

Thief River Falls CELEBRATING 125 YEARS 1896 - 2021

Chapter 3 - October 13, 2021 - Special to the Times

Individual state champions of Thief River Falls



Chelsea Haviland became the second four-time state champion in Lincoln High School athletic history in 2001, when she won her fourth consecutive state championship in one-meter diving.

by Scott DCamp
Sports Editor

A total of 11 athletes competing in individual sports have accomplished the ultimate goal of standing at the top of the medal stand at their sport's state meet.

**Paul Klungness 1962
Track and Field - Long**

Jump
Paul Klungness is believed to be the first Thief River Falls athlete to win an individual state championship in a Minnesota State High School League event. During his junior year in 1962, Klungness qualified for the state track meet in the long jump, 100-yard

dash, 220-yard dash and 180-yard low hurdles. He won the state championship in the long jump, with a jump of 22 feet, and ½-inch.

A leg injury during the Region championship the following year denied Klungness the opportunity to defend his state championship.

**Joe Taylor 1964
wrestling**

Joe Taylor became the first wrestler from Region 8 to win a state wrestling championship when he battled his way to the 1964 state wrestling championship at 165 pounds. Taylor defeated Les Ochendorf of Canby 3-1 in the championship match. Taylor was victorious by 8-0 major decision in his opening-round match against Dave Luhman of Howard Lake. He needed overtime to defeat Lyle Johnson of St. Peter by a 2-1 margin in the quarterfinals and in the semifinal round, Taylor blanked Dennis Sager of Glenwood 2-0 in overtime.

**Dave Borning 1975
Swimming 50 freestyle,
100 freestyle**

Dave Borning posted the fastest times in both the 50 and 100 freestyle races among region competitors during the regular season. He lived up to expectations by winning both races at the North Central Regional held at the University of Minnesota Morris. He became the first Prowler to win the state-qualifying event and he was one of six Prowlers to qualify for state in 1975.

At the state meet, Borning made history. From the March 2, 1974 edition of

The Times: "Dave Borning accomplished a Thief River Falls athletic milestone Saturday as the speedy Prowler senior captured two first place finishes in the 1974 Minnesota State Swimming Meet. The wins, in both the 50 and 100-yard freestyle races were the first victories ever chalked by a Prowler swimmer in the five-year history of the sport at the school. Borning, and now graduated teammate Doug Williams, were the first Prowler swimmers to earn state meet births a year ago when Borning went on to claim a lofty sixth place finish."

**Nicole Kopari 1998, 1999
Track and Field - discus
and shot put**

Nicole Kopari entered the 1998 state track and field meet as the number one seed in both shotput and discus and she lived up to her seeding with a pair of state championships. Kopari threw 147 feet, 3 inches to win the 1998 discus title. Her winning toss was 16 feet farther than her closest competitor.

A day later, Kopari chucked the shot 46 feet, 2 ½ inches - almost eight feet farther than her closest competitor, to win the shot put.

Kopari closed out her high school career by defending her titles in both discus and shotput. Her 1999 distance in the discus was 152 feet, 3 inches; while her winning shot put distance was 46 feet 2 ½ inches. She out-gained her closest competitor in the discus by 18 feet, and she was over four feet better than her closest competitor in the shot put.

**Chelsea Haviland 1998,
1999, 2000 and 2001
Diving**

Borning was the first double state champion, winning both the 50- and 100-yard freestyle races in 1975. Kopari became the second double winner in 1998 and 1999 after winning both shot put and discus. In the process she became the first four-time state champion in school history.

Then there was Chelsea Haviland, who won Class A state diving championships in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001. Haviland was the first Thief River Falls girl to win a state swim meet title and the first athlete in Lincoln High School history to win four state titles over a four-year span.

Haviland qualified for state as an eighth grader in 1997 and finished second in the Class A one-meter diving competition to Shakopee junior Kim Bahmer.

As a freshman in 1998, Haviland won the Class A state championship with a



Meleah Biermaier won the Class AA 300 hurdles race in 2012, 2015 and 2016, and finished second in 2013 and 2014 making her one of the most decorated track and field athletes in the history of Lincoln High School athletics.

two-day, 11-dive total worth 422.95 - a Class A record - to unseat Bahmer, who finished with a two-day total of 415.15.

As a sophomore in 1999, Haviland was a repeat winner with a two-day, record-setting total of 500.85 points. Not only did she break her own one-year-old record, but Haviland's total was 38.10 points better than the 1999 Class AA champion in one-meter diving. In November 2000, Haviland won her third consecutive state championship with an eight-dive total of 479.40. Kelly Widner of Waseca was second with 382.6 points. Haviland also medaled in the 100-yard freestyle race, taking third with a time of 53.62.

Despite battling an illness that made breathing difficult, Haviland concluded her high school career with her fourth state diving title in November 2001. Haviland amassed 440.85 points over the course of eight dives to win the championship. Holly Schlingmann from Mankato East/Loyola was second with 376.55 points. It was a busy state meet for Haviland, who also placed 16th in the 200 freestyle, 11th in the 200 freestyle relay and 15th in the 400 freestyle relay.

**Jeremy Anderson 2003
Wrestling**

In March 2003, Jeremy Anderson capped off his high school wrestling career with

a 5-1 win over Ryan Lumley of Big Lake in the Minnesota Class AA championship bout at 145 pounds. The win gave Anderson a perfect 44-0 record on the season and his third trip to the medal stand in four state tournament appearances.

In addition to the 5-1 win over Lumley, Anderson's 2003 state tournament run included a second period fall over Paul Carlson of Tracey-Milroy, a 9-4 win over Nate Kleespie of Morris/Hancock in the quarterfinal round; and an 8-4 win over Josh Villella of North Branch in the semifinal round.

**Jacoby Bergeron 2009
Wrestling**

Jacoby Bergeron became the first Thief River Falls wrestler to win a wrestling state title since Anderson, when he defeated Nate Lynn of Adrian Area by a score of 12-8 in the 103-pound championship match.

