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## FROM THE EDITOR

The **BREAKDOWN** staff would like to wish everyone good luck in the 2016-17 boys' high school hockey season as we look forward to our eighth year of providing statewide coverage. Make sure you stay informed at [www.BreakdownSportsUSA.com](http://www.BreakdownSportsUSA.com) throughout the season.

The **BREAKDOWN** publications are Minnesota's No. 1 resource for players, coaches, fans and sports enthusiasts. The **BREAKDOWN** is a full-service Minnesota high school sports company, offering season preview publications, in-season and youth tournaments, off-season leagues, newsletters, photography and an extensive website. We're starting our 15th year covering boys' and girls' basketball, our 9th year in boys' hockey and girls' volleyball, and our 3rd year in boys' baseball and girls' hockey.

In short, The **BREAKDOWN** is the "Minnesota high school sports encyclopedia."



Tim Kolehmainen / Breakdown.zenfolio.com

# THE CRYSTAL BALL... PREDICTIONS

**KEY BOYS' HOCKEY EXPERTS TAKE THEIR BEST GUESSES AS TO WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE 2016-17 MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' HOCKEY SEASON -- FROM CHAMPIONS TO SURPRISES AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN**

## 1 Who will win the Class 2A title this year and why?

► **Stillwater.** Most will look between the pipes and ask how the Ponies can replace Josh Benson, but senior Seth Eisele has patiently been waiting his turn and was an Elite League selection this fall. The Ponies have UMD-bound Noah Cates and Luke Manning back as 20+ goal scorers and Jesse Bjugstad to anchor the defense.

— TIM KOLEHMAINEN

► **Eden Prairie.** Led by The Mighty Casey (we're talking about projected first-round NHL draft pick Casey Mittelstadt, of course) Eden Prairie returns a handful of elite-level players from last year's state runner-up squad.

— LOREN NELSON

► **Stillwater.** It's Pony time. They're balanced, senior-heavy, and back for a title. They have an easier road to the State Tournament and a high seed than all of the other main contenders. After falling short in the semis last season, they'll be hungry.

— KARL SCHUETTLER

► **Wayzata.** The Trojans will repeat as the champions. In a season that has a lot of attention placed on the Eden Prairie Eagles and Stillwater Ponies, the Trojans will be able to fly under the radar. With 11 players returning from their state tournament, including most of the blue line, Wayzata will be able to draw on that experience and deliver the second title in school history.

— PETE WAGGONER

## 2 Who will win the Class 1A title this year and why?

► **Hermantown.** The Hawks finally broke their six-year runner-up streak by rolling to last year's title — and just might be stronger this year. Coach Bruce Plante's team plays a rugged and skilled style, exemplified by stars such as Ryan Sandelin, Jessie Jacques, and Dylan Samberg, who is headed to UMD. Keep an eye on sophomore D Darian Gotz as another rising Hermantown star.

— TIM KOLEHMAINEN

► **Hermantown.** Hermantown halted its inexplicable run of six straight runner-up finishes last March with a long-awaited championship and with standouts Ryan Sandelin, Dylan Samberg and Jesse Jacques returning the Hawks appear poised to repeat as champs.

— LOREN NELSON

► **Hermantown.** The Hawks are in a class of their own when compared to the other A teams, and should roll to a second consecutive title.

— KARL SCHUETTLER

► **Hermantown.** It is the Hawks and the rest in the Class 1A this year — and I am sticking to the theme of back-to-back championships in high school hockey this year. Breck will give the Hawks a game and anything can happen as we know, but this is Hermantown's to lose.

— PETE WAGGONER

## 3 Who is your favorite sleeper team?

► **Moorhead.** Waiting patiently behind Bemidji for the past two years, this looks to be the year the Spuds break out again. A terrific junior class anchored by forwards Carter Randklev and Cole O'Connell and goalie Lance Leonard now get help from Bantams who finished second in the state last year. Sophomores Ethan Frisch and Isaac Howe haven't played a second of varsity hockey yet, but both earned an Elite League spot.

— TIM KOLEHMAINEN

► **Minnetonka.** High-level talent from back-to-back state Bantam AA championship teams is flowing up into Minnetonka's high school ranks, a good sign for a program that has remained formidable even in the most talent-thin of years.

— LOREN NELSON

► **Delano.** If anyone is going to beat Hermantown, it might just be the Tigers. Beating Breck in 2A won't be easy, but they have a group of top-flight talents who can get them to the Class A final.

— KARL SCHUETTLER

► **Holy Family Catholic.** Hardly a sleeper as the Fire were a top-10 team last year and top-five in many instances. The Fire are indeed on an upward trajectory and have plenty of talent led by Matt Anderson and Jared Moe. The Fire will be in the mix all year long and will remove the 'sleeper' label this year.

— PETE WAGGONER

#### 4 Who will win Mr. Hockey and why?

► **Casey Mittelstadt, Eden Prairie.** When Mittelstadt announced he was returning for his senior season at Eden Prairie to chase a state title, it made him the instant favorite to win the award. He has the past production (80 points as a junior), big state tournament moments (11 points in last year's tourney), and future resume (Gopher recruit, anyone?) of the best Mr. Hockey candidates ever.

— TIM KOLEHMAINEN

► **Casey Mittelstadt, Eden Prairie.** The future Gopher is an ultra-competitive bundle of speed, skill and smarts. He's mature beyond his years and thirsting to add a state championship to his already overstuffed resume. Is it too early to just hand him the award now?

— LOREN NELSON

► **Casey Mittelstadt, Eden Prairie.** Easiest question I've ever had to answer in one of these previews.

— KARL SCHUETTLER

► **Casey Mittelstadt, Eden Prairie.** Superior vision, quick release, high-level creativity, an accurate shot, strong skater, and a high compete level are why he will win the Mr. Hockey Award. It can't be left unsaid that he was incredibly productive with 80 points while playing a difficult schedule as a junior last year. He is a first round pick in the NHL entry draft this upcoming summer and it will only be a matter of where he is selected.

— PETE WAGGONER

#### 5 Who will win the Frank Brimsek Award and why?

► **Seth Eisele, Stillwater.** I'm going with a big dark horse candidate in Eisele, who sat behind Josh Benson last year. With the Ponies' strong returning roster, Eisele will rack up victories and post gaudy goals against and save percentages. But this could come down to whether Eisele or Jake Begley of Hill-Murray is standing at the end of the Section 4AA tournament.

— TIM KOLEHMAINEN

► **Jake Begley, Hill-Murray.** Begley has made it a habit of making the impossible save look routine, and with Hill-Murray's rugged schedule he'll need to empty his bag of tricks most every night to give the Pioneers a chance to win.

— LOREN NELSON

► **Jake Begley, Hill-Murray.** It's a pretty open race, but Begley has the experience to claim the award, and could give Stillwater some fits in their quest for the 4AA crown.

— KARL SCHUETTLER

► **Jake Begley, Hill-Murray.** Begley proved last year that he is an elite goaltender as a junior and will be needed step up for his Pioneer team. He is a good athlete who does not give the shooters much to shoot at as well as limits second chances with quality rebound control.

— PETE WAGGONER

#### 6 Wayzata will...

► **Continue to be one of the toughest teams in the state to play against.** Coach Pat O'Leary's bunch will advance to the Section 6AA final as the No. 1 seed, but get knocked off by a surging Edina team rallying after a slow start to the year.

— TIM KOLEHMAINEN

► **Make another deep postseason run behind the stellar work of goaltender senior goaltender Reid Waszczenko but lose to longtime nemesis Edina in a Section 6, Class 2A title game thriller.**

— LOREN NELSON

► **Beat Edina in a 6AA section final thriller, but get upset in the first round at State.** They'll be a top team, and their style of hockey makes them a threat to repeat. The rub: they don't quite have the scoring depth and fieriness of last season's team.

— KARL SCHUETTLER

► **Win the State Class 2A state title.** The Trojans may have a few bumps in the road on the way to the title this season as their schedule is loaded with tough games. It will only make them better. As the saying goes, 'Offense wins games and defense wins championships,' and the Trojans have a deep talented and nasty defensive game that is hard to play against.

— PETE WAGGONER

#### 7 Hermantown will...

► **Dominate.** There appears to only be a few programs in Class A capable of hanging with the Hawks, who won't see a close playoff game until the state semifinals — if then. A repeat looks to be in the stars, of which the Hawks have many.

— TIM KOLEHMAINEN

► **Breeze to a second-straight state small-school championship, cranking up the volume on the not-so-subtle rumblings that the Hawks' program is more than ready to take the step up to Class 2A.**

— LOREN NELSON

► **Repeat.** After last season's breakthrough, the Hawks have the monkey off their back. It'll take a huge upset to stop them this season.

— KARL SCHUETTLER

► **Run away with the Class 1A title and succumb to the intense media scrutiny to move up to the Class 2A at the conclusion of the season.**

— PETE WAGGONER

#### 8 Your best go-out-on-a-limb prediction is...

► **Edina will win the Class AA state title.** If there's anything we've learned in nearly a decade of publishing this book is that you can never count the Hornets out. Overlooked a bit this fall because of graduation and defections, coach Curt Giles still has the deepest talent pool in the state from which to select his team. And get this — four potential Hornets played in Team USA Select camps this summer (Sam Walker and Bram Scheerer for the 17s and Jett Jungels and Michael Vorlicky for the 16s. That number would have been six if Ben

Copeland and Clayton Phillips (17s) had decided to return.

— TIM KOLEHMAINEN

► **Duluth Marshall, the small school on the hill, does the unthinkable and beats big-school rival Duluth East on its way to a most unforeseen (except by me) Section 7, Class 2A title.**

— LOREN NELSON

► **Eden Prairie goes down in sections.** Casey Mittelstadt and company will be dominant in the regular season, but in a brutal Section 2AA that features rising Minnetonka, experienced Holy Family, and lurking Prior Lake, they'll stumble and end their run of four straight Tourney appearances.

