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State Girls' Basketball Tournament

All four 2012 champions return to defend titles;

Richfield, Hopkins earn top seeds; three teams making first appearances

All four teams return to defend their 2012 titles: Maranatha Christian Academy of Brooklyn Park in Class A, Providence Academy of Plymouth in Class AA, DeLaSalle of Minneapolis in Class AAA, and Hopkins in Class AAAA.

Coaches of the Class AAA and Class AAAA teams voted and seeded the top five teams of each class, choosing Richfield as the top seed in Class AAA and Hopkins as the top seed in Class AAAA.

Three teams are making first appearances: Upsala, Pine Island, and BOLD of Olivia.

This is the 17th year of the four-class format and the 10th year with all games being played in Minneapolis. This is also the seventh year that the Class AAA and Class AAAA tournaments were seeded by the participating coaches.

The 2013 State Girls' Basketball Tournament starts Wednesday, March 13, with quarterfinal games being played at Target Center and Williams Arena in Minneapolis, as well as on Thursday, March 14 at Williams Arena only. Semifinals start at Target Center on Thursday, March 14, and conclude on Friday, March 15. The championship games of all four classes will be played at Target Center on Saturday March 16. Third-place games will be played on Saturday at Concordia University in St. Paul.

Detailed statistics provided by qualified teams are available on the League's Web site — www.MSHSL.org — as a Media Guide link under Tournaments, then Winter, then Girls' Basketball.

Class A Preview

(Section 5) **Upsala** (26-4) vs. (Section 1) **Bethlehem Academy**, Faribault (24-4): Upsala is making its debut appearance in the state tournament. The Cardinals finished the season ranked No. 9 in the final *Minnesota Basketball News (MBN)* poll. Senior Aimee Pelzer leads the team in scoring with 22.4 points per game. Senior Tracy Herzog averages a double-double with 16.6 points and 10.4 rebounds per game. The No. 3-ranked Cardinals of Bethlehem Academy by *MBN* are led by junior Jessie Mathews who averages 18.5 points, 7.1 rebounds and 5.9 assists per game. Bethlehem Academy is making its second appearance, its first since 1998.

(Section 7) **Mountain Iron-Buhl** (28-2) vs. (Section 3) **Minneota** (27-2): Mountain Iron-Buhl finished the season ranked No. 1 in the final *MBN* poll. The Rangers are making their third consecutive and fourth overall appearance, with a runner-up finish in 2012. Mountain Iron previously competed in the tournament in 1978; Buhl in 1977. Eighth-grader Chelsea Mason leads the team with 460 total points on the season. Junior Allie Knuti pulled down 240 total rebounds. The Vikings of Minneota are also making their third consecutive and fourth overall tournament appearance. Sophomore Taylor Reiss is Minneota's top scorer and rebounder, averaging 21.8 points and 8.7 boards per game. The team averages 48 percent field goal shooting. Minneota was ranked No. 4 in the final *MBN* poll.

(Section 4) **Maranatha Christian Academy**, Brooklyn Park (26-4) vs. (Section 6) **Ada-Borup** (26-3): The Maranatha Mustangs are the two-time defending champions. This is their fourth consecutive and overall tournament appearance. The team finished the season ranked No. 2 in the final *MBN* poll. Junior Madison Lee leads the team in scoring with 14.2 points per game. Senior Onye Osemenam averages 11.3 points and 8.8 rebounds per game. Ada-Borup is making its sixth overall and second consecutive appearance, taking third place in 2012. The Cougars won back-to-back championships in 2008 and 2009. Ada-Borup finished the season ranked No. 8 in the final *MBN* poll. Senior Megan

Kolness is the team's top scorer, averaging 16.7 points per game. Sophomore Haley Poehler contributes 6.0 rebounds per game.

(Section 2) **Mankato Loyola** (26-3) vs. (Section 8) **Win-E-Mac, Erskine** (26-2): The unranked Crusaders of Mankato Loyola are making their second tournament appearance and first since 1981. The team's balanced offense is driven by junior Aunikah Bastian (10.6 points per game) and eighth-grader Lindsey Theuninck (9.3 points per game). Junior Annie Nawrocki is the leading rebounder for Loyola averaging 8.2 boards per game. Win-E-Mac closed the season ranked No. 10 in the final *MBN* poll. The Patriots are making their second appearance and first since 1989. Junior Shelby Kaster averages a double-double on the season with 14.3 points and 10.7 rebounds per game. Freshman Madison McKeever is the team's top scorer with an average of 17.8 points per game.