Bergeron, ranked third in the final Class AA rankings at 103 pounds, opened the tournament by defeating seventh ranked Elissa Reinsma of Fulda/Murry County Central 9-2 in a history-making match that Wednesday night. Reinsma was the first female wrestler to qualify for the high school state wrestling tournament and, as such, the match received coverage from media throughout the state.

Bergeron continued his march to a state title on the

[Continued on page 3]



A total of six Thief River Falls wrestlers have won state championships in the program's near 60-year history. Jeremy Anderson, far left, became the second state champion in program history in 2003. Jacoby Bergeron, far right, became the third in 2009, followed by Kevin Fynboh, left center, in 2009, and Travis Peralta, right center, also in 2009. Other Prowler wrestlers to win state championships were Joe Taylor in 1964 and Brady Kasprick in 2021.

Athletic history of Lincoln High School

by Scott DCamp
Sports Editor

This section of the Thief River Falls 125th Anniversary Edition is devoted to the rich athletic history of Lincoln High School. In this section, The Times is attempting to recognize each of the 75 Lincoln High School athletic teams that won a section or region championship and/or competed in the state tournament.

The first state tournament in any sport was the boys basketball state tournament, which began in 1913 - a full three years before the Minnesota State High School League was founded as the State High School Athletic Association.

Thief River Falls won its first region championship in any sport in 1916, with the Prowler basketball team winning what was called a district championship at that time. The Prowler basketball team would return to state in 1932 after winning the Region 8 title, and go on

to win the school's first state championship in an undefeated season.

Thief River Falls would return to state in basketball three more times in the 1930s after winning Region 8 championships in 1937, 1938 and 1939, with the 1938 team replicating the 1932 team's unbeaten state championship run. The Prowlers added state tournament appearances in 1960 and 1974.

A new powerhouse in Prowler athletics emerged in the 1940s as boys hockey was added to MSHSL's list of sanctioned sports in 1945. Thief River Falls already had a high school-age team when ice hockey became an official high school league sport. The Thieves, which were sponsored by the 40&8 Club, were rebranded the Prowlers in 1945 and the team won the first ever Region 8 title and went on to finish the inaugural season as state runner-up.

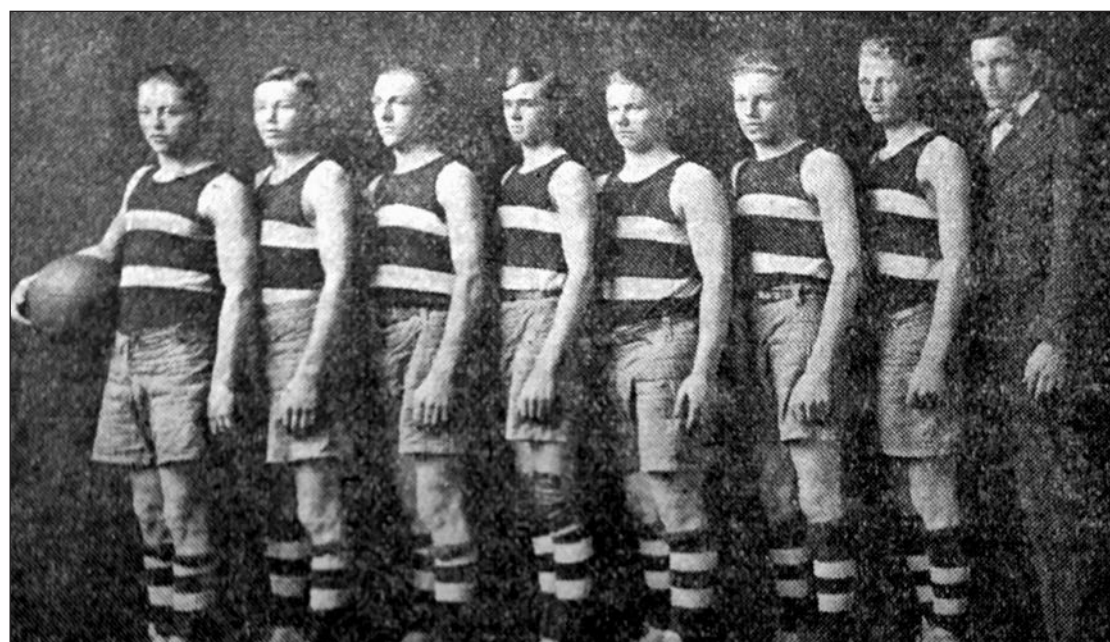
The Thief River Falls boys hockey team returned to state in 1951, 1952, 1954,

1955, 1956, 1959, 1960 and 1965, with the 1954 and 1956 winning state championships.

Baseball became a MSHSL-sponsored sport in 1947. The Thief River Falls baseball team won its first Region 8 championship in 1955. The Prowlers also won Region 8 championships in baseball in 1959 and 1963. We were unable to locate a photo for the 1963 team because the Prowlers initially lost the region championship to Bemidji. Thief River Falls initially lost the championship game to Bemidji, but several days after the game had concluded, it was determined that Bemidji pitcher Bill Barthelemy had pitched 15 innings in two days, breaking the innings limit of 14 innings over three days.

The MSHSL began sanctioning a state cross country meet in 1943 and Thief River Falls fielded several strong teams. The Prowlers won Region 8 titles in 1955, 1956, 1957, 1960, 1961,

[Continued on page 12]



