



PROGRAM INFO

Nickname: Warriors
Conference: Mariucci
Section: 8A
Record: 24-4-0
State trips: 1948, 49, 53, 63, 69, 70, 87, 88, 89, 94 Champs, 95, 96 Champs, 97, 2000, 03 Champs, 04, 05 Champs, 07, 08, 09, 10
Coach: Albert Hasbargen

STAT LEADERS

Scorers	G	A	Pts
Brock Nelson	47	38	85
Brett Hebel	26	44	70
Carson Gray	7	33	40
Nick Stoskopf	17	21	38
Joey Olson	5	20	25

Goalies	W-L-T	GA	SV
Andy Foster	8-1-0	1.95	.901

FULL ROSTER

#	Name	Pos	Gr
2	Tommy Astrup	F	10
3	Brock Nelson	F	12
4	Hayden Timm	D	10
5	Carson Gray	D	11
6	Ben Goldsmith	F	11
8	David Nelson	F	11
9	Brett Hebel	F	12
10	Tanner Pederson	D	10
11	Tyler Elson	F	10
12	Brandon Pearson	F	11
13	Nick Stoskopf	F	11
15	Adam Shaugabay	F	12
17	Conner Pfeiffer	D	10
18	Jase Lamberson	F	10
19	Austin Streiff	F	10
20	Eric Hebel	D	12
21	Aaron Storey	D	12
22	Aaron Rasmusson	F	12
23	Dylan Fowler	F	11
25	Dylan Kezar	D	10
26	Casey Anderson	F	9
31	Andy Foster	G	10
37	Joey Olson	D	12
39	Dillion Thompson	G	10

ROAD TO THE X

Section 8A Quarters, 2/25
Warroad 9, Red Lake Falls 3
 Nelson 3 goals, 2 assists

Section 8A Semis, 2/27
Warroad 9, Kittson Central 2
 Nelson 4 goals, 2 assists

Section 8A Finals, 3/4
Warroad 2, Thief River Falls 0
 Foster 25 saves

Photos / Tim Kolehmainen

WARROAD



By Tim Kolehmainen

The memory of last year's Class A state title game loss to Breck still stings up in Warroad.

The Warriors, searching for their fifth state championship, matched up with Breck in a classic showdown that typified the best of the state tournament. Public versus private. Outstate versus metro. Country versus city.

Warroad arguably controlled play for more of the game, outshooting the Mustangs 36-24. But it was Breck that carried the trophy around the X at the final horn, winning 7-3. John Russell shone in nets, stopping 33 shots and hearing chants of "MVP!" from his home crowd.

"Last year, their goaltender won the state title for them," Warroad coach Albert Hasbargen said. "I thought our scoring chances were more than theirs in that championship game, but that young man played an excellent game."

While Breck seemed an easy pick to get back to state, returning 20 letter winners, Warroad's path was much less certain. The Warriors graduated many top players, including goaltender Jason Goldsmith, leaving plenty of holes.

But the fire from that loss still burned in the remaining Warriors, including All-Staters Brock Nelson (47-38-85), Brett Hebel (26-44-70) and defenseman Carson Gray (7-33-40).

"We were pretty hungry for it,

coming off a loss last year," Hebel said. "We just want to come home with some gold."

The Warriors took the first step, edging rival Thief River Falls in the Section 8A championship game last Thursday night. But that only got them to St. Paul.

"Your next job is to win the state title and that's what we go down there for," Hasbargen said.

Warroad's path may have gotten a bit smoother in recent weeks, as well, with the emergence of sophomore goaltender Andy Foster (8-1-0, 1.95, .901).

Foster wasn't expected to see much varsity time this winter, with Shawn Storey carrying the load in his senior season. But when Storey hurt his knee in a Jan. 26 game against Crookston, Foster was thrown in the fire. All he's done since is win 10 of his 11 starts while allowing more than three goals just once. In the past four games, Foster has given up just three goals.

"He's done everything that we've asked of him," Hasbargen said.

As the Warriors know, it's important to have a hot goaltender at this time of the season. They remember peppering Russell with shot after shot last March -- to no avail.

They may just get another chance.

Breck and Warroad are sitting on the same side of the bracket, however, meaning the rematch won't come in the state finals. Should results follow seeding, they'll meet in the semifinals Friday.



B. Nelson



B. Hebel

THE WARRIORS WILL WIN THE STATE TITLE IF...



Tim Kolehmainen: Sophomore goalie Andy Foster continues to stand on his head. Last year, Warroad got beat in the finals by Breck's John Russell and his terrific game. The Warriors must turn the tables to win it all.