— KARL SCHUETTLER

► **The Moorhead Spud will qualify for the state tournament as the Section 8AA champions and will win their first game of the tournament in stunning fashion only to fall in the semifinals to Eden Prairie.**

— PETE WAGGONER

### YOUR PANEL

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## 2017 WATCH LIST

## MR. HOCKEY

**MICAH MILLER**  
F, Grand Rapids**JOHN STAMPOHAR**  
D, Grand Rapids**BEN MEYERS**  
F, Delano**RYAN SANDELIN**  
F, Hermantown**NICK LEIVERMANN**  
D, Eden Prairie**NOAH CATES**  
F, Stillwater**CASEY MITTELSTADT**  
F, Eden Prairie**HENRY ENEBAK**  
F, Lakeville North**MATT ANDERSON**  
D, Holy Family Catholic**JOSHUA ESS**  
D, Lakeville South

## MR. HOCKEY WINNERS

2016: Riley Tufte — Blaine  
 2015: Jake Jaremko — Elk River  
 2014: Avery Peterson — Grand Rapids  
 2013: Grant Besse — Benilde-St. Margaret's  
 2012: Justin Kloos — Lakeville South  
 2011: Kyle Rau — Eden Prairie  
 2010: Nick Bjugstad — Blaine  
 2009: Nick Leddy — Eden Prairie  
 2008: Aaron Ness — Roseau  
 2007: Ryan McDonagh — Cretin-Derham Hall  
 2006: David Fischer — Apple Valley  
 2005: Brian Lee — Moorhead  
 2004: Tom Gorowsky — Centennial  
 2003: Nate Dey — North St. Paul  
 2002: Gino Guyer — Greenway  
 2001: Marty Sertich — Roseville  
 2000: Paul Martin — Elk River  
 1999: Jeff Taffe — Hastings  
 1998: Johnny Pohl — Red Wing  
 1997: Aaron Miskovich — Grand Rapids  
 1996: Dave Spehar — Duluth East  
 1995: Erik Rasmussen — St. Louis Park  
 1994: Mike Crowley — Bloomington Jefferson  
 1993: Nick Checco — Bloomington Jefferson  
 1992: Brian Bonin — White Bear Lake  
 1991: Darby Hendrickson — Richfield  
 1990: Joe Dziedzic — Minneapolis Edison  
 1989: Trent Klatt — Osseo  
 1988: Larry Olimb — Warroad  
 1987: Kris Miller — Greenway  
 1986: George Pelawa — Bemidji  
 1985: Tom Chorske — Mpls Southwest

## BRIMSEK WINNERS

2016: Nick Althaus — St. Cloud Apollo  
 2015: Dyllan Lubbesmeyer — Burnsville  
 2014: Hunter Shepard — Grand Rapids  
 2013: David Zevnik — St. Thomas Academy  
 2012: Michael Bitzer — Moorhead  
 2011: Alex Lyon — Lake of the Woods  
 2010: Zane Gothberg — Thief River Falls  
 2009: Casey O'Connor — Bloomington Jefferson  
 2008: Joe Phillippi — Hill-Murray  
 2007: Reid Ellingson — Cloquet/Esko/Carlton  
 2006: Austin Lee — Bloomington Jefferson  
 2005: Alec Richards — Breck  
 2004: Matt Lundin — Apple Valley  
 2003: Jon Anderson — White Bear Lake  
 2002: Josh Johnson — Cloquet/Esko/Carlton  
 2001: Eric Aarnio — White Bear Lake  
 2000: Jake Brandt — Roseau  
 1999: Adam Laksonen — Cloquet/Esko/Carlton  
 1998: Adam Coole — Duluth East  
 1997: Kyle Kolquist — Duluth East  
 1996: Karl Goehring — Apple Valley  
 1995: Todd Kelzenburg — Blaine

Tim Kolehmainen / Breakdown.zenfolio.com

## BRIMSEK WATCH LIST

**JAKE BEGLEY**  
Hill-Murray**MIKE MAGNUSON**  
Cretin-Derham Hall**REID WASZCZENKO**  
Wayzata







# SEASON PREVIEW

## CLASS AA

### FAB 15 RANKINGS

1. Stillwater
2. Eden Prairie
3. Edina
4. Grand Rapids
5. Wayzata
6. Elk River
7. Duluth East
8. Lakeville South
9. Minnetonka
10. Moorhead
11. Holy Family Catholic
12. Centennial
13. Hill-Murray
14. St. Thomas Academy
15. Lakeville North

### ALL-BREAKDOWN



**Casey Mittelstadt**  
Sr. F, Eden Prairie



**Noah Cates**  
Sr. F, Stillwater



**Gavin Hain**  
Jr. F, Grand Rapids



**Matt Anderson**  
Sr. D, Holy Family Catholic



**Nick Leivermann**  
Sr. D, Eden Prairie



**Jake Begley**  
Sr. G, Hill-Murray

### HONORABLE MENTION

#### FORWARDS

Micah Miller, sr. Grand Rapids  
Henry Enebak, sr. Lakeville North  
Sam Walker, jr. Edina  
Max Michaelis, sr. Elk River  
Colin Schmidt, jr. Wayzata  
Garret Worth, jr. Duluth East  
Alex Pollock, sr. Bemidji  
Nolan Sullivan, sr. Eden Prairie  
Lucas McGregor, jr. Centennial

#### DEFENSE

Joshua Ess, sr. Lakeville South  
Keaton Pehrson, sr. Lakeville North  
John Stampohar, sr. Grand Rapids  
Jesse Bjugstad, sr. Stillwater  
Grant Anderson, jr. Wayzata  
Mike Koster, so. Chaska

#### GOALTENDERS

Gabe Holum, jr. Grand Rapids  
Matt Fitzgerald, jr. Bemidji

Tim Kolehmainen/Photo.com







# WAYZATA'S COACH O'LEARY HAS LEADERSHIP DOWN - PAT

IN SECOND VISIT TO STATE TOURNAMENT UNDER COACH PAT O'LEARY, TROJANS EARN FIRST TITLE

PETE WAGGONER | LET'S PLAY HOCKEY

The Wayzata Trojans broke through and won the 2016 Minnesota Class 2A state tournament to earn the first championship in school history. In its fourth appearance at the state tournament, the win rewarded an organization-wide effort led by head coach **Pat O'Leary**. The approach to the Trojans program is to compete, communicate, and develop every player.

## O'LEARY'S PASSION

O'Leary is in seventh year as the Wayzata head coach and it is clear that he has a passion for the game and has passed his experiences on to his team — and beyond to the Wayzata youth program.

O'Leary was a member on the University of Minnesota's national championship team in the 2001-2002 season and was a 3rd round draft choice of the Phoenix Coyotes. He went on to play professionally in three minor league seasons after college. Eventually O'Leary moved back to the Twin Cities and began pursuing coaching. He spoke with a pair of Armstrong Bantam A coaches who coached O'Leary in his youth days and the discussion eventually led to O'Leary joining their coaching staff on a part-time basis.

"I really enjoyed being around the locker room and the games. The next year I did a little more, not full time yet," O'Leary recalled. "**Aaron Johnson**, who is the coach at Buffalo now, was at Orono and asked if there was any chance that I could help him. I wanted to see if I would like the high school level and after two years there went to Wayzata."

In all, O'Leary has been behind a bench for 11 years, nine of them at Wayzata. It is his love of the game that benefits Wayzata the most and he has crafted a message for not only the players on his high school roster to feel but for the entire Wayzata youth organization.

There has been an increased amount of pressure placed on young players in recent years to not only strive to be a high school player but even more. O'Leary who has achieved well beyond the high school ranks takes a different approach and it is a pragmatic one from his

perspective.

"What is wrong with being a player on the Wayzata high school hockey team? What's wrong with that being a goal," O'Leary asked. "That's what it was when I was growing up, the goal wasn't to play at the U or in the NHL. I can never forget going out and watching (Armstrong's) warm-ups and how hard they shot the puck. How cool it was with the band and everything."

It is that drive and perspective that O'Leary has brought to the Trojan program. He communicates in an effective way as it was through playing for **Bruce Johnson** at Robbinsdale Armstrong that taught O'Leary the value of relating to kids.

## COMMUNICATION IS KEY

For most players, a coach can have a profound impact on the experience a player has and it can reach beyond the life lessons and day-to-day values a player takes from the sport and into life. Coaches can impact how they teach and coach the game to a whole new generation of players. When asked about his old high school coach at Robbinsdale Armstrong, O'Leary quickly noted that it was the way Johnson communicated and related to each player individually that he carries with him today.

"The biggest thing I learned from Bruce was the way you interact with the kids on a daily basis," O'Leary recalled. "It's kind of that old school teacher mentality. The day-to-day stuff, the X's and O's is such a small part of the game and it's just the interaction on a daily basis with the kids — getting the read on them, how you can push their buttons, and how you can get them to play well at different times. It was how you made kids feel and making them feel wanted and needed which helps everyone pulling from the same rope."

As most coaches get their feet wet and determine what works for them best, O'Leary was quick to point out that his coaching journey began as a trial by error. He is not afraid to take a chance, however his instincts are what point him in the right direction. He looks at the day-to-day needs of players on and off the ice and takes into account what may be going on in the players'

lives at that time.

"A couple of things I have learned over the years, call it trial by error, I tell people the reason hockey is the greatest sport in the world is you can get kids ready to play on the power play or penalty kill and whatever forecheck you want but ultimately they have to go out there and do it," O'Leary stated. "You can't coach from the bench in hockey. Your kids just have to do it. That's the biggest thing I have learned is just the preparation of the mindset the kids have on a daily basis — their nerves, or are they over-cocky, or taking the other team lightly? The preparation of getting 20 kids in your locker room to focus and play at their top level."

**You can't coach from the bench in hockey. Your kids just have to do it. That's the biggest thing I have learned is just the preparation of the mindset the kids have on a daily basis...**

— PAT O'LEARY

Like a player, O'Leary doesn't panic, instead he reads the situation and reacts in his communication with the players accordingly to have them mentally read to execute in the next game.

"You're not going to have a good day every day in practice and it's how you interact with that and get them ready to play the next game," he said.

Communication is key to O'Leary's success and he does not get caught up in the traditional roll assignments for players and focuses more on an incremental day-to-day approach. His focus begins in the locker room and extends to the practice ice. He notes that it is too hard to predict

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what is going to happen in an hockey game and a coach has to rely on the feel of the game and the team from day-to-day.

"I don't know what is going to happen in the game half of the time," O'Leary said. "You don't know what the other team is bringing to the table or if they are going to be ready to go. Your kids may have had a long day at school or something like that and it is more over the day to day grind that kids have.

