

2019 MSHSL Boys Hockey State Tournament State Tournament Recap

St. Cloud Cathedral captures first championship; Edina wins in overtime to claim Class AA championship honors

In their ninth tournament appearance, St. Cloud Cathedral captured the Class A championship trophy following its 5-2 victory over Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin on Saturday, March 9 at Xcel Energy Center. Edina concluded the four-day tournament with a Class AA championship title by defeating Eden Prairie, 3-2 in overtime, in the Class AA marquee game of the year.

Here is a look at the tournament:

Class A

The No. 2 seeded St. Cloud Cathedral earned their first Class A Hockey championship title defeating No. 4 Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin, 5-2. St. Cloud Cathedral defeated unseeded North Branch and No. 3 East Grand Forks to play for championship honors. The Raiders defeated No. 5 Delano and upset No. 1 Mahtomedi to make it to the championship game.

After a tight first period that ended in a 2-2 tie, the Crusaders dominated the scoreboard hitting the inside of the net three more times in the game to seal the victory. Crusaders senior forward Jackson Savoie was the leading scorer with two goals and one assist in the game, giving him four goals and two assists for the weekend.

Crusaders senior goalie Noah Amundson logged the win, saving 27 shots.

Seeded No. 2 coming into the tournament, St. Cloud Cathedral finished the season with a 27-4-0 record. Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin, the No. 4 seed to open the tournament, finished the season 17-14-0.

In the third-place game, Mahtomedi defeated East Grand Forks, 7-3. Twelve different Mahtomedi players contributed to the scoring. The Zephyrs were led by junior forward Colin Hagstrom with two goals and junior forward Nikolai Dulak with one goal and two assists. Zephyrs senior goalie John Poirer stopped 30 shots in the victory.

Mahtomedi, the No. 1 seed to open the tournament finished the season 23-7-1. East Grand Forks, the No. 3 seed at the start of the tournament finished the season 22-9-0.

In the consolation final, Delano survived a late flurry to secure a 2-1 victory. While junior forward Michael Weber and sophomore forward Adam Brown supplied the goals, it was Delano's defense that preserved the victory with staunch, stellar play in the final minutes. Weber opened

the scoring about midway through the first period and Brown added a short-handed tally a period later. Just more than five minutes later, sophomore forward Joey Kerchner scored to pull the Vikings to within a one-goal deficit. Delano Senior goalie Aaron Kruse made 21 saves.

Delano, the No. 5 seed to open the tournament finished the season 19-10-2. Unseeded North Branch finished the season 20-9-2.

In the championship semifinals, St. Cloud Cathedral defeated East Grand Forks, 6-2. St. Cloud Cathedral junior forward Jack Smith led the Crusaders in scoring with two goals. Junior forward Blake Perbix had three points for St. Cloud Cathedral, netting an empty net goal at the end of the game and assisting in two earlier goals. Teammate sophomore forward Cullen Hiltner also had three points, scoring one goal and two assists and junior forward Nate Warner had two assists. Crusaders' senior goalie Noah Amundson earned the win saving 33 shots in the game.

In a semifinal thriller on the other side of the bracket, Greenway/ Nashwauk-Keewatin Raiders upset No. 1 Mahtomedi Zephyrs, 3-2, in overtime. After a scoreless first period, Raiders junior forward Ben Troumbly scored the game-winning goal, his second goal of the game, just 23 seconds into the overtime.

The Raiders got on the board first with a second period goal by junior forward Donte Lawson. Mahtomedi tied the game and then one minute and 12 seconds later went ahead, 2-1, with goals off the sticks of junior forward Nikolai Dulak and senior forward Kory Pilarski, respectively. With just 1:45 remaining in regulation, Raiders' Troumbly tied the game and then in overtime hit the inside of the net to give Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin the upset and the victory. Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin junior goalie Logan Wright captured the win saving 35 shots in the game.

To open the tournament on Wednesday, March 6, St. Cloud Cathedral recorded a 7-0 victory over North Branch, and it was followed by East Grand Forks 5-2 win against Minnesota River. On the other side of the bracket, Mahtomedi shut-out New Ulm, 6-0, and Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin closed out the quarterfinals with a 6-4 victory over Delano.