Class A Quarterfinal Schedule — Thursday, March 14

11:00 a.m. — Upsala vs. Bethlehem Academy at Williams Arena, U of M

1:00 p.m. — Mountain Iron-Buhl vs. Minneota at Williams Arena, U of M

3:00 p.m. — Maranatha Christian Academy vs. Ada-Borup at Williams Arena, U of M

5:00 p.m. — Mankato Loyola vs. Win-E-Mac at Williams Arena, U of M

Class AA Preview

(Section 5) **Providence Academy**, Plymouth (24-4) vs. (Section 1) **Pine Island** (26-5): Top-ranked Providence Academy returns to defend its 2012 title. This is the third consecutive and overall appearance for the Lions. All three of Providence Academy's seniors will play college basketball next year. Taylor Finley will play for Harvard, Leah Szabla will compete for the University of North Dakota, and Nathalie Ratliff will play at Colorado Christian. Providence Academy did not provide individual statistics. The unranked Panthers of Pine Island are making their first tournament appearance. Senior Cede Finstuen paces her squad with 12.9 points and 5.2 rebounds per game, and junior Nicole Fokken adds 11.7 points and 5.6 rebounds per game.

(Section 7) **Braham** (30-0) vs. (Section 3) **BOLD**, Olivia (26-3): The Braham Bombers return to make their fifth consecutive and sixth overall appearance. They lost in the quarterfinals last year and were ranked No. 3 in this year's final *MBN* poll. If they win it would be their second title; they won previously in 2011. Senior Rebekah Dahlman is within 50 points of 5,000 career points and she will play basketball at Vanderbilt University next year. She averages 35.5 points and 9.9 rebounds per game. Kayla Nickles, a junior, averages 18.4 points for Braham and ninth-grader Jaclyn Hollenkamp pulls down an average of 7.8 rebounds per game. The unranked Warriors of BOLD are making their first state tournament appearance. Junior Carly Sigurdson is the top scorer for the Warriors with 21.4 points per game. Senior Maggie Nagel adds 9.7 points per game and also leads BOLD with 6.9 rebounds per game. Nagel will play for Hamline University next year, and senior Taylor Ebnet will play for Gustavus Adolphus College.

(Section 4) **Minneapolis Washburn** (22-7) vs. (Section 6) **Sauk Centre** (27-2): The Millers of Minneapolis Washburn are making their fifth appearance, but first since 1984. They were not ranked in the final *MBN* poll. This season Washburn defeated its opponents by an average of 15.9 points per game. The team's 20+ wins this season is their first in more than 28 years. Head coach Tylor Coley's junior daughter, Chase, leads the teams with 20 points per game, 17.4 rebounds per game, 5.6 assists per game, 5.2 steals per game and 8.7 blocks per game. The Mainstreeters of Sauk Centre, who were No. 6 in the final *MBN* poll, are making their fourth consecutive and overall appearance. They are looking to improve on last year's runner-up showing. Senior Macy Weller averages 14.5 points and 6.5 rebounds per game this season. Senior Elizabeth Ellens adds an average of 10.1 points per game.

(Section 2) **New Richland-H-E-G** (29-1) vs. (Section 8) **Pelican Rapids** (21-7): The No. 2-ranked Panthers of New Richland-H-E-G are making their second consecutive and third overall appearance. They placed third in 2012. Junior Charlie Wagner leads the Panthers with 32.7 points per game and is the school's all-time leading scorer with 2,682 points. Junior Jade Schultz adds 12.5 points per game and is the team's top rebounder with 9.2 per game. As a team, the Panthers pull down twice as many rebounds as their opponents. Pelican Rapids, which was not ranked in the final *MBN* poll, is

making its second appearance. The Vikings made their one previous appearance in 2001. Ninth-grader Mackenzie Korf leads Pelican Rapids with 16.9 points per game. Mackenzie's older sister, senior Madison, has 450+ career assists and averages 2.6 per game. Madison also adds 10.4 points per game. Senior Alyssa Huseby corrals 7.2 rebounds per game for Pelican Rapids.