"If you are a senior, that had a few good years but your aren't seeing them come up on the scoresheet as much but they are always coming to rink every day with a positive attitude that stuff just continues on through the program. Your top end or bottom end guys will have tough days you look to your middle range guys to keep the practice moving and allow us to help the kids instead of just micro-managing every athlete. It's not necessarily putting them in positional rolls but rolls they have on the team whether it is a vocal leader in the locker room or whether it's the guy that's always 15-minutes on the ice early, or guys I can talk to about the feeling in the locker room is compared to how we are feeling that day."

**PLAYER DEVELOPMENT**

Upon O'Leary's return to Wayzata after his playing days, he began having a number of conversations with people around the hockey program and at the rink. Relationships started to build and he has become a visible part of the program. As a member of the Player Development Committee for the Wayzata Youth Hockey Association, O'Leary has been involved with player skills and improvement. He has a hands off approach with the youth coaches while trusting and allowing them to coach their teams.

"I am at the rink all the time and I'm on the Player Development Committee for the Wayzata Youth Hockey Clinic and run skill developments for the whole youth program throughout the season," O'Leary said. He stays away from the tryout process and added, "I don't do a lot with tryouts. I've been doing clinics since day-one and slowly but surely have gotten to know people and earned the respect of the youth program to ask for my opinion and by no means, I don't tell them how to coach or anything like that but just preach on how your are supposed to act on a daily basis."

He shares his depth of experience with players who may be attending national camps or being watched by scouts which many of the players in his program experience. There are a few key things that O'Leary shares with his program and that is in the small world of hockey there are not a lot of secrets about players and where they are from and they are all representative of the program that takes pride in its image.

"When you have guys that are gifted and go to the national camps, they always know where everybody is from," O'Leary observed. "I always tell my youth program that if they know Jimmy Johnson is from Wayzata, what's the next thing they say? What's the next thing that comes out of their mouth? Are they good kids? That's what I try to do."

Things that O'Leary would like to hear said about his kids begins with respect.

"Respect is a big thing for me," explained O'Leary. "Kids these days are being pushed so hard at an early age where they are sometimes



Wayzata coach Pat O'Leary

Tim Kolehmainen / Breakdown.zenfolio.com

forgetting to listen to some people that have been there. The second thing is try to look like you are having fun most of the time, it's still a sport and it doesn't matter what sport it is."

A recent article penned by Minnesota Hockey regarded a parent that tracked where the kids played on the Wayzata state championship team in 2016. It is telling to see that, according to O'Leary, only a handful of players were AA level players for the six years of youth hockey from Squirts to Bantams. There were players that had participated at all levels of the youth spectrum through Bantams, dispelling the myth that players can get behind and don't have a chance.

"I don't know the exact number but there is an article about it and there is a dad who is a big believer in what I have done here," O'Leary said. "He's one of those guys who is very likable and well liked by all of the parents. He asked the parents to take five minutes to fill out where you player played from squirt first year through bantam second year. I don't know what the exact number is but there were only three players that played AA hockey their entire lives. There were 5-10 that played at the B2 level somewhere along the line not even at squirts but above the Squirt level. It was pretty crazy to see. That is the biggest issue we are seeing everywhere but I can speak for Minnesota Hockey. The (issue) is expectations on these kids, they are not enjoying their experiences and trying to compare them to what the next one is going to be. That's a lot of pressure on them."

The formula is simple at Wayzata.

O'Leary was able to focus on all players and give kids the chance to first have fun and then develop at their own pace. In some instances it led to a varsity hockey experience and in others it led to a junior gold experience. It does help to have numbers from which there is plenty of depth yet there are challenges with large numbers as

well. It is hard to argue though, most programs would enjoy the high numbers that programs like Wayzata or Edina have. O'Leary also noted that when you come from larger youth programs kids are forced to compete and battle for their spots on rosters which also helps them become better rounded players.

**WINNING ATTITUDE**

Winning helps build a positive environment and the run through the state title swelled that support to an impressive level for the Trojans last year. Even though Wayzata is a large school district, it could be said that between 250 and 500 people would attend Trojan games in the past while the level of enthusiasm pitched to crescendo with 1,500-2,000 per game leading up to the state tournament, something that does not go unappreciated by O'Leary.

"It's a very good thing for our program and for our kids. The support that we have from the people that came to the games was amazing," O'Leary said. "It's a great culture around here and winning helps everything obviously but the support we got at the state tournament and even the section run was really cool and our boys felt it."

The second time around proved to give O'Leary the experience on the coaching side of things to help his team through the process. The first trip to St. Paul as a team can be overwhelming from the schedule, to the food, to waiting to play. It can be a blur for teams and sometimes the moment isn't enjoyed to it's fullest potential.

"I said to take a deep breath. Try to enjoy this one, I told my staff make sure you are taking pictures and enjoying this," O'Leary explained.

The Trojans are certainly enjoying it at all levels. This year's team will be no different with up to 11 players returning from the state title team. ♦



# SECTION PREVIEW

## 2AA

### PREDICTION

1. Eden Prairie (No. 2AA)
2. Minnetonka (No. 9AA)
3. Holy Family Catholic (No. 11AA)
4. Prior Lake
5. Chaska

### DETAILS

- COACHING CHANGES: none.
- SECTION CHANGES: none.
- CONFERENCE CHANGES: none.

**W**hen the Minnesota State High School League reshuffled the sections prior to last season, there was a distinct change to Section 2AA, which to that point had been the domain of Edina stretching back into the distant past. The Hornets were shifted into Section 6AA, while some of that section's powerhouses were placed back in the vacancy created by Edina's move. The net result? A tough section that seems to have become even tougher.

**Eden Prairie:** Our preseason No. 2 team in Class AA — and that comes with some controversy, as most outlets have the Eagles at No. 1 — Eden Prairie is also the favorite in Section 2AA. The Eagles feature the most highly anticipated senior season by a high school player since, well, Kyle Rau of Eden Prairie. Casey Mittelstadt is that superstar, especially after he posted 11 points in three state tournament games, although

the Eagles' fell short to Wayzata in the state final. Mittelstadt returns to EP seeking that elusive state title, just as Rau returned six years ago to claim the crown. But Mittelstadt is far from alone on the roster. Coach Lee Smith's team seemingly has no holes, with fellow high-scoring forwards Nolan Sullivan and Hunter Johannes, slick defenseman Nick Leivermann, goaltender Nick Wiencek and a host of other veteran Eagles returning.

**Minnetonka:** The Skippers could make some noise, as the program is bringing up a class of youngsters from back-to-back Bantam state championship teams. The Skippers might be a year away — or they might be ready now. Senior forwards TJ Rogers and Jack Bowman and senior defenseman Zach Van Sant will be the glue that holds the young team together.

**Holy Family Catholic:** The Fire have been on the verge of a big playoff push for years, and this could

be the year for them to break through. Senior defenseman Matt Anderson leads a very talented bunch of veterans eager for that chance.

**Prior Lake:** Speaking of teams seeking a break through, the Lakers are another in that camp. Senior Kevin Fellows has blazing speed and sophomore Jackson Jutting is one of the state's top players at his age level.

**Other contenders:** Chaska is the most likely to break into the semifinals, with veteran goaltenders and elite sophomore D Mike Koster.

— TIM KOLEHMAINEN

### PAST SECTION CHAMPIONS:

- 2009 — Edina
- 2010 — EDINA
- 2011 — Edina
- 2012 — Edina
- 2013 — EDINA
- 2014 — EDINA
- 2015 — Edina
- 2016 — Eden Prairie

### ALL-SECTION



Casey Mittelstadt,  
Eden Prairie



Nolan Sullivan,  
Eden Prairie



Kevin Fellows,  
Prior Lake



Matt Anderson,  
Holy Family



Nick Leivermann,  
Eden Prairie



Nick Wiencek,  
Eden Prairie



## CHANHASSEN

**NICKNAME:** Storm  
**TWITTER:** chanstormhockey  
**CONFERENCE:** Metro West  
**SECTION:** 2AA  
**CONFERENCE RECORD:** 4-3-0  
**OVERALL RECORD:** 13-12-1  
**ARENA:** Victoria Field House, Victoria  
**STATE TRIPS:** none

**COACH:** Chris Wilson  
**PHONE:** 612-849-7018  
**EMAIL:** chanstormhockey@gmail.com  
**YEARS COACHING/RECORD:** 7/69-12

**SCOUTING REPORT:** We return an experienced group of forwards and four senior defensemen. Will need to replace our goaltender who played 23 games last year.

**DID YOU KNOW:** Connor Kelly (2012) finished his career with a flourish, setting new school records for single-season goals (38) and points (57). Logan Wilkinson (2014) holds the career assists record while Erik Anderson (2014) broke goalie's records for games played, saves and shutouts in a career. Michael Gmitterko (2014) played in every game in program history entering this season with 104. Taylor Thompson (2016) set a goaltending school record for most minutes played and victories, both set as a senior.

**LETTERWINNERS RETURNING/LOST:** 13/8

**GRADUATION LOSSES:** F Jake Theis (All-Metro West); F Zach Buesgens; F Benny Bjerken (All-Metro West HM); D Harrison Bosch; D Justin Fossand; D Jared Davidson; D Connor Lindquist; G Taylor Thompson (All-Metro West)

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Fr. G Josh Weyandt — will push for minutes this year, very athletic and composed; So. F Jacob Langheinrich — should help in creating scoring chances, has great puck skills and good upside potential;

## LAST YEAR'S STATS

Name	Gr	Ht	Wt	Pos	G	A	Pts
Jake Theis	—	6'0		F	16	15	31
Eric Worre	12	5'10	160	F	10	17	27
Colin Moser	12	5'11	160	F	10	12	22
Zach Buesgens	—	5'10		F	7	14	21
Benny Bjerken	—	6'0		F	15	5	20
Harrison Bosch	—	5'11		D	7	11	18
Jack Pries	12	6'0	180	F	7	6	13
TJ Truso	11	5'9		F	5	6	11
Ridge Shelby	12	5'7	140	D	0	10	10
Justin Fossand	—	6'0		D	1	9	10
Patrick Newell	12	5'11	175	D	1	7	8
Jared Davidson	—	5'11		D	2	5	7
Tommy Heiland	11	6'0		F	2	4	6
Jack Haley	11	5'10	150	F	1	4	5
Connor Lindquist	—	6'0		D	0	3	3
Adam Galler	12	6'2		F	2	2	4
Gabe Wrenholt	12	6'5		F	1	3	4
Parker Wolf	11	6'1		D	0	1	1
Luke Becker	12	6'1		F	1	0	1

Name	Gr	Ht	Wt	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
Taylor Thompson	—	5'7		11-11-1	2.77	0.904
Zach Swisher	11	5'8		2-1-0	3.00	0.841

Note: Under the player's grade level, those with a notation of "—" have graduated, those with "TR" have transferred to another program, and those with "NR" are early departures.