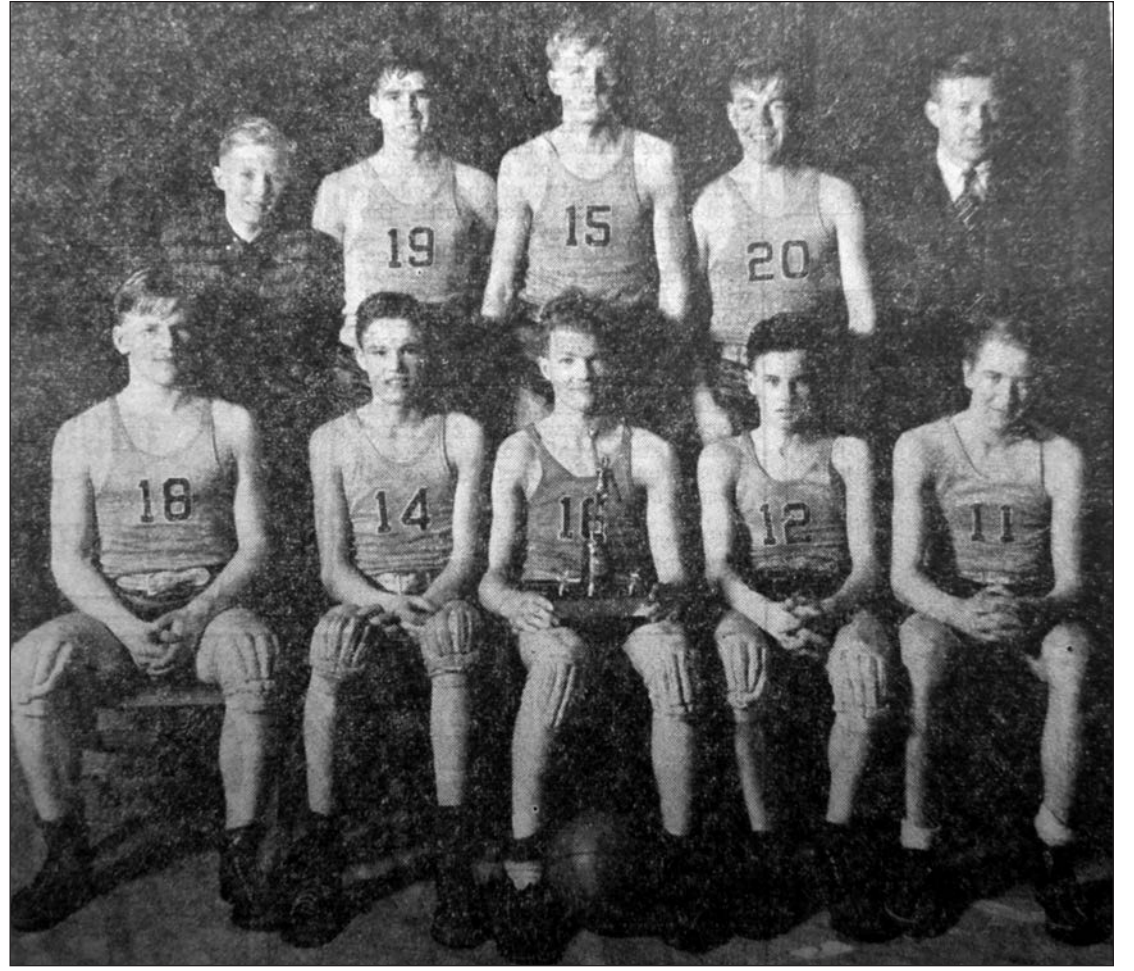
The 1916 Prowler boys team was the first Thief River Falls athletic team to earn a trip to the state tournament by claiming what was called a district championship, but more comparable to a modern sectional championship, with an 11-9 win over four-time defending champion Fosston. The Prowlers approved their record to 10-1 with the win. The 1916 Prowlers' lone regular season loss was a 37-23 loss to McIntosh in the fourth game of the season. Their most dominant wins included a 52-4 win over Erskine opening night, a 56-15 win over Stephen in game two and a 54-5 win over Crookston. The 1916 state tournament

was held at Carlton College in Northfield. Rail was the most efficient mode of transportation at the time and the Prowlers made the trip south for the two-day state tournament (March 24-25) aboard the Soo Flyer. The Prowlers' season ended with a 27-25 loss to Fergus Falls in the opening round of the state tournament. Champs of the District - Left to right: Roy Brown, (Capt.) left forward; Alvin Holzrecht, right guard; Willis Fasel, right forward; Charles Conner, right forward, sub; Harold Schmitt, left guard; Carl Hovie, center, sub; Coleman Linde, center; Coach A. Johnson.



The 1932 Prowler basketball team was not considered a superstar-laden team, but rather one that played well together and found ways to win ... and they won a lot. The Prowlers went 15-0 in the regular season and advanced through District 31 play with wins over Oklee (53-5) and Warren (38-10) before claiming a hard-fought battle against East Grand Forks in the championship game by a score of 19-18. The Prowlers advanced to the Region 8 championship game with a 46-16 thrashing of Twin Valley, and beat defending region champion Bemidji for the third time in 1932 with a 29-19 win in

the championship. The Prowlers beat Balaton 31-17 in the opening round of state. They defeated Winona 17-12 in the semifinals and claimed the state title with a 21-15 win over Chisholm. Standing from left to right are Aanstad, Langseth, Kielty, Stadum, Dahl, Myrom, Hendrickson, Ihle, Chommie, Nicholson and Coach Roger Dooley. The 1932 Lincoln quintet won the District 31 and Region 8 titles to advance to the state basketball tournament, where it would go on to claim the school's first state basketball championship.



Pictured above is the Lincoln High School basketball team, which after winning the 1937 championship of Region 8, went to Minneapolis and defeated Farmington in the first round of the state tournament, before losing to Virginia in the semifinals. By virtue of their victory over New Ulm in the consolation finals, the Prowlers were awarded third place in the tournament standings, which all agree is an excellent showing for a team of 17-year olds. Appearing in the picture are, left to right, front row: Milton Nesse, guard; Don Lorentson, forward; Alfred "Bud" Nelson, captain and center or for-

ward; Roy Lee, forward and guard; and Clark Mickelson, forward; back row: Glenn Carlson, manager; Gordon Caldis, center; Loren Stadum, center; Leonard Helquist, guard; and George Lee, coach. The Prowlers' post season run included a dominant 60-17 win over Oslo, a 21-13 win over Warren and a 22-16 win over Crookston in District 31 play; a 29-27 upset win over Region 8 favorite Ada 29-27 in the Region 8 semifinals, and a 20-14 win over Cass Lake to secure the program's third championship.



