



Lakeville South    Edina    Eagan    Hill-Murray    Maple Grove    Benilde-SM    Moorhead

## Class AA



Duluth East

# THE MN HOCKEY HUB'S COMPLETE State Tournament Guidebook

MARCH 7-10, 2012



Hermantown

## Class A



Rochester Lourdes    Breck    New Ulm    St. Thomas Acad.    Little Falls    Duluth Marshall    Thief River Falls

## Welcome to the 2012 State High School Hockey Tournament!

Sixteen teams hit the X this week attempting to win state titles; Duluth East and Hermantown earn top seeds

Before you is the most comprehensive guide to the teams involved in this year's tournament. It was published through the efforts of the Minnesota Hockey Hub's editors, writers and contributors, all of whom are partners with the Minnesota Hockey Coaches Association (MHCA).

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, coach's corner, the "Road to the X," and a scouting report on each team with pictures.

Minnesota Hockey Hub editor Loren Nelson tackled many of the Class AA capsules from the metro area. You'll recognize his style as the man with his finger on the pulse of Minnesota high school hockey.

Minnesota Hockey Hub contributors Zack Friedli (northeastern Minnesota) and Walker Orenstein (metro area) also contributed capsules from their respective areas, as did Michael Murakami with Breck and Justin Magill with St. Thomas Academy from Class A.

Tim Kolehmainen, editor of Breakdown Sports USA and a frequent Minnesota Hockey Hub contributor, compiled half of the Class A capsules and Moorhead from Class AA, as well as teaming with Helen Nelson and Adam Crane to provide all the photos in the guide.

There are plenty of old favorites in this year's tournament, including the defending Class A champion, St. Thomas Academy and both of last year's runners-up, Duluth East and Hermantown. But there are also unfamiliar faces -- including the first-timers from Maple Grove. In all, 15 of the 16 top seeds in the section tournaments advanced to state.

We're also privileged to watch all 10 Mr. Hockey finalists and both goaltenders nominated as finalists for the Frank Brimsek Award (Moorhead's Michael Bitzer

and Maple Grove's Kyle Koop). This year's state tournament truly does feature the best teams and players in the state.

Class A action begins the four-day celebration at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. Second-seeded St. Thomas Academy (23-5-0) plays Little Falls (19-9-0) at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 7, followed by No. 3 Breck (24-3-1) against Duluth Marshall (21-7-0). The evening session kicks off at 6 p.m. with No. 1 Hermantown (28-0-0) taking on Rochester Lourdes (20-8-0), followed by fourth-seeded Thief River Falls (22-4-2) against New Ulm (17-11-0).

The Class AA tournament opens the next morning (Thursday, March 8) at 11 a.m. with No. 2 Maple Grove (24-2-2) against Hill-Murray (22-6-0). At 1 p.m., No. 3 Eagan (24-3-1) faces Moorhead (21-6-0). In the evening, top-seeded Duluth East (27-1-0) gets its tournament underway against Lakeville South (20-8-0) at 6 p.m. The 8 p.m. game features No. 4 Edina (23-5-0) and surging Benilde-St. Margaret's (22-6-0) squaring off.

The Minnesota Hockey Hub 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 and full spotlight coverage of every game at the Xcel Energy Center for all four days of the tournament.

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 greatest event in high school sports from the Xcel Energy Center.

Thank you for viewing our site this season, as it has been a success. We look forward to seeing you all back next winter!

-- Tim Kolehmainen, Editor, Breakdown Sports USA

-- Loren Nelson, Editor, Minnesota Hockey Hub