

Inside scoop

The 30-minute trip north up Interstate 35 is a familiar one for the Cougars, who have firmly planted their flag as king of Section 1AA over the last handful of seasons. But even with loads of tournament experience and some impressive recent results — namely a runner-up finish in 2021 — Lakeville South returns to St. Paul this year with something to prove.

Led by a battle-tested group of seniors, the Cougars (21-6-1) are looking to avenge an early exit last season and bring a championship back to Lakeville.

Lakeville South won't be the trendy pick this week in St. Paul, but with just enough offensive talent, a legitimate stud on the blueline and a star in net, it could be a sneaky underdog in a loaded field.

Unseeded Survey with

CONFERENCE:
South Suburban
RECORD: 21-6-1
STATE TRIPS: 10
COACH: Josh Storm,
2nd year (46-11-1);
12th overall (190-11-14)

HOME ARENA:

Team snapshot

FORWARDS: South, which popped home an average of 4.39 goals per game this season, leans heavily on its senior trio of Tate Pritchard (56 points), Aidan Willis (50 points) and Ashton Dahms (43 points), and gets some scoring depth from sophomores Jackson Ernst and Will Kortan to aid the effort up front. Pritchard's status for the tournament is in question after suffering a hand injury in the Section 1AA final.

DEFENSEMEN: Tyler Lafferty, the do-it-all blueliner for the Cougars, is tasked nightly with shutting down opposing forwards and chipping in in the offensive zone. The senior has seven goals and 35 points. John Novak is another steady presence on the back end, giving Lakeville South a formidable one-two punch.

GOALIES: Jack Hochsprung has played all but 102 minutes this year and boasts 19 wins, a .915 save percentage and four shutouts.

Stats

NO.	NAME	GR	POS	G	Α	PTS	PIM
3	Tate Pritchard	12	F	28	29	57	24
18	Aidan Willis	12	F	13	44	57	27
22	Ashton Dahms	12	F	25	20	45	10
7	Tyler Lafferty	12	D	7	31	38	40
14	Jackson Ernst	10	F	9	8	17	6
19	John Novak	12	D	5	10	15	14
23	Will Kortan	10	F	6	9	15	6
11	Zander Billins	12	F	6	8	14	8
2	Ryder Patterson	12	D	4	7	11	29
29	Jack Ohlund	12	F	4	5	9	10
8	Eiji Hofmann	11	D	5	3	8	4
28	Colton Kunkel	11	D	3	5	8	18
13	Thomas Boisjolie	12	F	3	3	6	12
21	Luke Johnson	10	D	1	4	5	6
12	William Weidemann	11	F	2	2	4	2
33	Jack Hochsprung	12	G	0	3	3	2
40	Owen Sheffel	12	F	0	3	3	2
16	Cullen Ryan	12	F	1	1	2	0
9	Camden Crawford	12	D	1	0	1	2
17	Evan Kasal	11	D	0	0	0	2
NO.	NAME	GR	MIN	W-L-T	GAA	SV%	so
33	Jack Hochsprung	12	1337:0	2 0019-6	6-1 2.29	.916	4
32	Brooks Currie	11	102:00	2-0-0	0.50	.969	0

BY THE NUMBERS Power Play Percentage: 28.6% Penalty Kill Percentage: 83.1% Goals Scored Per Game: 4.39 Goals Allowed Per Game: 2.21

Schedule

Hasse Arena, Lakeville

11/25	Chaska		W				
12/3	Rogers		L	1-			
12/10	Apple Valley/Burnsy	rille \	W	4-			
12/13		1 I	W	4-			
12/17							
12/27	@ Hill-Murray	W 5	-4/	O			
12/28							
12/29	Benilde-St. Margare	et's	L	1-			
1/7	@ Edina						
1/10	Farmington		W	6-			
1/12	@ Rosemount		L	3-			
1/16	@ Eagan		W	8-			
1/17	@ Prior Lake						
1/21	Delano		W	6-			
1/23	Shakopee		W	8-			
1/27	Lakeville North		W	4-			
1/28	Minnetonka		L	2-			
1/31	Blaine		W	6-			
2/2	@Cretin-Derham Hall						
2/4	@ Shakopee		W	6-			
2/7	Eagan		W				
2/11	@ Farmington		W	9-			
2/14	Rosemount		W	6-			
2/16	@ Eastview		L				
2/17	Prior Lake		W	3-			
SECTION 1AA PLAYOFFS							
2/23	Farmington		W	7-			

2/23 Farmington 2/25 Rochester Century

Coach Josh Storm

A Lakeville native, Storm has guided the Cougars to back-to-back state tournaments in his two seasons leading the program. He previously coached at Owatonna for 10 seasons, compiling a 144-100-13 record before returning to his hometown.



By the numbers

5: The Cougars are making their fifth straight state tournament appearance, joining Moorhead as co-owner of the longest current streak among Class 2A teams.