

STATE TOURNEY
PREVIEW

MINNESOTA HOCKEY HUB

MARCH
2013

2012-13 STATE TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

FREE



BY MN HOCKEY HUB STAFF

2012-13 STATE TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

STAFF



TIM KOLEHMAINEN



LOREN NELSON



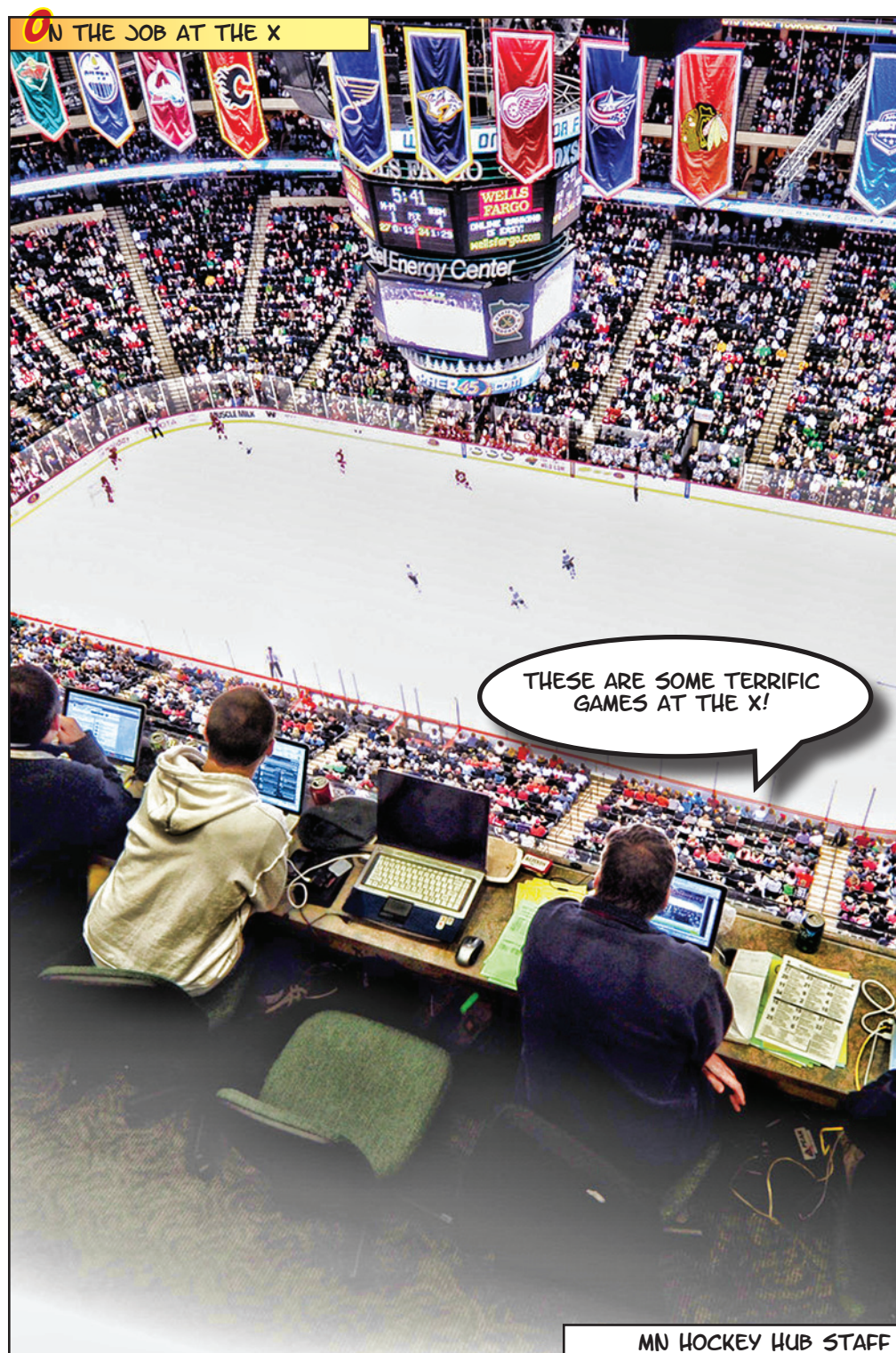
ZACK FRIEDLI



JUSTIN MAGILL



WALKER ORENSTEIN



ON THE JOB AT THE X

THESE ARE SOME TERRIFIC
GAMES AT THE X!

MN HOCKEY HUB STAFF



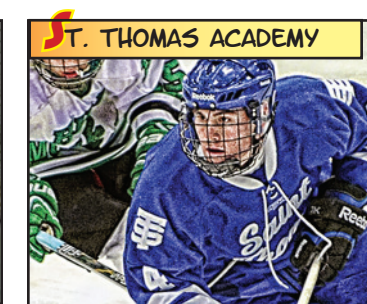
ROCHESTER LOURDES



BRECK



MARSHALL



ST. THOMAS ACADEMY



HERMANTOWN



ST. CLOUD APOLLO



DULUTH MARSHALL



EAST GRAND FORKS

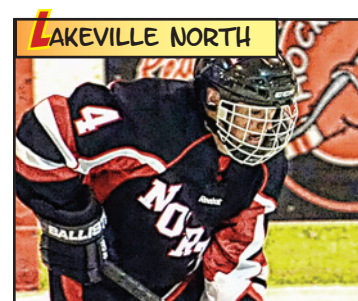
WELCOME TO THE 2013 STATE HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT!

IN FRONT OF YOU IS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE TEAMS INVOLVED IN THIS YEAR'S TOURNAMENT. IT WAS PUBLISHED THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE MINNESOTA HOCKEY HUB'S EDITORS, WRITERS AND CONTRIBUTORS, ALL OF WHOM ARE PARTNERS WITH THE MINNESOTA HOCKEY COACHES ASSOCIATION (MHCA). CLASS 2A TEAM CAPSULES ARE LOCATED IN THE LAST HALF OF THE GUIDE, PRECEDED BY THE CLASS 1A TEAM CAPSULES IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE GUIDE. THE BACK COVER INCLUDES BOTH THE CLASS 2A AND CLASS 1A BRACKETS. EACH TEAM CAPSULE INCLUDES BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM, STATISTICS, ROSTERS, COACH'S CORNER, THE "TREK TO THE X" AND A SCOUTING REPORT ON

EACH TEAM WITH PHOTOS. MINNESOTA HOCKEY HUB EDITOR LOREN NELSON TACKLED MANY OF THE CLASS 2A CAPSULES FROM THE METRO AREA. YOU'LL RECOGNIZE HIS STYLE AS THE MAN WITH HIS FINGER ON THE PULSE OF MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY. MINNESOTA HOCKEY HUB CONTRIBUTORS ZACK FRIEDLI (NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA), WALKER ORENSTEIN AND JUSTIN MAGILL (METRO AREA) ALSO CONTRIBUTED CAPSULES FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS. TIM KOLEHMAINEN, EDITOR OF BREAKDOWN SPORTS USA AND A FREQUENT HUB CONTRIBUTOR, COMPILED MANY OF THE CLASS 1A CAPSULES AND A HANDFUL OF CLASS 2A, AS WELL AS TEAMING WITH BRIAN NELSON, ADAM CRANE, KATHERINE MATTHEWS AND LOREN NELSON TO PROVIDE ALL THE PHOTOS IN THE GUIDE.

THE MINNESOTA HOCKEY HUB WILL BE YOUR COMPLETE HOME OF THE MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT. WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE WILL FEATURE OUR LIVE IN-GAME SCORING AND FULL SPOTLIGHT COVERAGE OF EVERY GAME AT THE XCEL ENERGY CENTER FOR ALL FOUR DAYS OF THE TOURNAMENT. PLEASE ACCEPT THIS INVITATION TO JOIN US THIS WEEK AS ALONG WITH OUR PARTNERS, WE WILL BRING YOU THE MOST UP-TO-DATE AND PROFESSIONAL COVERAGE OF THE GREATEST EVENT IN HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS. THANK YOU FOR VIEWING OUR SITE THIS SEASON, AS IT HAS BEEN A SUCCESS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL BACK NEXT WINTER!

-- TIM KOLEHMAINEN, EDITOR, BREAKDOWN SPORTS USA
-- LOREN NELSON, EDITOR, MINNESOTA HOCKEY HUB



LAKEVILLE NORTH



EDINA



EASTVIEW



HILL-MURRAY



CENTENNIAL



WAYZATA



DULUTH EAST



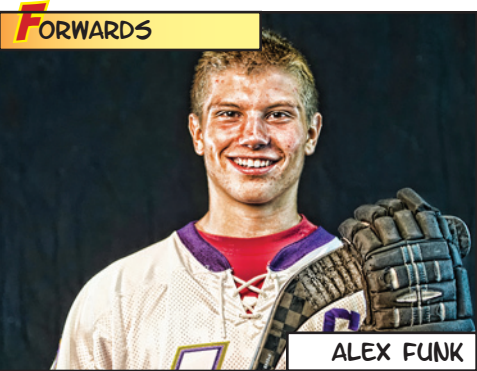
MOORHEAD

ROCHESTER LOURDES EAGLES

CHAMPIONS OF SECTION 1A



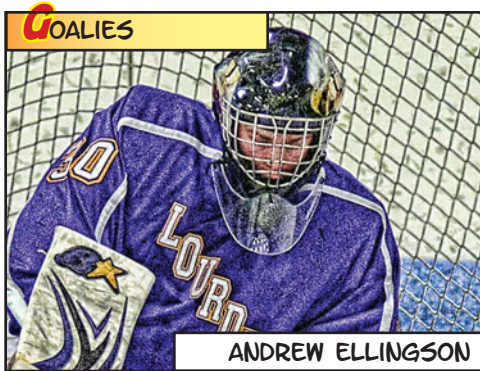
JASON SAMUELSON



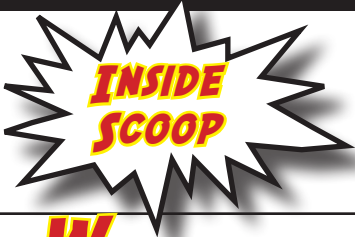
ALEX FUNK



KARL KRECKE



ANDREW ELLINGSON



By TIM KOLEHMAINEN

WHEN ROCHESTER LOURDES GETS ON A RUN, IT'S BEST TO GET OUT OF THE WAY OR GET RUN OVER. WITH A 6-1 VICTORY OVER MANKATO WEST IN THE SECTION 1A FINAL LAST WEDNESDAY, THE EAGLES EARNED THE NINTH STATE TOURNAMENT BID IN PROGRAM HISTORY.

INTERESTINGLY, THEY'VE ALL COME IN TWO BURSTS OF EXCELLENCE -- THE FIRST FROM 2000-03 AND THE LATEST FIVE-YEAR STRING FROM 2009-13.

"WE'RE THE FIRST TEAM TO GO TO FIVE STRAIGHT," SAID STAR FORWARD ALEX FUNK, WHO SCORED FOUR GOALS IN THE SECTION FINAL. "I'VE BEEN BLESSED TO GO ALL FOUR YEARS (OF MY CAREER) TO STATE, AND I CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF MY TEAMMATES AND HOW HARD THEY WORK."

IT'S ABOUT LEADING BY EXAMPLE WITH FUNK AND HIS FELLOW SENIORS.

THE EAGLES (20-8-0) ARE PACED BY A HIGH-POWERED TOP LINE THAT INCLUDES FUNK, JASON SAMUELSON AND BEN WEIR, ALL SENIORS ALONG WITH TOP DEFENSEMAN KARL KRECKE. THE FORMER TWO PLAYERS SIT 1-2 ATOP THE SCHOOL'S CAREER SCORING CHARTS AND HAVE COMBINED FOR 68 GOALS AND 147 POINTS. THEY'VE BEEN A PART OF FOUR STATE TOURNAMENT TEAMS, AS HAS COACH JOSH SPANIOL. YET THEY'RE STILL SEARCHING FOR THEIR FIRST QUARTERFINAL ROUND VICTORY.

TEAM SNAPSHOT

FORWARDS: IT'S ALL ABOUT THE NO. 1 UNIT AT ROCHESTER LOURDES, WHICH FEATURES THE TWO MOST PROLIFIC SCORERS IN PROGRAM HISTORY IN SENIORS JASON SAMUELSON AND ALEX FUNK. THEY'RE BOTH FOUR-YEAR VARSITY REGULARS -- SPEED BURNERS WITH TERRIFIC HANDS AND THE ABILITY TO TAKE OVER ANY GAME, WHICH THEY DID IN THE SECTION 1A FINAL AGAINST MANKATO WEST. BEN WEIR ADDS TOUGHNESS AND GRIT TO THAT LINE. THE TRIO COMBINED FOR 83 GOALS AND 172 POINTS, NEARLY 70 PERCENT OF THE TEAM'S TOTAL OFFENSIVE PRODUCTION. THEY'LL HAVE TO COME UP BIG SHOULD LOURDES MAKE A RUN AT THE X THIS WEEK.

DEFENSE: THE EAGLES HAVE A NICE MIX OF DEFENSEMEN WHO EXCEL ACROSS ALL THREE ZONES, ANCHORED BY SENIOR TWO-YEAR CAPTAIN KARL KRECKE. SOPHOMORE GRIFF SLIGHTAM IS BUILT FROM THE SAME MOLD AND COULD BE CONSIDERED 1A TO KRECKE'S 1. SENIOR NATHAN ROTH IS A STAY-AT-HOME BLUE LINER WHO IS RESPONSIBLE IN HIS OWN ZONE.

GOALTENDING: SOPHOMORE JACK BURKEL HAS TAKEN OVER REGULAR DUTIES SINCE EARLY FEBRUARY, STARTING THE LAST SEVEN GAMES, INCLUDING ALL THREE IN THE SECTION PLAYOFFS.

STATISTICS

NO.	NAME	GR	POS	G	A	PTS
7	JASON SAMUELSON	12	F	26	48	74
20	ALEX FUNK	12	F	42	31	73
4	BEN WEIR	12	F	15	10	25
12	KARL KRECKE	12	D	8	17	25
21	GRIFF SLIGHTAM	10	D	8	12	20
5	CODY COSSETTE	11	F	7	3	10
11	NATHAN ROTH	12	D	1	6	7
2	MONTANA STREIT	8	F	3	2	5
9	TUCKER CHAPMAN	8	F	2	3	5
10	GRIFFEN BUCK	12	F	2	3	5
15	MASON CARSTENS	9	D	3	2	5
19	LUKE MORREY	-	F	1	3	4
3	DAKOTA STREIT	10	D	0	3	3
6	LEE BRANDRUP	12	F	0	2	2
16	MCKAY CARSTENS	11	F	1	1	2
17	KANE CARSTENS	11	F	0	2	2
8	RYAN OLNEY	11	F	0	1	1
24	LARS ANDERSON	11	D	0	1	1
30	ANDREW ELLINGSON	12	G	0	1	1

NO.	NAME	GR	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
1	JACK BURKEL	10	8-4-0	2.87	.889
30	ANDREW ELLINGSON	12	12-4-0	2.95	.874

BY THE NUMBERS

POWER PLAY PERCENTAGE: 28.8
PENALTY KILL PERCENTAGE: 85.7
GOALS SCORED PER GAME: 4.25
GOALS ALLOWED PER GAME: 3.25

PROGRAM INFO

NICKNAME: EAGLES
CONFERENCE: INDEPENDENT
SECTION: 1A
2012-13 RECORD: 20-8-0
STATE TRIPS: 2000, 01, 02, 03, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13
COACH: JOSH SPANIOL
ASSISTANTS: KIRK GILL, MARC RANFRANZ, TOM DEVINNY, JOSH CHAPMAN
HOME ARENA: GRAHAM ARENA, ROCHESTER
LAST SEASON: LOST TO LITTLE FALLS IN CLASS 1A CONSOLATION FINAL, 5-4

TREK TO THE X

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
12/1	@ ST. THOMAS	1-8
12/4	@ NEW PRAGUE	3-2
12/6	CHANHASSEN	4-2
12/8	SC CATHEDRAL	6-4
12/13	NORTHFIELD	4-1
12/15	@ RED WING	8-2
12/27	NORTHLAND PINES (WI)	2-4
12/28	ASHWAUBENON (WI)	1-0
12/29	WSFLG (WI)	7-3
1/3	BRECK	2-7
1/5	@ EAU CLRE MEM (WI)	5-7
1/8	MANKATO WEST	3-2
1/10	@ NEW ULM	7-3
1/12	DELANO	6-5
1/19	@ DULUTH MARSHALL	7-0
1/22	MONTI/AML	5-1
1/24	@ HOLY FAMILY	2-4
1/26	BENILDE	1-6
1/29	@ TARTAN	2-4
1/31	@ ALBERT LEA	5-1
2/5	BLAKE	5-4
2/7	@ ROGERS	6-1
2/9	NEW PRAGUE	4-1
2/14	PRIOR LAKE	3-1
2/16	@ TOTINO-GRACE	2-3

SECTION 1A PLAYOFFS		
2/21	LSH/ST. PETER	8-2
2/23	NORTHFIELD	5-4
2/27	MANKATO WEST	6-1

JOSH SPANIOL

SPANIOL HAS GUIDED ROCHESTER LOURDES TO THE STATE TOURNAMENT IN EACH OF HIS FOUR YEARS AS A HEAD COACH...AND WAS ALSO AN ASSISTANT ON THE 2009 SQUAD THAT MADE IT TO THE X. SPANIOL HAS WON 85 GAMES IN FOUR SEASONS AT LOURDES. THE EAGLES ARE 0-FOR-3 IN THE QUARTERFINALS AT STATE IN HIS TENURE. BEFORE COMING TO LOURDES, SPANIOL WAS AN ASSISTANT AT ROCHESTER JOHN MARSHALL FOR TWO YEARS. HE IS A 1994 GRADUATE OF ROCHESTER MAYO.



PREDICTION

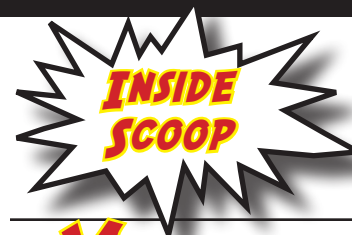
LOURDES WILL HAVE ITS HANDS FULL IN THE FIRST ROUND WITH A DEFENSIVELY STRONG EAST GRAND FORKS TEAM. IT'S A CONTRAST IN STYLES, AS OFFENSE IS WHAT POWERS THE EAGLES. SHOULD LOURDES ADVANCE, LOOK FOR BIG GAMES FROM ALEX FUNK AND JASON SAMUELSON.



BRECK

MUSTANGS

CHAMPIONS OF SECTION 2A



By WALKER ORENSTEIN

MOST PREDICTIONS FOR THE CLASS 1A STATE TOURNAMENT START AND END WITH ST. THOMAS ACADEMY. SURE, THE CADETS WON TWO STRAIGHT CHAMPIONSHIPS, BUT THOSE EXPECTING A CAKEWALK MUST BE FORGETTING ABOUT BRECK -- AND THAT'S EXACTLY THE WAY COACH LES LARSON WANTS IT.

"WE HOPE THAT THEY DO," HE SAID. "WE HOPE THAT ST. THOMAS FORGETS ABOUT US, TOO."

THE MUSTANGS (24-3-1) WENT TOE-TO-TOE THE CADETS IN A THRILLING 1-0 LOSS IN LAST YEAR'S STATE TOURNAMENT SEMIFINALS AND LOST TWICE BY JUST ONE GOAL TO ST. THOMAS ACADEMY THIS SEASON. IF THAT'S NOT REASON ENOUGH FOR THE CADETS TO BE WARY OF A POTENTIAL MATCHUP WITH BRECK, MAYBE THE FACT THAT THEY HAVEN'T LOST SINCE JANUARY AND AVERAGED 7.67 GOALS PER GAME IN SECTIONS WILL TURN SOME HEADS. THIS IS THE FIFTH CONSECUTIVE STATE APPEARANCE FOR THE MUSTANGS, A SQUAD THAT KNOWS HOW TO WIN COME TOURNEY TIME. IF BRECK CAN MAKE IT TO THE FINALS, SENDING THE CADETS TO CLASS 2A ON A LOSS WOULD BE THE ICING ON THE CAKE TO A DOMINANT SEASON.

