

CLASS 2A CAPSULES
Take a snapshot by matching look at the facts behind the squads in the state tournament.

Cretin-Derham Hall (18-8-1) vs. No. 2 seed Maple Grove (23-5-1), 11 a.m.

SCOUTING THE RAIDERS
State tournament title fifth
Top three scorers: Jake Fisher, senior, 11 (4 goals, 7 assists); Artin Lippert, senior, 11 (4 goals, 7 assists); Simon Hooge, senior, D (three goals, 33 assists).
In goal: Leo Miller, junior — 8-4-2, 9-5 goals-against average, 91% saves, one shutout; Owen Miller, sophomore — 7-4-1, 2-17 GAA, 87% saves, one shutout.
Did you know? Mr. Hockey candidate Fisher takes an eight-game goal streak into the tournament.

SCOUTING THE CRIMSON
State tournament title sixth
Top three scorers: Finn Bruk, senior, 11 (4 goals, 17 assists); Jack Kemm, senior, 11 (3 goals, 40 assists); Kuba Sterner, senior, 11 (2 goals, 27 assists).
In goal: Jack Roach, senior — 17-9-1, 2-13 GAA, 91% saves, five shutouts.
Did you know? Last year's Class 2A runner-up in 2019 season against Class 2A tournament team.

Moorehead (19-9) vs. No. 3 seed Edina (20-6-1), 1 p.m.

SCOUTING THE SPURS
State tournament title seventh
Top three scorers: Aiden Reiserer, senior, 11 (3 goals, 16 assists); Mason Kraft, sophomore, 11 (seven goals, 29 assists); Cole Alderson, senior, 11 (nine goals, 17 assists).
In goal: Kai Wigert, junior — 19-0-0, 1-7 GAA, 91% saves, five shutouts.
Did you know? Still in search of its first state title, Moorehead enters the tournament on a 13-game winning streak.

SCOUTING THE HORNETS
State tournament title eighth
Top three scorers: Jackson Harvey, junior, 11 (3 goals, 19 assists); Koby Cowan, junior, 11 (2 goals, 19 assists); Mason Over, freshman, 11 (eight goals, 18 assists).
In goal: Robbie Charbonnet, senior — 18-0-1, 6-7 GAA, 94% saves, four shutouts.
Did you know? The Hornets started the season 0-3 before rattling off a winning streak of eight games and an 11-game unbeaten streak.

Hill-Murray (14-13-1) vs. No. 1 seed Minnetonka (25-2-0), 6 p.m.

SCOUTING THE PIONEERS
State tournament title ninth
Top three scorers: Brady Ingelbroun, senior, 11 (nine goals, 11 assists); Jackson Reeves, sophomore, 11 (11 goals, nine assists); Caden Demps, senior, 11 (seven goals, 11 assists).
In goal: Jack Erickson, senior — 11-13-1, 2-5 GAA, 92% saves, two shutouts.
Did you know? With only five assists, this is "by far" the youngest team long-time coach Bill Lechner has taken to the state tournament, he said.

SCOUTING THE SKIPPERS
State tournament title seventh
Top three scorers: Iqbal Bismillah, junior, 11 (20 goals, 20 assists); Gavin Garry, junior, 11 (16 goals, 21 assists); Aaron Moore, junior, 11 (10 goals, 23 assists).
In goal: Kater Nelson, senior — 11-2-0, 1-4 GAA, 91% saves, seven shutouts.
Did you know? The Skippers, who have won their past 17 games, are 6-0 against 2A tournament opponents.

No. 5 seed Lakeville South (21-6-1) vs. No. 4 seed Andover (21-6-1), 8 p.m.

SCOUTING THE COUGARS
State tournament title eighth
Top three scorers: Aiden Wilts, senior, 11 (11 goals, 45 assists); Tate Pfirkard, senior, 11 (28 goals, 29 assists); Ashton Daltrey, senior, 11 (21 goals, 20 assists).
In goal: Jack Hochsprung, senior — 20-1-1, 2-4 GAA, 92% saves, four shutouts.
Did you know? All states for the fifth year in a row, the Cougars have won 10 of their past 11 games.