Thief River Falls defeated Crosby-Ironton in a thrilling championship game to claim the 1938 state championship in boys basketball. Shown in the picture are, left to right, seated: Clark Mickelson, Don Lorentson, Roy Lee, Mel Haughom and Gordon Caldis; standing: Perry Pederson, Earl Mickelson, Loren Stadum, Reuben Mickelson, Eide, Coach George Lee. The 1938 state championship was the second in program history. The Prowlers' postseason run included District 31 wins over Fisher, 36-14, East Grand Forks, 41-12, and Warren, 34-12,

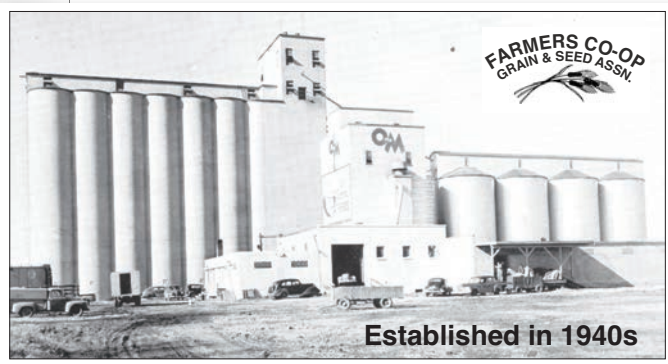
Region 8 wins over Erskine, 44-18, and Bemidji 34-32; and state tournament wins over Fairbault, 37-29, Crosby-Ironton, 30-28 in overtime, and Minneapolis North, 31-29 on last second heroics by Roy Lee. One of the biggest changes in the history of the game was implemented prior to the start of the 1937-38 season. Up to that point, a jump ball was held to start each period of play and after each field goal was scored. The new rule limited jump balls to the start of each half and overtime.



Thief River Falls advanced to its third consecutive state tournament in boys basketball in 1939. The Prowlers won the District 31 title with wins over Fisher, 32-19, East Grand Forks, 26-17, and Crookston, 12-11. They won their third straight Region 8 title with wins over Ada, 38-24, in the semifinals and Middle River, 28-19, in the championship game. Thief River Falls' bid for a second consecutive and third overall state championship came to an end in the opening round of the state tournament with a 33-

26 loss to South St. Paul. The Prowlers bounced back with a 26-20 win over Austin on Friday to claim a spot in the consolation championship game, before falling to Gilbert 49-35 in the consolation championship game. Pictured from left to right are: seated - Wayne Bredeson, Loren Stadum, Earl Nicholson, Reuben Mickelson and Orvill Eide; standing - Coach John Lindenmeyer, Austin Shanan, Clifford Lunke, Robert Kielty, Leonard Furuseth, Ed Flasch and Jewell Stadum, student manager.

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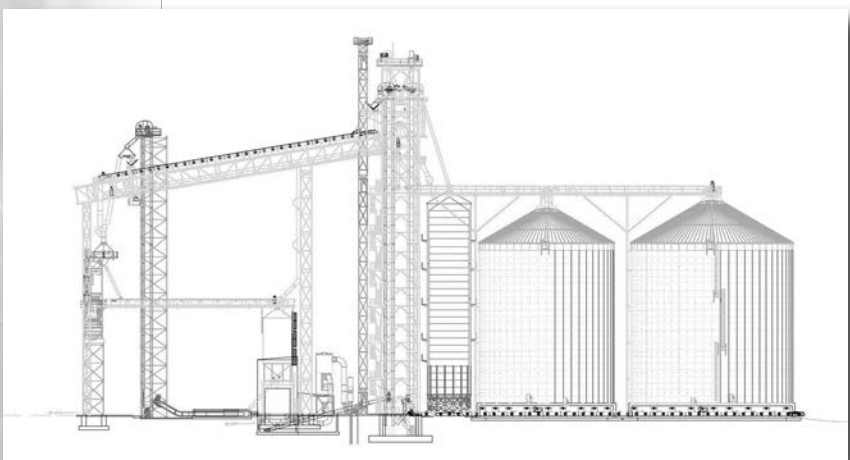


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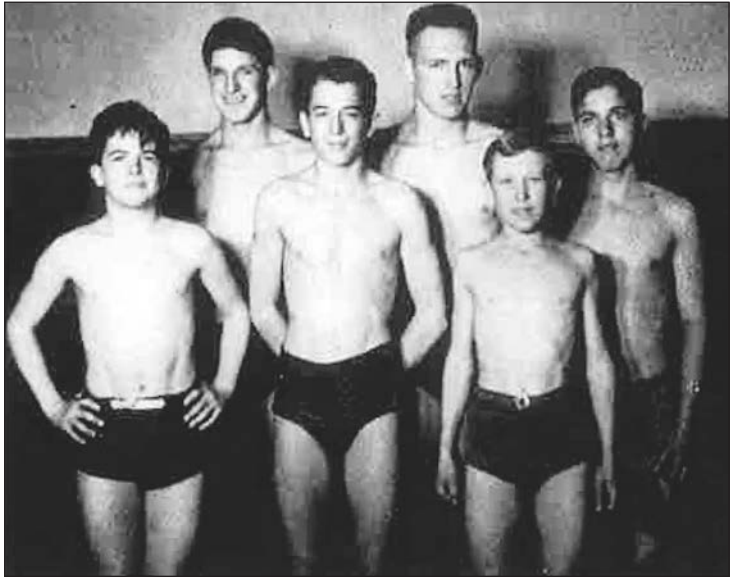
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The 1950-51 Prowler hockey team completed the regular season with a record of 14 wins and no losses, while outscoring the opposition 119 goals to their opponents' 27. The team defeated Warroad 7-2 and defending Region 8 champion Williams 5-4 to advance to the state tournament. (Williams advanced as well as the representative of Region 3.) At state, the Prowlers defeated St. Cloud

Tech 2-1 in the quarterfinals, fell to St. Paul Johnson 6-2 in the semifinals, before claiming a third place finish with a 3-2 win over Minneapolis Southwest. Eveleth defeated St. Paul Johnson 4-1 in the championship game. Pictured from left to right are, front row: Jack Erickson, Al Steenerson, Lyle Guttu, Bill Maruska, Gordy Bjerken, Darryl Lund and co-captain Dale Christensen; back row: student manager Earl Ripley, Bob Helgeland, Jack Hoppe, Darryl Vad, co-captain Cat Bradley, Jack LaSalle, and Coach Dennis Rolle.