"WE WOULD LOVE TO BE ABLE TO FACE [ST. THOMAS ACADEMY] AGAIN THIS YEAR," LARSON SAID. "ESPECIALLY IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME."

TEAM SNAPSHOT

FORWARDS: IN THREE SECTION PLAYOFF GAMES, THE MUSTANGS' TOP LINE OF THOMAS LINDSTROM, MATT COLFORD, AND JACK O'CONNOR COMBINED FOR 27 POINTS. THAT'S 12 GOALS AND AN AVERAGE OF NINE POINTS PER GAME. YEAH, THEY'RE GONNA BE TOUGH TO STOP. OUTSIDE OF THOSE THREE, ALL OF BRECK'S FORWARDS HAVE THE MUSTANGS' PATENTED WHEELING AND DEALING STYLE. PUCK MOVEMENT IS CONSTANT AND THEIR ABILITY TO BLOW BY DEFENDERS WITH QUICK SKATING IS DIFFICULT FOR ANYBODY TO SLOW DOWN.

DEFENSE: OTHER TEAMS BEWARE: NOT ONLY CAN THE MUSTANGS SCORE AS ALWAYS, BUT THIS YEAR THEY CAN DEFEND AS WELL. JUNIOR DEREK WIITALA LEADS THE TEAM, AND THE RETURN OF JUNIOR OTTO HAEG, WHO MISSED NEARLY THE ENTIRE SEASON WITH A CONCUSSION, WILL BE A BOOST TO A YOUNG AND TALENTED DEFENSIVE CORPS.

GOALTENDING: HENRY JOHNSON ISN'T THE FLASHIEST OF GOALTENDERS BUT HE'S TECHNICALLY SOUND, AND A HUGE GROWTH SPURT THIS SUMMER HAS MADE HIM A LARGE AND INTIMIDATING PRESENCE. WHEN HE FACES ENOUGH SHOTS TO GET IN A RHYTHM, JOHNSON WILL BE TOUGH TO BEAT.

STATISTICS

NO.	NAME	GR	POS	G	A	PTS
23	MATT COLFORD	12	F	33	44	77
16	THOMAS LINDSTROM	12	F	33	24	57
17	JACK O'CONNOR	12	F	12	27	39
19	MARK SHARP	11	F	17	12	29
42	MICHAEL ORKE	11	F	13	15	28
8	CHASE ELLINGSON	9	F	12	10	22
13	LUCAS MCCORMICK	11	F	10	12	22
18	DEREK WIITALA	11	D	3	17	20
14	DAVID HUSBAND	10	F	6	13	19
25	BEN GLEEKEL	12	F/D	5	13	18
27	TYLER LINDSTROM	10	D	1	9	10
4	ANDREW KEISER	12	D	1	8	9
28	JORGEN SALVESON	11	D	1	8	9
55	JUSTIN PAULSON	9	D	1	7	8
77	PARKER MONTGOMERY	11	F	4	4	8
21	DYLON EGGERT	11	F	1	4	5
29	MAXWELL SCHWARTZMAN	11	F	1	1	2
3	OTTO HAEG	11	D	1	0	1
26	WILL BLAKE	9	F	0	1	1
31	HENRY JOHNSON	11	G	0	1	1

NO.	NAME	GR	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
31	HENRY JOHNSON	11	22-3-1	1.98	.915
39	STEPHEN HEADRICK	10	2-0-0	1.50	.885

BY THE NUMBERS

POWER PLAY PERCENTAGE:	34.8
PENALTY KILL PERCENTAGE:	83.9
GOALS SCORED PER GAME:	5.54
GOALS ALLOWED PER GAME:	1.96

PROGRAM INFO

NICKNAME: MUSTANGS
CONFERENCE: TRI-METRO
SECTION: 2A
2012-13 RECORD: 24-3-1
STATE TRIPS: 1994, 96, 97, 2000 CHAMPS, 04 CHAMPS, 09 CHAMPS, 10 CHAMPS, 11, 12, 13
COACH: LES LARSON
ASSISTANTS: PETE LARSON, JOSH TUCKER
HOME ARENA: ANDERSON ICE ARENA, GOLDEN VALLEY
LAST SEASON: BEAT THIEF RIVER FALLS IN CLASS 1A THIRD-PLACE GAME, 4-3

TREK TO THE X

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
12/1	@ DULUTH MARSHALL	2-1
12/4	@ SC CATHEDRAL	2-4
12/6	MAHTOMEDI	5-4
12/8	DELANO	5-3
12/11	ROGERS	7-2
12/26	DULUTH EAST	2-0
12/27	ST. THOMAS	1-2
12/28	BURNSVILLE	4-4
1/3	@ ROCH LOURDES	7-2
1/5	PROVIDENCE AC	10-1
1/8	@ TOTINO-GRACE	5-3
1/10	@ MINNEHAHA	8-3
1/12	MOORHEAD	6-4
1/15	SP COMO PARK	10-0
1/17	@ SP JOHNSON	8-0
1/19	@ ST. THOMAS	1-2
1/22	@ SPA/MPA	3-1
1/24	@ BLAKE	10-0
1/29	@ PROVIDENCE AC	6-2
2/1	@ THIEF RVR FALLS	3-2
2/2	@ BEMIDJI	7-1
2/9	HOLY ANGELS	3-2
2/12	HOLY FAMILY	5-4
2/14	SPA/MPA	4-3
2/16	BLAKE	8-1
SECTION 2A PLAYOFFS		
2/22	WACONIA	6-1
2/26	PROVIDENCE AC	11-1
2/28	DELANO	6-2

FORWARDS



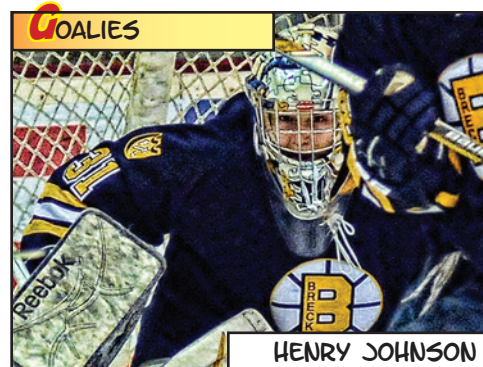
MATT COLFORD

DEFENSEMEN



DEREK WIITALA

GOALIES



HENRY JOHNSON

LES LARSON

IN HIGH SCHOOL, LES LARSON MANNED THE BLUE LINE AS A DEFENSEMAN FOR HILL HIGH SCHOOL. HIS TRADEMARK AS A COACH HOWEVER HAS BEEN HIS ABILITY TO CHURN OUT DYNAMIC SCORERS WHO HAVE CARRIED HIS SQUADS TO THE STATE TOURNAMENT EVERY YEAR HE'S BEEN AT BRECK. FIVE YEARS ON THE BENCH, FIVE TRIPS TO STATE, AND TWO CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 2009 AND 2010 COLOR HIS RESUME AND AN INCREDIBLE 125-20-3 CAREER RECORD SHOWS LARSON FLAT OUT KNOWS HOW TO WIN IN THE REGULAR SEASON AND THE PLAYOFFS.

COACH'S CORNER



PREDICTION

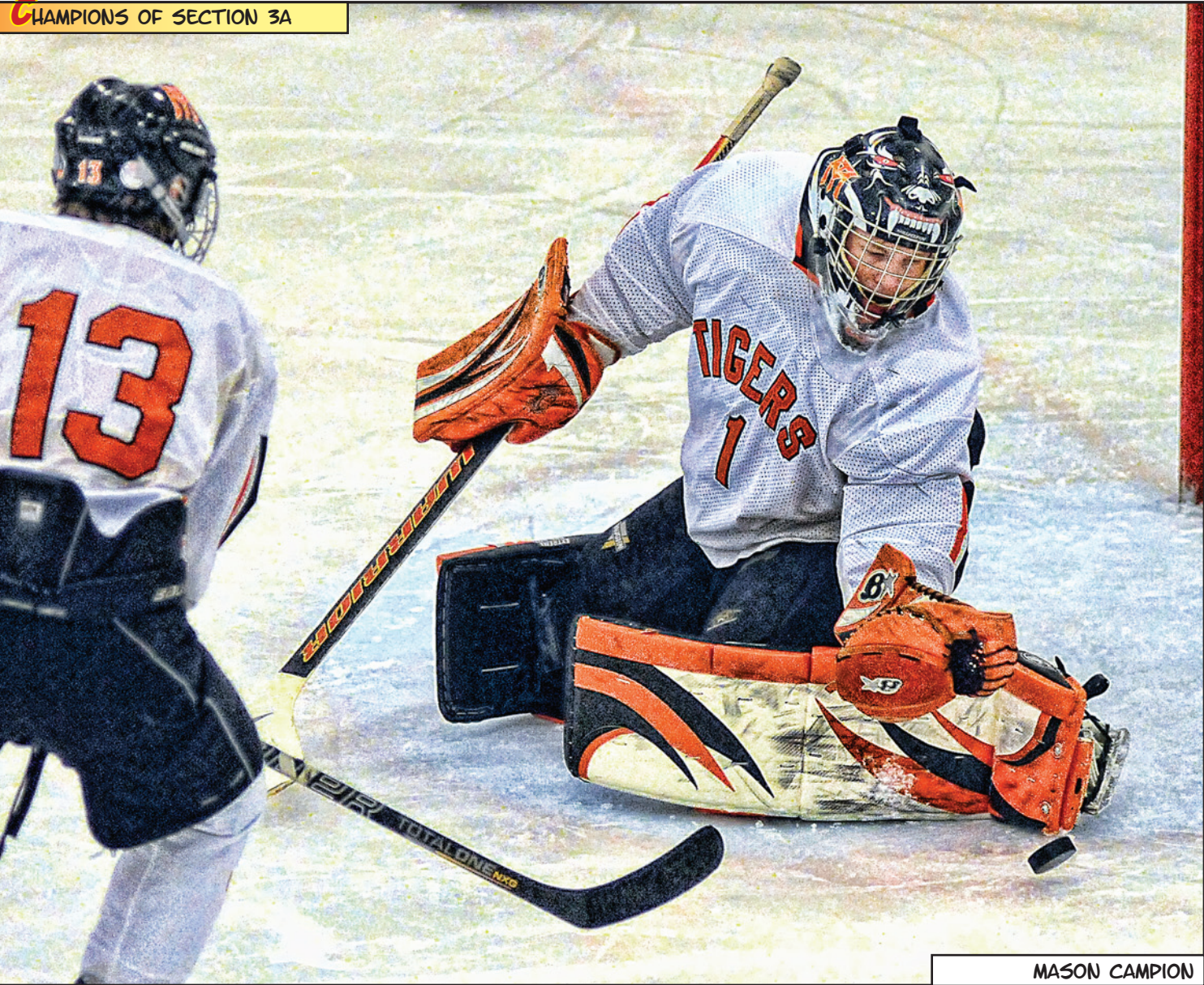
BRECK SHOULD MAKE IT TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP IF IT CAN SLIP BY NO. 3-SEEDED HERMANTOWN. A REMATCH OF THE MUSTANGS' 1-0 LOSS TO THE CADETS IN LAST SEASON'S SEMIFINALS WOULD BE A FABULOUS TITLE GAME THAT EITHER TEAM COULD WIN.



MARSHALL

TIGERS

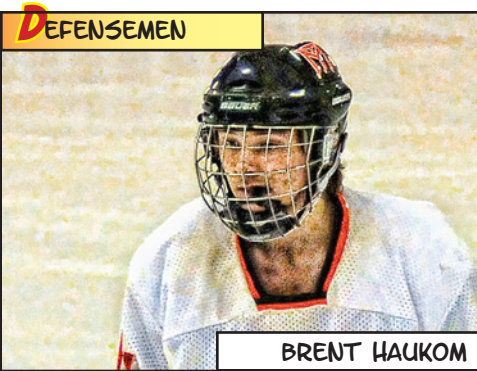
CHAMPIONS OF SECTION 3A



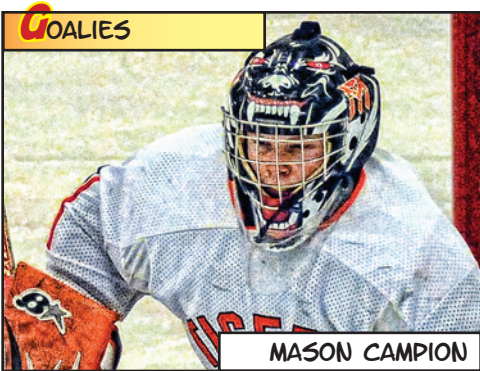
MASON CAMPION



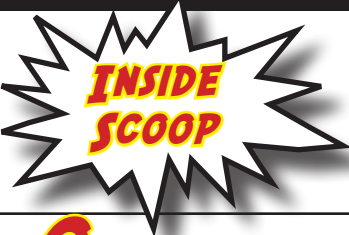
ANDREW BELL



BRENT HAUKOM



MASON CAMPION



By TIM KOLEHMAINEN

ONE OF THE GREATEST MOMENTS OF ANY STATE TOURNAMENT IS THE EXCITEMENT OF A FIRST-TIME PARTICIPANT. BREAKING THROUGH THAT FIRST TIME -- NO MATTER THE OUTCOME ONCE THERE -- IS SOMETHING A PROGRAM EXPERIENCES JUST ONCE. THIS YEAR, MARSHALL GETS THAT HONOR.

"IT'S UNBELIEVABLE FOR OUR SENIORS," SAID COACH DAVE COUDERT AFTER THE TIGERS BEAT HUTCHINSON IN OVERTIME IN THE SECTION 3A FINAL TO ADVANCE TO THE CLASS 1A TOURNAMENT.

"I HAD THEM AS BANTAMS AND TO WATCH THEM GROW UP AS HIGH SCHOOL PLAYERS... IT'S GREAT TO SEE THEM GO OUT LIKE THIS," SAID COUDERT, WHO IS IN HIS FIRST YEAR AFTER COACHING THREE YEARS IN THE BANTAM PROGRAM IN MARSHALL.

COUDERT IS CERTAINLY REALISTIC ABOUT WHAT AWAITS THE TIGERS WHEN THEY GET TO ST. PAUL ON WEDNESDAY. AFTER THE SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP GAME, HE WANTED TO JUST SOAK IN THE MOMENT AND NOT WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW, FOR AS HE SAID, "KNOWING WHAT OUR DRAW MAY BE, WE'RE JUST GOING TO SIT BACK ON THE BUS AND ENJOY IT RIGHT NOW."

AS IT'S COACH PREDICTED, MARSHALL (14-10-1) PULLED SECOND-SEEDED BRECK (24-3-1) IN THE STATE QUARTERFINALS AT 11 A.M., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6.

TEAM SNAPSHOT

FORWARDS: UP FRONT, MARSHALL IS A SENIOR-LADEN GROUP WITH PLENTY OF EXPERIENCE, ALBEIT NOT ONE FAMILIAR WITH HOCKEY IN MARCH. THE LINE OF QUINN HORVATH, BEAU MIKEL AND COREY CLARK HAS BEEN ANCHORING THE TEAM'S OFFENSE ALL SEASON. THEY'VE COMBINED FOR 48 OF THE TEAM'S 84 GOALS. SENIOR LEO ZERR ALSO CAN BURY THE PUCK, WHILE JUNIOR ALEX BUYASSE NETTED THE GAME-WINNER IN OVERTIME OF THE SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP AGAINST HUTCHINSON.

DEFENSE: THE TIGERS' DEFENSIVE CORPS IS A STAY-AT-HOME GROUP IN GENERAL, SHUTTING DOWN OPPOSING TEAMS IN THEIR OWN ZONE AND LETTING THE FORWARDS WORK THEIR OFFENSIVE MAGIC. SENIORS ADAM MCVEY AND AUSTIN LEEK, JUNIOR BRETT HAUKOM AND SOPHOMORES LEVI HEDMAN AND CASPER LARSEN WORK THE BLUE LINE.

GOALTENDING: THROUGHOUT THE SECTION 3A PLAYOFFS, THE TIGERS' STRENGTH WAS WITH JUNIOR MASON CAMPION. HE WAS HUGE IN LEADING MARSHALL TO AN UPSET OVER TOP-SEEDED LUVERNE IN THE SEMIFINALS AND MADE 32 SAVES IN THE SECTION FINAL. IN THREE SECTION GAMES, HE STOPPED 95.2 PERCENT OF THE SHOTS HE FACED -- AND WILL HAVE TO DO THE SAME FOR THE TIGERS AT STATE.

STATISTICS

NO.	NAME	GR	POS	G	A	PTS
4	QUINN HORVATH	12	F	21	15	36
11	BEAU MIKEL	12	F	16	15	31
21	COREY CLARK	12	F	11	13	24
8	LEO ZERR	12	F	9	7	16
6	ALEX BUYASSE	11	F	3	9	12
15	TYLER UNTIEDT	12	F	4	8	12
16	ANDREW BELL	11	F	5	5	10
22	ADAM MCVEY	12	D	2	5	7
10	DEREK RASMUSSEN	10	F	5	1	6
18	LEVI HEDMAN	10	D	2	4	6
20	AUSTIN LEEK	12	D	2	4	6
13	BRETT HAUKOM	11	D	1	3	4
17	CASPER LARSEN	10	D	1	3	4
14	TAYLOR RASMUSSEN	11	F	1	2	3
7	BLAINE MORAN	10	F	0	2	2
3	NATE HOEFT	10	D	0	1	1
5	TAYLOR PICKTHORN	10	F	0	1	1
12	RANDY LOUWAGIE	12	F	0	1	1
26	WALKER WERPY	-	F	1	0	1

NO.	NAME	GR	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
1	MASON CAMPION	11	11-4-1	2.65	.904
30	ADAM CAVAZOS	12	3-6-0	3.20	.889

BY THE NUMBERS

POWER PLAY PERCENTAGE: 22.9
PENALTY KILL PERCENTAGE: 80.3
GOALS SCORED PER GAME: 3.36
GOALS ALLOWED PER GAME: 2.88

PROGRAM INFO

NICKNAME: TIGERS
CONFERENCE: SOUTHWEST
SECTION: 3A
2012-13 RECORD: 14-10-1
STATE TRIPS: 2013
COACH: DAVE COUDERT
ASSISTANTS: SCOTT MELLENTHIN, AARON SCHROEDER, MICHAEL WEISS
HOME ARENA: LYON COUNTY ICE ARENA, MARSHALL
LAST SEASON: LOST TO LUVERNE IN SECTION 3A SEMIFINALS, 4-3

TREK TO THE X

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
11/27	@ WORTHINGTON	7-0
11/29	@ WINDOM	4-5
12/1	@ HUTCHINSON	8-5
12/4	@ LUVERNE	4-1
12/6	NEW ULM	2-4
12/13	@ REDWOOD VALLEY	4-1
12/15	WILLMAR	2-3
12/21	@ LSH/ST. PETER	2-0
12/26	BLOOM KENNEDY	1-5
12/27	WINONA	3-3
12/28	HUDSON (WI)	1-4
1/3	LUVERNE	0-7
1/8	WORTHINGTON	3-0
1/12	@ LITCH/D-C	0-2
1/15	WINDOM	2-1
1/17	MORRIS/BENSON	5-2
1/22	REDWOOD VALLEY	5-1
1/26	FAIRMONT	8-2
1/29	@ MORRIS/BENSON	5-4
1/31	@ NEW ULM	1-7
2/5	@ SIOUX FALLS (SD)	3-6
2/12	LSH/ST. PETER	2-5

SECTION 3A PLAYOFFS

2/21	WINDOM	4-0
2/23	LUVERNE	5-3
2/27	HUTCHINSON	3-2

DAVE COUDERT

IN HIS FIRST SEASON AS HEAD COACH AT MARSHALL, COUDERT HAS TAKEN THE PROGRAM WHERE IT HASN'T BEEN BEFORE -- THE CLASS 1A STATE TOURNAMENT. COUDERT MOVED UP FROM COACHING THE TOWN'S BANTAM A PROGRAM THE PREVIOUS THREE SEASONS, SO HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH MANY OF THE KEY PLAYERS ON THIS YEAR'S TEAM. HE ALSO HAS COACHED FOR THE REEBOK MINNESOTA HIGH PERFORMANCE 153 TEAM AND IN THE MINNESOTA UNITED AAA PROGRAM. COUDERT MOVED TO MARSHALL FROM OMAHA, NEB., FOUR YEARS AGO.

