

CLASS A

VIRGINIA/MIB BLUE DEVILS

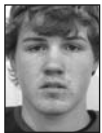
Virginia/Mountain-Iron Buhl has had some impressive individual athletes come through the hockey program in recent years, with three being drafted by NHL teams. But the Blue Devils had only been to one state tournament, seemingly always running into another Iron Range power or the Duluth Marshall Hilltoppers before the Section 7A finals. This season, however, Virginia/MIB dispatched both to give the program its second state berth. After edging Marshall in the semifinals, the Blue Devils stymied Hibbing/Chisholm in the finals to earn a berth at the X.

Coach Keith Hendrickson has a great balance between youth and experience on his club, including his high-powered top line of senior Chris Westin, junior Andrew Judnick and sophomore Garrett Hendrickson, the coach's son.



Westin

Westin is a true playmaker, as happy to score as to assist his teammates, a trait shared by the young Hendrickson. The sophomore was just one of five of his classmates to play in the Upper Midwest Elite League this fall and also earned a spot on the USA Hockey Select 16 team -- quite an honor.



Hendrickson

The Blue Devils top trio combined for 67 goals and 171 points and lead the way into St. Paul this week. Combined with junior defenseman Jordan Krebsbach, they form a very potent power play unit that tallied 40 goals on the man advantage. They're just as stout on the penalty kill, allowing just 12

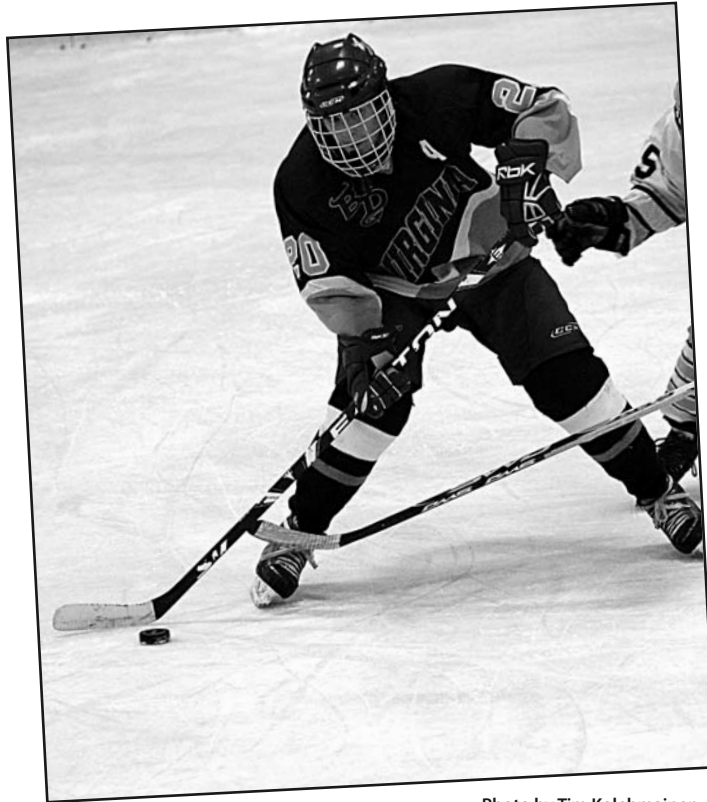


Photo by Tim Kolehmainen

Virginia/MIB's Nathan Dahl (20) is a solid blueliner and assistant captain for the Blue Devils.

goals against while netting four shorties of their own.

But this isn't a one-line show. The Blue Devils have arguably more depth than any other team in the state tournament.

Sophomore Travis Eddy has come on after leading the Virginia Bantam last season to give the Blue Devils additional scoring threats along with Dan Chesser, Tony Buccanero, Trey Carlson and Tom Norlander.

On the blue line, Krebsbach is the

quarterback, but he gets plenty of support from Troy Grivette, Nathan Dahl, Christian Belobaba and Wes Judnick. Belobaba was lost to a broken wrist in the final minute of the Section 7A title game, however.

Three-year starter Will Lustig returned to stabilize the Blue Devils in nets. He's experience and calm under duress, perfect for a state tournament goaltender. ■

Program info

Conference: Iron Range
 Section: 7A
 Record: 23-5-0
 State trips: 2005, 09
 Coach: Keith Hendrickson
 Assistants: Gary Cornell, Mark Phaneuf

Top players

Scorers	G	A	Pts
Chris Westin	31	41	72
G. Hendrickson	22	39	61
Jordan Krebsbach	17	22	39
Andrew Judnick	14	24	38
Travis Eddy	9	10	19

Goalies	W-L-T	GA	SV
Will Lustig	18-5-0	1.74	.918

Full roster

#	Name	Gr	Pos
1	Casey Myhre	11	G
2	Troy Nichols	10	F
3	Andrew Judnick	11	F
4	Troy Grivette	12	D
5	Gavin Nichols	10	F
6	Derek Howard	10	F
7	Garrett Hendrickson	10	F
8	Wes Judnick	10	D
9	Jordan Krebsbach	11	D
10	Dan Chesser	11	F
11	Dusty Gabrielson	11	F
12	Jake Nelson	11	F
13	Kyle Richards	12	F
14	Tony Buccanero	12	F
15	Chris Westin	12	F
16	Trey Carlson	11	F
17	Kyle Andrews	12	F
19	Tom Norlander	10	F
20	Nathan Dahl	12	D
21	Jace Friedlieb	10	D
22	Christian Belobaba	11	D
25	Travis Eddy	10	F
26	Cory Arbogast	12	F
28	Josh Lundberg	12	F
33	Andy Milbridge	10	G
34	Will Lustig	12	G

Road to the X

Section 7A quarterfinals, 2/26
 Virginia/MIB 5, Silver Bay/CC 0

Krebsbach 2 goals

Section 7A semifinals, 2/28
 Virginia/MIB 4, Dul. Marshall 3

Hendrickson 1 goal, 1 assist

Section 7A finals, 3/4
 Virginia/MIB 3, Hibbing/Ch. 2

Lustig 21 saves

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Sports Photography
 by Tim Kolehmainen

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