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PREPS
BOYS' BASKETBALL STATE TOURNAMENT

CLASS 4A QUARTERFINALS ROUNDUP

Wide range: Thriller to blowout

STAFF REPORTS

With two weeks left in the regular season, Cerin-Derham Hall had a 12-20 record.

The Raiders didn't panic and put together a seven-game winning streak to reach the boys' basketball state tournament.

On Thursday at Target Center, the Raiders put together comebacks in each half and then held on for a 52-31 victory over Owatonna in the Class 4A quarterfinal.

"We've been in so many games like this," Raiders coach Jerry Kline said. "We stayed poised. We believe in our coaches and in our teammates."

The Raiders were trailing 51-49 with 20 seconds left before Adam Tauer's three-pointer gave them a lead.

Owatonna missed two field goal attempts in the final five seconds. "They have been tested in a lot of close games and we've lost some of them," Raiders coach Jerry Kline said. "I'm proud of them for staying with it."

Holloman scored 17 points and Darnesh Cain 15 to lead the Raiders (20-10). Evan Dushak scored 17 and Tyrel Creeger 16 to pace the Hawks (27-3).

"It just came down to making one more play," Owatonna coach Josh Williams said.

JON RIPPET

Eastview 67, Eden Prairie 51: In his team's progress towardward, Kayser Hassan had a feeling it was going to be a good day. He was right.

Hassan, a 6-6 senior forward, scored 15 first-half points for fourth-seeded Eastview as the Lightning (25-6) took a 46-22 halftime lead on their way to a victory over fifth-seeded Eden Prairie (20-11).

"I felt really, really good about my shot today," Hassan said. "Every time I shot the ball I felt really confident. It was a perfect time to start feeling good about it."

Hassan finished with 17 points, seven rebounds and three assists to lead the Lightning. Eastview 6-30 forward Jamal Anderson scored 20 points and had nine rebounds.

Guard Miles Smith scored 16 points and forward Chadd Osborne 15 for the Eagles.

"We had to close out really hard because they're veteran scorers and shoot really well," Eastview senior guard Kenil Scales said. "Chadd — we knew what he could do, because he's just to big — he's a beast."

PATRICK JOHNSON

Park Center 74, Andover 60: It wasn't pretty, but the Pirates got the job done.

Top-seeded Park Center dominated the offensive glass and

avoided an upset by Northwest Suburban Conference rival Andover. Park Center, the top-ranked team in the state according to Minnesota Basketball News, trailed 44-40 with 1:42 left in the game to the unseeded Hawks. However, Park Center (20-1) went on a late 15-2 run ended by back-to-back rim-rocking dunks to help Andover (19-1) to a top.

Park Center beat Andover 77-62 three weeks ago, so Pirates coach James Ware knew what to expect. "No question we were coming to have a tough game on our hands," Ware said. "This was probably the best thing that could've happened to our team — hit some adversity, learn that things are going to be hard and we got to push through."

Park Center seniors Broden Carrington and Leo Tischer combined for 30 points for the Pirates. Carrington, who signed with the Gophers in November, had 16 points and eight assists and Tischer, a San Jose State signee, had 20 points and six rebounds.

Andover junior guards Ben

Kopetisi and Sam Musungu had 16 and 15 points, respectively, and three rebounds apiece.

PATRICK JOHNSON

Wayzata 71, Moorhead 28: Wayzata (20-4) looked like a team prepared to make a strong run at a state title repeat, running out to a 26-point halftime lead and cruising to a victory over the Spuds (19-13) in the final large-school quarterfinal.


Junior Myles Barzette scored 13 points and Spencer Hall 11 for Wayzata.

It was the Trojans 13th consecutive win and their 21st in 24 games. "We've been rolling these last couple of games and putting a lot of pieces together," said senior guard Drew Berkland, the spunkiest player for Wayzata's 2021 championship team.

Moorhead coach Matt Ellingson credited Wayzata's teamwork for the big victory. "The way they seamlessly switch and rotate," Ellingson said. "They changed timing."

DAVID LA VANGIE

Cerin-Derham Hall's Holloman put a shot over Owatonna's Evan Dushak in a Class 4A quarterfinal at Target Center. Both had 17 points.



