

# SPORTS

## SLP sweeps trap, skeet conference championships

By Patrick Slack  
Staff Writer

A record-breaking season resulted in Spring Lake Park taking home conference championships in both trap and skeet and a fifth-place finish in team 5-Stand.

Will Ostenson earned all-state individually in two events, earning seventh place in 5-Stand and 74th in trap.

The team's progression and success has been years in the making, with this year's senior class developing into one of the top groups in the state. Spring Lake Park hopes future generations are now set to follow their lead.

"The team's success started years ago when our graduating senior class shooters joined the team," Spring Lake Park co-head coach Brad Meyer said. "They have shown commitment, enthusiasm and perseverance through the last couple years. We have been able to have more structured practices in the late winter and with the willingness to learn, great retainage and refinement of technique, our success has blossomed. I'm proud to watch these kids succeed and be a part of the team."

Earning individual all-conference by placing in the top 25 in trap were Makena Fredrickson, Cohen Janes, Megan Kabus, Kayla Line,



The Spring Lake Park skeet and trap teams both came away with conference championships this spring in addition to a string of all-conference and all-state individual awards as the program continues to grow.

Photo submitted

Will Ostenson, Zach Rosenthal, Janie Sands, Alex Taylor, Kyle Tiller and Alea Zemlicka.

Earning individual all-conference by placing in the top 10 in skeet were Blake Kruse, Caleb Marlowe, Mason Meyer, Nathan Litke, Janie Sands and Logan Schaaf.

Earning individual all-conference by placing in the top 10 in 5-Stand were Will Ostenson and Makena Fredrickson.

"It is great to be part of the con-

tinuing success of the team," Meyer said. "For us to take top honors in trap and skeet is a great testament to our athletes being willing to listen and try to get better. I hope our success continues to foster successful seasons for years to come. The better we do, the more interest is sparked and the more potential we see. It is really fun to watch these kids."

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## VanArragon, Roloff earn medalist honors at Section 5AAA, Wellen advances in playoff

By Patrick Slack  
Staff Writer

Dominance and drama highlighted a trio of area golfers advancing past the Section 5AAA Championships and on to state.

Blaine sophomore Kathryn VanArragon dominated the field to earn section medalist honors by seven strokes, finishing with a two-day score of 141.

Spring Lake Park's Liz Bradley earned 13th overall and was joined in the final round by teammate May Richmond. Brooklyn Bauer and Lydia Wilson also reached the final day

for Blaine.

In the boys field, Spring Lake Park's Mason Roloff thrived as well, earning co-medalist honors at 6-under par to help lead the Panthers to a runner-up team finish. Jack Wellen also qualified for state with a clutch performance, winning a sudden death playoff for the final spot. Ben Wackman finished 18th, Owen O'Keefe 24th, Jake Birdwell 25th and Keegan O'Keefe 29th.

The Class AAA State Tournament is June 15-16 at Bunker Hills in Coon Rapids.

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Blaine girls golf sophomore Kathryn VanArragon dominated throughout the Section 5AAA Championships, winning medalist honors by seven strokes. The Class AAA State Tournament is June 15-16 at Bunker Hills.

Photo submitted

## Strong performances in playoff baseball

By Patrick Slack  
Staff Writer

A rout, followed by a pair of dramatic victories, secured a spot in the Section 7AAAA championship for Andover Forest Lake scheduled to be held June 9.

Andover led off the postseason with a 12-1 five-inning victory over Cambridge-Isanti June 2 behind four shutout innings from Samuel Angell. Max Hunter homered, Logan Myers doubled twice and Kyle Law scored three runs to power the Huskies at the plate.

The Huskies went on to win their second round game in dramatic fashion 2-1 over Blaine the next day. Trailing 1-0 in the bottom of the seventh, Myers leveled the score with a home run, followed shortly after by Carson Wadel doubling home Anthony Pardo for a walk-off win. Josh Stoll pitched four innings, allowing just one unearned run, and Adam Novak picked up the win with three scoreless innings of relief. AJ Kaul pitched six innings and allowed only one run for Blaine.

Andover delivered another rally in its next outing June 5, defeating Forest Lake 4-3 in nine innings to reach the section finals, with Hunter driving in Noah D'Agostino for the walk-off

score. Logan Gravink had three hits and Law reached base three times and scored twice. Eli Nyhammer earned the win with 2 2/3 innings of shutout relief.

Coon Rapids split four games to reach the final four of Section 7AAAA. The Cardinals dropped their first round game 2-0 at Centennial, then bounced back to defeat Duluth East 10-7 and Blaine 4-0 before falling against Centennial 13-2 in an elimination game.

In its playoff opener, Blaine rallied for a 4-3 win over Anoka. Adam Puder and Joey Powers each had a pair of hits and Gavin Gillen got the final five outs for the win in relief.

Spring Lake Park reached the final four of Section 5AAAA, earning a pair of playoff wins before narrowly falling 3-2 against Irondale in an elimination game June 7.

Fridley battled its way to the final three of the Section 4AAA Tournament. After a first-round win, the Tigers nearly knocked off top-seeded Hill-Murray, falling 4-3 in the second round June 3. Fridley rebounded to defeat St. Paul Como Park 11-2 June 5 and St. Paul Johnson 6-4 in nine innings June 8 before falling 6-0 in a rematch against Hill-Murray in the ensuing elimination bracket final.

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## Section track and field meets on deck

Section track and field competition takes place June 9-12.

Anoka, Blaine, Columbia Heights, Coon Rapids, Fridley, Spring Lake Park/St. Anthony and Totino-Grace will compete in Section 5AA. Andover and St. Francis compete in Section 7AA. PACT and Legacy Christian Academy compete in Section 5A.