COACH'S CORNER



PREDICTION

THE TIGERS DON'T GET A PASS IN THEIR FIRST STATE TOURNAMENT, AS THEIR QUARTERFINAL OPPONENT IS POWERFUL BRECK. REALISTICALLY, IT WILL BE TOUGH FOR THE FIRST-TIME PROGRAM TO BEAT THE MUSTANGS, BUT IF THEY DO, GOALIE MASON CAMPION MUST HAVE A HUGE GAME.

ST. THOMAS ACAD.

CADETS

CHAMPIONS OF SECTION 4A



DEFENDING
CHAMPS

INSIDE
SCOOP

By JUSTIN MAGILL

MANY COACHES AROUND THE STATE WHO HAVE PLAYED THE CADETS CONSIDER THEM THE BEST TEAM IN THE STATE -- REGARDLESS OF CLASS. ST. THOMAS ACADEMY WILL MAKE A RUN AT ITS THIRD STRAIGHT STATE TITLE AND, FOR THE FINAL TIME, WILL BE IN THE CLASS 1A TOURNAMENT. THE CADETS WILL BE MOVING UP TO CLASS 2A NEXT SEASON AND HAD A BIT OF A DRESS REHEARSAL THIS SEASON -- THEY PLAYED CLASSIC SUBURBAN CONFERENCE RIVAL HILL-MURRAY THREE TIMES AND WENT 1-1-1. THE TIE CAME IN THE SCHWAN CUP GOLD DIVISION FINAL, WHERE THE PIONEERS DEFEATED ST. THOMAS ACADEMY IN A SHOOTOUT. IT ALSO PLAYED MINNETONKA, LOSING 3-1, AND DEFEATED ANNUAL CLASS 2A STATE POWERS EDINA AND BENILDE-ST. MARGARET'S. AND WHO CAN FORGET THE 3-2 WIN AGAINST SHATTUCK-ST. MARY'S? ST. THOMAS ACADEMY HAS BEEN THE NO. 1-RANKED TEAM FOR ALMOST THE ENTIRE SEASON AND FLEXED ITS MUSCLE IN THE SECTION 4A PLAYOFFS, NOT ALLOWING A SINGLE GOAL. IT WILL TAKE ON ST. CLOUD APOLLO IN THE QUARTERFINALS OF THE CLASS 1A STATE TOURNAMENT ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6.

PROGRAM INFO

NICKNAME: CADETS
CONFERENCE: CLASSIC SUBURBAN
SECTION: 4A
2012-13 RECORD: 24-2-2
STATE TRIPS: 1999, 2005, 06 CHAMPS, 07, 08 CHAMPS, 11 CHAMPS, 12 CHAMPS, 13
COACH: TOM AND GREG VANNELLI
ASSISTANTS: MIKE VANNELLI, GREG MONAHAN, JERRY MAYBREV
HOME ARENA: ST. THOMAS ICE ARENA, MENDOTA HEIGHTS
LAST SEASON: BEAT HERMANTOWN IN CLASS 1A FINAL, 5-1

TEAM SNAPSHOT

FORWARDS: NEAR THE MIDPOINT OF THE SEASON ST. THOMAS ACADEMY SWITCHED UP ITS LINES, WHICH PUT SOPHOMORES TOMMY NOVAK AND CHRISTIANO VERSICH WITH SENIOR CAPTAIN ALEX JOHNSON. THE THREE COMBINED FOR 128 POINTS. NOVAK HAS THE MATURITY OF A VETERAN AND HANDS SO GOOD THAT HE CAN LOSE YOU IN A PHONE BOOTH. THERE IS ALSO HENRY HART, WHO CAN FLY BY THE DEFENSE WITH HIS SPEED AND HAS THE SNIPER MENTALITY TO PICK A CORNER FROM ANYWHERE ON THE ICE.

DEFENSE: "THEY MIGHT HAVE THE BEST DEFENSE IN THE STATE, REGARDLESS OF WHAT CLASS THEY ARE IN," TOTINO-GRACE COACH MARK LOAHR SAID. ST. THOMAS ACADEMY ONLY ALLOWED 32 GOALS THIS SEASON, NONE IN SECTION PLAY AND HAVE NOT BEEN SCORED ON IN 183 MINUTES, 41 SECONDS OF GAME TIME. JACK DOUGHERTY, WYATT SCHMIDT, ALEC BROETZMAN AND T.J. SAMEC ANCHOR THAT D-CORPS.

GOALTENDING: DAVID ZEVIK HAS NOT LOST IN THE POSTSEASON IN HIS THREE-YEAR CAREER AND WILL LOOK TO CAPTURE HIS THIRD STATE TITLE. ZEVIK IS A FRANK BRIMSEK AWARD FINALIST FOR THE STATE'S TOP SENIOR GOALIE. IN SIX STATE TOURNAMENT GAMES ZEVIK HAS ALLOWED ONLY SIX GOALS.

STATISTICS

NO.	NAME	GR	POS	G	A	PTS
15	TOM NOVAK	10	F	26	27	53
19	ALEX JOHNSON	12	F	16	23	39
20	CHRISTIANO VERSICH	10	F	14	22	36
14	HENRY HART	12	F	17	15	32
2	JACK DOUGHERTY	11	D	5	23	28
6	TONY BRETZMAN	12	D	5	21	26
23	MATT PERRY	12	F	13	9	22
10	PETER TUFTO	10	F	4	14	18
3	T.J. SAMEC	12	D	4	13	17
21	ALEC BROETZMAN	10	F	10	7	17
4	WYATT SCHMIDT	12	D	2	14	16
7	JACK STANG	12	F	3	13	16
16	GUNNAR REGAN	12	F	8	8	16
18	AUSTIN SATTLER	12	F	5	7	12
22	DAN MCMANUS	12	F	6	6	12
9	JACK GEISER	12	F	5	5	10
17	SEAMUS DONOHUE	10	D	0	6	6
8	MARIO BOGNANNO	11	F	3	2	5
12	ZACH WEIER	11	D	1	4	5
11	DANNY WEIHNRACH		F	2	2	4
5	JIM DOLAN	11	D	0	2	2
30	DAVID ZEVIK	12	G	0	1	1

NO.	NAME	GR	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
30	DAVID ZEVIK	12	22-2-2	1.16	.942
1	CONOR MURPHY	12	2-0-0	0.38	.973

BY THE NUMBERS

POWER PLAY PERCENTAGE: 40.0
PENALTY KILL PERCENTAGE: 89.1
GOALS SCORED PER GAME: 5.36
GOALS ALLOWED PER GAME: 1.14

TREK TO THE X

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
12/1	ROCHESTER LOURDES	8-1
12/4	@ HOLY FAMILY	6-1
12/6	@ MINNETONKA	1-3
12/11	CRETIN-DH	6-1
12/15	HILL-MURRAY	2-1
12/20	@ NORTH ST. PAUL	8-0
12/22	SOUTH ST. PAUL	6-1
12/26	EDINA	2-1
12/27	BRECK	2-1
12/28	HILL-MURRAY	1-1
1/3	@ MAHTOMEDI	3-0
1/5	TARTAN	7-2
1/10	BENILDE	3-1
1/12	@ DULUTH MARSHALL	4-1
1/16	@ SHATTUCK	3-2
1/19	BRECK	2-1
1/24	@ HILL-MURRAY	1-3
1/26	NORTH ST. PAUL	6-1
1/29	TOTINO-GRACE	6-1
1/31	@ SOUTH ST. PAUL	5-0
2/2	MAHTOMEDI	4-1
2/7	@ TARTAN	4-4
2/9	@ SIMLEY	13-1
2/12	@ RICHFIELD	16-0
2/16	HENRY SIBLEY	9-1

SECTION 4A PLAYOFFS

2/21	HENRY SIBLEY	8-0
2/26	CHISAGO LAKES	7-0
3/1	TOTINO-GRACE	3-0

FORWARDS

TOM NOVAK

DEFENSEMEN

WYATT SCHMIDT

GOALIES

DAVID ZEVIK

GREG AND TOM VANNELLI

GREG (PICTURED AT RIGHT) AND TOM VANNELLI HAVE BEEN THE CO-COACHES AT ST. THOMAS ACADEMY SINCE THE 2003-04 SEASON. THE SCHOOL HAS WON ALL FOUR OF ITS TITLES SINCE THE VANNELLIS JOINED THE STAFF AND HAVE MADE IT TO THE TOURNAMENT FOR THE SEVENTH TIME. TOM SERVED AS A CO-HEAD COACH AT CRETIN-DERHAM HALL PRIOR TO TAKING THE SAME POSITION WITH HIS BROTHER GREG AT ST. THOMAS ACADEMY AND WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS IN 1974 AND 1976. GREG IS A GRADUATE OF ST. THOMAS ACADEMY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS AND PLAYED HOCKEY AT BOTH.

COACH'S
CORNER



PREDICTION

ST. THOMAS ACADEMY HAS NOT LOST TO A CLASS 1A SCHOOL SINCE THE SECTION 4A FINALS IN 2010. THE CADETS WILL GO IN AS THE HEAVY FAVORITES AND RIGHTFULLY SO IN THEIR FINAL SEASON IN CLASS 1A.



HERMANTOWN

HAWKS

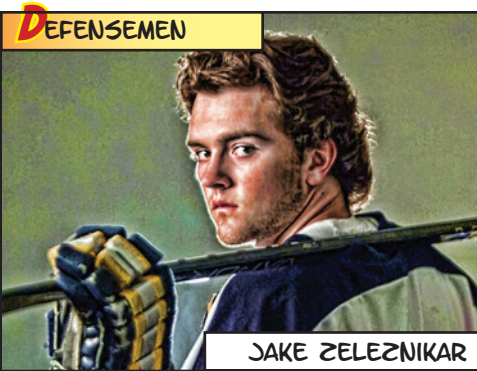
CHAMPIONS OF SECTION 5A



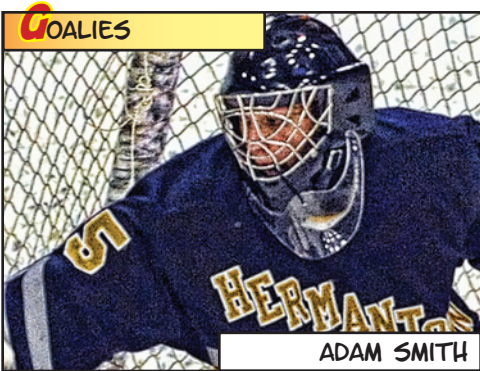
CHRIS BENSON



TRAVIS KOEPKE



JAKE ZELEZNIKAR



ADAM SMITH



BRUCE PLANTE'S FORMULA TO SUCCESS OVER THE YEARS ISN'T A COMPLICATED ONE. ALL IT TAKES FOR A SUCCESSFUL TEAM, ACCORDING TO THE LONGTIME COACH, IS A LITTLE DEDICATION TO THE HERMANTOWN PROGRAM AND A LOT OF SENIOR LEADERSHIP.

THAT'S WHAT HAS MADE THE HAWKS THE ENVY OF ALMOST ALL OTHER CLASS 1A SCHOOLS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. HERMANTOWN CAN LOSE A BOATLOAD OF TALENT AFTER EACH WINTER, YET STILL FIND A WAY TO MAKE ITS MARCH BACK TO ST. PAUL THE NEXT.

BUT THAT'S WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN A LINEUP CAN BE LITTERED WITH SENIORS. THE KIDS STAY IN HERMANTOWN TO GET A CHANCE ON THE BIG STAGE, AND, IF THEY FIGHT THROUGH THE RANKS, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THEY'LL RECEIVE.

THIS YEAR THE HAWKS HAVE EIGHT SENIORS AND A FEW SKILLED JUNIORS THAT ACCOUNT FOR MOST OF THEIR PRODUCTION.

MOST OF THOSE KIDS HAVE HAD TO PAY THEIR DUES WITH THE JUNIOR VARSITY FOR A YEAR OR TWO BEFORE THEY WERE PROMOTED TO THE BIG CLUB.

IT'S BEEN WORTH THE WAIT. THE HAWKS ARE BACK AT THE XCEL ENERGY CENTER, AND THEY'LL BE LOOKING TO TAKE HOME THE PRIZE THAT HAS ELUDED THEM ON CHAM-

By ZACK FRIEDLI

TEAM SNAPSHOT

FORWARDS: A 7.40 GOALS PER GAME AVERAGE PROVES THAT HERMANTOWN KNOWS HOW TO PUT THE PUCK IN THE NET, AND THE HAWKS WILL OVERPOWER OPPONENTS ON THE SCOREBOARD WITH EASE. THE TOP LINE OF CHRIS BENSON, TRAVIS KOEPKE AND BO GRONSETH HOLD THE STICKS THAT STIR THE OFFENSIVE DRINK FOR THE HAWKS, AS THEY COMBINED FOR 72 GOALS AND 168 POINTS DURING THE SEASON.

DEFENSE: THE HAWKS HAVE MAYBE THE BEST ONE-TWO PUNCH AT THE BLUE-LINE IN THE WHOLE STATE WITH JAKE ZELEZNIKAR AND NEAL PIONK MANNING THE POINT. THE DUO COMBINED FOR 25 GOALS AND 68 POINTS, AND THEY DID IT WHILE PLAYING AGAINST OPPOSING TEAMS' BIG GUNS ALL YEAR, PROVING THAT THEY NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTE OFFENSIVELY, BUT THEY'LL ALSO CAUSE HEADACHES WITH THEIR SHUTDOWN ABILITIES IN THEIR OWN END.

GOALTENDING: ADAM SMITH AND JACE THOMAS SPLIT TIME IN THE CREASE DURING THE REGULAR SEASON, BUT IT'S BEEN SMITH'S JOB DOWN THE STRETCH. DURING THAT TIME, SMITH HAS RACKED UP A 12-0-1 RECORD, A .917 SAVES PERCENTAGE AND A 1.60 GOALS AGAINST AVERAGE.

STATISTICS

NO.	NAME	GR	POS	G	A	PTS
20	CHRIS BENSON	12	F	29	36	65
5	BO GRONSETH	12	F	36	36	62
27	TRAVIS KOEPKE	12	F	27	35	62
4	JAKE ZELEZNIKAR	12	D	11	34	45
9	NEAL PIONK	11	D	16	18	34
23	SCOTT WASBOTTEN	11	F	16	12	28
6	NATE PIONK	10	F	11	12	23
13	ZACH KRAMER	11	F	7	16	23
3	CHRISTIAN WASBOTTEN	12	D	4	14	18
8	KORI OCHS	11	F	7	10	17
11	RYAN CARLSON	11	D	5	10	15
29	GRANT SEGA	12	F	7	7	14
28	LANE LEGARDE	12	F	4	9	13
7	RYAN KERO	10	F	5	5	10
2	JOE MUEHLBAUER	12	D	2	7	9
12	LUKE JACQUES	11	D	5	3	8
14	JARED ZELEZNIKAR	10	F	2	3	5
18	PARKER HAWK	10	F	2	0	2

NO.	NAME	GR	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
35	ADAM SMITH	11	15-0-1	1.42	.926
33	JACE THOMAS	11	8-4-0	2.54	.861

BY THE NUMBERS

POWER PLAY PERCENTAGE: 36.7
PENALTY KILL PERCENTAGE: 85.0
GOALS SCORED PER GAME: 7.40
GOALS ALLOWED PER GAME: 1.93

PROGRAM INFO

NICKNAME: HAWKS
CONFERENCE: LAKE SUPERIOR
SECTION: 5A
2012-13 RECORD: 23-4-1
STATE TRIPS: 1994, 98, 99, 2001, 06, 07 CHAMPS, 10, 11, 12, 13
COACH: BRUCE PLANTE
ASSISTANTS: DARYL ILLIKAINEN, CRAIG PETERSON, MATT SWANSON, NATE BUCK
HOME ARENA: HERMANTOWN ARENA, HERMANTOWN
LAST SEASON: LOST TO ST. THOMAS ACADEMY IN CLASS 1A FINAL, 5-1

TREK TO THE X

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
11/30	SAUK RAPIDS	13-0
12/1	ORONO	8-0
12/7	HOPKINS	3-2
12/8	@ THIEF RVR FALLS	7-1
12/18	@ VIRGINIA/MIB	9-3
12/20	@ DULUTH DENFELD	4-5
12/22	ROGERS	11-2
12/26	ANOKA	10-1
12/27	HASTINGS	8-3
12/28	EAGAN	5-5
1/3	DULUTH MARSHALL	4-3
1/5	INT'L FALLS	4-1
1/8	GRAND RAPIDS	4-5
1/11	@ SC CATHEDRAL	4-5
1/12	@ LITTLE FALLS	3-2
1/15	SUPERIOR (WI)	4-5
1/19	@ BEMIDJI	8-1
1/24	@ PROCTOR	11-0
1/26	@ NEW PRAGUE	9-1
1/31	CLOQUET	4-1
2/2	@ TOTINO-GRACE	4-0
2/5	DULUTH DENFELD	7-1
2/7	@ SUPERIOR (WI)	5-2
2/9	@ RED WING	7-2
2/15	@ HIBBING	3-2

SECTION 5A PLAYOFFS		
2/21	PROCTOR	10-0
2/23	ROGERS	9-0
3/1	SC CATHEDRAL	4-1

BRUCE PLANTE

PLANTE WAS A GOALTENDER FOR CLOQUET IN HIGH SCHOOL AND THAT HELPS EXPLAIN WHY HIS TEAMS ALWAYS SEEM TO FIND A WAY TO REMAIN STRONG DEFENSIVELY, EVEN WHILE THEY'RE SCORING GOALS IN BUNCHES. THE LONGTIME -- AND OUTSPOKEN -- COACH OF HERMANTOWN IS HOPING TO LEAD HIS TEAM BACK TO A FOURTH CONSECUTIVE CLASS 1A CHAMPIONSHIP GAME. HIS "PUBLIC SCHOOL CHAMPION" HAWKS HAVE LOST THE THREE PREVIOUS TO BRECK (2010) AND ST. THOMAS ACADEMY (2011-12).

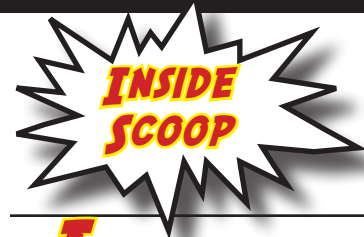


PREDICTION

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT HERMANTOWN WILL BE HUNGRY TO KICK THE RUNNER-UP TAG AND GET ITS FIRST CLASS 1A TITLE SINCE 2007. BUT CAN THE HAWKS DO IT? IF THEY GET THE CONSISTENT PRODUCTION THAT THEY'VE BEEN GETTING ALL YEAR, WE LIKE THEIR CHANCES.

ST. CLOUD APOLLO EAGLES

CHAMPIONS OF SECTION 6A



By TIM KOLEHMAINEN

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE THE STATE TOURNAMENT HAD A ST. CLOUD APOLLO SQUAD IN THE BRACKET. TWENTY-NINE YEARS TO BE EXACT. RECENTLY, THE EAGLES HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN THAT CLOSE. THIS YEAR'S 18 VICTORIES WERE THE MOST SINCE THE 2001-02 TEAM WENT 19-7-0. THE ENSUING DECADE WAS A TOUGH STRETCH SINCE FOR THE EAGLES, INCLUDING FIVE SEASONS IN WHICH THEY LOST AT LEAST 20 GAMES. BUT THAT'S ALL BEHIND THEM NOW AFTER AN UPSET OF TOP-SEEDED LITTLE FALLS IN THE SECTION 6A FINAL LAST THURSDAY, FEB. 28. APOLLO IS GOING DANCING. "I PLAYED AT APOLLO IN THE 1990S AND WE MADE IT TO SOME SECTION SEMIS AND SOME FINALS, BUT WERE NEVER ABLE TO PULL THE TRIGGER," SAID COACH PETE MATANICH. "IT'S UNREAL." UNREAL CERTAINLY HAS DESCRIBED THE PLAY OF APOLLO'S TOP LINE OF JARED CHRISTEN, PAUL KENNEY AND JASON OMANN, WHICH POWERED THE TEAM THROUGH THE PLAYOFFS. EACH HAD A HAT TRICK IN THE SECTION TOURNAMENT AND HAVE BEEN AMONG THE STATE SCORING LEADERS ALL SEASON. THEY ARE THE ENGINE THAT DRIVES THE EAGLES' TRAIN.