The Minnesota State High School League has recognized a state team champion in wrestling since 1938. Thief River Falls fielded its first team during the 1941-42 season and that team won the Region 8 championship with a 19-15 dual meet win over Gonvick. The Prowler lineup included Robert Olson at 95 pounds; Don Fretland, 105; Ray Offerdahl, 115; Ralph Long, 125; William Nelson, 135; Gene Nelson, 145; Vergil Moeller, 155; Roman Paulson Jr., 165; Orrin Pederson, unlimited. Pictured from left to right are, front row - Fretland, Offerdahl and Allan Paulson; back row, Roman Paulson, Orrin Pederson and Vergil Moeller. (Photo from LHS Yearbook)

State champions/Continued

[Continued from page 1] second day of the tournament, with a 7-5 win over fourth-ranked Jordan Land of Cloquet-Esko. In Friday's semifinal round, he used a second-period reversal to beat unranked Tony Morrow

of Kasson-Mantorville 2-1. Saturday, Bergeron used a tenacious offense that produced five takedowns to defeat eighth-ranked Nate Lynn of Adrian Area by a score of 12-8. Lynn had defeated the state's number one

ranked 103-pounder, Max Anderson of Dassel-Cokato Friday night, and number two ranked Nick Clobes of Hutchinson Thursday night, but he had no answer for Bergeron. Bergeron would go [Continued on page 4]



With a record of 10 victories, one tie and no defeats in the season's schedule, the Lincoln High School hockey team, originally sponsored by the local 40 & 8 Voiture, defeated Roseau to win the inaugural championship of Region 8 at the local arena. The win gave the local sextet a spot in the very first Minnesota State High School League Boys Hockey State Tournament. The Prowlers knocked off

White Bear Lake 3-2 in the opening round, St. Cloud 12-0 in the semifinals, before falling to Eveleth in the championship by a score of 4-3. Pictured from left to right are, front row: Don Hage, Ralph Engelstad, Durwood Lund and Lloyd Johnson; back row: Les Vigness, Jim Doyle, Bob Baker, captain Bud Brossoit, Wes Hovie, Alan Thompson and Jim Welch.

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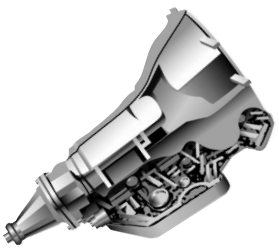
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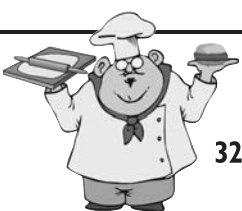
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State champions/Continued

[Continued from page 3] on to place sixth as a junior at 112 pounds and fourth as a senior at 119.

Kevin Fynboh 2009 Wrestling

Kevin Fynboh, the fifth ranked wrestler at 145 pounds going into the tournament, followed Bergeron's lead less than an hour later, when he defeated second ranked Ryan Madson of Hutchinson by a 3-2 decision. It was the fitting end for

Fynboh, a four-time state qualifier, who had never placed in his three previous trips to the state tournament.

Fynboh opened the tournament with a workman-like 3-2 victory over St. Michael-Albertville's Jordan Scherber Wednesday night. The next night, his offense arrived in time to avenge a midseason loss to number one-ranked Tyler Kivel of Scott West, 8-4. Fynboh kept himself in

good position throughout the match, but he also kept the pressure on Kivel, eliminating any chance for a comeback.

The quarterfinal-round victory guaranteed Fynboh a spot in the top six at 145, but the Thief River Falls senior was far from finished. Fynboh scored his only major decision of the tournament in a 14-6 victory over Cullen Becker of Caledonia/Houston [Continued on page 5]



Thief River Falls survived a 4-3 overtime game against Warroad in the Region 8 semifinals and advanced to its second consecutive boys hockey state tournament with a 6-2 win over Williams in the 1952 Region 8 Championship game. The Prowlers fell 3-1 to defending state champion Eveleth in the opening round of the state tournament, but came back strong to defeat Winona 4-3 in the consolation semifinals and the Prowlers

won the state consolation title with a 5-1 win over St. Paul Johnson. Pictured from left to right are: front row - Jack Erickson, co-captain Allen Steenerson, Darryl Lund, Bill Maruska, Lyle Guttu, Gordy Bjerken and Mike Hajostek; back row - student manager Earl Ripley, Jim Zavoral, Bob Helgeland, Jack Hoppe, co-captain Jack LaSalle, Darold Vad, and coach Dennis Rolle. (Salveson Photo)



Thief River Falls entered the 1954 boys hockey postseason with an unblemished 15-0 record. The Prowlers defeated Williams 9-3 in the Region 8 semifinals and shutout Warroad 3-0 in the finals to return to the state tournament after a one-year absence. The Prowlers finished the season a perfect 20-0 after rolling through the state tournament with a 6-1 win over Minneapolis South in the opening round, a 9-1 win over South St. Paul in the semifinals and a 4-1 win over

Eveleth in the championship game. Pictured from left to right are: front row - Sid Vraa, co-captain Marvin Jorde, Lyle Guttu, co-captain Jack Hoppe, Darryl Durgin, Joey Poole and Bob Helgeland; second row - team manager Neil Aase, Mike McMahon, Les Sabo, Jim Zavoral, Ronnie Reese and coach Dennis Rolle; third row - Jack Quesnell, Jack Poole, Cliff Strand, Glenn Carlson, Rodney Collins and Brad Teal. (Fox Studio Photo)



Thief River Falls began the 1955 boys hockey postseason with a 10-0 win over Baudette in a sub-regional game played in Roseau. The 1955 Region 8 Tournament was held in Thief River Falls and the host Prowlers were 5-2 winners over Warroad in the semifinals, before dropping an epic 2-1 triple overtime decision to Roseau in the Region 8 championship game. Region 3 of the Minnesota State High School League did not qualify a team for the state tournament during the tournament's early years and instead the Region 3 championship was awarded to the runner-up of another region through a rotation. In 1955, the Region 3 championship was awarded to

Thief River Falls. At state, the Prowlers fell in the opening round to Minneapolis South by a score of 3-1, before avenging their Region 8 championship loss to Roseau, with a 4-3 win over the Rams in the consolation semifinals. The Prowlers ended the tournament with a 3-1 win over Eveleth to claim the consolation championship. Pictured from left to right are: front row - David Reese, Sid Vraa, Joe Poole, Rodney Collins, Chipper Strand, Jack Poole, Glen Carlson; back row - Jack Quesnell, Pud Teal, Duane Glass, Freddie Dablow, Harry Armstrong, Art Cloutier, Calvin Offerdahl and Coach Rolle.



