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CONTACT: Craig Perry or Tim Leighton / MSHSL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Girls' Tennis Tournament

BROOKLYN CENTER, Minn. – The State Girls' Tennis Tournament is scheduled for October 23-26. Here is a look at the tournament:

FAST FACTS

The schedule:

Class A: Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center in Minneapolis. Team competition will take place on October 23 and 24 followed by the individual tournament on October 25 and 26. Team quarterfinal pairings are: St. James, which includes students from Butterfield-Odin and Mountain Lake Christian vs. East Grand Forks (8 a.m.); Litchfield vs. Osakis (10 a.m.); Rochester Lourdes vs. Jordan (Noon); The Blake School of Minneapolis vs. Virginia (2 p.m.).

Class AA: Baseline Tennis Center in Minneapolis. Team competition will take place on October 23 and 24 followed by the individual tournament on October 25 and 26. Team quarterfinal pairings are: No. 1 Seed - Edina vs. Wayzata (8 a.m.); No. 4. Seed – Mounds View vs. No. 5 Seed – Eagan (10 a.m.); No. 2 Seed – Minnetonka vs. Elk River, which includes students from Zimmerman (Noon); No. 3 Seed – Rochester Mayo vs. St. Cloud Tech (2 p.m.).

Tickets: Free admission

Official ball: Wilson (US Open Extra Duty)

Brackets and Results: Posted on the League's website at www.mshsl.org.

Social media: Follow the tournament on the League's Facebook page and on Twitter at @MSHSL and @MSHSLJohn.

TEAM PREVIEW

Class A – The Blake School returns in search of a fourth consecutive championship. If the Bears win, it would be their 12th title overall. The Blake School was also the top-ranked team in the final coaches' poll of the season. Four other teams return from the 2017 field: Rochester Lourdes, third; Osakis, fourth; Litchfield, fifth; and Virginia, sixth. The Class A team tournament is not seeded.

Class AA – The Edina Hornets, who were ranked No. 1 in the final coaches' poll, return to defend their 2017 title. The Hornets are looking for their 33rd championship. Edina East also won three team titles. Six other teams return from last year's field: St. Cloud Tech, runner-up; Wayzata, fourth; Elk River, fifth; and Eagan, sixth. Rochester Mayo and Minnetonka both bowed out in the consolation semifinals.

This is the seventh year that the Class AA team tournament has been seeded. The top five seeds this year, in order, are: Edina, Minnetonka, Rochester Mayo, Mounds View, and Eagan.

INDIVIDUAL PREVIEW

Class A – Junior Arlina Shen of The Blake School, who has placed second for the past three years, is this year's top seed. She will face tough competition junior Katie Mulvey of Trinity School at River Ridge of Eagan, the No. 2 seed. Mulvey placed third last year. Junior Danielle Thorfinnson of Minnewaska Area of Glenwood, sophomore Ally Agerland of Holy Family Catholic of Victoria, and sophomore Elise Bierbaum of Litchfield are seeded No. 3, No. 4, and No. 5 this year, respectively. Thorfinnson lost in the championship quarterfinals in 2017 and Agerland placed fourth. Bierbaum went home with the consolation hardware.

Junior Natalie Allison and sophomore Clare Palen of Rochester Lourdes return to defend their doubles crown. They are the top-seeded team this year. Senior Audrey Delich of Eveleth-Gilbert, who placed second with Madilyn Jankila last year, will compete with eighth-grader Lydia Delich this year. Lydia Delich fell in the

consolation quarterfinals of the single tournament in 2017. Delich and Delich are seeded No. 4 this year. Senior Shanna Kinney and sophomore Avery Stilwell placed third in 2017 and are seeded No. 2 this season.

The remaining seeded teams are: sophomore Sonia Baig and ninth-grader Bella Suk of The Blake School (No. 3); and junior Greta Reichmann and ninth-grader Alissa Thorfinnson of Minnewaska Area (No. 5). Thorfinnson lost in the 2017 consolation quarterfinals with Hannah Orlovski.

Class AA – Sophomore Nicole Copeland of Edina returns to defend her singles title. She is the top seed for a second consecutive year. Sophomore Aili Hietala of Duluth East is seeded No. 2 this year. Shen claimed third-place honors in 2017.

The remaining three seeds are senior Andrea Jansson of Edina (No. 3); ninth-grader Annika Elvestrom of Minnetonka (No. 4); and senior Kelsey Dorr of Princeton (No. 5). Dorr and Jansson are making the move from singles to doubles this year. Dorr placed second with Reilee Schepper last year and Jansson earned consolation honors with Margaux Boyer. Elvestrom fell in the consolation quarterfinals of the singles tournament in 2017.

Charlotte Bowles of Prior Lake returns to defend her title in the doubles competition. Bowles won with Taylor Jackson in 2017 and will partner with junior Nic Keller this year. Bowles and Keller are also the top-seeded duo this year. Ninth-grader Julia Baber and eighth-grader Paige Sargent of Rochester Century, who are seeded No. 3, are looking to improve on last year's sixth-place showing.

The remaining seeded teams are: seniors Maddie Suk and Rachel Kelly of Hopkins (No. 2); seniors Emily Norman and Amalin Sorajja of Rochester Mayo (No. 4); and senior Taylor Trondson and junior Paige Trondson of Mounds View (No. 5). Norman and Sorajja fell in the consolation quarterfinals in 2017.

2017 STATE TOURNAMENT RECAP

Class A – The Blake School claimed its third consecutive and 11th overall state championship after defeating Holy Family Catholic 7-0 in the title match. On their way to the championship, the Bears defeated Litchfield 7-0 in the quarterfinals. In the semifinals, The Blake School beat Rochester Lourdes 7-0. The Eagles of Rochester Lourdes bounced back to win third-place honors after posting a 6-1 victory over Osakis. Litchfield defeated Virginia 6-1 in the consolation final.

Top-seeded Lainey Axell of The Blake School defeated teammate Arlina Shen, the No. 2 seed, to earn the singles crown. The final score was 6-1, 6-2. The runner-up showing was the third consecutive for Shen. Clare Palen and Natalie Allison of Rochester Lourdes took top honors in the doubles event. They defeated Audrey Delich and Madilyn Jankila of Eveleth-Gilbert 6-3, 7-5.

Class AA – The Edina Hornets won their 32nd title after posting a 7-0 victory over St. Cloud Tech. The Hornets started their run with a 6-1 win over Eagan in the quarterfinals. In the semifinals, Edina defeated Wayzata 7-0. Mahtomedi beat Wayzata 4-3 for third-place honors and Elk River claimed the consolation hardware with a 4-3 win over Eagan.

In the singles tournament, top-seeded Nicole Copeland of Edina defeated No. 3-seeded Meagan Brown of Elk River 6-3, 6-3 in the title match. Charlotte Bowles and Taylor Jackson of Prior Lake earned the doubles title after notching a 6-2, 6-2 championship win over Kelsey Dorr and Reilee Schepper of Princeton. It was the second consecutive doubles victory for Jackson; she won with Savanna Crowell in 2016.