TEAM SNAPSHOT

FORWARDS: APOLLO WILL LIKELY GO AS FAR AS THE TOP LINE OF JARED CHRISTEN, PAUL KENNEY AND JASON OMANN TAKES IT. THE TRIO COMBINED FOR 88 GOALS AND 207 POINTS DURING THE YEAR. IN THREE PLAYOFFS GAMES, EACH ONE OF THEM HAD A HAT TRICK, CHRISTEN IN THE QUARTERS AGAINST WADENA-DEER CREEK, KENNEY IN THE SEMIS VERSUS FERGUS FALLS AND OMANN AGAINST LITTLE FALLS IN THE FINALS. "THAT WHOLE LINE KIND OF REVOLVES AROUND EACH OTHER," SAID MATANICH. "ONE OF THEM WILL SCORE FOR US ON ANY GIVEN NIGHT. THEY'RE FUN TO WATCH."

DEFENSE: THE EAGLES HAVE A GOOD MIX OF VETERAN DEFENSEMEN SUCH AS SENIORS JORDAN KELLER AND BRANDON BLOCH ALONG WITH YOUNGSTERS SUCH AS FRESHMAN TANNER BREIDENBACH AND SOPHOMORE GRADY EWING. YET THEY'VE BEEN OVERLOOKED WITH THE OFFENSIVE OUTPUT OF THE EAGLES.

GOALTENDING: FRESHMAN NICK ALTHAUS HAS PLAYED BEYOND HIS YEARS, PARTICULARLY OVER THE PAST SIX WEEKS. HE'S WON EIGHT OF HIS LAST NINE STARTS WITH A PAIR OF SHUTOUTS. "THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THE YEAR, WITH PRESSURE IT SEEMS LIKE HE PLAYS BETTER," SAID MATANICH.

STATISTICS

NO.	NAME	GR	POS	G	A	PTS
10	JARED CHRISTEN	12	F	42	40	82
22	PAUL KENNEY	11	F	27	39	66
13	JASON OMANN	10	F	19	40	59
27	JORDAN KELLER	12	D	7	14	21
17	BRANDON BLOCH	12	D	6	14	20
7	TANNER BREIDENBACH	9	D	5	10	15
12	DALLAS HAUGEN	11	F	8	6	14
21	BRANDON BISSETT	9	F	7	7	14
16	JACOB KEMP	11	F	5	5	10
14	GRADY EWING	10	D	1	7	8
2	ERIK JAROSCH	12	D/F	0	6	6
19	STEVEN MAUS	10	F	0	5	5
3	COOPER LYNCH	11	F	2	2	4
11	HUNTER SIMONSON	10	F	1	3	4
4	BRANDON BAKER	9	D	0	2	2
8	TREVOR VOSSEN	9	F	0	1	1
23	ERIC CHRISTENSEN	11	D/F	1	0	1
32	NICK ALTHAUS	9	G	0	1	1

NO.	NAME	GR	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
32	NICK ALTHAUS	9	18-9-0	3.06	.871
30	MITCHELL LOWELL	9	0-1-0	6.04	.600

BY THE NUMBERS

POWER PLAY PERCENTAGE: 23.3
PENALTY KILL PERCENTAGE: 77.7
GOALS SCORED PER GAME: 4.68
GOALS ALLOWED PER GAME: 3.48

PROGRAM INFO

NICKNAME: EAGLES
CONFERENCE: CENTRAL LAKES
SECTION: 6A
2012-13 RECORD: 18-10-0
STATE TRIPS: 1984, 2013
COACH: PETE MATANICH
ASSISTANTS: CALE FINSETH, DAN LAHR
HOME ARENA: ST. CLOUD MUNICIPAL ATHLETIC COMPLEX, ST. CLOUD
LAST SEASON: LOST TO SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN IN SECTION 6A QUARTERFINALS, 3-0

TREK TO THE X

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
11/24	@ CAMB-ISANTI	5-4
11/29	BEMIDJI	3-6
12/1	BRECK/WAHPETON	7-0
12/4	@ PRAIRIE CENTRE	9-2
12/6	@ PRINCETON	3-6
12/11	BRainerd	3-4
12/13	@ RIVER LAKES	8-2
12/18	@ ALEXANDRIA	2-0
12/20	@ WILLMAR	6-2
12/26	SC CATHEDRAL	2-6
12/27	SAUK RAPIDS	4-5
12/28	SC TECH	3-4
1/3	SARTELL	5-2
1/8	@ NORTHERN LAKES	8-5
1/10	@ FERGUS FALLS	7-3
1/15	@ SC TECH	1-7
1/17	LITTLE FALLS	2-4
1/19	@ BLOOM KENNEDY	5-4
1/22	@ BRainerd	2-3
1/24	RIVER LAKES	2-0
1/29	ALEXANDRIA	3-1
1/31	WILLMAR	2-1
2/5	@ SARTELL	5-2
2/7	@ SAUK RAPIDS	7-3
2/14	FERGUS FALLS	4-5
SECTION 6A PLAYOFFS		
2/19	WADENA-DC	10-0
2/23	FERGUS FALLS	7-3
2/28	LITTLE FALLS	6-3



JARED CHRISTEN



BRANDON BLOCH



NICK ALTHAUS

PETE MATANICH

MATANICH WAS AN ASSISTANT COACH AT ST. CLOUD TECH FOR SEVEN YEARS BEFORE TAKING THE HEAD COACHING JOB AT ST. CLOUD APOLLO IN 2009. THE 1997 APOLLO GRADUATE AND 2004 GRADUATE OF ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY HAS OVERSEEN THE RESURGENCE OF THE EAGLES' PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE FIRST WINNING SEASON SINCE 2001-02 AND THE FIRST STATE TOURNAMENT BERTH SINCE 1984.

COACH'S CORNER



PREDICTION

APOLLO HAS THE UNENVIABLE TASK OF DRAWING TOP-SEEDED AND TWO-TIME DEFENDING STATE CHAMPION ST. THOMAS ACADEMY IN THE QUARTERFINALS. AN UPSET? UNLIKELY, ALTHOUGH IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE APOLLO'S TOP LINE GO UP AGAINST THE STOUT DEFENSE OF THE CADETS.

DULUTH MARSHALL HILLTOPPERS

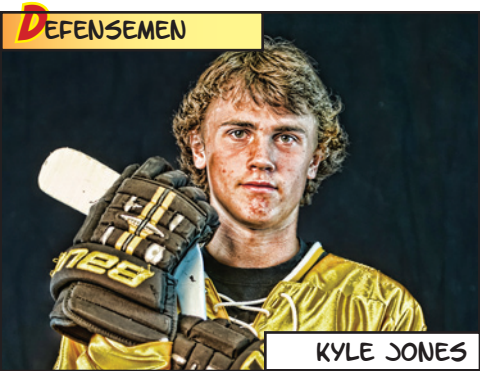
CHAMPIONS OF SECTION 7A



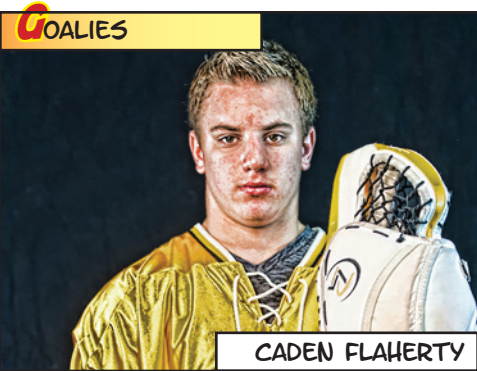
KRIS MCKINZIE



JEREMY LOPEZ



KYLE JONES



CADEN FLAHERTY



By ZACK FRIEDLI

SKY-HIGH EXPECTATIONS AT THE START OF THE SEASON GAVE WAY TO SEEMINGLY ENDLESS FRUSTRATION BY THE END OF JANUARY FOR DULUTH MARSHALL. BUT AS ANY VETERAN COACH WILL TELL YOU, IT'S ABOUT BUILDING TOWARD THE PLAYOFFS. BRENDAN FLAHERTY'S HILLTOPPERS GOT HEALTHY AND FOUND THEIR STRIDE MIDWAY THROUGH FEBRUARY, THEN FINALLY STARTED PLAYING AT A LEVEL THAT MATCHED THEIR PRESEASON EXPECTATIONS. AN OVERTIME LOSS TO CLOQUET/ESKO/CARLTON WAS WHERE FLAHERTY SAW HIS TEAM COME TOGETHER, AND A STATEMENT WIN AGAINST ST. CLOUD CATHEDRAL ON THE ROAD TO CLOSE THE REGULAR SEASON BUILT A LITTLE SWAGGER IN THE DULUTH MARSHALL LOCKER ROOM. NOW THE HILLTOPPERS ARE BACK IN THE CLASS 1A TOURNAMENT AFTER STORMING THROUGH THE SECTION 7A PLAYOFFS WITH WINS OVER EVELETH-GILBERT, HIBBING/CHISHOLM AND DULUTH DENFELD. AND THE CONFIDENCE OF DULUTH MARSHALL IS AS HIGH AS IT'S EVER BEEN. FLAHERTY AND HIS TEAM WILL BE BANKING ON THAT NEWLY RESTORED POISE ON WEDNESDAY WHEN THEY SQUARE OFF WITH HERMANTOWN. THE HAWKS ALREADY BEAT THE HILLTOPPERS THIS YEAR, BUT AS ONE DULUTH MARSHALL PLAYER PUT IT AFTER THE SECTION FINAL WIN, THE HILLTOPPERS ARE A PLAYOFF TEAM.

TEAM SNAPSHOT

FORWARDS: DULUTH MARSHALL'S DEPTH AT FORWARD MAKES IT A LINE-MATCHING NIGHTMARE. BETWEEN HIGH-SCORING JEREMY LOPEZ, MATTHEW KLASSEN AND KRIS MCKINZIE, ALONG WITH TALENTED TWO-WAY FORWARDS CONNOR FLAHERTY AND MICHAEL DAMBERG, THE TOPPERS BOAST A GOOD MIX OF SPEED, SKILL AND GRIT UP FRONT. YOUNG PLAYERS, LIKE JACK DODD, CAM MCCLURE AND DEREK FARRELL ARE SETTling INTO ROLES NICELY, TOO.

DEFENSE: THE TOPPERS ARE PRETTY INEXPERIENCED AT THE BLUE LINE, BUT THEY'VE BEEN ABLE TO ADAPT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND FEEL AS THOUGH THEY HAVE A GOOD GROUP OF DEFENSEMEN AT THIS POINT IN THE YEAR. THAT GROUP HAS ONLY BEEN SOLIDIFIED BY THE TRANSITION FROM FORWARD BY ANTHONY MILLER, WHO GOT A TON OF ICE TIME AND LOOKED LIKE A SEASONED VET IN THE SECTION TOURNAMENT.

GOALTENDING: CADEN FLAHERTY IS THE GO-TO GUY FOR DULUTH MARSHALL, AND HE'LL HAVE TO BE AT HIS BEST FOR THE TOPPERS TO STAY HOT.

STATISTICS

NO.	NAME	GR	POS	G	A	PTS
7	JEREMY LOPEZ	12	F	12	34	36
8	KRIS MCKINZIE	12	F	21	13	34
19	MATTHEW KLASSEN	12	F	15	8	23
14	CONNOR FLAHERTY	12	F	10	9	19
12	MICHAEL DAMBERG	12	F	7	11	18
16	LUKE PAVELICH	11	F	9	9	18
5	KYLE JONES	11	D	3	14	17
15	ANTHONY MILLER	11	F	6	10	16
23	JACK DODD	10	F	1	12	13
27	CAM MCCLURE	10	F	5	8	13
6	JOHN MCKENNA	10	F	3	6	9
4	NATE SEPP	10	D	2	6	8
9	KYLE MCKINZIE	10	D	1	7	8
11	JOE DALY	11	F	2	6	8
17	DEREK FARRELL	10	F	2	5	7
22	JORDON FRALICH	10	D	2	5	7
10	LANE KRENZEN	9	D	3	2	5
21	BRADY NASH	11	D	1	4	5
24	NATE JOHNSON	10	D	0	4	4
26	LANE ELIASON	11	F	1	2	3

NO.	NAME	GR	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
31	CADEN FLAHERTY	12	11-6-0	2.28	.927
30	ALEX MURRAY	10	5-6-0	2.67	.908

BY THE NUMBERS

POWER PLAY PERCENTAGE: 16.8
PENALTY KILL PERCENTAGE: 82.2
GOALS SCORED PER GAME: 3.79
GOALS ALLOWED PER GAME: 1.93

PROGRAM INFO

NICKNAME: HILLTOPPERS
CONFERENCE: LAKE SUPERIOR
SECTION: 7A
2012-13 RECORD: 16-12-0
STATE TRIPS: 2001, 05, 06, 07, 08, 12, 13
COACH: BRENDAN FLAHERTY
ASSISTANTS: DALE JAGO, JASON WATT, MIKE CURRY
HOME ARENA: MARS LAKEVIEW ARENA, DULUTH
LAST SEASON: LOST TO LITTLE FALLS IN CLASS 1A CONSOLATION SEMIFINALS, 5-4

TREK TO THE X

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
11/23	ROSEVILLE	6-0
11/24	MOUNDS VIEW	3-1
12/1	BRECK	1-2
12/4	@ HIBBING	3-2
12/8	@ BLAKE	4-2
12/14	@ GRAND RAPIDS	0-2
12/15	CROOKSTON	4-0
12/21	BENILDE	1-6
12/27	MADISON EDGEWD (WI)	7-1
12/28	APPLETON EAST (WI)	9-0
12/29	NOTRE DAME AC (WI)	3-6
1/3	@ HERMANTOWN	3-4
1/5	TOTINO-GRACE	1-6
1/10	SUPERIOR (WI)	5-1
1/12	ST. THOMAS	1-4
1/19	ROCHESTER LOURDES	0-7
1/25	@ WARROAD	2-3
1/26	@ THIEF RVR FALLS	2-4
1/31	DULUTH DENFELD	1-8
2/2	@ EVELETH	10-1
2/5	PROCTOR	6-0
2/7	VIRGINIA/MTB	4-0
2/12	GREENWAY	11-0
2/14	@ CLOQUET	2-3
2/16	@ SC CATHEDRAL	3-1

SECTION 7A PLAYOFFS		
2/21	EVELETH	6-1
2/23	HIBBING	3-2
2/27	DULUTH DENFELD	3-2

BRENDAN FLAHERTY

FLAHERTY IS IN HIS 18TH SEASON GUIDING THE HILLTOPPERS AND HAS A CAREER RECORD OF 321-179-13. THREE TIMES HE'S BEEN NAMED THE SECTION COACH OF THE YEAR AND THIS IS HIS EIGHTH SECTION TITLE. FLAHERTY HAS ALSO TAKEN THE HILLTOPPERS TO THREE CLASS 1A CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES, BUT CAME UP SHORT EACH TIME. HE'S COACHED DOZENS OF EVENTUAL COLLEGE HOCKEY PLAYERS, INCLUDING 2012 HOBEY BAKER RECIPIENT JACK CONNOLLY OF UMD. FLAHERTY IS A 1982 GRADUATE OF THE MARSHALL (BACK WHEN IT WAS CALLED DULUTH CATHEDRAL).



PREDICTION

GETTING PAST HERMANTOWN WILL BE THE FIRST STEP -- AND THE ONLY ONE ON THE MINDS OF DULUTH MARSHALL AT THIS POINT -- BUT IF THE TOPPERS CAN UPSET THE HAWKS, WHO KNOWS WHAT THIS TEAM CAN ACCOMPLISH. CONFIDENCE GOES A LONG, LONG WAY IN HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS.

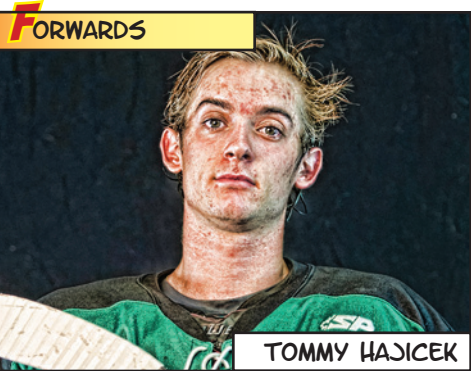


EAST GRAND FORKS GREEN WAVE

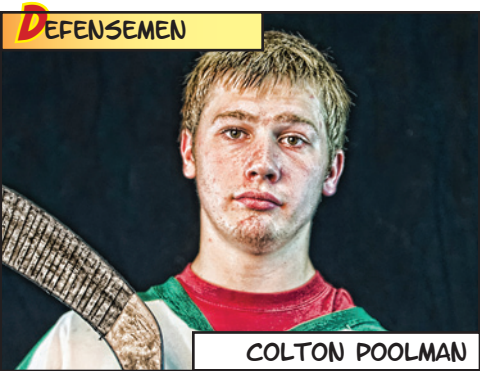
CHAMPIONS OF SECTION 8A



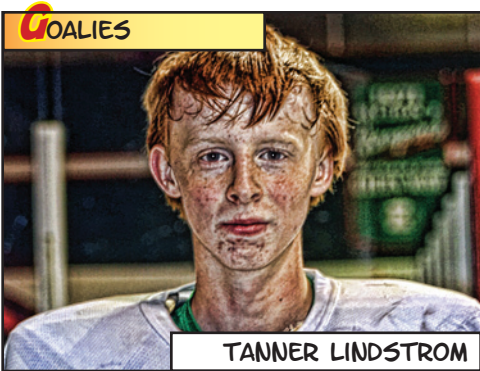
TANNER LINDSTROM



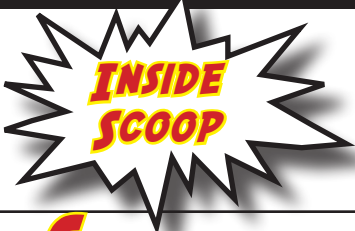
TOMMY HAJICEK



COLTON POOLMAN



TANNER LINDSTROM



By TIM KOLEHMAINEN

SURE, EAST GRAND FORKS HAD HIGH HOPES FOR ITS HOCKEY TEAM THIS WINTER. BUT EVEN THE MOST OPTIMISTIC GREEN WAVE FAN HAD TO BE SURPRISED BY WHAT TRANSPIRED. CALL IT A DREAM SEASON.

"IT'S PRETTY SURREAL," SAID SENIOR KOLTON AUBOL FOLLOWING A 2-0 WHITEWASHING OF WARROAD IN THE SECTION 8A FINAL, A RESULT THAT SENT THE GREEN WAVE (22-3-3) TO THE STATE TOURNAMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2002.

A YOUNG DEFENSIVE CORPS AND FIRST-YEAR STARTING GOALTENDER TANNER LINDSTROM SELLED ALMOST INSTANTLY, POWERING THE GREEN WAVE INTO MID-JANUARY AS THE STATE'S LAST REMAINING UNBEATEN TEAM. EVEN AFTER A TWO-GAME LOSING STREAK TOOK AWAY SOME OF THE LUSTER, EAST GRAND FORKS RALLIED WITH A DOMINANT STRETCH THE REST OF THE WAY.

IN ALL, THE GREEN WAVE WERE ONE OF THE STINGIEST TEAMS IN THE STATE, ALLOWING JUST 1.57 GOALS PER GAME AND POSTING 10 SHUTOUTS.

"WE ALL FIGHT TOGETHER AND WE'RE ALL OUT HERE TO WIN AND WE'RE ALL OUT HERE TO PLAY FOR EACH OTHER," SAID SOPHOMORE TYE AUSMUS, LISTING DEFENSIVE MATES EDDIE EADES, TAYLOR BRIERLEY AND COLTON POOLMAN -- NONE OF THEM SENIORS. "WE'RE BROTHERS OUT THERE ON THE ICE."

