

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023 SPORTS

**PREPS**  
BOYS HOCKEY STATE TOURNAMENT

CLASS 1A QUARTERFINALS For a more detailed report on each quarterfinal game go to [startribune.com/sports/preps](https://startribune.com/sports/preps)



WARREN FORWARD Carson Pilgrim celebrated after his first-period goal against St. Cloud Cathedral in the Class 1A quarterfinals Wednesday. Pilgrim scored three goals in the Warriors' 5-1 victory.

**GAME OF THE DAY** MAHOMETT 6, ALEXANDRIA 5

## Bohmert's big burst spurs Zephyrs

Caving into the state tournament, Mahometts senior Corey Bohmert didn't have a magical game this season. He had opportunities the past month but has "been a little snakebit," coach Jeff Focsdal said.

"He's been telling us, he's saving them for when they count," Focsdal said.

They counted in a big way when Bohmert recorded a hat trick in Wednesday's 6-3 victory over Alexandria in the Class 1A boys hockey tournament quarterfinals at Xcel Energy Center. Bohmert's biggest goal of the game came on a tic-tac-toe passing play with 17 seconds remaining in the second period, tying the score 3-3 after the Zephyrs trailed in the first period.

"It kind of set the tone for the third, for sure," Bohmert said. "The locker room was pretty hyped. We aced that."

No. 3 seed Mahometts (21-6) scored four unanswered goals after trailing 3-2. Bohmert completed a hat trick in the third period, for his fifth goal of the season, after Charlie Dudge gave the Zephyrs the lead.

The teams combined for five goals in a 6:09 span early in the first period, with Alexandria taking 3-1 and 3-2 leads.

"It's an adrenaline rush, for sure," said Alexandria senior Tyler Klack, who scored the team's first goal. "That's kind of what you want to do to start the state tournament, especially as an underdog."

Crowned Alexandria (14-13-3) was looking for its second upset in so many years, after defeating fourth seed Minneapolis in last year's quarterfinals as the fifth seed.

HEATHER RUE

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**HERMANTOWN 6, LUVERNE 0**  
Gone in 71 seconds

**The difference:** Hermantown, seeded second, scored three goals in a 71-second burst of the first period. Aaron Eryen started the run 6:28 into the game. The Hawks (26-2-2) defeated Luverne (21-7-3) in the quarterfinals for the third time since 2014.

**The quote:** "It's an amazing feeling to come through for my team when they need me." — Eryen, on starting the scoring

**WARRAOD 5, ST. CLOUD CATHEDRAL 1**  
Warriors' top line thrives

**The difference:** The front line dominated the game for Warroad (29-0-1). Carson Pilgrim produced a hat trick, Jayson Shaugabey had two assists for a state-best 59 this season, and Murray Harris-Cordes had a goal and an assist. St. Cloud Cathedral (16-13) was outshut 49-23.

**The quote:** "They are both just super talented. When either of them has the puck, I know they are going to do something good with it." — Shaugabey, about his linemates

**ORONO 2, NORTHFIELD 1 (OT)**  
Late, but not too late, in OT

**The difference:** Avery Anderson scored for Orono with 30.2 seconds remaining in the first overtime, redirecting a puck into the net. Orono outshot Northfield 50-24 in the game, but Northfield senior goaltender Keaton Walcott, who holds a program record with 23 career shutouts, stood strong.

**The quote:** "I didn't even know it hit me, but then I heard cheering." — Anderson, on the overtime winner

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**WEDNESDAY'S ATTENDANCE**  
Day session: 4,339 · Night session: 5,380

**FRIDAY'S SEMIFINALS**  
Hermantown vs. Mahometts, 11 a.m. (Ch. 45)  
Warroad vs. Orono, 1 p.m. (Ch. 45)

**CHAMPIONSHIP GAME**  
Room Saturday (Ch. 45)

David La Voe, Star Tribune, and Heather Rue, Special to the Star Tribune, contributed to this report.

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**NOTES**

### Luverne player uses hockey stick unique way — gets prom date

By DAVID LA VOE II · Star Tribune and HEATHER RUE, Special to the Star Tribune

Luverne senior forward **Brady Bok** pondered a proposal on Wednesday morning ahead of his team's Class 1A boys hockey state tournament quarterfinal against Hermantown at Xcel Energy Center. He thought the on-ice, on-TV player introductions might be a good spot for it because he "had to say something when I went up there."

"Everybody says, 'Hey, Mom!' or 'Hey, Dad!' or whatever," Bok said. "But I kind of wanted to switch it up. I hadn't done a proposal yet, so I figured, get it out of the way at the X."

He took one of his backup hockey sticks, taped it up in the locker room and asked for a Sharpie. He wrote, "Hey, Brad, I love you" on the stick blade, flashing it to the camera when he skated to the blue line for program introductions.

So, did he get an answer? His coach, **Philip Paquette**, was cued in on the program news conference, too. Bok found out afterward



HERMANTOWN SENIOR BOY BRADY BOK (13) uses a hockey stick to propose to his girlfriend during the game against Luverne on Wednesday.

Luverne's Brady Bok found a couple of uses for a hockey stick Wednesday. He used one to propose to his girlfriend during the quarterfinal game and used another to meet a prom date.

Luverne's Bok had posted a tweet with side-by-side photos of Bok's proposal and, presumably, Bok's answer. "Yes!" also written on a hockey stick.

"That's a victory for the day," Paquette said.

"Throughout my career, actually playing here was never in my mind," Paquette said. "It wasn't realistic at that time. And obviously that has changed, for the better."

Unfortunately for Luverne, the boys' semifinals have drawn Hermantown in the quarterfinals every time, and they're in St. Cloud Cathedral's 2017 quarterfinals, then 3-2 in overtime in 2017 before a 6-0 loss on Wednesday.

**Bohmert shines on big stage**  
Corey Bohmert banged his season goaliest from a goal with a hat trick in Wednesday's victory for Mahometts. It meant his first great performance in the quarterfinals of a state tournament during his senior year.

In the Class 1A state football quarterfinals against St. Thomas Academy in the fall, Bohmert had a season-best 46 carries and season-best 284 rushing yards on the way to a 30-14 overtime victory.

"I don't know what's up with that," Bohmert said of the quarterfinal magic. "But I'm just hoping to get a better semifinal outcome."

ER River defeated Mahometts 20-21 in the football semifinals.

**Assists and hockey hair**  
Teammates **Carson Pilgrim** and **Jayson Shaugabey** of Warroad filled up the score sheet Wednesday per usual, overshadowing the three assists from senior defenseman **Rick Comstock**.

Comstock, whose father, **Derrick Comstock** (assistant coach), and sister, **Katy Comstock** brought home the girls' Class 1A state tournament title two weeks ago, helped his boys team take its first step toward state championship with a 5-1 defeat of St. Cloud Cathedral. Here's the second assist on each of the Warriors' first three goals.

"He's so smart back there," said coach **Jeff Focsdal**, a former Warroad defenseman. "He doesn't panic with the puck. And he makes the right play. He's smooth, and when he dishes up to guys like [Pilgrim and Shaugabey] it all comes together."

His teammates offered Comstock to assist after the game, naming him owner of the best hockey hair.

"I like his curly hair," Pilgrim said.