NEW ULM Eagles

Program Info

Nickname: Eagles
Conference: South Central
Section: 3A
Record: 17-11-0
State trips: 1992, 2010, 11, 12
Coach: Erik Setterholm

Stat Leaders

Scorers	G	A	Pts
Brody Peterson	41	27	68
Dylan Schreckenberg	19	36	55
Jeff Banal	14	39	53
Judd Davis	16	23	39
Wyatt Peterson	10	13	23
Connor Stark	3	14	17
Blake Neumann	12	5	17
Timmy Kehren	4	10	14
Troy Altmann	7	6	13
Brandon Helget	4	7	11

Goalies	W-L-T	GA	SV
Brach Kraus	10-3-0	2.07	.900
Willie Osborne	4-4-0	5.44	.855

Playoff Roster

#	Name	Pos	Gr
1	Willie Osborne	G	12
2	Timmy Kehren	D	12
3	Judd Davis	F	10
4	Connor Stark	D	12
5	Brody Peterson	F	12
6	Aaron DuChene	F	12
7	Mitch Neid	D	11
8	Drew Pfaff	F	12
9	Ian Melville	F	12
10	Jeff Banal	D	12
11	Wyatt Peterson	F	9
12	Tanner Weiss	F	12
13	Dylan Schreckenberg	F	12
14	Chad Ludewig	D	11
15	Brandon Helget	F	9
16	Blake Neumann	F	11
17	Colin Kral	F	11
18	Nathan McMullen	D	12
19	Troy Altmann	F	12
33	Brach Kraus	G	10
33	Jordan Kokesch	G	11

Can they win?

While their draw is certainly better than the previous two years in which they got eventual champions Breck and St. Thomas Academy, Thief River Falls is no quarterfinal slouch. The Eagles again must hope for fortunate bounces and a strong goaltending effort in order to pull the upset.

-- Tim Kolehmainen

By Tim Kolehmainen

Luck of the draw? Not so much. If New Ulm didn't have bad luck in the annual seeding draw at the Minnesota State High School hockey tournament, they'd have no luck at all.

In each of the previous two years, the Eagles were tabbed as the quarterfinal opponent of a pair of eventual champions, Breck in 2009 and St. Thomas Academy last winter. Both powerhouses rumbled to victories by double-digit goal differentials, sending New Ulm into the consolation bracket in humbling fashion.

No amount of lucky pennies, rabbits' feet or four-leaf clovers could have helped the Eagles.

With a third consecutive Section 3A title in hand this season, New Ulm (17-11-0) probably expected another No. 1 seed to pull its name on seeding Sunday. Instead, the Eagles waited until fourth-seeded Thief River Falls drew them for the final quarterfinal game at 8 p.m., Wednesday, March 7 at the Xcel Energy Center.

Luck was finally on the Eagles' side. At least on paper.

"It's easy to sit back and if we'd gotten Hermantown to say, 'Oh boy, three years in a row with the top seed,'" Eagles' coach Erik Setterholm said. "But I told my guys at practice (Monday) that (seeds) one through four have all been top teams all season. There's not a slouch in any one of them.

"If we don't play the way we want to, it can get out of hand in a hurry."

That's been the story of New Ulm's state tournament experience. In three prior appearances (1992, 2009 and 2010), the Eagles are 0-for-6. The previous two seasons have started with record-setting losses. But that doesn't deter Setterholm and a half dozen current Eagles who were part of both teams.

"We need to do what we're good at and what got us to this point," Setterholm said. "It doesn't matter who you play, your game plan has to stay the same. The last couple of years, we've gotten away from that."

Expect the Eagles to tighten up play in their own zone, clearing the puck when possible and not coughing it up with bad passes. There has been a renewed emphasis on each point with the graduation of goaltender Blake Burgau, the anchor of the previous two state teams. Setterholm admitted he didn't know how his team would react to the loss of their leader between the pipes.

He rotated three goaltenders throughout the season, looking for one to grab the job. In the past two weeks, sophomore Brach Kraus (10-3-0, 2.07, .900) has done just that. He capped an excellent section tournament with 18 saves in a 2-1 victory over high-powered Luverne.

"He was pretty nervous (earlier in the season)," Setterholm said. "He'd watched a lot of our previous state games from the stands and always looked up to Blake as a mentor and role model. It was pretty big news for him to win that job."

While Kraus is new to the state tournament experience, several other key Eagles are veterans of the X, such as defensemen Jeff Banal (14-39-53), Connor Stark (3-14-17) and Tim Kehren (4-10-14). Up front, tourney veteran Brody Peterson (41-27-68) anchors a potent first line with Dylan Schreckenberg (19-36-55) and Judd Davis (16-23-39). Peterson is one of the state's top goal-scorers and made an impression on teams such as Chanhassen and Rochester Lourdes, against whom he scored four goals each.

"When we went through a stretch of our season, our first line – Brody, really -- was the only ones putting the puck in the net," Setterholm confessed. "But down the stretch, we've gotten a lot of production out of our second and third lines. It's easy for teams to stop one guy and one line. But when you get the second line to put the puck in the net, that's your bre and butter."

Of course, a little luck never hu either.

Jeff Banal

Road to the X

Date	Opponent	Score
Dec. 1	at Holy Family	5-11 L
Dec. 3	Minnehaha Acad	4-5 L
Dec. 6	at Fairmont	14-2 W
Dec. 8	Marshall	3-4 L
Dec. 10	Northfield	2-1 W
Dec. 13	at Hutchinson	3-0 W
Dec. 15	Waseca	4-2 W
Dec. 17	at Delano	2-8 L
Dec. 20	LeSueur-H/StP	2-1 W
Dec. 22	at Mnd-Westonka	2-6 L
Dec. 28	STMA (Kiwanis)	5-7 L
Dec. 29	Dodge Cty (Kiwanis)	8-2 W
Dec. 30	Northfield (Kiwanis)	2-5 L
Jan. 3	Dodge County	9-2 W
Jan. 5	Litchfield/D-C	7-2 W
Jan. 12	at Roch Lourdes	4-8 L
Jan. 14	at Chanhassen	4-5 L
Jan. 17	Fairmont	13-1 W
Jan. 19	Orono	2-4 L
Jan. 27	Chaska	6-2 W
Jan. 30	Prior Lake	1-9 L
Jan. 31	at LeSueur-H/StP	3-2 W
Feb. 2	at Marshall	6-3 W
Feb. 4	at Litchfield/D-C	4-1 W
Feb. 16	at Waseca	8-1 W
Section 3A playoffs		
Feb. 23	Worthington	11-1 W
Feb. 25	Hutchinson	4-3 W
Mar. 2	Luverne	2-1 W

Coach's Corner

Erik Setterholm has guided the Eagles to three straight state tournaments after an 18-year drought -- and also played on the Eagles' first state team in 1992. New Ulm has the longest streak of conference titles in the state, winning the South Central every year since 2001-02. Prior to that, the Eagles claimed the Central Minnesota Conference crown from 1999-2002.