Members of the Lincoln High School boys basketball team gathered for a quick photo after winning the state championship in 1938. Pictured are: front row - Head Coach George Lee with his son and team mascot, Pepper, Melfor Haughom, Reuben Mickelson, Loren Stadum, Grant Mickelson and Gordon Caldis; back row - Glen Carlson, student manager, Earl Nicholson, Roy Lee and Donald Lorentson.



Thief River Falls claimed its first Region 8 baseball championship in 1955 with an 8-3 win over Karlstad in the championship game. The Prowlers also defeated a highly-regarded Bemidji Lumberjack baseball team by a score of 6-2 in the semifinal round. The Prowlers were 14-1 going into the state tournament. Thief River Falls dropped a 9-4 decision to Little Falls in the opening round of the state tournament, but bounced

back to defeat Mankato, 3-2, and International Falls, 11-3, to claim the consolation championship. Pictured from left to right: front row - bat boy Pat Poole, Keith Johnson, Larry Jorgenson, Ross Sloan, co-captain Joe Poole, Roy Pederson and Davis Berg; second row - Bobby Hallamack, Gordon Bredeson, Fred Dablow, co-captain Loren Sid Vraa, Duane Glass, Dean Anderson, Glen Carlson, Rodney Collins and Coach Ralph Skjod.



The 1956 Prowlers entered post season play with a regional conference record of 12-0 and an overall record of 15-1. Thief River Falls advanced to the Region 8 championship with a 4-0 win over Williams in the semifinals and claimed the Region 8 title with a come-from-behind 4-0 win over Roseau in the championship game. Due in larger part to their three season wins over the Rams, the Prowlers entered state tournament competition as the pre-tournament favorite. They lived up to the billing by bringing home the team's second state championship in a three-year span. The Prowlers defeated Edina-Morningside 3-2 in the quarterfinals. The Prowlers shut out Eveleth 3-0 in the semifinals, and

they hoisted the state championship trophy following a 3-2 win over International Falls in the state championship game. Pictured from left to right are: front row - student manager Art Overbye, Glen Carlson, co-captain Jack Poole, Chip Strand, co-captain Rod Collins and Duane Glass; back row - Jimmy Hall, Darryl Smith, Ken Sauve, Ronnie Reese, Art Cloutier, Fred Dablow, Wendy Johnson, Jimmy Reese, Dale Glass and Coach Dennis Rolle. Rolle announced his retirement from coaching following the 1955-56 season. During his seven years coaching the Prowlers, Rolle's teams went 109-19. They won two state championships, four Region 8 titles and were region runners-up twice.

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Thief River Falls won two games on one day to claim the Region 8 baseball championship on June 10, 1959. The Prowlers defeated the Twin Valley Tigers 2-1 in the semifinals before dispatching the Blackduck Drakes 5-2 in the championship game. Playing at state two weeks later, Thief River Falls was defeated 7-2 in the opening round by New Ulm and eliminated from the tournament as the result of a 3-1 loss to Little Falls. Pictured from

left to right are: front row - batboy Jerry Erickson, John Aune, Mike Aune, Jerry Larson, Jack Goulet, Gary Anderson, Gary Klungness, Larry Poole and Jim Weckwerth; back row - assistant coach Dick Edlund, Jerry Jorgenson, Gene Weckwerth, Eddie Lietzow, Arlan Hjelle, Jim Wegge, Paul Saurdiff, Harley Dreez and Coach Ralph Skay. (Kavanaugh Photo)

State champions/Continued

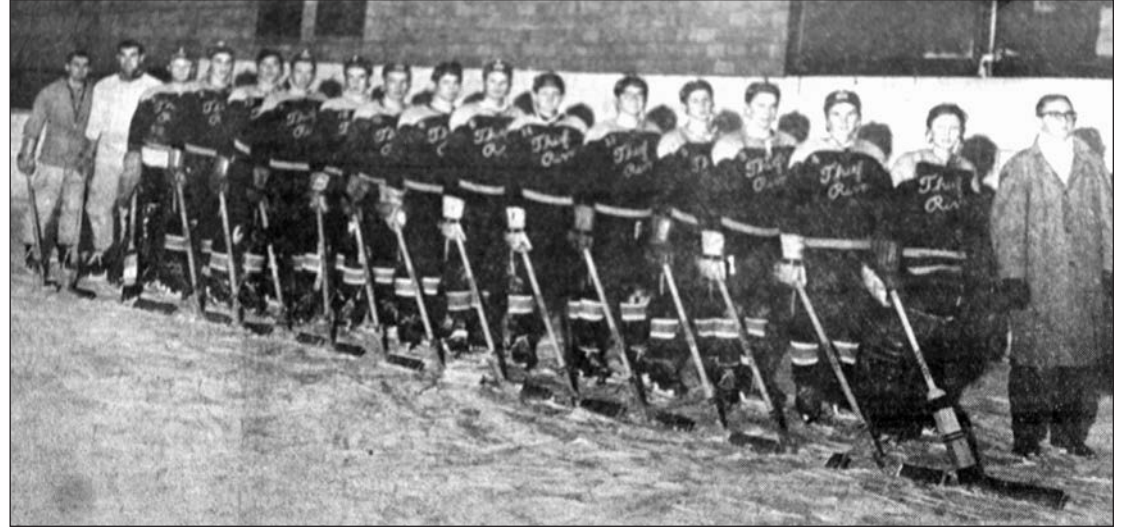
[Continued from page 4] in the semifinal round; and he used the perfect combination of offense and defense to top Madson 3-2 in the championship.