In consolation semifinals, North Branch extended its inaugural trip to the Minnesota State High School League's boys hockey tournament with a 5-2 victory over Minnesota River at 3M Arena at Mariucci on the University of Minnesota campus. The Vikings used a three-goal second period to skate past the Bulldogs, another state tournament rookie. Sophomore forwards Ben Huth and Joey Kerchner scored goals just more than a minute apart in the second period to create a 4-1 lead with a period to play. Senior defenseman Justin Sachs had a goal and an assist for the Vikings while sophomore Cody Croal had three assists and a team-best six shots on goal.

In the other consolation semifinal, Delano recorded a 2-1 victory over New Ulm. The Tigers, making their second state tournament appearance and first since 2017, got a second-period

power-play goal from senior forward Hogan Williams for the winning margin and then senior goalie Aaron Kruse protected the lead by making 10 saves in the third period. Williams snapped a 1-all tie when he gathered in a long rebound from high between the circles and whistled a shot past New Ulm senior goalie Jack Raymond. Raymond made 20 saves for the game, including 10 in the second period.

Class AA

Edina senior forward Peter Colby scored the Class AA Championship game-winning goal at 2:31 of overtime to give the No. 1 Hornets a 3-2 win over No. 3 Eden Prairie.

Eden Prairie was on the board first with a first period goal off the stick of Eagles sophomore forward Drew Holt. Edina responded with two back-to-back third period goals from senior forward Kevin Delaney and Colby. Eagles senior defenseman Clayton Shultz tied the game at 2-2 with his first goal of the season. The game was decided in OT with Colby's second goal of the game and ninth goal of the season.

Eden Prairie finished the game with a 33-20 advantage in the final shot tally, including decisive 13-5 and 13-2 margins in the first and second periods. Edina had 11 shots in the third period and two shots in overtime, including the winning goal.

Edina sophomore goalie Loudon Hogg stopped an impressive 31 shots in the victory, while Eden Prairie junior goalie Axel Rosenlund compiled 17 saves for the Eagles.

With the win, Edina finished the season with a 27-2-1 record. Eden Prairie finished the season with a 19-10-2 record.

In the third-place game Blaine defeated St. Thomas Academy, 5-1. The Bengals spread out their attack with seven different players factoring into the scoring, including two skaters each recording two points. Blaine was led by senior forward Will Hillman and junior forward Cole Hanson who each had a goal and an assist in the game.

Four of the five Bengals goals were a result of St. Thomas Academy penalties. Two penalty shots were awarded to Blaine in the game, the first penalty shot awarded in a state tournament championship game since 1999. Bengals junior forwards Cam Shoberg and Hanson each netted a goal in their penalty shot opportunity. The other two were power play goals.

Blaine senior goalie Joe Daninger earned the win stopping 24 shots in the victory. Teammate junior goalie Jonah Simonson had zero saves in his 3:22 in the net. On the other end of the ice, St. Thomas Academy senior goalie Wes Gervais compiled 25 saves for the Cadets.

Blaine, the No. 2 seed to open the tournament finished the season with a 24-3-2 record. St. Thomas Academy, seeded No. 4, finished with a 25-5-1 season record.

In the final day of the four-day state tournament, Duluth East shut-out Lakeville South, 5-0, for the consolation final trophy. The Greyhounds scored two goals in each of the first two periods to pave the way to their victory in the school's 24th state tournament appearance. Sophomore forward Jacob Jeannette had a goal and two assists in the Greyhounds' building of that four-goal advantage. Junior forward Logan Anderson opened with a goal at 5:31 of the first period and senior forward Ryder Donovan added another nearly six minutes later.

Jeannette pushed the lead to three goals early in the second and junior forward Jack Fellman made it a four-goal advantage less than a minute later. Junior forward Charlie Erickson completed Duluth East's offensive output with a goal early in the third period.