TEAM SNAPSHOT

FORWARDS: EAST GRAND FORKS IS ONE OF THE DEEPER -- AND MORE BALANCED -- CLASS 1A TEAMS IN THE FIELD. SENIOR TOMMY HAJICEK LED THE TEAM WITH 20 GOALS AND 43 POINTS, BUT ANOTHER SIX FORWARDS HAD AT LEAST NINE GOALS AND 18 POINTS. THAT PRODUCTION IS ALSO WELL-BALANCED BETWEEN GRADE LEVELS. HAJICEK AND SENIORS KOLTON AUBOL, NICK KORYNTA AND RAYCE MARTIN ARE THE VETERANS, BUT A LOOK AT THE LEADERBOARD ALSO SHOWS REPRESENTATION FROM JUNIORS (BRANDON LOVEN), SOPHOMORES (DIXON BOWEN AND REED CORBID) AND FRESHMEN (TANNER TWETEN AND GRANT LOVEN).

DEFENSE: THE STRENGTH OF THE TEAM HAS BEEN ON THE BLUE LINE. THE QUARTET OF JUNIORS EDDIE EADES, TAYLOR BRIERLEY AND COLTON POOLMAN AND SOPHOMORE TYE AUSMUS HAS A GREAT MIX OF SIZE (EADES IS AN IMPOSING HEAVY HITTER), SPEED AND SKILL.

GOALTENDING: TANNER LINDSTROM WAS AN UNKNOWN COMING INTO HIS SENIOR YEAR AS A CAREER VARSITY BACKUP. HE'S NOT UNKNOWN ANYMORE. NOT AFTER WINNING 15 OF HIS 21 STARTS AND RACKING UP SEVEN OF THE TEAM'S 10 SHUTOUTS. HE'S A BIG GOALTENDER WHO LIKES TO SPREAD OUT AND FILL AS MUCH OF THE NET AS POSSIBLE.

STATISTICS

NO.	NAME	GR	POS	G	A	PTS
17	TOMMY HAJICEK	12	F	20	23	43
9	DIXON BOWEN	10	F	15	21	36
19	TANNER TWETEN	9	F	17	18	35
14	KOLTON AUBOL	12	F	14	13	27
18	BRANDON LOVEN	11	F	8	17	25
29	GRANT LOVEN	9	F	10	14	24
27	EDDIE EADES	11	D	4	18	22
20	REED CORBID	10	F	9	9	18
16	TAYLOR BRIERLEY	11	D	1	14	15
12	TYE AUSMUS	10	D	6	8	14
6	COLTON POOLMAN	11	D	6	7	13
7	NICK KORYNTA	12	F	4	5	9
4	LUKE BEITO	11	F	3	4	7
21	RAYCE MARTIN	12	F	3	2	5
10	NICK RANTEN	11	F	1	3	4
15	TREVOR SELK	9	D	0	3	3
28	RYAN PECKA	12	D	0	2	2
22	DALLAS DRAGICH	12	F	1	0	1
26	NATHAN PEABODY	10	D	1	0	1
37	JACE PESCH	10	F	0	1	1

NO.	NAME	GR	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
31	TANNER LINDSTROM	12	15-3-3	1.62	.922
35	GARRETT LIEBERG	10	4-0-0	1.61	.885
30	JOSH WEBER	10	3-0-0	0.60	.950

BY THE NUMBERS

POWER PLAY PERCENTAGE: 36.7
PENALTY KILL PERCENTAGE: 85.0
GOALS SCORED PER GAME: 4.39
GOALS ALLOWED PER GAME: 1.57

PROGRAM INFO

NICKNAME: GREEN WAVE
CONFERENCE: MARIUCCI
SECTION: 8A
2012-13 RECORD: 22-3-3
STATE TRIPS: 1971, 80, 82, 98, 99, 2001, 02, 13
COACH: TYLER PALMISCNO
ASSISTANTS: SCOTT OLIVER, CHAD DAHLEN, NICK BYDAL
HOME ARENA: EAST GRAND FORKS CIVIC CENTER, EAST GRAND FORKS
LAST SEASON: LOST TO THIEF RIVER FALLS IN SECTION 8A FINAL, 4-1

TREK TO THE X

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
11/27	@ PARK RAPIDS	5-0
11/30	@ SC CATHEDRAL	4-0
12/1	@ TOTINO-GRACE	4-4
12/4	@ BEMIDJI	5-0
12/11	@ GRAFTON/PR (ND)	6-2
12/14	WARROAD	5-3
12/18	GF CENTRAL (ND)	6-0
12/20	@ CROOKSTON	7-2
12/27	BISMCK CENTURY (ND)	8-1
12/28	GF CENTRAL (ND)	4-3
12/29	GF RED RIVER (ND)	2-2
1/3	GF RED RIVER (ND)	3-2
1/5	LAKE OF THE WOODS	9-0
1/10	RED LAKE FALLS	6-0
1/15	ROSEAU	3-0
1/17	@ MOORHEAD	3-4
1/22	THIEF RVR FALLS	2-6
1/24	@ GF RED RIVER (ND)	4-0
1/25	BEMIDJI	4-0
1/29	CROOKSTON	7-2
1/31	@ GF CENTRAL (ND)	3-2
2/2	@ WARROAD	4-4
2/5	KITTSON CENTRAL	3-1
2/12	@ THIEF RVR FALLS	2-1
2/14	@ ROSEAU	2-3

SECTION 8A PLAYOFFS

2/21	LAKE OF THE WOODS	6-1
2/23	CROOKSTON	4-1
2/28	WARROAD	2-0

TYLER PALMISCNO

IN HIS FIRST YEAR AS THE SOLO HEAD COACH, PALMISCNO HAS THE GREEN WAVE IN THE STATE TOURNAMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2002. HE'S BEEN CO-COACHING EAST GRAND FORKS THE PAST FEW SEASONS AFTER A SUCCESSFUL PLAYING CAREER. THE 1998 EAST GRAND FORKS GRADUATE FOLLOWED IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HIS FATHER (TONY) AND UNCLE (STEVE) BY PLAYING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA. HE WAS ALSO A THREE-YEAR LETTERWINNER IN HIGH SCHOOL IN FOOTBALL AS A QUARTERBACK AND IN GOLF, PLAYING IN THE STATE TOURNAMENT AS A SENIOR.

COACH'S CORNER



PREDICTION

OF ALL THE TEAMS OUTSIDE OF THE "BIG THREE" OF ST. THOMAS ACADEMY, BRECK AND HERMANTOWN, IT APPEARS EAST GRAND FORKS HAS THE BEST CHANCE TO WIN A TITLE. OUTSTANDING TEAM DEFENSE HAS BEEN THE GREEN WAVE'S HALLMARK AND WILL BE WHAT CARRIES THEM FORWARD.



LAKEVILLE NORTH

PANTHERS

CHAMPIONS OF SECTION 1AA



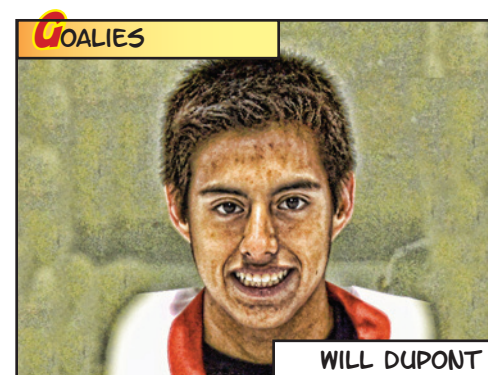
ALEX WOOD



TRISTAN HAZLETT



ERIK RUTT



WILL DUPONT

INSIDE SCOOP

By WALKER ORENSTEIN

LAKEVILLE NORTH HAS REACHED THE STATE TOURNAMENT SIX TIMES IN TEAM HISTORY -- THREE OF WHICH WERE AS LAKEVILLE. THE PANTHERS HAVE LOST THEIR QUARTERFINAL GAME EACH TIME.

THIS YEAR'S GROUP WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE THAT.

FRESH OFF THUMPING RIVAL LAKEVILLE SOUTH 6-3 IN THE SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP, MOMENTUM AND CONFIDENCE IS EMANATING FROM THE PANTHERS. INSTEAD OF LOOKING LIKE THE TEAM THAT DROPPED FOUR IN A ROW HEADING INTO THE PLAYOFFS, THEY'RE HOPING TO PLAY LIKE THEIR LAKEVILLE SOUTH COUNTERPARTS DID IN LAST SEASON'S STATE TOURNEY WHEN THEY SHOCKED THE STATE BY UPSETTING A HIGHLY-SKILLED AND NO. 1 RANKED DULUTH EAST TEAM.

EDINA AND LAKEVILLE NORTH HAVE NEVER MET IN THE STATE TOURNAMENT AND HAVE PRACTICALLY ZERO HISTORY PLAYING EACH OTHER. A BLANK SLATE COULD BENEFIT THE PANTHERS WHO WENT 1-1 AGAINST EDEN PRAIRIE -- THEIR ONLY LAKE CONFERENCE OPPONENT -- IN TWO CLOSE GAMES THIS YEAR.

THE ODDS MAY NOT FAVOR LAKEVILLE NORTH, BUT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE WHEN YOU'RE AN UNDERDOG WITH NOTHING TO LOSE.

TEAM SNAPSHOT

FORWARDS: JUNIOR TRISTEN HAZLETT, SENIOR JACK DIERCKS, AND SOPHOMORE NICK POEHLING ACCOUNT FOR MOST OF THE PANTHERS' POINTS, MAKING THEIR FORWARDS A BIT ONE-DIMENSIONAL. THAT DOESN'T MEAN LAKEVILLE NORTH'S OFFENSE ISN'T DANGEROUS. LAKEVILLE NORTH TORE APART RIVAL LAKEVILLE SOUTH IN THE SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP WITH SIX GOALS, FLASHING ITS POTENTIAL IN CRUNCH TIME. THE PANTHERS' SECONDARY CONTRIBUTORS -- JACK POEHLING AND CONNOR HYDEN -- COULD ALSO CAUSE HAVOC IF THEY STEP UP UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT.

DEFENSE: THE PANTHERS HAVE A TENDENCY TO LET THINGS SNOWBALL, GIVING UP GOALS IN BUNCHES AGAINST SQUADS THAT CAN MOVE THE PUCK. IN OTHER WORDS: WHEN THEY LOSE, IT'S USUALLY BIG. A MIX OF SENIORS AND SOPHOMORES, LAKEVILLE NORTH'S DEFENSEMEN WILL NEED TO BE STEADIER THAN THEY HAVE BEEN TO PRODUCE ANY UPSETS.

GOALTENDING: LAKEVILLE NORTH SPLITS TIME BETWEEN THREE GOALIES, BUT JUNIOR WILL DUPONT CLAIMS THE CREASE IN THE MOST IMPORTANT GAMES. WITH A SAVE PERCENTAGE OF .901 AND A SQUEAKY CLEAN 1.67 GOALS AGAINST AVERAGE DURING THE SECTION PLAYOFFS, DUPONT'S STEADY HAND WILL ANCHOR THE PANTHERS.

STATISTICS

NO.	NAME	GR	POS	G	A	PTS
11	TRISTEN HAZLETT	11	F	10	21	31
4	JACK DIERCKS	12	F	16	14	30
7	NICK POEHLING	10	D	6	18	24
3	JACK POEHLING	10	F	12	8	20
12	CONNOR HYDEN	11	F	10	4	14
19	SAM PETRICK	12	F	2	8	10
5	MATT OSTDIEK	12	F	2	7	9
10	ERIK RUTT	12	D	1	7	8
17	ANGELO ALTAVILLA	10	D	3	5	8
20	JACK MCNEELY	10	D	2	6	8
9	IAN KLOTZ	11	F	1	6	7
22	BLAKE RUTT	10	F	3	2	5
8	MATTHEW ARNOLD	11	F	3	1	4
26	BRENDAN COLE	12	D	1	3	4
6	JACK SADEK	10	D	2	1	3
24	JARED INSERRA	11	F	1	2	3
16	ALEX WOOD	12	D	1	1	2
18	ZACH NEAMEYER	11	F	0	2	2
14	MICHAEL SCHMIDT	12	F	1	0	1
27	ALEC LARSON	12	D	1	0	1

NO.	NAME	GR	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
30	WILL DUPONT	11	6-9-1	2.72	.901
31	PIERCE WILSON	10	4-6-0	4.10	.855
33	RYAN BISSONETT	10	1-1-0	2.50	.878

BY THE NUMBERS

POWER PLAY PERCENTAGE: 14.7
PENALTY KILL PERCENTAGE: 75.7
GOALS SCORED PER GAME: 2.79
GOALS ALLOWED PER GAME: 3.29

PROGRAM INFO

NICKNAME: PANTHERS
CONFERENCE: SOUTH SUBURBAN
SECTION: 1AA
2012-13 RECORDS: 11-16-1
STATE TRIPS: 2002, 03, 04 (AS LAKEVILLE), 2006, 10, 11, 13
COACH: TRENT EIGNER
ASSISTANTS: RYAN KRAFT, BRAD DEFAUW, BOB ALTAVILLA, MATT LUNDIN
HOME ARENA: AMES ARENA, LAKEVILLE
LAST SEASON: LOST TO LAKEVILLE SOUTH IN SECTION 1AA FINAL, 7-1

TREK TO THE X

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
11/27	@ROCH MAYO	3-0
12/4	ROCH CENTURY	6-0
12/8	APPLE VALLEY	5-2
12/11	EASTVIEW	2-6
12/13	EDEN PRAIRIE	4-3
12/15	@ BURNSVILLE	2-3
12/18	@ BLOOM JEFFERSON	2-5
12/20	LAKEVILLE SOUTH	1-5
12/27	BENILDE	2-8
12/28	MAPLE GROVE	2-5
12/29	EDEN PRAIRIE	2-3
1/5	@ ROSEMOUNT	5-4
1/8	EAGAN	4-5
1/12	@ PRIOR LAKE	1-2
1/15	BLOOM KENNEDY	3-1
1/17	@ HILL-MURRAY	0-7
1/19	BURNSVILLE	1-4
1/22	@ EASTVIEW	2-2
1/26	@ APPLE VALLEY	5-3
1/29	BLOOM JEFFERSON	1-2
2/1	@ LAKEVILLE SOUTH	7-2
2/5	ROSEMOUNT	1-2
2/7	DULUTH EAST	0-2
2/9	@ EAGAN	2-8
2/12	PRIOR LAKE	2-3

SECTION 1AA PLAYOFFS		
2/21	WINONA	2-0
2/23	FARMINGTON	5-2
2/28	LAKEVILLE SOUTH	6-3

TRENT EIGNER

SECOND-YEAR COACH TRENT EIGNER IS BATTLING .500 ON TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES AND HAS REACHED THE SECTION 1AA FINALS IN BOTH OF HIS SEASONS. NOT BAD CONSIDERING THE TEAM HAS A 25-30-1 RECORD WITH EIGNER AT THE HELM. MAYBE HE IS TALENTED AT WINNING HIGH-PRESSURE GAMES -- A NECESSARY TRAIT AT THE XCEL ENERGY CENTER. EIGNER HAD A 14-YEAR CAREER AFTER HIGH SCHOOL INCLUDING FOUR YEARS WITH MIAMI UNIVERSITY IN OHIO AND FIVE YEARS WITH THE EL PASO BUZZARDS OF THE WPHL.

COACH'S CORNER



PREDICTION

IT'S TOUGH TO SEE THE PANTHERS ORCHESTRATING A FIRST ROUND UPSET OF EDINA. SINCE THEIR DEFENSE WON'T DO MUCH TO BOTTLE UP THE HORNETS, IF THEIR OFFENSE CAN SHOW UP AND CAN KEEP PACE THEY MAY HAVE HOPE.



EDINA

HORNETS

CHAMPIONS OF SECTION 2AA



HAYDEN ANDERSON

FORWARDS

CONNOR HURLEY

DEFENSEMEN

PARKER RENO

GOALIES

WILLIE BENJAMIN

INSIDE SCOOP

By LOREN NELSON

YEAR AFTER YEAR, EDINA COACH CURT GILES NEEDS ONLY TO MAKE SLIGHT TWEAKS TO THE HORNETS' STATE TOURNAMENT ITINERARY. THE TIME OF EDINA'S QUARTERFINAL GAME MIGHT BE DIFFERENT. THE OPPONENT USUALLY CHANGES FROM YEAR TO YEAR. SO DO THE HOTELS, WHICH ARE ASSIGNED BY THE MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE AND ROTATE FROM SECTION TO SECTION. OTHER THAN THAT, WELL, THE PLAN IS PRETTY MUCH THE SAME FOR GILES AND HIS HORNETS, WHOSE SEVEN STRAIGHT STATE TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES IS THE LONGEST CURRENT RUN OF ANY TEAM IN THE STATE. TALK ABOUT CONSISTENCY, HECK, THIS YEAR EVEN THE HORNETS' PLAYERS ARE THE SAME. EDINA RETURNS ALMOST ITS ENTIRE LINEUP FROM LAST YEAR'S TEAM THAT LOST TO EVENTUAL CHAMPION BENILDE-ST. MARGARET'S IN A THRILLING QUARTERFINAL MATCHUP. THAT LOSS HAS FUELED A BUSINESSLIKE APPROACH FOR A GROUP THAT WAS ALREADY LOOKING AHEAD JUST MINUTES AFTER BEATING BURNSVILLE FOR THE SECTION 2AA TITLE. "I THINK THIS YEAR WE ARE MORE DETERMINED IN GETTING SOMETHING DONE," SENIOR DEFENSEMAN PARK RENO SAID AFTER EDINA BEAT BURNSVILLE TO WIN THE SECTION 2AA CHAMPIONSHIP. "WE'RE NOT REALLY SATISFIED WITH JUST GETTING THERE." NO. 3-SEEDED EDINA (22-6-0) PLAYS UNSEEDED LAKEVILLE NORTH (11-16-1) IN A 1 P.M. QUARTERFINAL ON THURSDAY, MARCH 7.

TEAM SNAPSHOT

FORWARDS: JUNIOR CONNOR HURLEY AND SOPHOMORE DYLAN MALMQUIST ARE TWO OF THE STATE'S MOST DANGEROUS SNIPERS, AND A RECENT REUNION WITH SENIOR ANDY JORDAHL (HE PLAYED WITH HURLEY AND MALMQUIST ALL OF LAST SEASON) GIVES THE HORNETS ONE OF THE BEST FORWARD UNITS IN THE TOURNAMENT.

DEFENSE: HARD-HITTING SENIORS PARKER RENO (RPI) AND MATT NELSON (PRINCETON) ARE BOUND FOR DIVISION I PROGRAMS. JUNIOR TYLER NANNE, RECENTLY MOVED OFF THE TOP LINE AND BACK TO DEFENSE, IS A SHIFTY TWO-WAY THREAT.

GOALTENDING: SENIOR WILLIE BENJAMIN, AT 6-FOOT-2, 190-POUNDS, OCCUPIES MUCH OF THE NET SIMPLY THROUGH SOUND POSITIONING. HE ALSO HAS AN ABUNDANCE OF BIG-GAME EXPERIENCE AND A LOW-KEY PERSONALITY IDEAL FOR THE BIG STAGE.