SCOUTING THE HUSKIES
State tournament title fourth
Top three scorers: Gwynn Thorsom, senior, 11 (16 goals, 54 assists); Cooper Conway, senior, 11 (45 goals, 38 assists); Cayden Casper, senior, 11 (21 goals, 52 assists).
In goal: Ben Altman, senior — 14-3-1, 1-6 GAA, 91% saves, five shutouts; Cal Conway, sophomore — 7-5-0, 1-79 GAA, 92% saves, five shutouts.
Did you know? The defending 2A champs and the state in goal scored with 156.

HEATHER RULE
SPECIAL TO THE STAR TRIBUNE

SPORTS

PREPS

BOYS HOCKEY STATE TOURNAMENT

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Four of five past state champions return

by HEATHER RULE
Special to the Star Tribune

Seven of the eight teams in this year's Class 2A boys hockey state tournament return from last year, though the quarterfinal matchups are all different. Minnetonka drew the top seed and is the only "newcomer" having last played in the tournament when it won the title in 2018.

Seven teams also have played in at least one state title game since 2017: Cretin-Derham Hall is the only team winning the title in 2008. Four of the past five state champions are back too. Andover won last year's Hill-Murray in 2020, Edina in 2019 and the Skippers in 2018.

Lakeville South, Maple Grove and Moorehead all have plenty of recent tournament experience, but each is still looking for its first state title. The Crimson got close last year, falling in double overtime to conference rival Andover. Lakeville South was in the title game in 2021. Moorehead, the only non-metro school in the Class 2A tournament, has eight runner-up finishes, the last coming in 2017.

The fifth seed, which is Lakeville South this year, has won three of the past six Class 2A championships. The other three titles in that span? The top seed took care of business.

Defending champ is back
For the first time since 2007, a Class 2A program has a chance to defend its state title as the Andover Raiders make their fourth consecutive appearance in the 2023 state tournament but was not allowed to compete because of a COVID exposure and the Minnesota State High School League's COVID guidelines. After reporting to school in the last year as a fifth seed, Andover returns as the fourth seed with one of the most productive top lines in the state in seniors Gwynn Thorsom, Cooper Conway and Cayden Casper. Andover has scored 16 goals this season (57 per game) behind Mr. Hockey candidate Thorsom's 16 goals and 50 points.

The Raiders are 2-3 against Class 2A state tournament teams, having fallen to Minnetonka and Maple Grove twice.

While Calmson back in the tournament as well, this is also the first time since 2017 that both the previous year's champion and runner-up returned. The defending champion Minnetonka's consolation runner-up while Eden Prairie took third place a year after finishing second.

The last back-to-back Class 2A champions was Edina in 2014-15.

Raiders look for redo
Cretin-Derham Hall was the No. 2 seed last season, in its first state appearance since 2009. Edina victim Alex Bump, his five goals leading unseeded Prior Lake to the quarterfinals.

Last year was really embarrassing for us," senior Jake Fisher said after his team's season final. "We lost 6-0 on the biggest stage. We've prepared this whole year to claim redemption for that."

This time, the Raiders are unseeded against No. 2 Maple Grove. They didn't talk about that game all season, coach Matt Funk said, but his senior group was determined to make a return trip to state.

"There was a lot of poise and circumstance to it last year," Funk said, referring to the program's first state tournament in 13 years. "We did some things that got us off our routine. So we're going to stay together...and we're going to go in ready."

Hill-Murray real young
Hill-Murray is a state tournament regular under longtime head coach Bill Lechner. The program has won four state championships, the latest in 2020 as a fifth seed. The Raiders were upset in last year's semifinals by Andover before taking third place.

This year, it's a bit of uncharted territory for the Raiders, making their third trip to state since 2017. With only five seniors, it's definitely the youngest group Lechner has taken to the state tournament.

More than 2,000 fans, the results heavy with losses to ranked teams and to teams in the state tournament, plus key injuries that tested already thin depth and the loss of a team, a bout with a flu bug.

"It was just kind of like, the perfect storm this year," Lechner said. "For-

unately the guys got healed probably about 20 weeks ago now. We got everybody back and healthy."

The definitive core of sophomore Graham Gooder, freshman Casper Long and sophomore Landon Cottingham is young, but backstopped by a veteran goaltender, senior Jack Erickson. The forward line of sophomore Boden Sampal, senior Caden Sampal and junior Jack Bustin in the "heartcore line," Lechner said.

Unseeded Hill-Murray drew top seed Minnetonka for Thursday's quarterfinal. The Raiders lost to the skipper early this season, dropping to 1-7 that day.

