

HILL-MURRAY



PROGRAM INFO

Nickname: Pioneers
Conference: Classic Suburban
Section: 4AA
Record: 25-2-1
State trips: 1975, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 83 Champs, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 91 Champs, 92, 93, 97, 99, 2000, 02, 06, 07, 08 Champs, 09, 10
Coach: Bill Lechner

STAT LEADERS

Scorers	G	A	Pts
Willie Faust	22	22	44
Ben Bahe	14	22	36
Chris Casto	13	18	31
Jack Walsh	16	14	30
Kevin Becker	18	12	30

Goalies	W-L-T	GA	SV
Shaughnessy	21-2-1	1.54	.926

FULL ROSTER

#	Name	Pos	Gr
1	John Dugas	G	9
2	Connor McCallum	D	11
6	Chris Casto	D	12
7	Bobby Bruski	F	11
9	Kevin Becker	F	11
11	Ben Bahe	F	11
12	Ryan Holler	F	11
14	Charlie Sampair	F	10
15	Willie Faust	F	12
16	Jordan Johnson	D	12
17	Jonah Johnson	D	10
18	Zach LaValle	F	9
19	John Phillippi	F	11
21	Jack Walsh	F	12
22	David Bruchu	F	12
25	Andy Faust	F	10
26	Loren French	F	11
27	J.D. Cotroneo	D	11
28	Kevin Schulze	D	11
33	Tim Shaughnessy	G	11

ROAD TO THE X

Section 4AA Quarters, 2/27
Hill-Murray 6, StP Como Pk 0

Sampair 2 goals
 Faust 1 goal, 3 assists

Section 4AA Semis, 3/3
Hill-Murray 6, Mounds View 0

Becker 2 goals, 2 assists
 Shaughnessy 20 saves

Section 4AA Finals, 3/5
Hill-Murray 5, White Bear Lk 1

Walsh 2 goals

Photos / Tim Kolehmainen



By Loren Nelson

A surgical 5-1 dismantling of arch rival White Bear Lake in the Section 4AA final gave Hill-Murray plenty of lead time in putting together its state tournament preparations.

Which isn't to say the Pioneers were looking past the Bears while still playing them, but they needed only a few minutes – just enough time to collect their sticks and gloves and leave the State Fairgrounds Coliseum ice surface – to switch into state tournament mode.

“Now it's time to move on,” Hill-Murray coach Bill Lechner said. “This team had very high goals. Win the conference, this was the sectional one, and obviously everybody knows what we all want with the third goal.”

Hill-Murray, which won the state Class AA title in 2009, is making its fifth straight state tournament appearance. Other than Minnetonka, no team enters the Class AA portion of the state tournament with fewer losses than the Pioneers (25-2-1).

Hill-Murray, ranked fourth in the Hockey Hub's final state Class AA poll, received a No. 4 seed behind Minnetonka, Edina and Blaine, respectively. The Pioneers' two losses came against Blaine during the Schwan Cup and Class A powerhouse St. Thomas Academy late in the season.

After beating White Bear Lake and before the state tournament seeds were announced, Lechner said he wasn't too concerned where the Pioneers were slotted.

“Not really, the only thing is that whoever gets the (No. 2) spot plays at 11 o'clock in the morning,” he said. “I'm not in love with that.”

“We've done well and we've struggled through the years, it's not like one avenue has been the right way. We've been the four seed and won and we've been a higher seed and we haven't won. It's fine.”



Faust



Casto



Becker



Shaughnessy



Bill Lechner



THE PIONEERS WILL WIN THE STATE TITLE IF...

Loren Nelson: They get superb play from goaltender Tim Shaughnessy, a junior who started on last year's state team. Hill-Murray is a defensive-oriented team that will need to win low-scoring, tight checking games.