STATISTICS

NO.	NAME	GR	POS	G	A	PTS
16	CONNOR HURLEY	11	F	17	30	47
20	DYLAN MALMQUIST	10	F	20	21	41
10	ANDY JORDAHL	12	F	18	18	36
23	TYLER NANNE	11	F/D	9	13	22
5	PARKER RENO	12	D	2	19	21
9	CULLEN MUNSON	11	F	7	12	19
6	MATT NELSON	12	D	4	14	18
19	BO BRAUER	12	F	4	14	18
12	MIGUEL FIDLER	11	F	7	7	14
4	ANTHONY WALSH	12	F	5	6	11
18	DAN HINUEBER	12	F	4	6	10
17	TIM SPICOLA	12	F	4	3	7
2	BEN HULL	12	D	3	3	6
21	RYAN HATCH	12	D	1	5	6
3	BEN FOLEY	10	D	0	4	4
22	MATT MASTERMAN	10	F	2	2	4
8	CULLEN RAASCH	11	F	1	2	3
7	HAYDEN ANDERSON	12	D	2	0	2
30	ANDREW ROHKOHL	11	G	0	1	1

NO.	NAME	GR	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
1	WILLIE BENJAMIN	12	16-4-0	2.07	.902
30	ANDREW ROHKOHL	11	6-2-0	2.20	.900

BY THE NUMBERS

POWER PLAY PERCENTAGE: 28.9
PENALTY KILL PERCENTAGE: 80.8
GOALS SCORED PER GAME: 3.93
GOALS ALLOWED PER GAME: 2.14

PROGRAM INFO

NICKNAME: HORNETS
CONFERENCE: LAKE
SECTION: 2AA
2012-13 RECORD: 22-6-0
STATE TRIPS: 1973, 74 CHAMPS, 77, 78 CHAMPS, 79 CHAMPS (AS EDINA EAST), 1981 (AS EDINA WEST), 1955, 56, 57, 60, 62, 67, 68, 69 CHAMPS, 70, 71 CHAMPS, 72, 82 CHAMPS, 83, 84 CHAMPS, 87, 88 CHAMPS, 89, 95, 96, 97 CHAMPS, 98, 2000, 07, 08, 09, 10 CHAMPS, 11, 12, 13
COACH: CURT GILES
ASSISTANTS: DAVE LANGEVIN, DAVE TERWILLIGER
HOME ARENA: BRAEMAR ICE ARENA
LAST SEASON: LOST TO DULUTH EAST IN CLASS 2A CONSOLATION SEMIFINALS, 3-2

TREK TO THE X

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
11/23	HOLY FAMILY	7-2
11/24	@ WAYZATA	3-0
11/27	LAKEVILLE SOUTH	6-1
11/29	CENTENNIAL	4-0
12/1	@ MAPLE GROVE	8-1
12/4	@ PRIOR LAKE	2-1
12/20	GRAND RAPIDS	6-2
12/21	ELK RIVER	4-1
12/22	EDEN PRAIRIE	4-3
12/26	ST. THOMAS	1-2
12/27	DULUTH EAST	1-4
12/28	BLAINE	3-2
1/3	BURNSVILLE	3-2
1/5	HILL-MURRAY	1-2
1/8	@ WHITE BEAR LK	2-1
1/17	MINNETONKA	3-4
1/19	@ HOLY ANGELS	10-6
1/24	HOPKINS	5-0
1/26	@ WAYZATA	5-4
1/31	@ EDEN PRAIRIE	5-4
2/2	@ MINNETONKA	3-4
2/5	CRETIN-DH	4-3
2/9	@ HOPKINS	2-0
2/14	WAYZATA	2-1
2/16	EDEN PRAIRIE	1-3

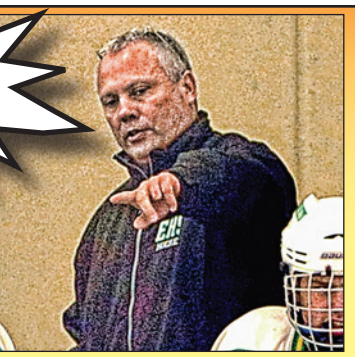
SECTION 2AA PLAYOFFS

2/21	SHAKOPEE	7-1
2/23	BLOOM JEFFERSON	5-4
2/27	BURNSVILLE	3-2

CURT GILES

GILES, A FORMER MINNESOTA NORTH STARS' DEFENSEMAN, HAS BEEN WELL-SERVED BY HIS EVEN-KEELED DEMEANOR AND MATTER-OF-FACT APPROACH TO COACHING. HE MIGHT NOT SHOW IT, BUT HE'LL TELL YOU HE'S HAVING THE TIME OF HIS LIFE COACHING THE HORNETS. "THERE IS NOTHING LIKE THIS, THERE JUST REALLY ISN'T," GILES SAID BEFORE LAST YEAR'S STATE TOURNAMENT. THAT'S SOMETHING COMING FROM SOMEONE WHO PLAYED NEARLY 900 NHL GAMES AND WON A SILVER MEDAL WITH TEAM CANADA IN THE 1992 OLYMPICS.

COACH'S CORNER



PREDICTION

EDINA'S TOP LINE IS AS GOOD AS ANY IN THE TOURNAMENT, WHICH MAKES THE HORNETS A SCARY DRAW FOR ANY TEAM. BREAKDOWNS IN THE DEFENSIVE ZONE HAVE BEEN TROUBLESOME AT TIMES THIS SEASON AND COULD PROVE FATAL IF THE HORNETS REACH THE SEMIFINALS AS EXPECTED.



EASTVIEW

LIGHTNING

CHAMPIONS OF SECTION 3AA



ZACH DRISCOLL



By LOREN NELSON

LIKE EVERY MINNESOTA KID WHO'S PLOPPED HIMSELF IN AN XCEL ENERGY CENTER SEAT AND MARVELED AT THE SPECTACLE OF HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY PLAYED IN AN NHL ARENA IN FRONT OF 19,000 FANS, ZACH DRISCOLL HAS DREAMT ABOUT WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO SKATE ON THAT ICE, TO LOOK UP AT THAT CROWD, TO STARE INTO THOSE TELEVISION CAMERAS.

"I'VE BEEN GOING TO THE TOURNAMENT EVERY YEAR WITH (TEAMMATE KEITH MUEHLBAUER) AND OUR DADS," DRISCOLL SAID. "WE THOUGHT, 'HOW COOL WOULD THAT BE TO BE US.' AND NOW IT IS US, IT'S OUR TURN."

THE BRIGHT LIGHTS WILL BURN BRIGHTEST ON DRISCOLL. FEW GOALTENDERS HAVE ENTERED THE EVENT SHOULDERING THE AMOUNT OF HYPE AND EXPECTATION THAT WILL BE HEAPED ON THE 5-FOOT-10 SOPHOMORE.

DRISCOLL HAS BEEN BRILLIANT SINCE CRACKING THE LIGHTNING'S STARTING LINEUP IN LATE DECEMBER, AND HIS STELLAR PLAY HELPED EASTVIEW SHOCK NO. 1-SEEDED EAGAN IN A 4-1 TRIUMPH ON THE SECTION 3AA TITLE GAME.

DRISCOLL UNDOUBTEDLY WILL NEED TO PROVIDE ANOTHER COMMAND PERFORMANCE AS UNSEEDDED EASTVIEW (18-9-1) TAKES ON NO. 1-RANKED AND TOP-SEEDED HILL-MURRAY (25-2-1) IN A 6 P.M. QUARTERFINAL ON THURSDAY, MARCH 8.

TEAM SNAPSHOT

FORWARDS: RYAN MCNAMARA, WHO LED EASTVIEW TO A STATE LACROSSE TITLE LAST SPRING, IS THE LIGHTNING'S SCORING LEADER -- AND JUST PLAIN LEADER. THE 5-FOOT-8 SENIOR IS TENACIOUS, FEARLESS, QUICK AND A MAGICIAN WITH HIS STICK. HIS COMPETITIVENESS IS OFF THE CHARTS. JUNIOR JAKE MCGLOCKLIN IS ANOTHER GO-TO SCORER, AND IT WAS JUNIOR JOHN SNODGRASS WHO PROVIDED THE FIREWORKS IN THE SECTION 2AA FINAL WITH TWO GOALS. THESE GUYS AREN'T PARTICULARLY BIG AS A GROUP, BUT FEW TEAMS CAN MATCH THE LIGHTNING'S QUICKNESS.

DEFENSE: SENIOR MITCH BEATTIE, ANOTHER STANDOUT FROM THE LACROSSE TEAM, AND JUNIOR PIERCE ERICKSON ARE THE LEADERS OF A GROUP THAT FOCUSES ON PUSHING OPPOSING FORWARD TO THE OUTSIDE THEN LETTING SOPHOMORE GOALTENDER ZACH DRISCOLL HANDLE A BARRAGE OF LONG-RANGE SHOTS.

GOALTENDING: DRISCOLL DIDN'T TAKE OVER THE STARTING POSITION UNTIL LATE DECEMBER, WHEN HE LED EASTVIEW TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE ROCHESTER KIWANIS TOURNAMENT. HE FINISHED THE SEASON AMONG THE STATE LEADERS IN MOST STATISTICAL CATEGORIES. "HIS NAME IS OUT THERE NOW. THE SKY IS THE LIMIT FOR THE KID," EASTVIEW COACH DREY BRADLEY SAID.

STATISTICS

NO.	NAME	GR	POS	G	A	PTS
8	RYAN MCNAMARA	12	F	22	19	41
20	JAKE MCGLOCKLIN	11	F	15	11	26
12	NICK ABBOTT	12	F	9	16	25
15	MITCH BEATTIE	12	D	5	18	23
9	JOHN SNODGRASS	11	F	9	11	20
14	PIERCE ERICKSON	11	D	2	15	17
17	COLE COOPER	11	F	6	7	13
18	KEITH MUEHLBAUER	10	D	3	9	12
16	KEVIN WOBSCHELL	12	F	6	3	9
3	MIKE STILLINGS	11	D	2	5	7
7	MITCHELL CERRATO	11	F	3	3	6
23	BRETT SCHWEIGER	11	F	2	3	5
21	THOMAS HUTSELL	10	F	2	2	4
4	ETHAN MURRAY	12	F	0	2	2
5	GARRETT CROPSEY	12	F	0	1	1
6	BRENDAN KUKOWSKI	11	D	0	1	1

NO.	NAME	GR	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
30	ZACH DRISCOLL	10	15-4-1	1.65	.945
25	MATHEW MONTGOMERY	12	3-5-0	2.72	.896

BY THE NUMBERS

POWER PLAY PERCENTAGE: 25.4
PENALTY KILL PERCENTAGE: 84.1
GOALS SCORED PER GAME: 3.07
GOALS ALLOWED PER GAME: 2.00

PROGRAM INFO

NICKNAME: LIGHTNING
CONFERENCE: SOUTH SUBURBAN
SECTION: 3AA
2012-13 RECORD: 18-9-1
STATE TRIPS: 2001, 13
COACH: DREY BRADLEY
ASSISTANTS: SAM BAULER, NICK CASSALENDA, MIKE MOE
HOME ARENA: APPLE VALLEY SPORTS ARENA, APPLE VALLEY
LAST SEASON: LOST TO PARK OF COTTAGE GROVE IN SECTION 3AA QUARTERFINALS, 5-0

TREK TO THE X

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
11/27	HASTINGS	4-0
11/29	@ WOODBURY	5-2
12/4	@ WAYZATA	1-3
12/8	BURNSVILLE	0-6
12/11	@ LAKEVILLE NORTH	6-2
12/15	@ BLOOM KENNEDY	3-2
12/18	APPLE VALLEY	2-3
12/20	@ EAST RIDGE	1-2
12/21	@ BLOOM JEFFERSON	2-3
12/27	NEW RICHMOND	7-3
12/28	PARK	4-0
12/29	ROCH MAYO	7-2
1/5	LAKEVILLE SOUTH	4-1
1/8	ROSEMOUNT	0-3
1/10	@ ROCH JM	3-1
1/12	@ EAGAN	4-2
1/15	PRIOR LAKE	1-0
1/22	LAKEVILLE NORTH	2-2
1/26	@ BURNSVILLE	1-2
1/29	@ APPLE VALLEY	5-3
2/2	BLOOM JEFFERSON	1-5
2/5	@ LAKEVILLE SOUTH	2-0
2/9	@ ROSEMOUNT	6-0
2/12	EAGAN	1-7
2/16	@ PRIOR LAKE	2-1

SECTION 3AA PLAYOFFS

2/21	ROSEMOUNT	4-0
2/23	APPLE VALLEY	4-0
2/28	EAGAN	4-1

FORWARDS



JAKE MCGLOCKLIN

DEFENSEMEN



PIERCE ERICKSON

GOALIES



ZACH DRISCOLL

DREY BRADLEY

BRADLEY IS IN HIS FIFTH SEASON AS THE LIGHTNING'S HEAD COACH AND 13TH SEASON OVERALL AS PART OF THE PROGRAM. HE WAS THE HEAD COACH AT SIMLEY FOR THREE SEASONS FROM 1998-2001 AND ALSO COACHED AT BURNSVILLE, HOLY ANGLES AND HASTINGS. HE WAS A STANDOUT DEFENSEMAN AT BEMIDJI STATE, WHERE HE CAPTAINED THE 1984 NATIONAL DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM.



PREDICTION

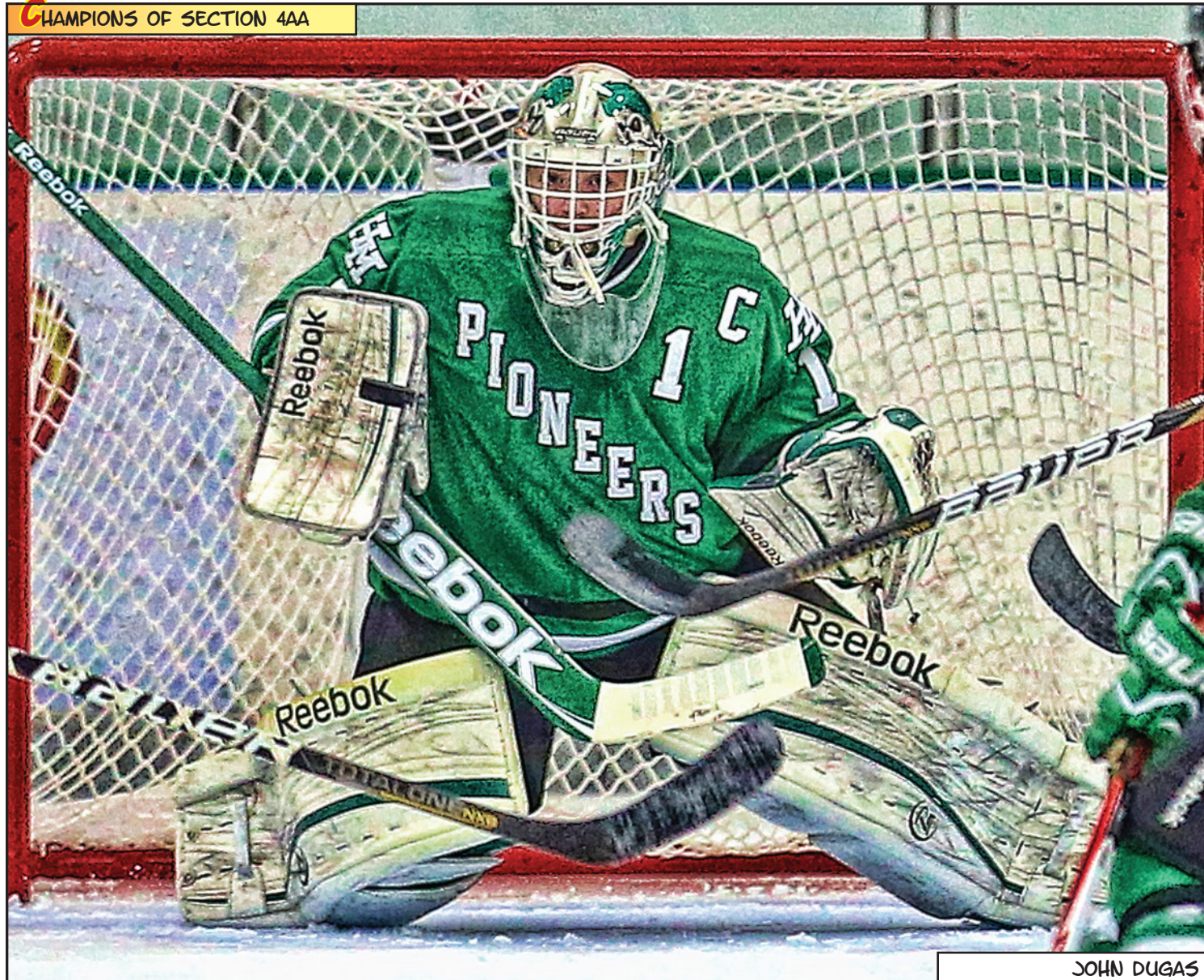
SOPHOMORE GOALTENDER ZACH DRISCOLL IS A GAME-STEALER, AND THE LIGHTNING HAVE PLAYERS FROM THREE SPORTS (LACROSSE, BASEBALL AND SOCCER) WHO KNOW HOW TO WIN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS. BEATING NO. 1 HILL-MURRAY, HOWEVER, COULD BE TOO TALL OF A TASK.



HILL-MURRAY

PIONEERS

CHAMPIONS OF SECTION 4AA



JOHN DUGAS

FORWARDS



ZACH LAVALLE

DEFENSEMEN



LOGAN SHARP

GOALIES



JOHN DUGAS

INSIDE
SCOOP

By JUSTIN MAGILL

HILL-MURRAY ONCE AGAIN WAS ATOP THE CLASS 2A RANKINGS FOR MOST OF THE SEASON. HILL-MURRAY DID NOT SUFFER FROM THE CHAMPIONSHIP-GAME HANGOVER THAT CAN PLAGUE THE RUNNER-UPS FROM THE YEAR PRIOR.

THE PIONEERS SUFFERED A 5-1 DEFEAT IN THE STATE TITLE GAME LAST SEASON TO BENILDE-ST. MARGARET'S AND LOST JAKE GUENTZEL AND BLAKE HEINRICH TO EARLY DEPARTURES, BOTH MAJOR FACTORS IN THE PIONEERS' RUN.

THIS SEASON, THE PIONEERS (25-2-1) WERE A MODEL OF CONSISTENCY, WINNING THE CLASSIC SUBURBAN CONFERENCE FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE SEASON AND TAKING THE SECTION 4AA CROWN WITH A 1-0 VICTORY AGAINST ARCH RIVAL WHITE BEAR LAKE.

PIONEERS' COACH BILL LECHNER IS IN HIS 16TH SEASON AND WILL COME INTO ST. PAUL WITH AN OVERALL COACHING RECORD OF 339-104-16. HE LED HILL-MURRAY TO THE STATE TITLE IN 2008 OVER EDINA.

HILL-MURRAY HAS THREE STATE TITLES IN ITS TROPHY CASE AND HAVE MADE IT TO THE STATE TOURNAMENT 27 TIMES.

WITH THE TOP SEED IN THE CLASS 2A STATE TOURNAMENT, HILL-MURRAY WILL PLAY EASTVIEW (18-9-1) ON THURSDAY, MARCH 7.

TEAM SNAPSHOT

FORWARDS: ZACH LAVALLE HAS BEEN A REGULAR ON THE PIONEERS SINCE HE WAS IN 8TH GRADE. NOW A SENIOR CAPTAIN LAVALLE LED BY EXAMPLE SCORING 24 GOALS, 32 ASSISTS AND LED THE PIONEERS WITH 56 POINTS. MITCH SLATTERY TRANSFERRED FROM SHATTUCK-ST. MARY'S AND INSTANTLY MADE AN IMPACT IN HIS JUNIOR SEASON. HE ALSO SCORED 24 GOALS, TYING LAVALLE FOR THE TEAM LEAD.

DEFENSE: BLAKE HEINRICH DECIDED TO FORGO HIS SENIOR SEASON AT HILL-MURRAY AND ON PAPER IT LOOKED LIKE THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A HUGE VOID TO FILL. AS IT IS EVERY SEASON, THE PIONEERS FIND A WAY TO GET PLAYERS TO STEP UP ON THE BLUE LINE AND NOT ONLY JUST HOLD THEIR OWN, BUT HELP A UNIT BECOME ONE OF THE STATE'S ELITE. HILL-MURRAY IS LED BY SENIORS SAM BECKER AND RYAN BLACK, BOTH OF WHOM KNOW HOW TO NOT ONLY SHUT DOWN THE OPPOSITION, BUT CAN CHIP IN OFFENSIVELY AS WELL.

GOALTENDING: SENIOR JOHN DUGAS SHOULDERED MOST OF THE WORKLOAD FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT SEASON AND IS REGARDED AS ONE OF THE BEST IN THE STATE. DUGAS IS A FRANK BRIMSEK AWARD FINALIST FOR THE STATE'S TOP SENIOR GOALIE. DUGAS COMES INTO THE STATE TOURNAMENT WITH A 22-2-1 RECORD, 1.36 GOALS-AGAINST-AVERAGE AND A .939 SAVE-PERCENTAGE.

