to be so much better tonight," Horvath's coach Curt Giles said. "Sometimes the best goalies have amnesia. They forget about what happened and move on."

Intramural Matt Vander Vort gave his goalie psychological will by spraying just 14 shots, 19 seconds into the game played at the Hennepin County Ice Garden.

"I was a little nervous before the game but he helped me get settled in," Clarkowski said. "It's good to know that your boys got you."

His defense had his back as well. Clarkowski didn't face his first shot through the game's opening 19 minutes.

Trojans coach Pat O'Leary said his team was fortunate to get out of the period down a lone goal.

"In the first period, we weren't doing anything right," O'Leary said. "We weren't playing like our backs were against the wall. Then we went out and totally dominated the second period. We just couldn't find one."

Wayzata goalie Will Ingemann, also a Frank Brimsek Award finalist, got best only once in 20 shots remaining.

The Trojans (19-7-2) weren't finished. With Ingemann pulled for an extra skater, Wayzata's Ryan Whelan got his team on the board.

"I'm proud of the way our boys battled," O'Leary said. "Not going to the X is a big deal, but this is one of the best seasons I've had with the kids and parents."



Edina forward Ryan Fishery (21) celebrates at the end of the game in front of net.

**STATE QUALIFIERS**  
The eight-team fields for the Class 2A and Class 1A boys hockey state tournaments will be set by the results of section finals Wednesday through Friday. The qualifiers to face:

**CLASS 1A**  
Cetin-Derham Hall  
Edina

**CLASS 1A**  
Northfield  
St. Cloud Cathedral  
Hermantown  
Luverne

**WRESTLING STORY LINES**

# State champs may meet; Simley looks awesome

**The McEnelly factor**  
Billerica senior Ryder Riggs, defending Class 3A champ at 182 pounds, moved up to 195 and won the Section 4 title. His decision to move up was influenced by his early-season loss to one-time state champion Max McEnelly of Woodville. Riggs said he'll December he's determined to get another shot at McEnelly in the 195-pound final. McEnelly will be shooting for his fourth consecutive individual championship. He won the Class 3A title at 170 as a freshman, 182 as a sophomore and 195 as a junior.

**WRESTLING STATE MEET**  
AT 11:11 381 FIVE CHATEL  
Thursday: Team championships in three classes (quarterfinals at 9 a.m., semifinals 1 p.m., championship matches 7 p.m.)  
Friday: Individual competition (first round 9 a.m., quarterfinals 9 p.m.)  
Saturday: Individual competition (boys semifinals, girls quarterfinals and semifinals 9 a.m., championship matches 4 p.m.)

through the Section 4 playoffs, giving up just three total team points in three matches. In the individual section meet, all 14 Spartans wrestlers qualified for state, as did defending girls 100-pound champion Charli Raymond, who will wrestle at 107 pounds in the girls tournament.

Simley is not the only team favored to repeat as champion, Jackson County Central in Class 1A and St. Michael's Abernethy in 3A are also in fine shape to repeat.

**Spartans dominance**  
How good is Simley? The Spartans, shooting for their fifth consecutive Class 2A title, cruised

ready in the [state] tournament.

Three other qualifiers from the Minneapolis Public Schools are Adam Her of Henry at 200, Vincent Lopez Marsh of Edina at 113, Cyrus Jones of Edina at 142, Trenton Gulderson of Edina at 132, Nate O'Brien of South at 182 and Lamar Sloan of Edina at 195.

Peter Yang was a state tournament qualifier in 2005, after winning his section in his senior year at Minneapolis South. Also in the Henry wrestling room was his opponent in those section finals 17 years ago, Terrance Russell, now an assistant at Edina.

Coaches like Yang and Russell make up for things wrestlers at other schools like for granted. Each has a pre-tournament hotel stay. That, Peter Yang said, is coming out of coaches' pockets. "We just really don't have the help," he said, shaking his head. "And the fundraising is not there."

"This was the second year that the Minneapolis and St. Paul conferences staged a wrestling meet to conclude the season. Minneapolis won this year."

"You could feel the energy," Minus said. "The guys were cheering for each other and celebrating. And that's what really brought this Minneapolis piece together. It galvanized it."

**PREPS from C1**  
Yang's role at Henry is officially assistant coach. In reality, he is the driving force of the program. He was hesitant to talk about it, preferring to remain outside of the spotlight.

"This is what we do. We're wrestlers," he said. "We don't need attention. We just want to wrestle."

Minus spoke for Yang. "Peter is always instructing, always coaching, always willing to work with other wrestlers. In wrestling, it's about showing up and having discipline. It can change your life. And guys like Peter show it every day."

Yang's younger brother, Lewis is the embodiment of the determination of the city wrestlers. Lewis qualified for the state meet as a freshman, sacrificed his sophomore season to COVID-19, then caught COVID again as a junior, coming back with six matches left in the season, just enough to qualify for the state meet.

Lewis, healthy all season for the first time in three years, earned his third state tournament trip with a runner-up finish at 138 pounds in Class 2A, Section 5.

"So this is his big year," said Peter, who introduced Lewis to wrestling as a fifth-grader and has been guiding him ever since. "He's got that determination, COVID almost robbed him two years in a row. And our father has always wanted him to be a soccer player. He's not physically the strongest, but he's stubborn. As a kid, he'd annoy. He would rather his shoulder pop than give up two points."

Lewis said he will use his loss in the section finals, to Peyton Herbert of Edina-Groves, as motivation.

"I thought I was just going to go in and win," he said. "It'll help me be

**City wrestlers prepare as group**



Henry assistant wrestling coach Peter Yang watched state qualifiers from Minneapolis train on Tuesday.

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