## JACK HALEY, JR. F

Stats	G	A	Pts
	1	4	5

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'10 / 150  
 \*SHOOTS: R

\*SCOUTING REPORT: "Jack was a Section 2 HP selection. He is a very smart player, should have a breakout season." — Chanhassen coach Chris Wilson



## COLIN MOSER, SR. F

Stats	G	A	Pts
	10	12	22

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'11 / 160  
 \*SHOOTS: R

\*ALL-METRO WEST HM

## SCOUTING REPORT:

"Colin is a great two-way player who provides a spark at all times. Tallied 24 points last year and should increase that total this season."

— Chanhassen coach Chris Wilson

Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths? Hard working forward that will forecheck, set up plays, and score.

Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know? I started playing hockey in Dallas, TX.

Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why? Being able to play with your best buddies and for your city.

Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team? We are a very close group that does the small things needed to win.

Q: What other activities are you involved in? National Honor Society, DECA, Key Club.

Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason? Chanhassen Summer Training Program, Karn Skating Dynamics, Minnesota Magicians.



## PATRICK NEWELL, SR. D

Stats	G	A	Pts
	1	7	8

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'11 / 175

\*SCOUTING REPORT: "Patrick is a steady defenseman who also provides a great offensive spark. Will quarterback the power play and get a ton of minutes in every situation."

— Chanhassen coach Chris Wilson



## JACK PRIES, SR. F

Stats	G	A	Pts
	7	6	13

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 6'0 / 180  
 \*SHOOTS: R

\*SCOUTING REPORT: "Jack is an explosive player who should double his points this year. He is intense and physical at both ends." — Chanhassen coach Chris Wilson



## RIDGE SHELBY, SR. D

Stats	G	A	Pts
	0	10	10

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'7 / 140  
 \*SHOOTS: L

\*SCOUTING REPORT: "Ridge is our best skater. He is very strong defensively and can provide quick offense." — Chanhassen coach Chris Wilson



Chanhassen's Eric Worre

Tim Kolehmainen / Breakdown.zenfolio.com

## ERIC WORRE, SR. F

Stats	G	A	Pts
	10	17	27

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'10 / 160  
 \*SHOOTS: L

\*ALL-METRO WEST

\*SCOUTING REPORT: "Eric is a four-year player, two-time all-conference player. He generates a lot of offense through his creativity and makes the players around him better." — Chanhassen coach Chris Wilson



## CHASKA

**NICKNAME:** Hawks  
**CONFERENCE:** Metro West  
**SECTION:** 2AA  
**CONFERENCE RECORD:** 1-6-0  
**OVERALL RECORD:** 13-11-1  
**ARENA:** Chaska Community Center, Chaska  
**STATE TRIPS:** none

**COACH:** Dave Snuggerud  
**PHONE:** 952-227-7794  
**EMAIL:** dave.snuggerud@breakawayacademy.net

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Two great goaltenders, offensive-minded defense, and three solid lines.

**DID YOU KNOW:** Derek Annett (2015) tied a single-season school record by scoring 34 goals as a senior.

**LETTERWINNERS RETURNING/LOST:** 14/3

**GRADUATION LOSSES:** F Danny Urbanciz; F Zac Rodeheffer (All-Metro West); D Cal Pierce; F Steven Senden

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Fr. F Shane LaVelle; Fr. D Calvin Barrett; Fr. D William Magnuson

## LAST YEAR'S STATS

Name	Gr	Ht	Wt	Pos	G	A	Pts
Michael Koster	10	5'10	170	D	18	18	36
Danny Urbanciz	—			F	13	23	30
Zac Rodeheffer	—			F	12	23	35
Cal Pierce	—			D	12	17	29
Blaine Warnert	10	6'0	185	F	13	13	26
Sam Esping	12	F		F	3	13	16
Micah Roane	11	6'3	215	D	3	12	15
Ethan Benz	10	F		F	5	6	11
Mitchell O'Sell	9			D	1	6	7
Keith Fletcher	10	F		F	3	4	7
Andrew McClure	12	F		F	2	5	7
John Starkey	10	D		D	1	3	4
Billy Bronson	10	D		D	2	1	3
Colin Jacobsen	11	F		F	1	1	2
Landry Kuss	11	F		F	0	2	2
Tony Sigurdson	11	F		F	1	1	2
Steven Senden	—	F		F	1	1	2
Justin Bach	10	G		G	0	1	1

Name	Gr	Ht	Wt	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
Ben Urbanciz	11	5'10	155	8-6-0	3.51	0.902
Justin Bach	10			4-5-1	3.41	0.896
Mitchell Moore	11			1-0-0	1.20	0.917
Taylor Hanson	10					
Dylan Prosen	12					

Note: Under the player's grade level, those with a notation of "—" have graduated, those with "TR" have transferred to another program, and those with "NR" are early departures.

## SAM ESPING, SR. F

Stats	G	A	Pts
	3	13	16

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: ' /





▶ **MICHAEL KOSTER, SO. D**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	18	18	36

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'10 / 170  
\*SHOOTS: L

\*ELITE 35  
UNDERCLASSMEN  
\*ALL-BREAKDOWN  
CLASS AA HM  
\*ALL-METRO WEST  
HM  
\*COLLEGE: Minnesota

\*SCOUTING REPORT:  
"Great vision and makes great plays all over the ice." — Chaska coach Dave Snuggerud

**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** I am a competitive offensive defenseman that sees the ice well. I am smart and I defend well to push the offense.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** I am very superstitious especially before games with a specific routine and meal.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** Getting to play with your buddies and see them every day after school.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** We are a very young team with only four seniors. We are on the rise and are going to be very fast and skilled.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** I am a member of FCA. I also enjoy watching other high school activities when not training.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** I train with Jack Blatherwick. He is helping me become a better and more explosive skater.

▶ **ANDREW MCCLURE, SR. F**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	2	5	7

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: ' /

▶ **MICAH ROANE, JR. D**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	3	12	15

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 6'3 / 215  
\*SHOOTS: R

**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** I like to play a fast game with lots of passes and I look at myself as more of a setup man.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** I lived overseas until the 1st grade in India.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** The bond that you and your teammates have during the year that lasts outside of hockey is awesome cause it's like having more brothers.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** We have a very young team that looks to have a lot of skill, and after losing only four seniors I think were already pretty gelled together as a unit.



**Q: What other activities are you involved in?**

Football.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** From the end of hockey season I work both dryland and ice until I start Football in the summer and fall. Through both sports I work with a speed trainer as well as lifting and conditioning trainer.

▶ **BEN URBANCIZ, JR. G**

Stats	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
	8-6-0	3.51	0.902

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'10 / 155  
\*SHOOTS: L

**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** I'm a hybrid goaltender. I try to make the save any way I can.

Whether it's going into the butterfly, like I do for most shots, or making stand up saves, I try to make the save the best I can. I am very positional and can rely on my desperation to make some saves.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** I can solve the Rubik's Cube in one minute.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** Being with my teammates everyday for months at a time. It's great to become close with all of my teammates and make a connection through hockey.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** We are a very young team. With the majority of our team being underclassmen, we're a team for the future. We have very good defensemen and a great passion for the game.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** I am also on the varsity soccer team at Chaska High School.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** I try to do as much as I can. Working the upper and lower body during the high school summer camp, getting 1-on-1 on-ice training, and participating in lots of tournaments and games for other teams.

▶ **BLAINE WARNERT, SO. F**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	13	13	26

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 6'0 / 185  
\*SHOOTS: R

\*ELITE 35  
UNDERCLASSMEN

\*SCOUTING REPORT:  
"Big forward that can skate and has great hands." — Chaska coach Dave Snuggerud

**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** Two-way center, with good mobility that is able to see the ice. I am also a team player that is positive and unselfish amongst my teammates.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** I have a twin sister who is very competitive in basketball.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** I think the best thing about playing high school hockey in MN is the competition level. I love the pressure to make something happen when I'm on the ice, whether it is scoring a goal, making a good defensive play or helping out my teammates.



**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** Our commitment we all have toward each other as teammates. We know that it will take everyone on the team doing their job to make us successful this season. Our cooperation and respect we have towards each other as teammates amazes us a very unselfish team. Keeping things simple by doing the basics and working together for the ultimate goal of working our way to the state high school hockey tournament.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), attending other Chaska High School sporting events.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** I train with Jack Blatherwick in the offseason to increase my strength and speed.

**EDEN PRAIRIE**

2

NICKNAME: Eagles

CONFERENCE: Lake

SECTION: 2AA

CONFERENCE RECORD: 3-4-1

OVERALL RECORD: 21-8-2

ARENA: Eden Prairie Community Center, Eden Prairie

STATE TRIPS: 1992, 99, 2001, 03, 09 Champs, 11 Champs, 14, 15, 16

COACH: Lee Smith

PHONE: 952-975-2564

EMAIL: lsmith@edenpr.org

**SCOUTING REPORT:** I think the thing we like is that a lot of these guys have been to two state tournaments already. They have a lot of experience besides the talent they bring to the game. We have real good depth as far as being able to score throughout our lineup. We have some losses at defense, but we think some kids are ready to make the jump up and help out with Leivo and Deraney. We like our chances of being right in the thick of it at the end of the year. There are some tremendous teams in our section that we have to compete against to have a chance, but we think we'll be prepared for the playoffs by our tough schedule.

**▶ DID YOU KNOW:** Two school records were broken when the Eagles were winning their second state title in three seasons. Mr. Hockey Kyle Rau (2011) became the all-time leading scorer and Andrew Ford (2011) set a mark for most career victories by a goaltender.