STATISTICS

NO.	NAME	GR	POS	G	A	PTS
21	ZACH LAVALLE	12	F	24	32	56
28	MITCH SLATTERY	11	F	24	31	55
17	WILLIE BROWN	11	F	12	27	39
27	SAM BECKER	12	D	9	21	30
16	JOSH FRENCH	11	F	12	15	27
26	TYLER FUNK	11	F	11	15	26
15	COLTEN GREEDER	12	F	10	14	24
25	RYAN BLACK	12	D	5	17	22
14	ZACH MILLS	10	F	7	12	19
8	JOEY ANDERSON	8	F	9	9	18
12	CURT LACHAPPELLE	12	F	9	7	16
10	DUSTIN KRUEGER	11	F	2	8	10
19	MATT LITTLER	12	F	6	4	10
7	DAVIS ZAREMBINSKI	10	D	3	6	9
9	LOGAN SHARP	11	D	2	7	9
11	MIKE RAWLINGS	12	F	5	3	8
18	JACOB OLSON	10	D	3	5	8
22	DAN DOLAN	12	D	1	6	7

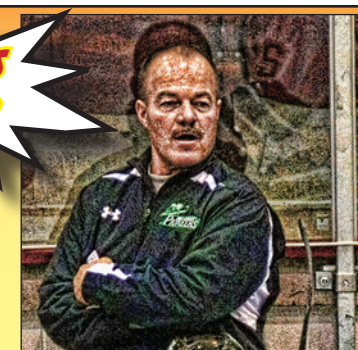
NO.	NAME	GRW-L-T	GAA	SV%
1	JOHN DUGAS	12 22-2-1	1.36	.939
33	SAM ILGEN	11 2-0-0	2.57	.833
2	CASEY RYAN	12 1-0-0	0.00	1.000

BY THE NUMBERS

POWER PLAY PERCENTAGE:	32.5
PENALTY KILL PERCENTAGE:	91.0
GOALS SCORED PER GAME:	5.50
GOALS ALLOWED PER GAME:	1.43

BILL LECHNER

THE PIONEERS ARE LED BY LECHNER, WHO IS IN HIS 16TH SEASON. HE HAS ONE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP ON HIS RESUME. HE HAS LED HILL-MURRAY TO 12 STATE TOURNAMENTS AND ACCUMULATED A 339-104-16 RECORD. HE WAS ALSO AN ASSISTANT COACH FOR THE PIONEERS WHEN THEY WON THE STATE TITLE IN 1983. LECHNER IS ALSO THE PIONEERS' BASEBALL COACH AND ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR.

COACH'S
CORNER

PROGRAM INFO

NICKNAME: PIONEERS

CONFERENCE: CLASSIC
SUBURBAN

SECTION: 4AA

2012-13 RECORD: 25-2-1

STATE TRIPS: 1975, 76, 77,
78, 79, 80, 83 CHAMPS, 84,
85, 86, 87, 88, 91 CHAMPS,
92, 93, 97, 99, 2000, 02, 06,
07, 08 CHAMPS, 09, 10, 12, 13

COACH: BILL LECHNER

ASSISTANTS: PAT
SCHAFHAUSER, TONY CIROHOME ARENA: ALDRICH ARENA,
MAPLEWOODLAST SEASON: LOST TO
BENILDE-ST. MARGARET'S IN
CLASS 2A FINAL, 5-1

TREK TO THE X

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
11/29	BURNSVILLE	2-1
12/1	@ EAGAN	3-2
12/4	LAKEVILLE SOUTH	5-0
12/8	@ BENILDE	4-2
12/13	@ SOUTH ST. PAUL	3-0
12/15	@ ST. THOMAS	1-2
12/18	@ WHITE BEAR LK	6-1
12/20	@ TARTAN	6-0
12/22	NORTH ST. PAUL	6-0
12/26	MINNETONKA	2-1
12/27	BURNSVILLE	7-2
12/28	ST. THOMAS	1-1
1/5	@ EDINA	2-1
1/8	MAHTOMEDI	8-4
1/12	@ WAYZATA	1-3
1/17	LAKEVILLE NORTH	7-0
1/19	SOUTH ST. PAUL	11-3
1/24	ST. THOMAS	3-1
1/26	TARTAN	5-1
1/31	@ NORTH ST. PAUL	8-4
2/2	RICHFIELD	12-0
2/7	@ MAHTOMEDI	6-0
2/9	HENRY SIBLEY	7-0
2/12	@ SIMLEY	10-2
2/16	@ MOORHEAD	6-4

SECTION 4AA PLAYOFFS

2/23	SP COMO PARK	12-1
2/26	STILLWATER	6-2
3/1	WHITE BEAR LK	1-0

PREDICTION

THERE MIGHT NOT BE A MORE COMPLETE TEAM COMING TO ST. PAUL. HILL-MURRAY HAS THE GOAL SCORERS, DEFENSE AND GOALTENDING TO GRAB THE SCHOOL'S FOURTH TOURNAMENT CROWN. THERE IS NO DOUBT THE PIONEERS SHOULD BE ONE OF THE HEAVY FAVORITES.



CENTENNIAL

COUGARS

CHAMPIONS OF SECTION SAA



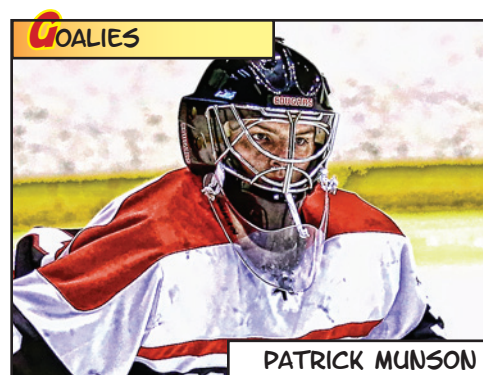
ADAM ANDERSON



HANS GOROWSKY



WILL SCHWARTZ



PATRICK MUNSON

INSIDE
SCOOP

By LOREN NELSON

RANKED
NO. 11

PROGRAM INFO

NICKNAME: COUGARS
CONFERENCE: NORTHWEST SUBURBAN
SECTION: SAA
2012-13 RECORD: 22-4-2
STATE TRIPS: 2004 CHAMPS, 13
COACH: RITCH MENNE
ASSISTANTS: GARY TOLKINEN, TED CHEESEBROUGH, CHRIS JOHNSON
HOME ARENA: CENTENNIAL SPORTS ARENA, CIRCLE PINES
LAST SEASON: LOST TO ANOKA IN SECTION SAA QUARTERFINALS, 2-1

CENTENNIAL COACH RITCH MENNE HAS A DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE COUGARS' WRECKING BALL THAT IS KENNY SINNA. BOTH COACH AND PLAYER EPITOMIZE THE GRIT AND TENACITY THAT HAVE BECOME THE COUGARS' DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS.

MENNE SPENT SIX YEARS AS THE CENTENNIAL'S JUNIOR VARSITY COACH BEFORE TAKING OVER THE PROGRAM TWO SEASONS AGO. A SELF-DESCRIBED "CENTENNIAL LIFER," MENNE PLAYED FOR THE COUGARS, GRADUATING IN 1990.

SINNA, A SENIOR WHO PLAYS ON THE COUGARS' TOP LINE, ALSO PUT IN HIS TIME ON THE JUNIOR VARSITY, INCLUDING MOST OF LAST SEASON WHEN HE MANAGED JUST THREE POINTS IN LIMITED VARSITY ACTION.

"KENNY HAS BEEN A ROCK FOR US," MENNE SAID. "THERE'S A PRIME EXAMPLE OF A KID WHO NEVER PLAYED A BANTAM HOCKEY, HE PLAYED JV FOR TWO YEARS AND HE COMES IN HIS SENIOR YEAR AND HE COMMITS TO WORKING HARD. AND HE HAS A FANTASTIC SEASON. I COULDN'T BE MORE PROUD OF HIM."

THE NO. 5-SEEDED COUGARS (22-4-2) DON'T HAVE A ROSTER FULL OF SUPERSTARS. WHO NEEDS THEM? THEY'LL PUNCH THE CLOCK, STRAP ON THEIR SKATES AND GO TO WORK AT 8 P.M. ON THURSDAY, MARCH 8, IN A QUARTERFINAL MATCHUP AGAINST NO. 4 SEED WAYZATA (21-7-0).

TEAM SNAPSHOT

FORWARDS: THE GOROWSKY BROTHERS, HANS AND RYNER, ARE JOINED BY KENNY SINNA ON A FABULOUS FIRST LINE. BUT THE COUGARS HAVE A LEGITIMATE SECOND SCORING LINE LED BY SENIOR FORWARD ANDREW BERTRAND, WHO SCORED IN A HUGE GOAL IN THE SECTION FINAL.

DEFENSE: THE COUGARS LOST FOUR OF THEIR TOP FIVE DEFENSEMEN FROM LAST SEASON BUT SEEM TO HAVE REGROUPED JUST FINE. SOPHOMORE RYAN MEANY AND SENIOR TOM HERON WERE THE STARTERS IN THE SECTION TITLE GAME, AND SENIOR WILL JUERGENS AND JUNIOR WILL SCHWARTZ ARE KEY COGS OF A GROUP THAT HELPED LIMIT OPPONENTS TO A 2.35 GOALS-AGAINST AVERAGE IN THE REGULAR SEASON.

GOALTENDING: SENIOR PATRICK MUNSON WAS ONE OF THE HOTTEST GOALTENDERS IN THE STATE EARLY IN THE SEASON AND, AFTER A ROUGH OUTING IN A 7-1 LOSS TO BLAINE ON FEB. 2, HAS ALLOWED A COMBINED SIX GOALS IN HIS LAST SIX GAMES.

STATISTICS

NO.	NAME	GR	POS	G	A	PTS
20	RYNER GOROWSKY	11	F	21	31	52
16	HANS GOROWSKY	12	F	25	24	49
5	ANDREW BERTRAND	12	F	16	17	33
11	KENNY SINNA	12	F	14	18	32
27	ADAM ANDERSON	11	F	9	21	30
2	WYATT CLOSE	11	F	9	10	19
9	JORDAN PITLICK	12	F	11	6	17
7	COLLIN HUGHES	11	F	2	9	11
12	RYAN MEANY	10	D	2	7	9
17	CONNOR LOVICK	10	F	2	7	9
28	WILL JUERGENS	12	D	1	7	8
23	WILL SCHWARTZ	11	D	0	7	7
19	TOMMY HERON	12	D	1	4	5
21	COLTON BERG	10	D	0	3	3
4	MAX CORY	11	D	0	2	2
1	BLAKE MILLER	11	G	0	1	1
6	DAVID THILL	11	F	0	1	1
33	PATRICK MUNSON	12	G	0	1	1

NO.	NAME	GR	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
33	PATRICK MUNSON	12	17-4-2	2.39	.926
1	BLAKE MILLER	11	5-0-0	1.00	.940

BY THE NUMBERS

POWER PLAY PERCENTAGE: 21.6
PENALTY KILL PERCENTAGE: 82.5
GOALS SCORED PER GAME: 4.04
GOALS ALLOWED PER GAME: 2.21

TREK TO THE X

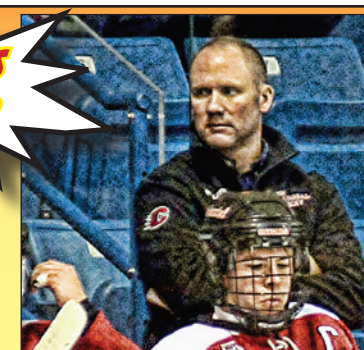
DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
11/29	@ EDINA	0-4
12/1	ANDOVER	4-3
12/6	@ CHAMPLIN PK	3-2
12/8	BLAINE	1-2
12/13	COON RAPIDS	5-2
12/15	@ MOORHEAD	5-1
12/18	DULUTH EAST	5-2
12/20	MAPLE GROVE	3-0
12/26	HOLY ANGELS	6-4
12/27	LAKEVILLE SOUTH	4-5
12/28	ANDOVER	4-1
1/3	ELK RIVER	3-2
1/5	@ OSSEO	6-1
1/10	ANOKA	5-0
1/12	@ ANDOVER	4-4
1/15	@ BLOOM JEFFERSON	4-3
1/17	@ ROBB ARMSTRONG	4-0
1/22	MOUNDS VIEW	5-2
1/24	@ MAPLE GROVE	5-4
1/26	CHAMPLIN PARK	3-3
2/2	@ BLAINE	3-8
2/7	@ ANOKA	4-1
2/9	@ ELK RIVER	3-0
2/14	ROBB ARMSTRONG	2-1
2/16	OSSEO	6-2

SECTION SAA PLAYOFFS

2/23	COON RAPIDS	4-1
2/27	MAPLE GROVE	4-1
3/1	CHAMPLIN PARK	4-2

RITCH MENNE

HERE'S A GUY WHO HAS PAID HIS DUES. MENNE PLAYED FOR THE COUGARS, GRADUATING IN 1990, AND HE SPENT MORE THAN A DECADE COACHING IN CENTENNIAL'S YOUTH HOCKEY SYSTEM BEFORE TAKING OVER THE JUNIOR VARSITY PROGRAM. MENNE IS IN HIS SECOND SEASON AS HEAD COACH AFTER FILLING THE VOID CREATED BY THE RETIREMENT OF LONGTIME COUGARS LEADER ERIK AUS. MENNE HAS A 35-14-5 OVERALL RECORD.

COACH'S
CORNER

PREDICTION

IT'S HARD TO PICK AGAINST A BLUE COLLAR OUTFIT THAT MIGHT JUST BECOME THE DARLINGS OF THE TOURNEY BECAUSE OF THEIR TENACIOUS PLAYING STYLE. THE PROBLEM FOR THE COUGARS IS THEY ARE RUNNING UP AGAINST A TEAM FUELED BY SIMILAR GRIT AND TENACITY IN WAYZATA.



WAYZATA

TROJANS



CHAMPIONS OF SECTION 6AA

MATTHEW FREYTAG AND CHAD OLSON

INSIDE
SCOOP

By LOREN NELSON

BENILDE-ST. MARGARET'S WAS SUPPOSED TO EMERGE FROM SECTION 6AA. OR MAYBE EDEN PRAIRIE. OR POSSIBLY MINNETONKA. BUT WAYZATA? THE TROJANS NOT ONLY CRASHED THE SECTION PARTY BUT THEY TOOK THE ALL THE FURNITURE HOME WITH THEM.

NO. 8-RANKED WAYZATA MADE ITS RUN TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE STATE'S TOUGH-EST SECTION APPEAR RELATIVELY EASY, FOLLOWING AN 8-2 QUARTERFINAL VICTORY OVER HOPKINS WITH WINS OVER MINNETONKA AND DEFENDING STATE CLASS 2A CHAMPION BENILDE-ST. MARGARET'S BY 5-1 AND 5-2 SCORES.

WHILE SOPHOMORE MATTHEW FREYTAG AND FRESHMAN MAX ZIMMER ARE AMONG THE TROJANS' SCORING LEADERS, THERE'S NO TELLING WHO MIGHT MAKE THE BIG HIT OR SCORE THE BIG GOAL AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT.

"YOU GET SOME TEAMS WITH 10 OR 12 SENIORS LIKE WE HAD LAST YEAR, AND YOU ALMOST EXPECT THEM TO DO EVERYTHING ALL THE TIME," WAYZATA COACH PAT O'LEARY SAID AFTER THE WINNING THE SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP. "I THINK ALL OUR GUYS STEPPED UP. DIFFERENT GUYS. YOUNG GUYS, OLD GUYS."

"I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO SCORED TONIGHT."

NO. 4 SEED WAYZATA (21-7-0) PLAYS NO. 5 SEED CENTENNIAL (22-4-2) IN AN 8 P.M. QUARTERFINAL ON THURSDAY, MARCH 7.

TEAM SNAPSHOT

FORWARDS: SOPHOMORE MATTHEW FREYTAG LED THE TROJANS IN SCORING DURING THE REGULAR SEASON. THE PRESENCE OF FELLOW VARSITY NEWCOMER MAX ZIMMER, A FRESHMAN WHO ALSO HAS A GOAL SCORER'S TOUCH, GIVES WAYZATA TWO POTENT THREATS. AND THERE'S MORE. SENIOR JALEN WAHL HAS THE HOT HAND IN THE PLAYOFFS WITH NINE POINTS IN THREE GAMES.

DEFENSE: SHOT BLOCKING IS THE TROJANS' SPECIALTY, AND THEY DO IT AS WELL AND AS OFTEN AS ANY TEAM IN THE STATE. JUNIOR ALEC HEMENWAY, SENIOR CHANDLER LINDSTRAND AND SENIOR KYLE OLSON AND ARE AMONG THE DEFENSEMEN ROUTINELY THROWING THEIR BODIES IN FRONT OF PUCKS.

GOALTENDING: SENIOR AARON DINGMANN HAS RECOVERED FROM AN INJURY PLAGUED JUNIOR SEASON IN IMPRESSIVE FASHION. THE TROJANS FEED OF HIS CONSISTENT PLAY AND CALM DEMEANOR.

STATISTICS

NO.	NAME	GR	POS	G	A	PTS
15	MATTHEW FREYTAG	10	F	22	14	36
6	MAXWELL ZIMMER	9	F	15	13	28
21	JACK SORENSEN	11	F	4	22	26
9	CHAD OLSON	11	F	5	18	23
18	JALEN WAHL	12	F	10	13	23
19	CHASE HALLER	12	F	13	7	20
5	BRIAN MACHUT	11	F	7	11	18
11	CHASE HEISING	11	F	6	11	17
7	AKASH BATRA	12	F	5	9	14
20	ALEC HEMENWAY	11	D	1	11	12
22	KYLE OLSON	12	D	4	8	12
25	CHANDLER LINDSTRAND	11	D	3	8	11
10	ALEX STEVENS	10	D	1	6	7
14	ROBERT ZITZELSPERGER	12	D	1	6	7
24	JACOB MOELK	10	D	0	3	3
4	CARTER SPINDLER	10	D	0	1	1
8	JACK FETROW	10	F	0	1	1
12	NATE DINGMANN	10	F	1	0	1

NO.	NAME	GR	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
30	AARON DINGMANN	12	17-6-0	1.81	.927
1	JENS VAUGHAN AHRENS	10	4-1-0	2.44	.877

BY THE NUMBERS

POWER PLAY PERCENTAGE: 23.3
PENALTY KILL PERCENTAGE: 88.6
GOALS SCORED PER GAME: 3.50
GOALS ALLOWED PER GAME: 2.04

PROGRAM INFO

NICKNAME: TROJANS
CONFERENCE: LAKE
SECTION: 6AA
2012-13 RECORD: 21-7-0
STATE TRIPS: 1954, 2004, 13
COACH: PAT O'LEARY
ASSISTANTS: CASE PAXTON, DUKE JOHNSON, MARC SORENSEN
HOME ARENA: PLYMOUTH ICE CENTER, PLYMOUTH
LAST SEASON: LOST TO MINNETONKA IN SECTION 6AA SEMIFINALS, 3-0

TREK TO THE X

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
11/23	MAPLE GROVE	4-1
11/24	EDINA	0-3
11/27	@ ROSEMOUNT	3-2
11/29	ANDOVER	2-1
12/1	@ ELK RIVER	2-1
12/4	EASTVIEW	3-1
12/8	DULUTH EAST	1-0
12/22	STILLWATER	4-0
12/27	BLOOM JEFFERSON	6-2
12/28	MOORHEAD	4-3
12/29	BENILDE	7-1
1/3	@ BENILDE	2-5
1/5	@ MOUND-WESTONKA	5-2
1/10	BURNSVILLE	4-3
1/12	HILL-MURRAY	3-1
1/17	HOLY FAMILY	3-1
1/19	@ EDEN PRAIRIE	4-2
1/24	MINNETONKA	1-3
1/26	EDINA	4-5
1/29	@ OSSEO	4-3
1/31	@ HOPKINS	4-1
2/7	EDEN PRAIRIE	2-4
2/9	@ MINNETONKA	2-4
2/14	@ EDINA	1-2
2/16	HOPKINS	5-1

SECTION 6AA PLAYOFFS

2/21	HOPKINS	8-2
2/23	MINNETONKA	5-1
2/27	BENILDE	5-2

FORWARDS

MATTHEW FREYTAG

DEFENSEMEN

CHANDLER LINDSTRAND

GOALIES

AARON DINGMANN

PAT O'LEARY

O'LEARY, A ROBBINSDALE ARMSTRONG GRADUATE, IS IN HIS SECOND SEASON AS WAYZATA'S HEAD COACH. HE WAS A MR. HOCKEY FINALIST IN 1998. HE WAS A SENIOR FORWARD ON THE MINNESOTA TEAM THAT WON THE NCAA DIVISION I CHAMPIONSHIP IN 2002. O'LEARY SERVED AS A TROJANS ASSISTANT BEFORE TAKING OVER FOR LONGTIME HEAD COACH CARL DAVIS.