Class AA Quarterfinals Schedule — Wednesday, March 13

6:00 p.m. — Providence Academy vs. Pine Island at Target Center

8:00 p.m. — Braham vs. BOLD at Target Center

6:00 p.m. — Minneapolis Washburn vs. Sauk Centre at Williams Arena, U of M

8:00 p.m. — New Richland-H-E-G vs. Pelican Rapids at Williams Arena, U of M

Class AAA Preview

(Section 4) **Hill-Murray School**, Maplewood (19-10) vs. (No. 1 Seed-Section 6) **Richfield** (26-3): Hill-Murray is making its fourth consecutive and 13th overall tournament appearance. Sophomore Olivia Graskewicz leads the team in scoring, averaging 13.1 points per game. Senior Kaitlin Lager, who will play for Winona State University next year, adds 11.6 points and 8.2 rebounds per game. The Pioneers were unranked in the final *MBN* poll. No. 2-ranked and No. 1-seeded Richfield is making its second consecutive and overall tournament appearance. Richfield was Class AAA runner-up in 2012. Senior Jessica January leads the Spartans' offense with 20.8 points and 6.4 assists per game. She will play at DePaul University next year. Senior Sierra Ford-Washington adds 13.4 points per game and sophomore Kyla Adams averages 12.2 points and 5.6 rebounds.

(No. 5 Seed-Section 1) **Red Wing** (21-7) vs. (No. 4 Seed-Section 2) **New Prague** (22-6): Red Wing returns for its fifth overall and third consecutive state tournament appearance. The Wingers were ranked No. 10 in the final *MBN* poll and are seeded No. 5 this year. Senior Tesha Buck leads the team in scoring and rebounding with an average of 23.4 points and 9.1 rebounds per game. She will play basketball at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay next year. Senior Macy Kelly contributes 14.7 points per game. No. 6-ranked New Prague returns to the tournament for the first time since 2010, seeded No. 4 this year. The Trojans have made eight appearances and won the championship in 2000. Senior Annie Dittberner is New Prague's leading scorer, averaging 15.6 points per game. Sophomore Lexi Ruehling adds 13.4 points and 7.1 rebounds per game.

(Section 7) **Chisago Lakes Area**, Lindstrom (22-7) vs. (No. 2 Seed-Section 3) **DeLaSalle**, Minneapolis (25-4): Chisago Lakes Area is making its second consecutive and overall appearance in the state tournament. The Wildcats were unranked in the final *MBN* poll. Junior Bryanna Fernstrom averages a double-double with 20.1 points and 10.5 rebounds per game. Sophomore Sarah Greene adds 12.4 points per game. The Islanders of DeLaSalle are the two-time defending Class AAA champions making their fourth consecutive and seventh overall tournament appearance. Ranked No. 3 in the final *MBN* poll, DeLaSalle is seeded No. 2 this year. The team did not provide individual statistics.

(Section 5) **Monticello** (24-5) vs. (No. 3 Seed-Section 8) **Fergus Falls** (29-0): Unranked Monticello is making its second consecutive and overall tournament appearance. Junior guard Grace Sawatzke leads Monticello with 15.8 points per game, as well as dishing out a team-high 96 assists this season, and fellow junior guard Gabby Laimer adds 11.4 points per game. The undefeated Otters of Fergus Falls, ranked No. 1 in the final *MBN* poll and seeded No. 3 this year, look to improve on their third-place finish in 2012. It is the team's second consecutive and third overall appearance. A trio of players averages double-figure scoring: junior Bailey Strand (19.4 points per game), sophomore Kathryn Sawtell (14.9), and junior Brianna Rasmusson (14.4). Rasmusson also adds 6.9 assists per game. As a team, the Otters shoot 46.7 percent from the field.

The Class AAA Quarterfinal Schedule — Wednesday, March 13

10:00 a.m. — Hill-Murray vs. Richfield at Williams Arena, U of M

Noon — Red Wing vs. New Prague at Williams Arena, U of M

2:00 p.m. — Chisago Lakes Area vs. DeLaSalle at Williams Arena, U of M

4:00 p.m. — Monticello vs. Fergus Falls at Williams Arena, U of M

Class AAAA Preview

(Section 8) **St. Michael-Albertville** (24-5) **vs.** (No. 1 Seed-Section 6) **Hopkins** (28-1): The Knights of St. Michael-Albertville are making their second consecutive and sixth overall appearance. They were not ranked in the final *MBN* poll and are in the hunt for their third championship. They won previously in 2001 and 2009. Last year the Knights lost in the quarterfinals. Senior Natalie Van Wyhe, who will play at Minnesota State University-Moorhead next year, leads the team with 10.8 points per game. Van Wyhe is also 29 points away from 1,000 career points. Junior Erin Autio grabs 5.5 rebounds and scores 10.0 points per game for the Knights. The two-time defending champions from Hopkins return for their third consecutive and eighth overall appearance. The Royals enter ranked No. 1 in the final *MBN* poll and also earned the No. 1 seed. In addition to the past two years, they also won titles in 2004 and 2006. The Hopkins' defense forces opponents into 28.0 turnovers per game and the Royals also average 17.0 steals per game. Senior Nia Coffey leads the Royals in both points (17.9) and rebounds (8.9) per game. Coffey, who will attend Northwestern University on a basketball scholarship next year, also is the second-leading scorer in school history with 1,422 points. Senior Erin O'Toole adds 10.3 points per game for Hopkins and will attend the University of North Dakota on a basketball scholarship. Mikaala Shackelford, another senior, will play basketball for the University of Illinois next year.