Senior goalie Henry Welsch was stellar for Lakeville South during his team's three-game state tournament. He set a state tournament record for combined saves with 131. That broke the old mark of 124 set in 1970 by St. Paul Johnson's Doug Long. Welsch made 63 saves in a triple-overtime loss to Eden Prairie in the quarterfinals, 34 in a victory over White Bear Lake in the consolation semifinals and another 34 against Duluth East in the consolation final.

Duluth East, the No. 5 seed to open the tournament finished the season 20-7-2. Unseeded Lakeville South finished the season 15-14-1.

In Class AA semifinal action, the Eden Prairie Eagles came back from an 0-2 deficit to defeat Blaine, 4-3, to advance to the Class AA championship game on Saturday. Blaine led, 2-0, at the end of the first period with two goals by junior forward Cole Hansen, giving him 14 for the season. Eden Prairie answered with four goals of their own. Senior defenseman Keegan Langefels and senior forward Garrett Smith had back-to-back goals just 25 seconds apart to tie the game at 2-2. Junior forward Luke Mittelstadt and senior forward Carsen Jones each scored a goal to give the Eagles a 4-2 lead at the end of the second period. Bengals junior forward Carsen Richels had a late third period goal to bring the game within one goal. Eden Prairie held onto its lead the last couple minutes of the period to secure the victory. The Eagles finished the game with 38 shots on goal, including a decisive 14-4 margin in the first period. Eden Prairie junior goalie Axel Rosenlund stopped 20 shots in the semifinal win.

On the other side of the semifinal bracket, Edina advanced to the championship game with a 6-3 victory over St. Thomas Academy on Friday. Edina senior forward Liam Malmquist led the Hornets in scoring with three goals and an assist, giving him 26 goals and 30 assists for the season. Teammate senior forward Jett Jungels had two goals, giving him 29 goals for the season, and senior forward Brett Chorske had one goal and one assist, giving him 12 goals and 17 assists for the year. Edina finished the game with a 35-23 advantage in the final shot tally, including a decisive 17-1 margin in the first period. Edina sophomore goalie Loudon Hogg stopped 20 shots in the Hornets victory.

In the Class AA quarterfinal action, Blaine defeated White Bear Lake 4-2 and Eden Prairie proved victorious beating Lakeville South, 3-2, in the third overtime. On the other side of the bracket, Edina beat Moorhead, 4-2, and St. Thomas Academy, in the late game of the day, defeated Duluth East, 3-1.

In the first Class AA consolation semifinal, Lakeville South used early shot efficiency to pave the way to a 5-3 victory over White Bear Lake at 3M Arena at Mariucci on the University of Minnesota campus. The Cougars scored goals on their first three shots of the game in building a 3-0 lead in the first period. Sophomore forward Jack Novak scored the first of his two goals to open the spree and senior defender Nico Aguilera added another just more than two minutes later. Senior forward Adam Harvey completed the three-goal spurt. White Bear Lake, the Section 4AA champion, pulled to within 3-2 with the only two goals of the second period. Junior forward Billy Rose scored the first of his two goals early in the second period and senior center Blake Meister added another late in the period. But the Cougars stretched the lead back to three goals in the third period behind tallies from sophomore forward Cade Ahrenholz and Novak's second goal.

In the bottom half of the consolation semifinal bracket, Duluth East defeated White Bear Lake, 5-3. The Greyhounds scored two power-play goals during a five-minute penalty assessed to the Spuds in the second period to erase what had been a one-goal deficit. Junior forward Charlie Erickson lifted Duluth East into a 1-all deadlock on a goal at 14:23 of the second period. Just more than a minute later, senior forward Ryder Donovan gave the Greyhounds the lead for good. Duluth East extended its lead to 3-1 at the 6:34-mark of the third period on a goal from senior forward Jonathan Jones.

The total Xcel Energy Center attendance for 2019 State Hockey Tournament was 106,895.

The 2019 State Boys' Hockey State Tournament was played March 6-9. Quarterfinal and championship round games were played at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. The consolation round games were played at 3M Arena at Mariucci on the University of Minnesota campus in Minneapolis.

Briefly

Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin senior forward Donte Lawson was selected the Class A winner of the Herb Brooks Award. In Class AA, Eden Prairie senior forward Jack Jensen was the Herb Brooks Award recipient.