Character points are great," Lechner said. "There's a lot of good teams there. But at least we have the pieces that we had in the beginning of the year back in place and thus, starting to have some success again."

The last time an unseeded Class 2A team won the state tournament was 2012 (Berlin-St. Marguerite) when four seeds also lost in the quarterfinals.

Three of top goalies in mix
Three of the state's top 10 goalies in the Class 2A tournament will step into the crease at Kohl Energy Center in the Class 2A tournament.

Minnetonka senior Kater Nelson is the best of them, with 11 goals-against mark that best in the state. Andover's Ben Altman has a 1.67 goals-against average, and his 4-2 save percentage ranks third in the state.

Colin Scanlan and Cretin-Derham Hall lost five of seven games in late January, but rallied in memory of his brother to reach the Class 2A tournament.

"It just really was hard to have one of my dreams come true and have the guy who's been next to me my whole life not be there."

Colin Scanlan on the death of his younger brother, Cormick

RAIDERS PLAY FOR 'MICK' IN BOYS HOCKEY TOURNEY

•PREPS from C1

It didn't make a practice or game this season, accumulating eight goals and 11 assists in 28 games. He'll suit up again when unseeded Cretin-Derham Hall faces No. 2 seed Maple Grove in Thursday's first Class 2A quarterfinal at Kohl Energy Center.

Hockey helped Colin battle through, even if his emotions sometimes spilled out onto the ice.

"You can just look up to him in a way, as he was such a good brother, and he just loved him (Mick) so much," said Jimmy Dodig, a sophomore defenseman. Colin referred to Mick as his "built-in best friend." They loved watching hockey, playing, knew hockey in the basement or skating together anywhere they could find ice. Their competitive nature always challenged them to be the best against each other.

Mick was a three-sport athlete, also playing basketball and football. The brothers played a TV baseball game together for the Raiders last spring, baseball was Mick's favorite sport.

"Mick and I were similar interests that it was just like I would want to take to my job," Colin said. "We were literally best friends."

Dodig called this hockey season "a whirlwind." He and Mick played on the St. Paul banam hockey team last season before joining the Raiders' JV team this season. Dodig was later called up to varsity. The pair became fast friends last season when Dodig first enrolled at Cretin-Derham Hall.

"I didn't know anyone for CDH," Dodig said. "He was one of the first kids who opened his arms and welcomed me."

The two shared classes and bonded over athletics, especially baseball and hockey. Dodig called Mick "a bit of a misfit" and said he always knew the right thing to say.

When Mick was in the hospital, his teammates sat in prayer at school and sitting around Mick's hockey locker stall, where his jersey had game numbers displayed and photos.

"It really hit our sophomores hard, obviously, because Cormick was one of them," Raiders coach Matt Funk said.

The Raiders hoped to make a run toward the state tournament, after getting upset in last year's quarterfinals. But they went through a rough stretch near the end of January, losing five of seven games. That part of the season might have been when Mick's death really started to hit some of the team, Colin said.

"Every day, you'd go to the rink and you'd walk past his stall, and he's not there," Colin said. "It hit everybody at different times. Everybody felt it, I know that."

Mick wore the No. 17 jersey, and the Raiders have adopted that as their lucky number this season. They wear No. 17 stickers on their helmets and say "play 17 hard" for the 17 minutes in a period, Funk said.

Cretin-Derham Hall boys hockey has one state championship banner displayed. How many years ago was that? Senior. The Raiders won in 2005.

"We brought up the No. 17 and how we're doing it for him," Dodig said. "We've got to go to another banner for 17."

Besides the No. 17 stickers, Colin and some of his teammates write Mick's initials on their sticks. Or some use green spray paint, Mick's favorite color.

"Seeing little stuff like that, it's just the constant show of support that I've gotten from my team and the whole community."

Funk talked with Colin after the initial on-ice celebration following the section final, telling him to live the moment and let out his emotions.

"You did it. He's here with us," Funk said. "Trust your faith, and just keep going. We got three more to give him a goal send-off."

Extending their season into the state tournament feels especially good for the Raiders, Colin said, because they're playing in Mick's honor. They want to represent his legacy, Dodig said.

As Colin put it to his brother, they have the "why" for this tournament.

"Why we want it," Colin said. "I mean, it just really was hard to have one of my dreams come true and have the guy who's been next to me my whole life be there."

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