



Nordic queen wears the green

Edina's Wagner makes going to state a habit

Lake Boys Hockey

Lake Conference boys hockey teams will be busy in 7 p.m. games Thursday, Feb. 17.

Hopkins hosts Buffalo at Hopkins Pavilion, Edina travels to play at St. Michael-Albertville, Minnetonka hosts Eden Prairie at Pagel Activity Center and Wayzata hosts Rosemount in a non-conference contest.

More Lake boys hockey is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 19 with Eden Prairie playing Buffalo at 3 at Buffalo Ice Arena, Edina facing off against Wayzata at 7 p.m. at Plymouth Ice Center and Minnetonka traveling to St. Michael-Albertville for a 7 p.m. game.

Girls Hockey Games

Two section championship games will decide State Class AA Tournament representatives, with start times of 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18. Parade Ice Garden in Minneapolis is the site of the Section 6AA game, with Edina as the No. 1 seed. The Section 2AA finals are set for Braemar Arena in Edina. Minnetonka and Holy Family Catholic are the top seeds in 2AA.

Lake Boys Hoops

The Lake Conference boys basketball race is tight as the end of the regular season approaches. In key games at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8, Minnetonka plays Edina at Edina Community Center, Eden Prairie hosts Wayzata and St. Michael-Albertville travels to Buffalo.

In 7 p.m. Lake boys action Tuesday, Feb. 22, pairings are Minnetonka at Wayzata, Edina at Buffalo and St. Michael-Albertville at Hopkins.

Lake Girls Hoops

Three Lake Conference girls basketball games will be played at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18, with Edina at Minnetonka, Buffalo at St. Michael-Albertville and Eden Prairie at Wayzata.

In 7 p.m. girls basketball contests Tuesday, Feb. 22, pairings are Wayzata at Minnetonka, Hopkins at St. Michael-Albertville and Buffalo against Edina at the high school Activity Center.

By JOHN SHERMAN

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High school Nordic skiing fans witnessed one of the best individual performances in the history of the Section 2 Meet Feb. 7 at Theodore Wirth Park.

Edina co-captain Maggie Wagner flew past spectators like a green streak in the morning competition, finishing the 5K in 15:41. That time put her exactly two minutes ahead of her nearest rival, Eden Prairie junior Courtney Fussy. So what happened that afternoon in the pursuit phase of competition? Wagner increased her lead over Fussy and the other contenders, finishing with a combined time of 29:59.8. Fussy held second place with her combined time of 32:33.3.

It is unusual - almost unheard of, in fact - for any high school skier to win a section title by more than 2 and 1/2 minutes. But this sort of achievement is nothing new for Wagner. This week at Giant's Ridge in Biwabik, she is competing in the 10th state meet of a storied high school career. In addition to going to state five times in Nordic skiing, she has been in four state cross country running meets and one state track meet.

"The first time I went to state [in Nordic skiing] as an eighth-grader, it was more like a fun trip," Wagner said. "From then on, I have always gone to do my best."

Wagner's best helped the Edina High girls cross country team win three state Class AA titles. And she has an individual gold medal in girls track.

"My goal in the section meet [Feb. 7] was just to qualify for state," she said. There was no expectation she would dominate the way she did.

Because cross country ran long last fall, with postseason club meets, Wagner had a slow start to her skiing season. Once she was back on skis, rising to the head of the pack was easy. In head-to-head Lake Con-



Edina's Section 2 Nordic skiing champion Maggie Wagner (left) shares a hug with fellow captain Addie Collier after the meet Feb. 7 at Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis.

ference competition with Hopkins High's ninth-grade phenom Sydney Drevlow, Wagner had an edge up until the Lake Conference Meet, which Drevlow won. Three days after Wagner took the Section 2 title, Drevlow won the Section 6 Meet, so they will go at it again this week in state at Giant's Ridge in Biwabik.

"It is fun to get to know athletes from the other schools," Wagner said. "Sydney is an incredible skier and so good at such a young age."

Wagner draws on the success she has had in other sports when she skis each winter. "I was a runner before I was a skier," she said. "My experience as a runner helps me dig down deep."

The Edina captain's parents were both successful athletes, but they never pushed Maggie or her older sister Claire into sports.

"They never forced

me to try sports," Wagner said. "I went out for cross country in seventh grade because I thought it would be fun."

The most fun for Wagner is being with her teammates and working with her coaches in each of her three sports. The awards and honors she has won are nice, but none of them will eclipse the fun she has had along the way.

Next fall, when she enrolls at Middlebury College in Vermont, she plans to join the Nordic skiing team.

Serious about finding the right school, Maggie and her mother Tara visited nine schools out east that offer good academics and also have ski teams. Middlebury won out over Dartmouth and Williams.

Wagner is a straight-A student in addition to being a three-sport athlete. On top of that, she is also in the school choir.

"It is definitely a lot to juggle," she said. "I have learned a lot about time management."

With high school graduation added to her calendar this spring, Wagner will look back fondly on her high school years. She couldn't have predicted that she would have the amount of success she has had in sports even though her athletic dreams go back a long way.

"I remember when I was young I had an Olympic-theme birthday party," she said.

Mark Thone, head coach of the Edina High Nordic teams, will be in Biwabik this week to watch two Hornets go for the gold. In addition to Wagner winning the section title, junior Andrew DeFor was second in the section boys competition.

"We have two very strong Edina skiers in the State Meet," Thone said. "It should be some exciting racing."



Robbie Clarkowski

Edina boys hockey goalie Robbie Clarkowski kept the Hornets in the Lake Conference title race by stopping all 19 of Buffalo's shots on net in a 4-0 victory Feb. 10 at Buffalo.

Andrew DeFor

Edina's All-Lake Conference Nordic skier Andrew DeFor is returning to the State Meet in Biwabik after taking second place in Section 2 competition Feb. 7 at Theodore Wirth Park.

Anna Klein

Former Edina High Athena Award winner Anna Klein is the third leading scorer for the University of Minnesota-Duluth women's hockey team with 38 points on 17 goals and 21 assists. Through the first 27 games of the season, the Bulldogs stood 18-9-0 overall and 15-8-0 in WCHA games. Klein has a plus/minus rating of plus 30, which is one of the highest marks in all of Division I women's hockey.

Dorothy Stotts

The Edina High girls basketball team lost a heartbreaker to Providence Academy Feb. 8 at Edina High Activity Center. Senior guard and co-captain Dorothy Stotts led the Hornets with 21 points.

Maggie Wagner

Edina senior Nordic skiing captain Maggie Wagner makes her fifth trip to the State Meet this week at Giant's Ridge in Biwabik. Wagner won the Section 2 individual title Feb. 7 at Theodore Wirth Park.

Sammy Walker

Former Mr. Hockey of Minnesota Sammy Walker of Edina is having another productive season for the University of Minnesota. Through the first 28 games of the season, the Gophers stood 17-11 overall and Walker had 20 points on 11 goals and nine assists. Two other ex-Hornets, forward Mason Nevers and defenseman Ben Brinkman have played in 27 of the Gophers' 28 games.