**▶ GRADUATION LOSSES:** F Michael Graham (AP All-State 3rd, All-Lake, Notre Dame); F Cole Lawrence (All-Lake HM); F Spencer Steen (All-Lake HM); D Louie Roehl (All-Lake HM); F Wesley Young; F Hugh Truemp; D Gray Erwin; F Cooper Borchert; G Shaun Durocher; F Chris Kimball

LAST YEAR'S STATS									
Name	Gr	Ht	Wt	Pos	G	A	Pts	GAA	SV%
Casey Mittelstadt	12			F	33	47	80		
Michael Graham	—			F	19	33	52		
Nolan Sullivan	12	5'11	195	F	20	24	44		
Nicky Leivermann	12	5'10	192	D	13	29	42		
Cole Lawrence	—			F	14	20	34		
Hunter Johannes	12			F	12	14	26		
Spencer Steen	—			F	10	14	24		
Louie Roehl	—			D	6	17	17		
Jared Blackowiak	12	5'11	185	F	8	6	14		
Noah Deraney	12			D	3	9	12		
Andrew Erwin	—			D	2	5	7		
Wesley Young	—			F	2	5	7		
Hugh Truemp	—			F	2	3	5		
Nick Wiencek	12	5'9	154	G	0	2	2		
Tommy Hartle	12			D	0	1	1		
Gray Erwin	—			D	0	1	1		

Name	Gr	Ht	Wt	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
Andrew Dietrich	11	6'0		12-13-0	3.03	0.895
Cooper Borchert	—			12-4-0	2.57	0.909
Nick Wiencek	12	5'9	154	9-4-0	2.27	0.905
Thomas Moschet	12					

Note: Under the player's grade level, those with a notation of "—" have graduated, those with "TR" have transferred to another program, and those with "NR" are early departures.

▶ **JAROD BLACKOWIAK, SR. F**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	8	6	14

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'11 / 185  
\*SHOOTS: L

\*SCOUTING REPORT:

"Jarod is a tremendous shooter and has a lot of puck poise. Has really worked hard to make his already strong game into a really incredible game. Full of confidence." — Eden Prairie coach Lee Smith

**Q: Give me a short**

**scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** I am a two-way player maker who can score goals, and I am someone who is easy to play with.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** As a squirt, I cut open my leg with a hockey skate and doctors were unsure if I would be able to skate again.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** I get to play with all of my best friends that I grew up playing with. Also I can be with my family every day.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** We are all good friends and have been for many years. It will help when it comes down to making the depth chart for our team.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** Working out, shooting, stick handling, and on ice skating.

▶ **NOAH DERANEY, SR. D**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	3	9	12

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: ' /

\*SCOUTING REPORT: "He's really filled out and grown into his body. He's a strong defenseman and a really good skater. Good puck poise and a hard shooter. Noah should be really good for us this year." — Eden Prairie coach Lee Smith

▶ **ANDREW ERWIN, JR. D**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	2	5	7

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'11 / 180  
\*SHOOTS: R

\*SCOUTING REPORT:

"He has great hockey sense and he's a strong defender. Makes the right plays offensively. We need him to be great for us to have a chance to win the tournament." — Eden Prairie coach Lee Smith



**Q: Give me a short**

**scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** I always battle hard, I am physically strong, I have a hard shot, I am a shut down defenseman with the ability to make plays in the offensive zone.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** Military child, I also lived in Japan.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** Being with your buddies, and having a big family and support group.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** We are feeling good about our season and the competition this upcoming year.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** Member of Car Club.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** Weight lifting, sprints, Blatherwick, private lessons, and skating schools.



▶ **TOMMY HARTLE, SR. D**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	0	1	1

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: ' /

\*SCOUTING REPORT: "Tommy is a very steady defensive defenseman. He takes his opportunities when given, but is a solid two-way defenseman." — Eden Prairie coach Lee Smith

▶ **JACK JENSEN, SO. F**

\*ELITE 35 UNDERCLASSMEN

\*SCOUTING REPORT: "Jack is tenacious on the puck. He's extremely fast and powerful and already plays beyond being a sophomore. Key figure to our team." — Eden Prairie coach Lee Smith

▶ **HUNTER JOHANNES, SR. F**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	12	14	26

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: ' /

\*SUPER 100 SENIORS

\*SCOUTING REPORT: "Hunter is a hard-nosed power forward with skill. Had a breakout year last year and we expect even more from him this year. Bright future." — Eden Prairie coach Lee Smith



Eden Prairie's Hunter Johannes

Tim Kolehmainen / Breakdown.zenfolio.com

▶ **NICKY LEIVERMANN, SR. D**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	13	29	42

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'10 / 192

\*SHOOTS: L

\*SUPER 100 SENIORS  
\*ALL-BREAKDOWN CLASS AA  
\*PRESEASON MR. HOCKEY LIST

\*ALL-LAKE

\*SCOUTING REPORT: "Nick has a tremendous ability to rush the puck. But he's also an excellent defender. Great shooter and really good vision at the blue line." — Eden Prairie coach Lee Smith



**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** Smart puck moving defenseman with good vision and able to jump up in the play.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** Friends call me "Leivo."

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** Playing in the State Tournament.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** We have a lot of seniors that have played together Throughout the years. Team chemistry.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** Lacrosse, DECA.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** Regular workouts and skill development.

▶ **RYAN LESKO, JR. F**

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 6'0 / 175

\*SHOOTS: R

\*SCOUTING REPORT: "Ryan's another big, power forward with really good hands. Puck protects well and creates well. Finishes his opportunities. He's someone that we're looking to have step in and play a big role for our team this year." — Eden Prairie coach Lee Smith

▶ **CASEY MITTELSTADT, SR. F**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	33	47	80

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: ' /

\*SHOOTS: L

\*SUPER 100 SENIORS  
\*PRESEASON PLAYER OF THE YEAR, ALL-BREAKDOWN CLASS AA  
\*PRESEASON MR. HOCKEY LIST

\*AP ALL-STATE POY  
\*ALL-LAKE  
\*COLLEGE: Minnesota

\*SCOUTING REPORT: "Casey is dynamic in all senses of the term. Tremendous ability to score and set up his linemates. One of the most exciting high school hockey players ever, in my opinion." — Eden Prairie coach Lee Smith



**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** I'm a quick and skilled forward who likes to make plays with the puck.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** I golf every day of the summer.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** Playing and battling with your best friends.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** We return a lot of guys and we should go into the year with a really strong core of guys.

▶ **NOLAN SULLIVAN, SR. F**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	20	24	44

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'11 / 195

\*SHOOTS: L

\*SUPER 100 SENIORS  
\*ALL-BREAKDOWN CLASS AA HM  
\*ALL-LAKE

\*SCOUTING REPORT: "Nolan is a power forward with really good vision. He's a very unselfish, two-way player. Nolan does all the little things right and should have an incredible year." — Eden Prairie coach Lee Smith



**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** Strong in the corners, smart with and without the puck, play physical but smart.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** I am hired by St. Andrews Church to run a high school Bible study.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** Getting to be a part of the school and hanging out with your buddies every day.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** We have strong returning seniors with experience, and young guns coming up to fill key roles.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Young Life, Dudes Dance Team.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** Blatherwick explosive work outs, on ice work with Jack Hillen and Dick Emahiser, and shooting pucks.

▶ **NICK WIENCEK, SR. G**

Stats	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
	9-4-0	2.27	0.905

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'9 / 154

\*SHOOTS: L

\*SUPER 100 SENIORS

\*SCOUTING REPORT: "The staff has a lot of confidence in him. Nick is very athletic and challenges shooters. Mentally tough and won a lot of big games for us last year. We're looking forward to a big senior year out of him." — Eden Prairie coach Lee Smith



**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** Athletic and quick. Good under pressure.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** My nickname is "Winnie." I like to be outdoors/fishing.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** Playing the sport with all of your friends and still competing at a high level.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** This year we will have a strong offensive team with a lot of returners. There is great chemistry among the players.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** I am the varsity lacrosse team manager and I participate in DECA.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** Strength training and goalie training.

## HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC

11

NICKNAME: Fire

TWITTER: @HFHockey

CONFERENCE: Wright County

SECTION: 2AA

CONFERENCE RECORD: 9-0-0

OVERALL RECORD: 20-6-0

ARENA: Victoria Field House, Victoria

STATE TRIPS: none

COACH: Noel Rahn

PHONE: 612-250-8678

EMAIL: noelrahn@velocityhockeycenter.com

YEARS COACHING/RECORD: 6/107-45-3

**SCOUTING REPORT:** Our expectations for this year's team is to be consistent throughout the year with our work ethic and compete level. Our strengths will be our senior class which will provide great leadership to a great group of skilled players. We have a very good backend starting with our goaltender and defensemen core. These are two very important factors to have in order to have success playing a tough schedule. Keys to our season will be helping fill in for the scoring that we lost from last year. We have players who are capable and will need new expand their scoring from a year ago.

**▶ DID YOU KNOW:** John Peterson (2015) holds marks for single-season goals (31), assists (41) and points (67) and career goals, assists and points. Defenseman Ryan Swanson (2014) broke the record for career points by a defenseman with 131. Matt LaPrade (2010) holds the career victories record (33) for a goaltender, as well as for most career saves.

**▶ LETTERWINNERS RETURNING/LOST:** 14/4

**▶ GRADUATION LOSSES:** F Will Garin (AP All-State 3rd, All-WCC, UConn); F Tyler Rock (All-WCC); F John Pearson; F Jaedin Ness; D Mark Richter; D Casey Rock

**▶ VETERANS NOT RETURNING:** G Jaxson Stauber  
**TOP NEWCOMERS:** So. F Cole Wilson — new forward that comes to us with expectations to play and provide offense to this year team. He played last year on Minnetonka's Bantam AA state





## WHO IS MINNESOTA'S CRAFTIEST/MOST ELUSIVE PLAYER?

As part of our preseason coverage, we searched far and wide across the state to come up with great players in certain skill categories. The above five nominees are presented in no particular order. Certainly, it's just opinion, but we asked one of the top players what it takes to make this list.

**BAILEY SOMMERS, REDWOOD VALLEY**

**CARTER RANDKLEV, MOORHEAD**

**NOAH CATES, STILLWATER**

**ALEX POLLOCK, BEMIDJI**

**CASEY MITTELSTADT, EDEN PRAIRIE**

**Q: What skills does it take to be considered an elusive player? Are they mental, physical or both?**

**A:** I think they're both a big part of it. Obviously having the physical tools to make good plays and having the mental edge to keep getting better and trying new things.

**Q: How do you work on those skills? Any special training or drills?**

**A:** I do a lot of stick handling and shooting at home and making sure to do something every day to get better.

**Q: It could often be said that elusive players seem to have "eyes in the back of their heads." What do you see on the ice that allows you to be elusive? Is it visual or more a feeling that it's time to move?**

**A:** I skate with Barry Karn in the summer and he has really taught me how to take my vision to the next level. I think being able to slow the game down and speed it up helps a lot.