DAVID LA VANGIE

Wayzata's Myles Barzette (left) and Spencer Hall (right) scored 13 and 11 points, respectively, in the final large-school quarterfinal.



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Carin Spirit of Wayzata dives to the basket against Hunter Wuchentherm of Moorhead in the first half Tuesday. The Trojans won 71-28.

STAFF REPORTS

Princeton turned the ball over 34 times in the first half, but in the second half, it took advantage of Austin turnovers by making four quick baskets in under a minute to extend its lead.

"When you come out and you turn the ball over on three, four straight possessions that lead to runs and layups and easy baskets for Princeton, that was the difference," Austin coach K. Isidore said.

That momentum propelled No. 2 seed Princeton past unseeded Austin 75-60 in the Class 3A boys' basketball quarterfinal Tuesday afternoon at Williams Arena.

The Tigers (23-1) relied on efforts from senior forward Hayden Stay and junior guard Cooper Drews, each with a double-double. Stay grabbed 30 boards by halftime, finishing with a game-high 23 points and 8 rebounds. Drews, with 22 points and 12 rebounds, won the star from three-point range, making six of 11 shots.

"I think that spending a little bit in the biggest thing," Stay said. "We were taught to play fast and play hard."

Junior Ace Maysen led the Tigers (17-15) with 17 points.

HEATHER HULL

DelLaSalle's Brandon Hoban (15) split two St. Cloud Tech defenders for a first-half shot during the Islanders' 66-57 victory in the Class 3A quarterfinal.



CHERYL A. MYERS - SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

DelLaSalle 66, Hermantown 56: By halftime, the Hawks felt at ease in the largest indoor Williams Arena environment. A comfort zone against Triton-Grace proved tougher to find.

Talk, physical and accustomed to tough competition, the top-seeded Eagles (26-6) trounced the Hawks.

"We don't get to see many teams that have players like that," Hermantown junior Keaton Christenson said, "so it's hard to adjust on the fly. But we tried to do our best."

Hermantown (19-9) held a 9-4 lead with less than four minutes gone, but a few minutes later, Triton-Grace

junior guard Talon Charman broke open a five score with his own nine-point run. The Eagles led 29-12 and never looked back.

Triton-Grace received 19 points from Charman, a Star Tribune All-Metro second-team selection, plus scoring from Patrick Ruth (16 points), All-Metro first-team pick Detarion Watson (12) and Jordan Livingston (10).

"We prepared for this moment and this team overall," Watson said. "We stuck to our principles and played hard defense."

DAVID LA VANGIE

Mankato East 61, Mound Winnetka 55: When the pace is too frantic for opponents, it's just right for the Cougars (20-6).

Mankato East applied their trapping, proving effective in the second half and fanned as turnovers in beating the Whitehorns (21-9).

The Cougars didn't mean to wait so long. Players were accustomed to pressing after made shots. With only two made field goals in the game's first six minutes, the press slipped players' minds.

His team trailing 29-25 at halftime, coach Joe Madson reminded his players of their defensive identity.

"We forgot to get into it," Madson

said. "The second half, they remembered. And it was a major, major change in the game. We want the game to stop."

For the game, Mankato East outscored the Whitehorns 25-8 on turnovers. Senior Jake Dallman led Mound Winnetka with 21 points.

Ranked eighth in the final Minnesota Basketball News poll, the fourth-seeded Cougars were led by senior forward Bajado Omoro's 25 points.

DAVID LA VANGIE

DeLaSalle 69, St. Cloud Tech 57: The third-seeded Islanders (21-7) withstood an 11-0 second-half run by the Tigers (19-10) after holding a 29-point lead.

The Islanders led 36-23 at halftime and extended the lead to 21 with 12:43 to play. But St. Cloud Tech then cut the lead to 33-43 with 7:35 to go.

The Tigers cut the lead to nine points twice late in the second half but didn't get any closer.

"Our whole identity is to not get too high and too low," DeLaSalle coach Travis Bledsoe said. "We've been in a lot of tough games, a lot of close games, so this is what we do."

Senior guard Kyle Johnson led the Islanders with 19 points.

NATE GUTLER