Travis Peralta 2009 wrestling
Travis Peralta was the

top-ranked wrestler at 171 pounds in Class AA all season, and he lived up to his ranking at state to make it a trifecta of champions for Thief River Falls. Peralta Spencer Johnson of Windom Area/Mountain Lake/Butterfield-Odin 2-1 in the champi-

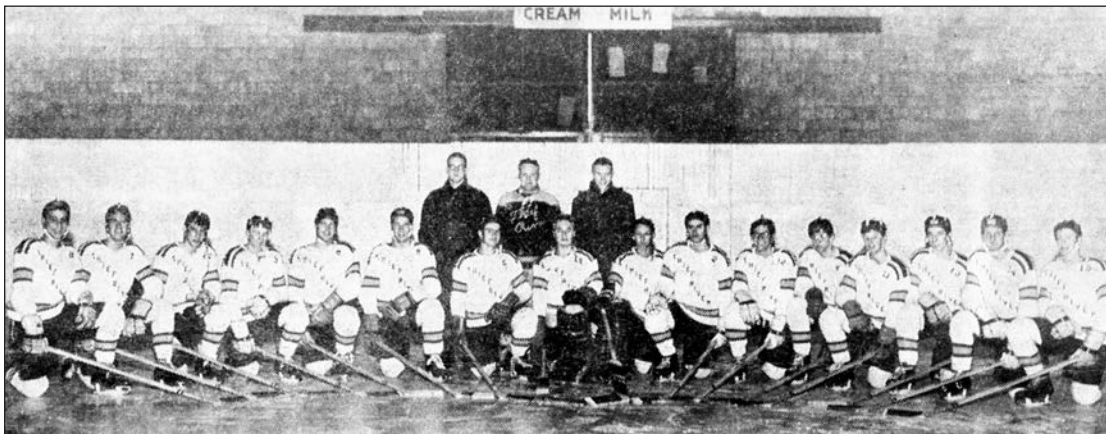
onship match. Like his teammates, Peralta had to defeat some strong competition before even making it to the final match.

Peralta opened the tournament with a dominating 7-0 decision victory over [Continued on page 7]



After a two-year hiatus, Thief River Falls returned to the state hockey tournament in 1959. The Prowlers qualified for the Region 8 final four with an 11-2 win over Indus in sub-region action. The Prowlers advanced to the Region 8 championship with a 5-2 win over Baudette. The Prowlers fell to Roseau by a 5-1 score in the Region 8 championship game, but advanced to state as the Region 3 representative. In a crazy twist, the Region 8 and Region 3 teams were paired for the opening round of state and the Rams defeated the Prowlers 7-2. The Prowlers stayed alive in consolation play with a 5-

4 overtime win over Robbinsdale, and they claimed the consolation title with a 6-5 win over Patrick Henry. Pictured from left to right are Coach John Matchefts, assistant coach Dave Rogers, Neil Carlson, Wes Halvorson, Alvin Knutson, Jim Wegge, Jerome Larson, Harold Froehle, Archie Schneider, Bruce Ranum, Eddie Holmes, Don Waldera, Wayne Erickson, Dale Wennberg, Jerry Jorgenson, Wayne Halvorson and student manager Ralph Jorstad. Arlan Hjelle was not present when the photo was taken. (Photo by Kavanaugh)



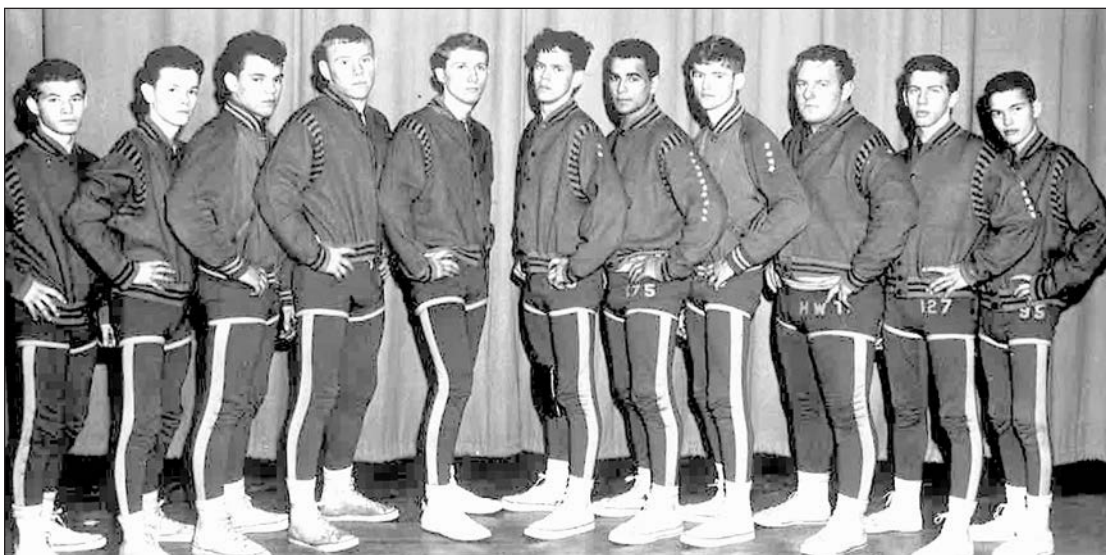
Three-time defending Region 8 champion Roseau entered the 1959-60 boys hockey season with a 44-game winning streak that included two consecutive state championships, but it didn't take long for Thief River Falls to emerge as the region's team to beat. After dropping the season-opener to Grand Forks Central, the Prowlers went 19-0-1 to secure the top seed in Region 8. The Prowlers advanced to the Region 8 Tournament with a 12-0 subregion win over Red Lake Falls on Feb. 15, 1960. The Prowlers secured a spot in the Region 8 championship game with a 5-1 win over Baudette and knocked off Warroad 4-1 in the championship game to secure their first Region 8 title since 1956 and second consecutive trip to state. Thief River Falls' quest for a state championship