(No. 5 Seed-Section 4) **St. Paul Central** (26-4) **vs.** (No. 4 Seed-Section 5) **Osseo** (21-8): The Minutemen of St. Paul Central return to tournament action after a four-year absence. They are making their 10th appearance and they won previous championships in 1976, 1979, 2007 and 2008. They come into this tournament as the No. 5 seed and they were ranked No. 6 in the final *MBN* poll. Senior Sade Chatman, who will play for the University of Alabama at Birmingham next year, leads the Minutemen with 14.8 points per game. She also averages 69 percent from behind the arc. Senior Betsy MacDonald adds 12.0 points per game and will play at St. Cloud State University next year. Rayna Sherow, a junior, leads St. Paul Central with 8.6 rebounds per game. The unranked Osseo Orioles return for their second consecutive and 14th overall appearance. They won previous titles in 1989 and 2000 and placed second last year. Seniors Janay Morton and Phillis Webb average 19.2 and 16.7 points per game, respectively, for the Orioles. Webb also leads the team with 7.1 rebounds per game. Morton and Webb will both attend Eastern Michigan University on basketball scholarships next year.

(Section 7) **Anoka** (20-9) **vs.** (No. 2 Seed-Section 2) **Bloomington Kennedy** (26-3): The Anoka Tornados are making their second tournament appearance, but first since 2011. The team enters tournament play unranked in the final *MBN* poll. Anoka provided neither team nor individual statistics. The Bloomington Kennedy Eagles are making their third tournament appearance, but first since 2006. They are looking for their second title, having won previously in 2005. The No. 2-seeded Eagles enter the tournament ranked No. 3 in the final *MBN* poll. Senior forward Jade Martin leads Bloomington Kennedy with 14.5 points per game and 7 rebounds per game. She will play for Georgetown next year.

(Section 1) **Rochester Mayo** (21-7) **vs.** (No. 3 Seed-Section 3) **Eastview**, Apple Valley (27-2): The Spartans of Rochester Mayo return for their 10th appearance, but first since 2011. They were not ranked in this year's final *MBN* poll, but won previous titles in 1995 and 1997. Senior Rachael Doll had 21 double-doubles this season and scores a team-high 17.8 points per game. She also grabs 9.7 rebounds per game. Katrina Ruedinger, another senior, adds 9.8 points per game. Eastview returns for its second consecutive and sixth overall appearance. The Lightning are seeded No. 3 this year and were ranked No. 2 in the final *MBN* poll. They are looking to improve on last year's fourth-place showing. Sophomore Madison Guebert averages 20.6 points per game, and sophomore Hana Metoxen averages 5.6 rebounds per game. Senior Tyra Johnson adds an average of 16.7 points per game.

The Class AAAA Quarterfinal Schedule — Wednesday, March 13

10:00 a.m. — St. Michael-Albertville vs. Hopkins at Target Center

Noon — St. Paul Central vs. Osseo at Target Center

2:00 p.m. — Anoka vs. Bloomington Kennedy at Target Center

4:00 p.m. — Rochester Mayo vs. Eastview at Target Center

Television and Webcast Coverage

All semifinal and championship games will be televised live by KSTC-TV, Channel 45 and also streamed live and free on the Web at Prep45.com. Live statistics of all games will also be displayed on the League website (www.MSHSL.org).

Ticket Information

Tickets will be available at Target Center and Williams Arena. Quarterfinal tickets cost \$14.00 for adults and \$9.00 for students. Quarterfinal wristbands, which are good at both venues on Wednesday only, are \$19.00 for adults and \$12.00 for students. Semifinal and championship tickets will be available at Target Center and cost \$14.00 for adults and \$9.00 for students per session. Third-place tickets will be available at Concordia University and cost \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for students.

A visit to any participating Wells Fargo metro location can yield you a \$2 discount coupon for students 13 and younger. The discount coupons are also available for the Boys' Basketball Tournament.

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Individual and team statistics provided by the schools are posted on the League's Web site. Tournament results will also be posted on the Web site. The League's Web site address is www.MSHSL.org.