

***The Blake School wins fourth Class A title in a row;
Edina repeats as Class AA champions
Two new individual champions crowned;
Rochester Lourdes Palen and Allison Duo and Edina's Copeland defend titles***

Class A

The Blake Bears earned their fourth consecutive Class A championship title with a 7-0 victory over the Litchfield Dragons, last year's consolation champions, in the title match at the Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center in South Minneapolis. It is the second time in Blake girls' tennis history their school has won four consecutive titles. The other time came during a run of four consecutive Class A championships won from 1990-93. It is the Bears' 12th Class A championship since 1984.

The Bears had singles victories from junior Arlina Shen (No. 1), sophomore Sonia Baig (No. 2), ninth-grader Bella Suk (No. 3) and eighth-grader Allison Jay (No. 4). Doubles victories were secured by juniors Emily Melin and Caroline Cameron (No. 1), juniors Anna Secor and Natalie Anderson (No. 2) and senior Eesha Nagwani and seventh-grader Nana Vang (No. 3).

The Bears advanced to the championship match for the fourth consecutive season after defeating Rochester Lourdes, 7-0, in the semifinal round and Virginia, 6-1, in the first round of the tournament. Litchfield improved upon last year's fifth place finish defeating Osakis, 7-0, in the first round and St. James, 6-1, in the first semifinal match of the day. Rochester Lourdes rebounded for a 5-2 victory against St. James to earn back-to-back third-place honors. Virginia posted a 4-3 victory over Osakis in the Consolation Championship.

In the individual competition that concluded Oct. 26, Blake junior Arlina Shen, last year's runner-up, won the Class A singles championship by defeating Trinity School at River Ridge's senior Katie Mulvey, 6-0, 6-4. The victory was a rematch of last year's semifinal match that Shen also won in straight sets.

The four games Shen gave up in the championship match were the only games she lost throughout the entire individual tournament. Shen advanced to the championship match with 6-0, 6-0 victories over Ryann Witter, of Rochester Lourdes; Natalie Kinkel, of Park Rapids; and Elise Bierbaum, of Litchfield, respectively.

It is the 10th overall and fourth consecutive Class A individual championship for the Blake School.

Blake eighth-grader Allison Jay entered the tournament unseeded, and defeated fifth-seeded Litchfield sophomore Elise Bierbaum, 7-5, 6-1 to earn third-place honors. Jay started the tournament upsetting No. 3 seed Minnewaska Area junior Danielle Thorfinnson, 7-5, 6-2. Jay

defeated St. James senior Renata Hernandez, 6-3, 6-2 before falling to No. 2 seed Trinity School junior Katie Mulvey in straight sets.

No. 3 seed junior Danielle Thorfinnson of Minnewaska Area in Glenwood won the consolation championship, defeating No. 4 seed Holy Family Catholic sophomore Ally Agerland, 6-3, 7-5. After losing the first round to Jay, Thorfinnson rallied back defeating Annandale sophomore Jennah Groth, 6-0, 6-4 and Pine City sophomore Lydia Adams, 6-1, 6-1 on her way to the Consolation Championship match.

In another semifinal rematch from last year, the Rochester Lourdes duo of junior Clare Palen and senior Natalie Allison earned their second consecutive doubles title with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Litchfield senior Shanna Kinney and sophomore Avery Stilwell. Palen and Allison advanced to the championship match with a 6-1, 6-0 victory over Eveleth-Gilbert senior Audrey Delich and eighth-grader Lydia Delich.

In the third-place doubles match, sophomore No. 3 seed Sonia Baug and ninth-grader Bella Suk defeated No. 4 seed Eveleth-Gilbert senior Audrey Delich and eighth-grader Lydia Delich, 6-3, 6-4. Baug and Suk defeated pairs from Lake City (6-1, 6-2) and Virginia (6-1, 6-2) before falling to Kinny and Stillwell, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) in the lower-bracket semifinal.

Blake School's junior Emily Melin and Caroline Cameron won the consolation doubles championship, defeating Lake City duo of senior Ashley Thieren and junior Ava Wallerich, 6-3, 7-5. Melin and Cameron fell in the first round to the eventual doubles champions Palen and Allison, 6-4, 6-3. They rallied back beating doubles teams from LeSueur-Henderson (6-3, 6-0) and Litchfield (6-4, 6-7 (1-7), 10-5) before meeting Thieren and Wallerich.

Class AA

For the second straight year the top-seeded Edina Hornets won the Class AA championship during the 2018 State Girls' Tennis Tournament. The Hornets defeated second-seeded Minnetonka, 7-0, at Baseline Tennis Center on the campus of the University of Minnesota on Wednesday evening. With the title, the Hornets earned their 33rd championship in their school's history, with Edina East also winning three titles in the late 1970s.