**Q: Does it pump up your team when you beat a defenseman and leave him wondering where you disappeared to? Does it pump you up?**

**A:** Yeah, I think winning a one on one battle always helps your confidence and helps the team get going. I think it's contagious, once one person wins one everyone else starts winning theirs.

**Q: Tell us about your decision to return to Eden Prairie for your senior season. What went into that decision and was it difficult?**

**A:** It was a hard decision, but I wanted one more chance to win with all my friends my whole life.





tournament team;

LAST YEAR'S STATS									
Name	Gr	Ht	Wt	Pos	G	A	Pts		
Will Garin	—	—	—	F	77	25	52		
Matt Anderson	12	—	—	D	10	29	39		
Ethan Mesler	12	6'5"	210	C	15	18	33		
Tyler Rock	—	—	—	F	10	19	29		
Patrick Reddan	12	6'0"	180	F	11	15	26		
Mack Byers	12	5'11"	170	W	12	13	25		
Ben Almquist	11	6'0"	175	C	11	13	24		
James Marooney	11	5'10"	170	D	6	14	20		
Brady Ziemer	11	5'11"	180	D	3	16	19		
Jack Michel	12	—	—	F	7	12	19		
Nick Michel	12	5'11"	175	W	7	7	14		
Jack Kalenberg	12	—	—	D	0	11	11		
John Pearson	—	—	—	F	4	7	11		
Peter Tabor	11	—	—	D	1	7	8		
Jaedin Ness	—	—	—	F	2	5	7		
Mark Richter	—	—	—	D	0	2	2		
AJ Kittleson	10	—	—	F	0	1	1		
Joe Hankinson	11	—	—	F	1	0	1		
Joe Simon	11	—	—	D	0	1	1		
Casey Rock	—	—	—	D	0	1	1		

Name	Gr	Ht	Wt	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
Jared Moe	11	6'3"	200	10-5-0	2.18	0.919
Jaxson Stauber	NR	—	—	10-1-0	1.13	0.942

Note: Under the player's grade level, those with a notation of "—" have graduated, those with "TR" have transferred to another program, and those with "NR" are early departures.

### ► BEN ALMQUIST, JR. C

Stats	G	A	Pts
	11	13	24

**\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 6'0" / 175  
**\*SHOOTS:** L

#### \*TOP 75 JUNIORS

#### \*SCOUTING REPORT:

"Ben is entering his third year of varsity hockey with HF. He has been a great player for us since the 9th grade. He is a great playmaker who sees the ice very well. He also has a good nose of the net and will provide more goals for us this year. Very strong kid who does not lose many battles on the ice." — Holy Family Catholic coach Noel Rahn

**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** Competitive forward with good hands who can pass and score and who is good on defense.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** I like to play a lot of basketball.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** Having teammates who you not only play with, but go to school with.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** We will be a very experienced team with players who have had a lot of varsity experience and we have a lot of skilled defense and forwards.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** I train with Holy Family team in the summer camp.

### ► MATT ANDERSON, SR. D

Stats	G	A	Pts
	10	29	39

**\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** ' /  
**\*SHOOTS:** L

**\*SUPER 100 SENIORS**  
**\*ALL-BREAKDOWN CLASS AA**  
**\*PRESEASON MR. HOCKEY LIST**

**\*AP ALL-STATE 3RD**  
**\*ALL-WCC**  
**\*COLLEGE:** UM-Duluth

**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** I am a good skater and a two-way defenseman.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** Love to Muskie fish.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** Get to play with your buddies and be at home.



Holy Family Catholic's Matt Anderson

David Romuald

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** We will be very sound on defense and a strong team physically.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** Trap shooting.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** Lifting and biking.

### ► MACK BYERS, SR. W

Stats	G	A	Pts
	12	13	25

**\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 5'11" / 170  
**\*SHOOTS:** L

#### \*SCOUTING REPORT:

"Mack had a successful year for us last year playing a top-six forward and providing offense to our team. He has great speed and plays tough every night. He was a consistent player for us last year in both ends. He should provide more offense and leadership to this year's team." — Holy Family Catholic coach Noel Rahn

**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** I am strong player in all three zones. I have a high hockey IQ. I am a highly skilled player with quick speed. My vision allows me to execute in all three zones.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** Hobbies that most don't know about me is that I love to down hill ski, hunt, and cook. My favorite movie is Saving Private Ryan. My favorite desert is double chocolate cake. My nickname has been "Mackadoo" since before I could remember.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** The best part about playing high school hockey is the community and school support you get at each game. Also the competition is best in the country for our age.



**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** The outlook for our team this year is to compete in the state tournament. Our team strengths are that we are a highly skilled team with a coaching staff that pushes us to compete at our best each and every day. We all have the same common goal of achieving the state tournament.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** I played lacrosse and golf.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** I do my off ice training at Velocity Hockey Center, and I do my on ice training with the Minnesota Blades.

### ► JOE HANKINSON, JR. F

Stats	G	A	Pts
	1	0	1

**\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** ' /  
**\*TOP 75 JUNIORS**

**\*SCOUTING REPORT:** "Joe is a big strong forward who plays very well in front of the net and along the boards. Great power forward who will score a lot of goals for us this year. He will be a key for us killing penalties and playing in the paint on the PP." — Holy Family Catholic coach Noel Rahn

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### ► JAMES MAROONEY, JR. D

Stats	G	A	Pts
	6	14	20

**\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 5'10" / 170  
**\*SHOOTS:** L

#### \*TOP 75 JUNIORS

#### \*SCOUTING REPORT:

"James will be entering his third year of varsity hockey for us. He is a captain and leaders on our blue line. He has a very high compete level for his size. He also skates very well and can provide a lot of offense to this team. He will be playing in the Elite League this fall." — Holy Family Catholic coach Noel Rahn



**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** Strong skater with a good hockey IQ. I'm an offensive defenseman who likes to join the rush.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** Avid fisherman.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** Having the ability to play for your school, also playing with your buddies and in front of packed arenas.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** Very strong defensively, great work ethic and skill up front with the forwards. Great goalie between the pipes.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** Fishing team with Nick Michel, Matt Anderson and Brady Ziemer.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** Skating and strength training at Velocity Hockey Center in Edina.

### ► ETHAN MESLER, SR. C

Stats	G	A	Pts
	15	18	33

**\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 6'5" / 210  
**\*SHOOTS:** R

**\*SUPER 100 SENIORS**  
**\*ALL-WCC**

#### \*SCOUTING REPORT:

"Ethan is a big, strong center who can play the physical or skill game. He has an NHL shot and likes to play with a high compete level. Had a great season last year for us with 36 points. He will build off that and be one of the top centers in the state." — Holy Family Catholic coach Noel Rahn

**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** I'm big, fast, strong. I have a good hockey sense and I have a good shot.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** I love fishing and being with friends.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** I am with my team all day every day. I love being with all my friends and going to school with them.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** We all are very solid. We have all good lines. We all have size and strength also. We are not a small team.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** In the weight room almost every day and getting on the ice as much as possible.





► **NICK MICHEL, SR. W**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	7	7	14

\***HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 5'11 / 175  
 \***SHOOTS:** L

\***SCOUTING REPORT:** "Nick will be a big help providing offense to this team this year. His numbers have progressed every year. He will be in spot to play a top-six forward and keep moving those numbers higher this year." — Holy Family Catholic coach Noel Rahn

► **JARED MOE, JR. G**

Stats	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
	10-5-0	2.18	0.919

\***HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 6'3 / 200  
 \***SHOOTS:** R

\***TOP 75 JUNIORS**\***SCOUTING REPORT:**

"Jared is coming off a great varsity season as our number No. 1 goalie last year. He will be looked upon again to carry the load for mostly all the games this year. Was a top 10 leader in the state for some goaltending areas last year. Big, strong athletic kid who has a bright future. Will be playing in the Elite League this fall." — Holy Family Catholic coach Noel Rahn



**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** My greatest strength as a goalie is my compete level, it doesn't matter if it's a game or a practice I can't stand being scored on.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** I wear No. 37 because of Josh Harding who was my favorite goalie when he played for Minnesota.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** I love having big crowds at our games. It makes the game more intense and gets you pumped up to play.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** We have a very solid defensive team. We lost our leading scorer from last year but we have plenty of guys that will be able to step up and give us the scoring we need.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** I do the Holy family skate and lift. Then I also work with my goalie coach, Dave Rogalski.

► **PATRICK REDDAN, SR. F**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	11	15	26

\***HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 6'0 / 180  
 \***SHOOTS:** R

\***SUPER 100 SENIORS**  
 \***ALL-WCC**

\***SCOUTING REPORT:**

"Patrick will be playing his fourth year of varsity this year. He has got better each year with his stats and again will be a key player for us this year scoring goals. He has unreal speed and hands around the net. A captain for us and will be playing in the Elite League this fall." — Holy Family Catholic coach Noel Rahn



**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** Speed, hockey IQ.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** Playing with your best friends.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** Experience,

depth, with an unparalleled defense and goalie around the state.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** Golf.



Minnetonka's Grant Docter

Brian Nelson

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** Train at Velocity Training Center.

► **PETER TABOR, JR. D**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	1	7	8

\***HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** ' /

\***SCOUTING REPORT:** "Peter is a big strong D man that will join a already solid group of D. Peter has great hockey sense, skating ability and shoots the puck very well. He will be a big part of this teams success on both ends of the rink." — Holy Family Catholic coach Noel Rahn

► **BRADY ZIEMER, JR. D**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	3	16	19

\***HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 5'11 / 180  
 \***SHOOTS:** R

\***TOP 75 JUNIORS**\***SCOUTING REPORT:**

"Brady enters his third season of varsity hockey for HF. He is a second-year captain for us as only a junior which says a lot about his leadership and work ethic. Very physical player who has great hockey sense at both ends of the rink. His shot is one of the best in the state. He will be positioned this year to be using that shot as much as possible. Will be a big part of this year defense core." — Holy Family Catholic coach Noel Rahn



**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** I am a disciplined physical defenseman with a heavy shot.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** I always put my left skate on first. I like country music, fishing and hunting.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** Being able to play with your friends in front of your classmates and fans. There is nothing better than high school hockey in Minnesota.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** We have a very strong core of players returning and over the last two seasons have really grown into our roles on the team.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** Baseball.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** Performance Athletix, Scott Bjugstad Shooting School, Velocity Training Center with the Holy Family team.