COACH'S CORNER



PREDICTION

SECTION 6AA HAS PRODUCED THREE OF THE LAST FOUR STATE CHAMPIONS. WAYZATA IS PLAYING WELL ENOUGH, AND HAS THE CALIBER OF GOALTENDING, TO REACH THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME. IF THE TROJANS CAN CONTINUE TO GET CONSISTENT SCORING FROM THEIR FORWARDS, LOOK OUT.



DULUTH EAST

GREYHOUNDS

CHAMPIONS OF SECTION 7AA



By ZACK FRIEDLI

HERE'S A COPY OF THE DULUTH NEWS TRIBUNE THAT HANGS IN THE DULUTH EAST LOCKER ROOM, BUT IT'S NOT A FRONT-PAGE SPREAD HIGHLIGHTING ONE OF THE MANY GLORIOUS MOMENTS IN GREYHOUND HOCKEY HISTORY.

INSTEAD, IT'S A COPY OF THE SPORTS PAGE FROM THE WEDNESDAY, JAN. 9 EDITION, THE DAY AFTER THE 'HOUNDS LOST TO CROSSTOWN RIVAL DULUTH DENFELD FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NEARLY TWO DECADES.

DULUTH EAST HASN'T LOST SINCE.

THE HOUNDS (24-4-0) HAVE WON 16 GAMES IN A ROW, ARE GETTING SOLID PLAY OUT OF EVERYONE IN THEIR LINEUP AND ARE POISED AND CONFIDENT ENTERING THEIR FIFTH CLASS 2A TOURNAMENT IN A ROW.

THE NEWSPAPER WILL COME WITH THEM TO ST. PAUL TO ADD A LITTLE EXTRA MOTIVATION AND SERVE AS A REMINDER THAT DULUTH EAST NEEDS TO BRING ITS BEST EVERY NIGHT.

COACH MIKE RANDOLPH CREDITS THE RECENT SUCCESS TO A COMPLETE BUY-IN TO WHAT HE'S BEEN PREACHING -- TEAM DEFENSE.

THE HOUNDS' DEFENSE-FIRST MENTALITY HAS PAID OFF, AND NOW THEY'LL LOOK TO SHUT DOWN THE BEST TEAMS IN MINNESOTA IN HOPES OF CLAIMING THE FOURTH STATE TITLE IN DULUTH EAST HISTORY.

TEAM SNAPSHOT

FORWARDS: DULUTH EAST IS LED UP FRONT BY ITS TOP LINE OF ALEX TOSCANO, JACK FORBORT AND RYAN LUNDGREN. BETWEEN THE THREE, THE HOUNDS HAVE A NICE COMBINATION OF SIZE, STRENGTH AND SCORING, GIVING HEADACHES TO ALL OPPONENTS. THE EMERGENCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF SECOND- AND THIRD-LINERS SUCH AS WYATT IRWIN, NICK ALTMANN AND BRIAN BUNTEN HAVE GIVEN DULUTH EAST SOME MUCH WELCOMED DEPTH AT FORWARD, SOMETHING IT WILL HAVE TO UTILIZE AT THE X THIS WEEK.

DEFENSE: WHEN IT COMES TO DEFENSE, THE HOUNDS BOAST ONE OF THE MOST COMPLETE POINT PATROLS IN THE STATE. THE TOP PAIR OF MEIRS MOORE AND PHIL BEAULIEU INCLUDES TWO DEFENDERS THAT GET INVOLVED IN THE OFFENSE ON A CONSISTENT BASIS. BOTH LIKE TO SHOOT, BOTH MAKE GREAT PLAYS WITH THE PUCK AND BOTH HAVE UNBELIEVABLE POISE. THE SECOND PAIR, MADE UP OF ALEX TRAPP AND ANDREW KERR, IS MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE KNOCKING AROUND BODIES THAN THEY ARE KNOCKING AROUND THE PUCK.

GOALTENDING: THE HOUNDS WILL RIDE SENIOR DYLAN PARKER. AFTER STARTING THE YEAR SLOWLY, PARKER WAS CHALLENGED BY HIS COACHES TO STEP HIS GAME UP, AND HE HAS. SHOULD DULUTH EAST COME OUT WITH A STATE TITLE, PARKER WILL LIKELY BE THE BIGGEST REASON FOR IT.

STATISTICS

NO.	NAME	GR	POS	G	A	PTS
27	JACK FORBORT	12	F	22	39	61
23	ALEX TOSCANO	12	F	21	34	55
15	MEIRS MOORE	12	D	18	29	47
21	RYAN LUNDGREN	12	F	24	21	45
25	PHIL BEAULIEU	11	D	8	26	34
5	ALEX TRAPP	11	D	4	9	13
2	BRIAN BUNTEN	10	F	4	7	11
19	NICK ALTMANN	10	F	6	5	11
22	JACK KOLAR	11	F	4	5	9
18	WYATT IRWIN	12	F	5	3	8
37	HOGAN DAVIDSON	12	F	6	2	8
3	ANDREW KERR	12	D	1	6	7
32	BEAU HUGHES	12	D	0	6	6
12	KYLER CHARTIER	11	F	2	3	5
26	JUSTIN SMITH	12	F	1	4	5
9	JOEY MARINAC	11	D	2	2	4
10	TYLER SWORSKY	12	F	0	3	3
17	CODY PACKINGHAM	12	F	1	2	3
20	MAYSEN RUST	-	F	0	1	1
30	DYLAN PARKER	12	G	0	1	1

NO.	NAME	GR	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
30	DYLAN PARKER	12	18-4-0	1.64	.917
1	CASON SJERVEN	12	6-0-0	1.27	.938

BY THE NUMBERS

POWER PLAY PERCENTAGE: 45.1
PENALTY KILL PERCENTAGE: 90.4
GOALS SCORED PER GAME: 4.61
GOALS ALLOWED PER GAME: 1.61

PROGRAM INFO

NICKNAME: GREYHOUNDS
CONFERENCE: INDEPENDENT
SECTION: 7AA
2012-13 RECORD: 24-4-0
STATE TRIPS: 1958, 60 CHAMPS, 61, 64, 75, 91, 94, 95 CHAMPS, 96, 97, 98 CHAMPS, 2000, 03, 04, 05, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13
COACH: MIKE RANDOLPH
ASSISTANTS: DYLAN MILLS, LOUIE KRENZEN, BRENDAN BROOKS, KYLE KOLQUIST, JAKE BOESE, MIKE RENIER
HOME ARENA: HERITAGE ARENA, DULUTH
LAST SEASON: BEAT EAGAN IN CLASS 2A CONSOLATION FINAL, 4-1

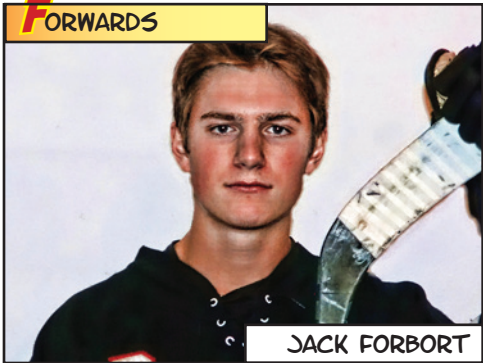
TREK TO THE X

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
11/27	CAMB-ISANTI	11-1
12/4	@ ANOKA	4-2
12/8	@ WAYZATA	0-1
12/13	CLOQUET	5-2
12/18	@ CENTENNIAL	2-5
12/22	@ ANDOVER	4-2
12/26	BRECK	0-2
12/27	EDINA	4-1
12/28	MINNETONKA	4-1
1/3	@ BLAINE	5-1
1/5	@ MOORHEAD	5-1
1/8	@ DULUTH DENFELD	4-5
1/10	GRAND RAPIDS	2-1
1/12	EDEN PRAIRIE	3-1
1/15	@ WHITE BEAR LK	4-3
1/17	APPLE VALLEY	10-1
1/19	SUPERIOR (WI)	10-3
1/23	FOREST LAKE	5-2
1/26	MAPLE GROVE	3-0
1/29	MINNETONKA	4-2
1/31	@ LAKEVILLE SOUTH	4-2
2/4	@ CLOQUET	3-2
2/7	@ LAKEVILLE NORTH	2-0
2/9	@ STMA	6-1
2/16	@ TARTAN	3-0

SECTION 8AA PLAYOFFS

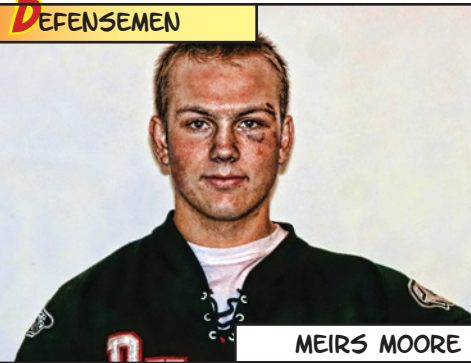
2/19	STMA	15-0
2/23	CLOQUET	3-0
2/28	GRAND RAPIDS	4-3

FORWARDS



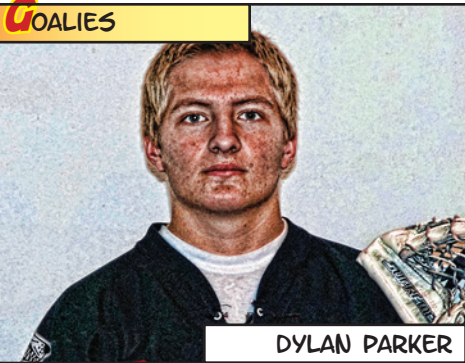
JACK FORBORT

DEFENSEMEN



MEIRS MOORE

GOALIES



DYLAN PARKER

MIKE RANDOLPH

RANDOLPH, A FORMER STAR FORWARD ON DULUTH CATHEDRAL'S POWERHOUSE TEAMS IN THE LATE 1960S AND EARLY 1970S, WON THREE CATHOLIC SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS FROM 1967-69. HE WAS THE LAST PLAYER CUT FROM THE 1976 U.S. OLYMPIC TEAM AND IS ONE OF THE WINNINGEST COACHES IN STATE HISTORY. HE SURPASSED THE 500-VICTORY PLATEAU THIS WINTER AND WON STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 1995 AND 1998. HE HAS LED DULUTH EAST TO 14 STATE TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES.



PREDICTION

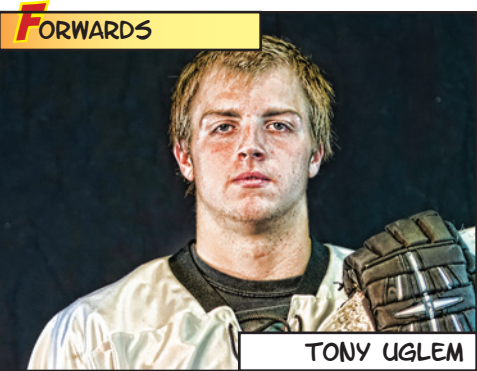
WITH TOURNAMENT EXPERIENCE IN KEY SPOTS, ONE HAS TO LIKE THE GREYHOUNDS' CHANCES. THE DEFENSIVE GAME WILL CARRY DULUTH EAST THIS YEAR, AND DYLAN PARKER WILL HAVE TO KEEP UP HIS STELLAR PLAY. IF THOSE TWO THINGS HAPPEN, THE HOUNDS HAVE AS GOOD OF A CHANCE AS ANYONE TO HOIST THE HARDWARE ON SATURDAY NIGHT.



MOORHEAD

SPUDS

CHAMPIONS OF SECTION 8AA



FORWARDS

TONY UGLEM



DEFENSEMEN

ALEX MEHNERT



GOALIES

JACOB DITTMER



By TIM KOLEHMAINEN

FOR 13 YEARS, THE PATH TO THE STATE TOURNAMENT OUT OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE STATE HAS GONE THROUGH MOORHEAD. THE SPUDS HAVE PLAYED IN THE SECTION 8AA FINAL EVERY YEAR SINCE FALLING IN THE QUARTERFINALS IN 2000. IT'S AN AMAZING STREAK THAT CONTINUED THIS YEAR DESPITE THE GRADUATION OF ALL-STATE GOALTENDER MICHAEL BITZER AND THE RETIREMENT OF LONGTIME COACH DAVE MORINVILLE.

WHEN THE SPUDS (14-11-2) MADE IT NINE STATE TOURNAMENT TRIPS IN THAT SAME TIME SPAN WITH A 2-0 SHUTOUT OF BRAINERD THIS SEASON, FIRST-YEAR COACH PETE CULLEN WAS ASKED IF IT WAS A VINDICATION OF HIS COACHING.

"I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT LIKE THAT," SAID CULLEN, WHO PLAYED ON THE 1994 AND 1995 SPUDS' TEAMS THAT FINISHED SECOND IN THE STATE ALONG WITH HIS COUSIN, MATT CULLEN, AND UNDER HIS UNCLE, COACH TERRY CULLEN. "I'M REALLY JUST PROUD OF THE GUYS. IT'S NOT ABOUT ME. I'M PROUD OF THE GUYS AND THE EFFORT THEY PUT IN."

THAT'S THE MOORHEAD WAY -- AND ONE THAT HAS LED TO SUCH A LONG STRING OF SUCCESS. NOW CULLEN HOPES TO BRING MOORHEAD TO EVEN GREATER HEIGHTS IN HIS FIRST SEASON. THE SPUDS HAVE NEVER WON THE WHOLE ENCHILADA, BUT HAVE FINISHED SECOND A RECORD SEVEN TIMES.

TEAM SNAPSHOT

FORWARDS: "WE HAVE TO PUSH THE PACE. WHEN WE'RE GOING HARD AND FAST, WE'RE PRETTY DARN GOOD," SAID CULLEN. "IT WORKS FOR US AND WHAT WORKS FOR US, WE'RE GOING TO TRY AND STICK WITH IT." THE STRENGTH OF THIS YEAR'S MOORHEAD TEAM IS UP FRONT, WHERE VETERAN FORWARDS TONY AND NICK UGLEM, THOMAS CAREY AND AARON HERDT HAVE BEEN KEY TO ITS SUCCESS. THE UGLEM TWINS ARE BOTH LONG AND LANKY WITH GREAT REACH, BUT TONY IS THE SNIPER AND NICK IS MORE OF A PLAYMAKER. CAREY HAS FIT WELL INTO BOTH ROLES. HERDT, A JUNIOR, IS A HIGH-ENERGY PLAYER WITH A WICKED SHOT.

DEFENSE: IT'S BEEN A GROWING SEASON FOR AN INEXPERIENCED GROUP OF DEFENSEMEN, BUT THEY'VE COME TOGETHER WELL. SOPHOMORES WILL BORGÉN AND ALEX MEHNERT HAVE ARGUABLY BEEN THE MOST VALUABLE AND CONSISTENT BLUE LINERS. JUNIOR JOHN O'CONNOR HAS GOOD PUCK-RUSHING ABILITY AND SENIOR ERIC BARKER IS SMALL IN STATURE BUT TOUGH.

GOALTENDING: REPLACING MICHAEL BITZER WAS GOING TO BE IMPOSSIBLE. BUT SINCE GETTING THE FULL-TIME JOB AFTER THE HOLIDAYS, SOPHOMORE JACOB DITTMER HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE IN GOAL. HE'S A TALL GOALTENDER WHO FILLS THE NET.

STATISTICS

NO.	NAME	GR	POS	G	A	PTS
10	TONY UGLEM	12	F	20	24	44
8	AARON HERDT	11	F	20	18	38
27	THOMAS CAREY	12	F	20	16	37
17	NICHOLAS UGLEM	12	F	11	17	28
19	WILL BORGÉN	10	D	3	17	20
6	ALEX MEHNERT	10	D	2	14	16
20	GRANT WEISS	11	F	6	6	12
22	JOHN O'CONNOR	11	D	5	7	12
14	LEIF JOHNSON	12	F	6	2	8
11	AUSTIN SKJEFTÉ	11	F	4	3	7
23	PATRICK O'CONNOR	9	D	4	2	6
25	ERIC BARKER	12	D	1	4	5
24	TUCKER MASSETH	12	F	1	3	4
2	NICK PAULSON	11	F	2	1	3
12	ZACH HOLDGREWE	11	F	0	2	2
15	JAYDEN MASSETH	10	F	0	2	2
3	THOMAS GREENE	10	F	0	1	1
5	CODEE BRACE	9	F	1	0	1
21	JACOB ODEGARD	10	F	1	0	1
33	JACOB DITTMER	10	G	0	1	1

NO.	NAME	GR	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
33	JACOB DITTMER	10	11-6-2	2.52	.909
30	PETER MACFARLANE	12	3-5-0	5.02	.821

BY THE NUMBERS

POWER PLAY PERCENTAGE: 21.8
PENALTY KILL PERCENTAGE: 70.2
GOALS SCORED PER GAME: 3.96
GOALS ALLOWED PER GAME: 3.48

UNRANKED

PROGRAM INFO

NICKNAME: SPUDS
CONFERENCE: MARIUCCI
SECTION: 8AA
2012-13 RECORD: 14-11-2
STATE TRIPS: 1992, 93, 94, 95, 97, 2001, 02, 03, 04, 05, 09, 11, 12, 13
COACH: PETE CULLEN
ASSISTANTS: DALE LUND, JASON GREGOIRE, JIM MACFARLANE, SEAN BERTIE
HOME ARENA: MOORHEAD SPORTS CENTER, MOORHEAD
LAST SEASON: LOST TO LAKEVILLE SOUTH IN CLASS 2A THIRD-PLACE GAME, 2-1

TREK TO THE X

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
11/27	@ ALEXANDRIA	8-4
12/1	BENILDE	1-6
12/4	@ FARGO SOUTH (ND)	11-0
12/6	BEMIDJI	5-4
12/8	BUFFALO	4-1
12/11	ROSEAU	4-3
12/15	CENTENNIAL	1-5
12/18	@ BRAINERD	4-1
12/21	@ BLAINE	0-3
12/22	@ MINNETONKA	3-3
12/27	EDEN PRAIRIE	4-2
12/28	WAYZATA	3-4
12/29	ELK RIVER	3-8
1/5	DULUTH EAST	1-5
1/10	BRAINERD	5-8
1/12	@ BRECK	4-6
1/17	E GRAND FORKS	4-3
1/19	WARROAD	6-2
1/22	@ ROSEAU	2-0
2/1	GRAND RAPIDS	3-5
2/7	@ THIEF RVR FALLS	4-7
2/9	@ BEMIDJI	4-4
2/12	@ SC TECH	4-1
2/16	HILL-MURRAY	4-6

SECTION 8AA PLAYOFFS

2/19	RIVER LAKES	8-2
2/23	BEMIDJI	5-1
2/27	BRAINERD	2-0

PETE CULLEN

CULLEN TOOK OVER THIS WINTER AFTER LONGTIME SPUDS' COACH DAVE MORINVILLE RETIRED. THE 1995 MOORHEAD GRADUATE WAS AN ASSISTANT UNDER MORINVILLE LAST SEASON AND HAS ALSO COACHED IN THE MOORHEAD YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION FOR NEARLY A DECADE. STATE TOURNAMENT FANS MIGHT REMEMBER CULLEN. HE PLAYED IN THE STATE TOURNEY WITH THE SPUDS IN 1994 AND 1995, FINISHING SECOND BOTH YEARS (TWO OF MOORHEAD'S RECORD SEVEN RUNNER-UP FINISHES). CULLEN ALSO PLAYED COLLEGIATELY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-RIVER FALLS.

COACH'S CORNER



PREDICTION

THIS ISN'T THE SAME MOORHEAD TEAM THAT RELIED HEAVILY ON GOALTENDER MICHAEL BITZER...BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT ANY LESS DANGEROUS. WHEN THE SPUDS ARE ON, THEY CAN UPSET ANYONE AND THAT INCLUDES QUARTERFINAL FOE DULUTH EAST. VETERAN FORWARDS WILL BE KEY.