The state meet is June 17-19 at St. Michael-Albertville High School.

# SPORTS

## Area Lacrosse

# Bengal boys, Andover girls reach Section 7A finals

By Patrick Slack  
Staff Writer

Blaine boys lacrosse rolled to a 14-6 win over Andover in the Section 7A quarterfinals June 3, then knocked off Duluth 9-7 in the semifinal round to earn a chance to play for a trip to state.

The second-seeded Bengals were scheduled to face fourth-seeded Chisago Lakes in the finals June 9, with the winner advancing to the state tournament June 15-19 in Stillwater. Chisago Lakes upset top-seeded Centennial 12-11 in overtime in its semifinal.



Blaine girls lacrosse's Brielle Fussy congratulates Grace Bautch after a goal during the Bengals' playoff game against Forest Lake June 3. Blaine boys lacrosse and Andover girls lacrosse were scheduled to play in Section 7A championship games June 9.

Photo by John Wagner/APG Newspapers

### Girls lacrosse

An electric second-half rally netted Andover girls lacrosse a spot in the Section 7A championship game.

The Huskies trailed 9-6 at the half before erupting for 10 goals in the second half to take down Centennial 16-14 in the semifinals June 7.

Andover produced a balanced offensive attack, as five players had multiple goals. Amanda Nelson led the way

with four goals, Claire Lickfelt scored three and Claire Nelson, Emma Schrepfer and Caitlyn Klein each scored two. Sara Kaiser added a team-high four assists and Bria Vannatta recorded 14 saves.

Andover opened the playoffs with a 17-5 win over Anoka June 3, led by Nelson with four goals and Katie Evans, Klein and Kaiser with three apiece.

The Huskies were scheduled to take on top-seeded Champlin Park in the championship game June 9 for a trip to state. The state tournament is June 16-18 in Stillwater.

### Section 5A, 7A

Forest Lake broke a halftime tie with nine second-half goals to defeat Blaine 15-8 in the Section 7A quarterfinals June 3.

Spring Lake Park fell 10-2 against Robbinsdale Armstrong in the Section 5A quarterfinals June 3.

Anoka won its 7A opener 17-4 over Proctor/Hermantown June 1.

Grand Rapids clipped Coon Rapids 7-6 in overtime in the first round of 7A play June 1.

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## Bjugstad wraps up strong Wild season



Blaine graduate Nick Bjugstad wrapped up a strong first season with the Minnesota Wild with the team's final home goal in Game 6 of its playoff series against Vegas.

Photo courtesy of Harrison Barden/Getty Images and MN Wild

## Bengals finish 3rd in 7AAAA

By Patrick Slack  
Staff Writer

Taking down the top two seeds in back-to-back games, Andover softball earned a trip to the Section 7AAAA championship, scheduled to be played June 10.

After opening playoff action with a 6-2 win over St. Francis June 2, Andover outslugged Blaine 9-7 in the second round of the championship bracket June 5, then knocked off top-seeded Forest Lake 4-3 in the ensuing winner's bracket final.

Abby McQuay and Morgan Deuschle each had three hits for Andover against Blaine, with Katy Campbell and Deuschle both driving in three runs. Maddie Jurgensen homered in the win over Forest Lake, while Morgan Kustecka struck out five in earning the complete-game win.

Blaine nearly worked its way back to the championship via the elimination bracket, defeating Coon Rapids 12-1 and Anoka 5-4 before falling 2-1 against Forest Lake June 8. Maddy Bryant and Kaitlyn Way each hit a double and a homer for the Bengals in the win over Coon Rapids; Allison Teery, Annika Hendrickson, Jade Bryant, Maddy Bryant and Hannah Neider each had two hits against Anoka; and Jordyn Petersen had two hits and stole three bases against Forest Lake.

With Forest Lake's win over Blaine, the Rangers earned a rematch against the Huskies, needing to defeat Andover twice in a row to advance to state.

The state tournament is June 15-16 in North Mankato.

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## DNR's Take a Kid fishing June 11-13

During Take a Kid Fishing weekend Friday, June 11, through Sunday, June 13, Minnesota residents can fish without licenses if they take children 15 or younger fishing with them.

"Time spent fishing with kids tends to be full of smiles, fun and connection," said Benji Kohn, volunteer mentor program coordinator with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "Fishing can teach kids patience, build their confidence and turn into a great family bonding experience."

Youth 15 and younger do not require fishing licenses at any time of the year, though they must observe all fishing seasons and other regulations. Take a Kid Fishing weekend allows adults to fish without a license, as long as they take a child fishing with them. Minnesota residents also may generally fish in state parks without a fishing license if the body of water does not require a trout stamp.

### Learn to fish opportunities

Adults who want to learn about fishing ahead of Take a Kid Fishing Weekend are invited to join a webinar. The webinar will discuss the DNR Fishing in the Neighborhood Program and other resources to help you take advantage of the Take a Kid Fishing Weekend opportunity. Registration and more information are available on the DNR website.

The DNR's Learn to Fish webpage also covers fishing basics, where to fish, how to catch different types of fish, and the importance of fishing ethics and being stewards of Minnesota's natural resources.

In the Twin Cities area, people can find accessible piers and shore fishing locations, and lakes stocked with fish, by going to the DNR's Fishing in the Neighborhood webpage. For fishing locations in greater Minnesota, Minnesota Great Outdoors offers an excellent online mapping tool.

Anyone 16 or older can buy fishing licenses online at [mndnr.gov/buylicense](http://mndnr.gov/buylicense). The investment in the license supports management of the state's fishing resources, habitat that benefits fish and aquatic systems, and good fishing for future generations.