## MINNETONKA

9

NICKNAME: Skippers

TWITTER: @tonkaboyssuck

CONFERENCE: Lake

SECTION: 2AA

CONFERENCE RECORD: 6-1-1

OVERALL RECORD: 18-7-1

ARENA: Pagel Activities Center

STATE TRIPS: 1985, 90, 94, 2006, 10

COACH: Brian Urlick

PHONE: 612-210-8081

EMAIL: brianurlick@gmail.com

YEARS COACHING/RECORD: 9/171-69-8

**SCOUTING REPORT:** We lost 50 percent of our scoring from last year. We also lost four defensemen and our starting goalie. We will need our younger juniors and sophomores to improve over the summer to make up for our lost scoring. We will have good depth next year but a lot of holes to fill.

► **DID YOU KNOW:** Coach Brian Urlick (1995) was a pretty good player in his time. He shares the school record for goals in a season with Jack Paul (2006), both with 30. Paul also holds the record for career goals (72) and did have the record for points (144), until Max Coatta (2013) broke that mark in his senior season. Evan Stensrud (1996) is the top single-season tallier of assists (39) and points (67) in school history. Jim Kruger (2010) is the career wins leader (43) for a goaltender and Dan Steinkamp (2003) is the top in career saves (1,163).

► **LETTERWINNERS RETURNING/LOST:** 14/8

► **GRADUATION LOSSES:** F Brendan Skarda (All-Lake); F Brendan Ryan (All-Lake HM); F Pierson Pass (All-Lake); F Mario Bertogliati (All-Lake HM); D Mitchell Terrell (All-Lake HM); D Jack Kuzma; D Jake Schmidt; G Thomas Hanson (All-Lake)

► **VETERANS NOT RETURNING:** D K'Andre Miller (All-Lake); F Dominic Picciano

**TOP NEWCOMERS: Fr. D Clay Hanus** — key player on the Bantam AA state championship team. Smart defenseman that has all the skills

## LAST YEAR'S STATS

Name	Gr	Ht	Wt	Pos	G	A	Pts
Brendan Skarda	—	5'10	F		17	21	38
Joe Moleenaar	11	6'0	160	W	12	13	25
Brendan Ryan	5'10	F			4	1	25
TJ Rogers	12	5'10	175	C	10	13	23
Zach VanSant	12	5'10	195	D	3	17	20
Pierson Pass	3'11	F			11	6	17
K'Andre Miller	NR	6'2	D		5	11	16
Jack Bowman	12	5'11	180	C	6	8	14
Mario Bertogliati	—	5'11	F		7	7	14
Max Cavanaugh	12	5'10	F		2	8	10
Mitchell Terrell	—	5'9	D		3	7	10
Grant Docter	10	5'10	160	D	3	6	9
Dominic Picciano	1R	6'3	F		4	3	7
Ryan Elder	11	6'0	F		1	3	4
Jack Kuzma	—	6'1	D		1	1	4
Mitch McGannon	11	5'11	F		1	2	3
David Andes	11	5'9	F		2	0	2
Anders Johnson	12	6'4	D		1	1	2
Jack Meredith	12	5'9	F		1	1	2
Jake Schmidt	—	6'1	D		1	0	1

Name	Gr	Ht	Wt	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
Thomas Hanson	—	6'0		15-7-1	2.27	0.918
Matt Muller	12	5'11	170	3-0-0	2.00	0.878

Note: Under the player's grade level, those with a notation of "—" have graduated, those with "1R" have transferred to another program, and those with "NR" are early departures.

► **JACK BAYLESS, SO. F**

\***HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 5'9 / 160  
 \***SHOOTS:** L

\***ELITE 35 UNDERCLASSMEN**\***SCOUTING REPORT:**

"Won two state championships at the Bantam AA level. Good size and speed. High hockey IQ." — Minnetonka coach Brian Urlick

**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** I feel like I am a fast player with a pretty good hockey IQ. I like to score goals but also like to set up my teammates for goals too.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** I like to play ping pong.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** I haven't played high school yet but I look forward to playing for my school and representing my community well.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** I feel like we will have strong leadership from our seniors.

We have a good core group of juniors and sophomores that won state in Bantam AA.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** I play varsity lacrosse goalie.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** A mix of hockey training and off ice workouts with plyometrics.





▶ **JACK BOWMAN, SR. C**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	6	8	14

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'11 / 180  
\*SHOOTS: R

**\*SCOUTING REPORT:**

"Jack will be playing his third year of varsity hockey. Plays a great two-way game as a center. Looking for him to have a big year." — Minnetonka coach Brian Urlick



**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player.**

**What are your strengths?** Strong vision of the ice, works well in the defensive zone.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** Favorite food is sushi.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** The atmosphere of playing with your friends.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** Great young talent coming up balanced with some experienced players.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** Varsity trapshooting, Political Club and First Mate leader.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** 1:1 training with skating coach, strength training.

▶ **GRANT DOCTER, SO. D**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	3	6	9

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'10 / 160  
\*SHOOTS: L

**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** High hockey IQ, good skater, accurate shot, and patient with the puck.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?**

I like listening to Christmas music from first snowfall until snow is gone.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** Playing with your friends and the final run to the state tournament. Every team is working their hardest to make it to the state tournament and play in front of 18,000 people.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** Hope that our Minnetonka team repeats as Lake Conference champs and makes it to the state tournament.

Our Minnetonka team will have depth and ability to transition from defense to offense.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** Lacrosse.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** STP, Impact, Minnesota Made Selects, lacrosse, lifting, plyometrics, tennis, and yoga.

▶ **RYAN ELDER, JR. F**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	1	3	4

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 6'0 /

**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** I would say I am a big power forward that likes to get in front of the net and get dirty and that I have good speed on the ice.



**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** I really wish I could have played football and golf for Minnetonka when I had the chance.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** The best part of playing high school hockey is the opportunity to play with your best friends and compete for the state title at the Xcel.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** Our team this year is going to be fairly young, but we will have a lot of depth at all positions and have great chemistry.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** Baseball.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** Shoot and stick handle in my garage and skate at Impact Hockey.

▶ **LUKE LOHEIT, JR. F**

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 6'0 / 165  
\*SHOOTS: R

**\*SCOUTING REPORT:**

"Won two state championships at the Bantam AA level. Good size and speed." — Minnetonka coach Brian Urlick

**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?**

Hard-working, gritty, physical, sees the ice well, creative and is smart with the puck.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** I love old time/Frank Sinatra era music.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** The environment, playing in front of a huge crowd and being able to represent your city.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** Should have a fast, skilled determined team that is going to have the ability to do something really special.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** I play baseball for the high school during the spring.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** Skills training pass hockey, on ice three times a week, high school STP and playing for U16 Blades in the summer/fall.

▶ **JOE MOLENAAR, JR. W**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	12	13	25

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 6'0 / 160  
\*SHOOTS: L

\*TOP 75 JUNIORS  
\*ALL-LAKE HM

**\*SCOUTING**

**REPORT:** "Played on the top line as a sophomore. Leading goal scorer returning to the lineup. High end hockey IQ." — Minnetonka coach Brian Urlick

**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** I am a forward who can see the ice well with good vision and good hands. I work hard in all three zones.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** My nickname is "Moley" and I love to golf.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** Every game matters and you spend a ton of time with your best friends.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** We are going to be a fast and hardworking team with a lot of young talent coming in from back to back bantam state championships.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** I play for the golf team.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** I skate and workout at Competitive Edge and Impact.

▶ **MATT MULLER, SR. G**

Stats	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
	3-0-0	2.00	0.878

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'11 / 170  
\*SHOOTS: L

**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?**

My strengths as a goaltender come within my speed and athleticism. I'm not the tallest person ever, but my lateral movement and agility allows me to make saves that many goalies cannot.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** I am a mediocre juggler — I have been juggling since third grade.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** Hanging out and developing as a team as the year goes on. It is really fun to bond with all of my teammates and create great chemistry.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** Or team was very fast last year and we might be even faster this year. We will be able to beat a lot of teams on the rush this year by utilizing our superior speed to create more chances.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** I play high school baseball.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** I am training with my goalie coach Dave Rogalski and also doing the Impact summer training program at Pagel.

▶ **TJ ROGERS, SR. C**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	10	13	23

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'10 / 175  
\*SHOOTS: R

**\*SCOUTING REPORT:**

"TJ has tremendous speed. Creates tons of scoring chances off the rush. Top returning scorer." — Minnetonka coach Brian Urlick

**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** Good hockey sense. Fast skater with playmaking ability.

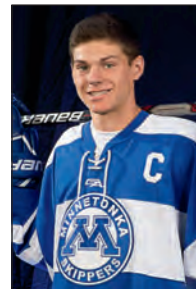
**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** Both of my parents are twins.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** Being able to represent and play in front of my hometown with the kids I grew up playing with.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** We have a good core of seniors and a lot of young guys that have experience in winning state championships. Depth and speed will be our key strengths.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** I played varsity baseball this past spring.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** Weight training at Full Strength with Jayme Pantekoeck and Impact Hockey with Adam Kragthorpe and Eric Johnson.

▶ **ZACH VANSANT, SR. D**

Stats	G	A	Pts
	3	17	20

\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'10 / 195  
\*SHOOTS: R

\*SUPER 100 SENIORS  
\*ALL-LAKE

**\*SCOUTING REPORT:** "Zach is a four-year starter at defense. Matches up against teams top lines. Very strong defensively." — Minnetonka coach Brian Urlick

**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player.**

**What are your strengths?** Vision, awareness, anticipation, defense to offense opportunities, and body positioning.

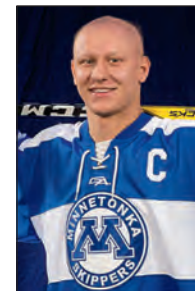
**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** "Vanny."

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?** Being with teammates, and playing for the community.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** Speed and depth.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** Pep fest.

**Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?** Mental training, lifting, shooting, and conditioning.



## PRIOR LAKE

**NICKNAME:** Lakers

**CONFERENCE:** South Suburban

**SECTION:** 2AA

**CONFERENCE RECORD:** 16-2-0

**OVERALL RECORD:** 22-8-0

**ARENA:** Dakota Sports & Fitness, Prior Lake

**STATE TRIPS:** none

**COACH:** Joe Pankratz  
**PHONE:** 952-693-3035  
**EMAIL:** joe@exceedgoals.com  
**YEARS COACHING/RECORD:** 8/

**\*SCOUTING REPORT:** The Lakers look forward to a good season with expectations of competing once again for the SSC title. Once our meat-grinder section rolls around, our hope is to put ourselves in position to compete for a spot in the state tourney. We will be very experienced up front and three lines deep. On the back end we'll have some growing pains with only two regular varsity players from last winter. In goal we have four kids competing for the top spot on varsity and it's a wide open competition. Our keys will be the development of our defenseman and one of our goalies jumping out from the pack.

▶ **DID YOU KNOW:** Connor Clemens (2016) set a single-season goal scoring record as a senior with 31, while Matt Denman (2016) set a new mark with 34 assists in a single season. Coach Joe Pankratz was a sophomore on the 1991-92 Tier I state championship team at Bloomington Jefferson that went 28-0-0. Pankratz also played one year with the University of Minnesota.

▶ **LETTERWINNERS RETURNING/LOST:** 10/10

▶ **GRADUATION LOSSES:** F Connor Clemens (All-SSC); D Matt Denman (All-SSC); F Jack Schulze (All-SSC HM); F Curtis Hansen; F Ryan Coyle; D Noah Beer; F Marshall Fischer; D Andrew Krueger; G Drew Scites (All-SSC); G Benny Smith





Prior Lake's Jack Harris

David Romuald

## TOP NEWCOMERS: G Cade Kujawski

## LAST YEAR'S STATS

Name	Gr	Ht	Wt	Pos	G	A	Pts
Connor Clemons	—	—	—	F	31	21	52
Matt Denman	—	—	—	F	6	34	40
Kevin Fellows	12	5'9	185	C	16	23	39
Jack Harris	12	5'10	168	C	12	16	28
Jackson Jutting	10	5'10	168	C	12	16	28
Carlo Hansen	—	—	—	F	10	19	28
Jake Cohn	12	5'11	175	D	7	16	23
Tanner Burggraaff	12	5'10	175	C	9	9	18
Chase Gackle	12	5'10	200	D	4	13	17
Ryan Murray	12	5'10	200	D	4	11	15
Ryan Coyle	—	—	—	F	4	9	13
Jack Harris	12	6'1	175	D	4	7	11
Scott Bee	—	—	—	F	1	6	7
Cole Wagner	12	—	—	D	4	2	6
Maxwell Fischer	—	—	—	F	1	4	3
Carter Collins	12	—	—	D	1	2	3
Andrew Krueger	—	—	—	D	0	3	3
Jack Hansen	12	—	—	F	1	1	2
Drew Sites	—	—	—	G	0	1	1

Name	Gr	Ht	Wt	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
Drew Sites	—	—	—	19-8-0	1.96	0.923
Benny Smith	—	—	—	1-0-0	0.00	1.000

Note: Under the player's grade level, those with a notation of "—" have graduated, those with "TR" have transferred to another program, and those with "NR" are early departures.

## ▶ JAKE COHN, SR. D

Stats	G	A	Pts
	7	16	23

•HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'11 / 175  
•SHOOTS: R

•SCOUTING REPORT:  
"Very smart hockey player and a great passer; will be huge for our team this year." — Prior Lake coach Joe Pankratz

Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?  
Playmaker, I find the right passes to make and execute them. I play responsibly and for the team always.

Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?  
I am a certified scuba diver.

Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?  
Hockey is a great game and playing it at a high level is all you can ask for.

Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year.  
What are the strengths of your team?  
As a team, we will have goal scoring capabilities, we just need to string together some wins and anything is possible.

Q: What other activities are you involved in?  
Student Council, National Honor Society.

Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?  
Summer STP, U18 Magicians.



## ▶ KEVIN FELLOWS, SR. C

Stats	G	A	Pts
	16	23	39

•HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'9 / 185  
•SHOOTS: L

•SUPER 100 SENIORS  
•ALL-SSC

•SCOUTING REPORT:  
"Extremely fast and agile; has the ability to beat guys with speed alone." — Prior Lake coach Joe Pankratz

Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?  
Love using my speed, quickness and agility to create scoring chances for myself and teammates.

Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?  
When I'm not playing hockey, you'll find me enjoying myself on the golf course.

Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?  
Getting to play in front of your community with your good friends.

Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year.  
What are the strengths of your team?  
We have a great core group of returning players, we're very balanced and play as a team.

Q: What other activities are you involved in?  
Golf, National Business Honor Society and community service through the Impak organization.

Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?  
Map South Campus, Minnesota Strength Academy.

## ▶ CHASE GACKLE, SR. C

Stats	G	A	Pts
	4	13	17

•HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'10 / 175  
•SHOOTS: R

•SUPER 100 SENIORS

•SCOUTING REPORT:  
"Elite skater and motor. Great on the kill and very hard to play against." — Prior Lake coach Joe Pankratz

Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?  
I have high top-end speed. I love to get to the dirty areas of the ice to get the puck for myself to create an opportunity for my teammates.



Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?  
My favorite thing, other than hockey, is snow skiing in Colorado. I love to ski powder (it feels like you are flying). My nickname is "Gacks" or just "Gackle."

Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?  
The best part of playing hockey is playing with your best friends and the locker room bantering ("what you say in the locker room, stays in the locker room"). Playing with your best friends all through high school, as well as the memories you make will last forever.

Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year.  
What are the strengths of your team?  
Our strengths this year will be speed and the defensive zone. We have many skaters with top end great speed. This will make it hard for teams to break out the puck. We have three lines that can score this coming year.

Q: What other activities are you involved in?  
I like to spend boating, wake boarding and wake surfing. I also like to work and make money.

Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?  
I skate at Minnesota Made and work out at 1st Athlete, as well as STP skating and lifting through the Prior Lake High School program. I do work out on my own free team and keep up with 1st Athlete program on my time.

## ▶ JACKSON JUTTING, SO. C

Stats	G	A	Pts
	12	16	28

•HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'10 / 168  
•SHOOTS: L

•ELITE 35  
•UNDERCLASSMEN  
•ALL-SSC HM

•SCOUTING REPORT:  
"Very good all around player. See the ice wonderfully, can shoot it, and has a great work ethic. Will be a huge part of our success this year." — Prior Lake coach Joe Pankratz

Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?  
I think I have strong instincts on the ice and great vision. I always work hard and a center man than can take face-offs when the team needs possession.

Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?  
I love being at my cabin in the summer.

Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?  
I like that you get to play for your hometown with your friends and have great competition to play against.

Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year.  
What are the strengths of your team?  
I think our team is very strong offensively and can score a lot of goals.

Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?  
Prior Lake STP and Select 15 camp.

## ▶ RYAN MURRAY, SR. D

Stats	G	A	Pts
	4	11	15

•HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5'10 / 200  
•SHOOTS: R

•SUPER 100 SENIORS  
•ALL-SSC HM

•SCOUTING REPORT:  
"Very physical defenseman with a cannon for a shot. Will play a lot of minutes in all the important situations." — Prior Lake coach Joe Pankratz

Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?  
I am a stay-at-home defenseman that will rush it when needed. I am strong in the corners and have a good stick. I love the physical play.

Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?  
I love to wakeboard and boat.



Q: What is the best part of playing high school hockey and why?  
The big home games where a lot of fans go. It is fun and gets your blood going.

Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year.  
What are the strengths of your team?  
We should have a really good team this year. This group of guys have played together our whole lives and succeeded. We will be fast and have lots of skill.

Q: What other activities are you involved in?  
Leadership program, mentoring.

Q: What type of training do you do in the offseason?  
I train every day in the morning. I run and do footwork. I also skate a lot.

## ▶ JACK HARRIS, SR. D

Stats	G	A	Pts
	4	7	11

•HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 6'1 / 175  
•SHOOTS: L

•SUPER 100 SENIORS

•SCOUTING REPORT:  
"Big, rangy and can shoot it. Needs to add a physical side to his game, but will anchor the PP and play a lot of minutes." — Prior Lake coach Joe Pankratz



## SHAKOPEE

NICKNAME: Sabers  
CONFERENCE: South Suburban  
SECTION: 2AA  
CONFERENCE RECORD: 0-18-0  
OVERALL RECORD: 4-21-1  
ARENA: Shakopee Ice Arena, Shakopee  
STATE TRIPS: 2005

COACH: Ed Loiselle  
PHONE: 952-496-5171  
EMAIL: eloisell@shakopee.k12.mn.us

▶ GRADUATION LOSSES: F Alex Gaul (All-SSC); F Nathan Mukai (All-SSC HM); D Jacob Nadeau; D Michael Gohl; F Jared Swanson; F Jake Kosek; F Jacob Harinen

## LAST YEAR'S STATS

Name	Gr	Ht	Wt	Pos	G	A	Pts
Alex Gaul	—	—	—	F	18	15	33
Ethan Sievek	12	—	—	D	7	14	21
Sam Kreuser	12	—	—	F	9	9	18
Tommy Schmid	12	—	—	F	6	8	14
Nathan Mukai	—	—	—	F	3	9	13
Connor Kratzke	12	—	—	F	3	7	10
Matt Smieja	12	—	—	F	3	4	7
Jacob Nadeau	—	—	—	D	0	6	6
Michael Gohl	—	—	—	D	1	4	5
Jared Swanson	—	—	—	F	1	4	5
Evan Holm	11	—	—	F	1	2	3
Cameron Lawrence	12	—	—	D	1	2	3
Jake Kosek	—	—	—	F	1	2	3
Jacob Harinen	—	—	—	F	1	2	2
Dalton Bullard	11	—	—	F	1	0	1
Max Pulk	12	—	—	D	0	1	1

Name	Gr	Ht	Wt	W-L-T	GAA	SV%
Adam Bleess	12	—	—	2-16-1	6.21	0.858
Cole Geyen	11	—	—	2-5-0	5.73	0.864
Cole Broome	11	—	—	0-0-0	7.91	0.714

Note: Under the player's grade level, those with a notation of "—" have graduated, those with "TR" have transferred to another program, and those with "NR" are early departures.

## ▶ ETHAN SIEVEK, SR. D

Stats	G	A	Pts
	7	14	21

•HEIGHT/WEIGHT: ' /  
•SHOOTS: L

