

WELCOME TO THE STATE TOURNAMENT!

STATE-MENT WEEKEND

Sixteen teams hit the X this week attempting to win state championships; Edina and Little Falls earn top seeds

Welcome to the 2009 State High School Hockey Tournament!

You hold in your hands the most comprehensive guide to the teams involved in this year's tournament. It was published through the joint efforts of The Breakdown, MyFoxHockey and the Minnesota Hockey Hub, the best three sources for high school hockey and all partners with the Minnesota Hockey Coaches Association.

Class AA team capsules are located in the first half of the guide, followed by both the Class AA and Class A brackets in the guide's center and the Class A team capsules in the last half of the guide. Each team capsule includes basic information about the program, statistics of each team's leading scorers and goaltenders, full rosters, the "road to the X," and a scouting report on each team with pictures.

MyFoxHockey and Minnesota Hockey Hub editor Pete Waggoner wrote the Class AA capsules. You'll recognize him as the voice of Minnesota hockey on the web, as he's webcast dozens of games and the Monday Hockey on Demand show throughout the season. Pete has his finger on the pulse of Class AA hockey.

Tim Kolehmainen, editor of The Breakdown, compiled the Class A capsules, as well as teaming with Ben Stewart to provide all the

action photos in the guide. Tim publishes the best preseason preview on Minnesota high school hockey, a nearly 300-page encyclopedia on the best game in town. It's available in late November each season and a must-have for all hockey fans.



Photo by Tim Kolehmainen

Tim Shaughnessy hopes to lead Hill-Murray to a repeat in Class AA.

There are plenty of old favorites in this year's tournament, with Edina in Class AA and Warroad in Class A teaming for numerous appearances. But there are also unfamiliar faces, programs that have been to St. Paul before, but aren't nearly as frequent guests such as Hutchinson and Eden Prairie.

Class A action begins the four-day celebration at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. Second-seeded St. Cloud Cathedral (25-2-1) plays Mahtomedi (20-6-2) at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 11, followed by No. 3 Warroad (26-2-0) against Hutchinson (19-7-1). The evening session kicks off at 6 p.m. with No. 1 Little Falls (28-0-0) taking on Virginia/MIB (23-5-0), followed by No. 4 Breck (24-3-1) against Rochester Lourdes (20-7-0).

The Class AA tournament opens the next morning (Thursday, March 12) at 11 a.m. with No. 2 Eden Prairie (25-3-0) against defending champion Hill-Murray (18-9-1). At 1 p.m., No. 3 Blaine (24-3-1) faces Rochester Century (15-11-2). In the evening, top-seeded Edina (24-4-0) gets its tournament underway against Moorhead (15-9-3) at 6 p.m. The 8 p.m. game features No. 4 Duluth East (24-3-1) and Cretin-Derham Hall (20-7-1) squaring off.

Catch all the action online at www.MNHockeyHub.com with this guide as your reference. We'll be providing an audio feed of all games from the X, along with video interviews, game stories and lots of action photos.

Enjoy all the action!

-- Tim Kolehmainen, Editor, The Breakdown

-- Pete Waggoner, Editor, Minnesota Hockey Hub

Hub announces State Tournament Coverage

The MnHockeyHub will be your complete home of the Minnesota High School Hockey tournament. We are pleased to announce that we will feature our live in game scoring with our partner Pointstreak and will also offer audio play-by-play throughout the tournament.

With our team of photographers, images of the action will be updated as the games progress, and we will also be working in conjunction with our other partner, MyFoxHockey.com to post video of post game response from players and coaches.

Year one of our new site has been a great start, and we look forward to bringing you the most comprehensive news and information of the greatest event in High School Sports from the Xcel Energy Center. Please accept this invitation to join us this week as along with our partners we will bring you the most up-to-date and professional coverage of the State Tournament.

Thank you for viewing our site this season, as it has been a success and along with the Boys High School Coaches Association, we look forward to making year two even better.

-Pete Waggoner Editor, MnHockeyHub.com

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Sports Photography
by Tim Kolehmainen

For photos from the Breakdown straight to you...

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