To get to the finals, Edina first defeated Wayzata and Mounds View, winning 7-0 against the Trojans and 6-1 over the Mustangs. Minnetonka had an exciting run to meet Edina in the championship, defeating Elk River, 5-2, and Rochester Mayo, 4-3. Against Rochester Mayo, the junior duo of Taylor Kamps and Libby Andraschko came up with the crucial win at No. 1 doubles to propel the Skippers into the finals.

Wins for Edina in the championship came on the singles side from junior Nicole Copeland (No. 1), senior Andrea Jansson (No. 2) and eighth-grader Sami Hankinson (No. 4). Doubles victories

came from senior Sam Van Ert and junior Shaylynn Reger (No. 1), sophomore Ingrid Smith and senior Anna McDonald (No. 2) and the sophomore pair of Paige Greene and Lizzy Van Ert (No. 3 doubles). Junior Jessica Ip sealed the team victory with a win at No. 3 singles.

After falling earlier in the day in a tight 4-3 matchup, No. 3 seed Rochester Mayo bounced back earning their own close 4-3 win in the third-place match against No. 4 seed Mounds View. The Mustangs jumped to an early 3-1 lead, taking wins at No. 2, 3 and 4 singles, but the Spartans rallied to win in No. 1 singles and all three doubles matches to seal the victory.

The Elks of Elk River won the Consolation Championship, defeating Eagan, 5-2. The Elks' wins came from No. 3 and 4 singles, while also winning all three doubles matchups.

Junior Nicole Copeland of Edina repeated as this year's Class AA Singles Champion, defeating senior teammate Andrea Jansson, 6-1, 6-4. Edina was ensured of their 18th individual champion in their school's history (since 1983) before the match began, as top-seeded Copeland and No. 3 Jansson each won their half of the bracket to meet up in the finals.

Copeland topped Nikka Ridenour of Roseville (6-3, 6-3), Lauren Ferg of Eagan (6-2, 6-2), and Zoe Adkins of Maple Grove (6-3, 4-6, 6-2) to reach the finals, capping off the tournament with a straight set win over Jansson. Jansson, who won the consolation championship in doubles last year, recorded wins over Lilly Anderson of Orono (6-2, 6-2), Nicole Snezhko of Robbinsdale Armstrong (7-5, 7-5), and Ashley Tarrolly of St. Cloud Tech (6-2, 6-2) to compete in the championship.

Zoe Adkins of Maple Grove took home the third place title to finish off an impressive tournament for the freshman who came into the tournament unseeded. Adkins knocked off No. 5 seeded Kelsey Dorr of Princeton (6-4, 6-2) and No. 4 seeded Annika Elvestrom of Minnetonka (6-3, 6-0) before being the only competitor to take Copeland to three sets (6-3, 4-6, 6-2). Ashley Tarrolly, who competed in the third place match against Adkins, had earlier defeated the No. 2 seeded Aili Hietala of Duluth East in a thrilling three set match (2-6, 6-2, 7-6 (5)) before falling to Jansson in straight sets.

Senior Eesha Varma of Eagan won the consolation championship, defeating Kelsey Dorr 6-3, 6-1. Earlier in the tournament Varma battled with No. 2 seeded Aili Hietala for over three and a half hours before eventually falling in three sets (7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (2)) sending her to the consolation bracket.

In the doubles tournament, it was No. 2 seeded Maddie Suk and Rachel Kelly of Hopkins who earned the Class AA Championship Title, defeating Taylor and Paige Trondson of Mounds View in three sets (6-7 (2), 6-0, 6-1). The senior duo from Hopkins had a solid run through the bracket, not allowing an opponent to take more than two games off of them until the final match. They defeated pairs from Prior Lake (6-0, 6-0), Mounds View (6-0, 6-1), and Rochester Century

(6-0, 6-2) to reach the finals. The Trondsons had a tougher path, having to go through the No. 1 seeded Charlottes Bowles and Nic Keller, which was a tight three set match (6-7, 7-5, 6-4).

In the third-place match, Charlotte Bowles and Nic Keller of Prior Lake defeated No. 3 seeded Paige Sargent and Julia Baber of Rochester Century with 6-2, 6-3 scores. Bowles and Keller took down pairs from Elk River (6-1, 6-2) and Edina (2-6, 6-2, 6-4) before falling in a tight match to Taylor and Paige Trondson. Sargent and Baber defeated Princeton (1-6, 6-4, 6-1) and Maple Grove (6-0, 6-0) pairs before getting beat by the eventual doubles champions, Maddie Suk and Rachel Kelly.

Princeton's Gabby Dahlen and Anna Dahlen took home the consolation championship, defeating Anne Bowe and Natalie Peterson of St. Cloud Tech by a score of 7-6 (4), 6-2. The Dahlen duo had a close match with Paige Sargent and Julia Baber in the first round, falling in three sets (1-6, 6-4, 6-1) which moved them into consolation play.

Complete results and additional information can be found on the Minnesota High School League Website (www.mshsl.org) under the Girls Tennis tab.