

CLASS A

LITTLE FALLS FLYERS

Program info

Conference: Central Lakes
 Section: 6A
 Record: 28-0-0
 State trips: 2005, 06, 07, 08, 09
 Coach: Tony Couture
 Assistants: Jon Majerle, Bob Stark

Top players

Scorers	G	A	Pts
Ben Hanowski	66	59	125
Riley Hirsch	26	36	62
Izaak Berglund	17	41	58
Wesley Waytashek	24	33	57
Ben Nelson	20	26	46

Goalies	W-L-T	GA	SV
Michael Sperl	28-0-0	1.49	.930

Full roster

#	Name	Gr	Pos
1	Michael Sperl	12	G
2	Izaak Berglund	12	D
3	Logan Kalis	12	D
5	Mitch Schulte	11	D
6	Jordan Gosiak	12	D
7	Jordan Moll	12	F
8	Joe Rydeen	12	D
9	Ben Hanowski	12	F
10	Ben Nelson	12	F
12	Wesley Waytashek	12	F
13	Joey Hanowski	9	F
14	Hunter Hanowski	10	D
16	Adam Dougherty	10	F
18	Mitch Gregory	9	F
19	Travis Stoerzinger	11	F
20	Riley Hirsch	12	F
21	Tom Martin	11	F
22	Mitch Lundeen	11	F
28	Nick Andringa	10	D
30	Carl Anderson	12	G
32	Josh Nelson	12	F
33	Vince Maciej	12	F
34	Peter Suska	12	D
35	Michael Sobieck	9	G

Road to the X

Section 6A quarterfinals, 2/24
Little Falls 11, Prairie Centre 0

Hanowski 5 goals, 3 assists
 Waytashek 3 goals, 4 assists

Section 6A semifinals, 2/28
Little Falls 5, Fergus Falls 2

Hanowski 3 goals, 2 assists

Section 6A finals, 3/5
Little Falls 3, Alexandria 2 OT

Waytashek 2 goals
 Sperl 23 saves

Little Falls has been here before. For the fifth straight year, the Flyers are at the state tournament after winning Section 6A and have a roster loaded with talented seniors. They're hoping to break through the glass ceiling the Flyers have bumped up against the past few years.

They've fallen in the first round three times in that span, including the past two. A tough draw hasn't helped, either. In each of the last two seasons, Little Falls has been paired up with the eventual state champion in the quarterfinals (Hermantown in 2007 and St. Thomas Academy last year).

Little Falls has one of the highest-powered offenses in the state, led by all-time leading scorer Ben Hanowski. The St. Cloud State recruit recently surpassed Red Wing's Johnny Pohl as the career scoring leader. He's at 395 points (189 goals, 206 assists) and counting. Pohl had 378 in his four years with the Wingers. Hanowski's 189 career goals is also a state record.

The Flyers also picked up big contributions from hustling but undersized senior Wesley Waytashek during the section

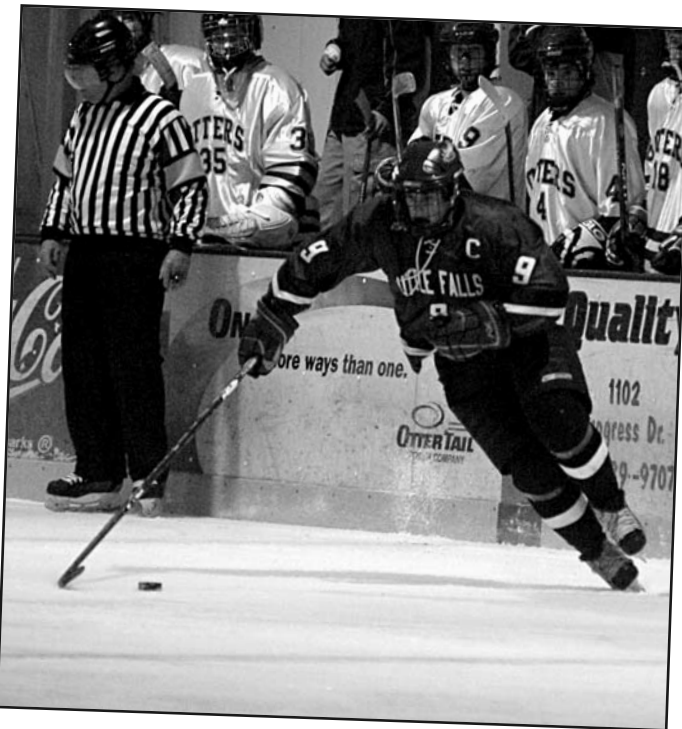


Photo by Tim Kolehmainen

Ben Hanowski (9) moves up ice against Little Falls earlier this season. Hanowski broke the state scoring record this year.

tournament. Seniors Ben Nelson, Riley Hirsch and Jordan Moll and sophomore Adam Dougherty also power a potent offense.

Little Falls' defense doesn't get as much recognition, but they add to the team both defensively and offensively. Senior Izaak Berglund is the third-leading scorer on the team and is just one of four big, rugged defensemen that aren't afraid to bang. Logan Kalis, Jordan Gosiak and Joe Rydeen have good size and a good wingspan that makes the Flyers very difficult to score on.

Goalie Michael Sperl is a three-year starter and holds every major goaltending record in school history. He's the final line of defense for a Flyers' team that is loaded with state experience. ■



Hanowski



Berglund



Photo by Tim Kolehmainen

Michael Sperl (1) has been in nets for every one of the Flyers' 28 victories -- setting a new school record in the process.