ended in the opening round of the state tournament when the Prowlers dropped a 3-2 overtime decision to the South St. Paul Packers. Dale Wennberg, the Prowlers' leading scorer who was regarded by many as the best player in the state in 1959-60, left the game with an injury. The Prowlers were eliminated from state tournament play the next day with a 4-3 loss to Minneapolis Washburn. Pictured from left to right are: front row - Wes Halvorson, Jim Wegge, Jerome Larson, Dale Wennberg, Archie Schneider, Tom Mehloff, Tim Teal, Wayne "Babe" Halvorson, Arlan Hjelle, Don Waldera, Jack Goulet, Dennis Erickson, Jack Houfek, Eddie "Gus" Holmes, Larry Poole; back row - Manager Gar Odegaard, Coach Gene Sack and Manager Kern Olson.



Thief River Falls was a surprise Region 8 basketball champion in 1960. The Prowlers had gone 21 seasons between region championships. The team got off to a fast start with a five-game winning streak to open the season and entered postseason play with a 12-6 record. Thief River Falls defeated Goodridge 60-47, Red Lake Falls 69-47 and two-time defending district champion Crookston 47-38, to claim the District 31 title. In regional play, the Prowlers stayed hot with wins over District 32 Champion Argyle 62-53, before upsetting Region 8 favorite Bemidji. As it often does, the

Prowlers' Cinderella season ran out of steam at the state tournament. Thief River Falls dropped a 55-41 decision to Region 1 champion Austin during the opening round, before exiting the tournament with a 48-38 loss to Melrose. Pictured from left to right are: front row - Manager Peter Prichard, Coach Hartley Story, Coach Joe Mrkonich and Student Manager Bob Benke; back row - Wayne Bjerken, Steve Embury, Gary Anderson, Ron Ulferts, Elton Hornseth, Rollin Solheim, Ron Hanson, Bob Pearson, Darrel Nelson, Eddie Lietzow, Harvey Ebbigausen and Dave Hauswirth.



Hopes were high for the Al Schaff-coached Prowlers entering the 1963-64 wrestling season. The Prowlers returned eight letter winners from the 1962-63 squad, including region champion Joe Taylor and runner-up Tom Larson. Terry Nelson and Gary Nereson were named captains prior to the start of the season. Schaff's squad delivered on those hopes, with the first team region championship since 1942. Thief River Falls edged defending region 8 champion Bemidji 74-72 in the team standings on the strength of three individual region championships, and two runner-up finishes. Winning Region 8 titles were Myles Olson at 95 pounds; Terry Nelson at 154 pounds; and

Joe Taylor, who made it back-to-back region titles with a championship at 165 pounds. Steve Furuseth at 112 pounds and Tom Larson at 138 each fell one victory short of the state tournament with runner-up finishes. Nereson added a third place finish at 120 pounds. The trio of Olson, Nelson and Taylor competed in the two-day state tournament, which was held on the campus of Mankato State College. Taylor went on to win the state championship at 165 pounds. Pictured from left to right are: Steve Furuseth, Rocco Wilson, Luther Kaushagen, John Bowers, Terry Nelson, Tom Larson, Joe Taylor, Ron Shaff, Ellsworth Senum, Gary Nereson, Myles Olson.



Thief River Falls returned to the state hockey tournament in 1965 after a four-year absence. The Prowlers fell to Roseau in the Region 8 championship but gained state entry after winning a playoff game 2-1 over Region 7 runner-up Duluth East to earn the Region 3 championship. The team dropped both of its state tournament games, losing by a score of 4-2 to Bloomington in the opening round, before being eliminated

with a 5-0 loss to Alexander Ramsey. Pictured from left to right are Coach George Schlieff, manager Joel Fuller, Wayne Smith, Monte LeMone, Jeff Noel, Rod Carlson, Billy Poole, Dan Brouse, Paul Peterson, John Olson, Buzz Olson, Bill Dicken, Dennis Sullivan, Bobby Sullivan, Bob Stordahl, Jerry Forsberg, Merle Sampson and Assistant Coach Gerry Westby.

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Thief River Falls won the first of 18 region/section championships in May 1968. The 1968 Region 8 meet was scored as an individual tournament with a singles bracket and a doubles bracket, rather than the dual meet scoring used for more recent section tournaments. Thief River Falls claimed the championship with 13 team points, edging runner-up Bemidji who finished with 11. The singles championship was captured by Steve Edlund of Thief River Falls, who defeated teammate Kip Poppenhagen 6-1, 6-1 for the Region 8 singles championship. In doubles competition the Bemidji duo of Bob Thorson and Harlan Brooker defeated Barry Froiland and Paul Ihle 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the championship match. Pictured from left to right are Ihle, Edlund, Froiland and Poppenhagen.



For the second time in program history and the second time in five years, Thief River Falls won the Region Eight wrestling title in 1968. The Prowlers' second region title came after consecutive region runner-up finishes in 1965 and '66 and a fifth place finish in 1967. The Ed Krystosek-coached Prowlers earned 62 team points and a pair of individual titles to pace the field and edge runner-up Bemidji, who finished with 59 points. Six Prowlers reached the region finals, with Dave Rodahl defeating Ada's Daryl Sulered 3-1 in the 133-pound champi-

onship and Dan Kaushagen earning the 165-pound title with a 5-2 win over Mah-nomen's Jim Crooks. Kaushagen would go on to earn a second place finish at the state tournament. Region runner-ups for the Prowlers were Terry Johnson, Rocky Wilson, Tim Duke and Tom Duke. Pictured from left to right are; front row - Rod Peterson, Eddie Furuseth, Ron Hanson, Rocky Wilson, Marv Bakken, Bruce Nordhagen; back row - Tom Duke, Tim Duke, Don Sollom, Dan Kaushagen, Ron Sorvig, Billy Larson.

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The 1971 Thief River Falls boys track team captured its first Region 8 track title since 1962, outscoring runner-up Crookston 37-33. Thief River Falls runners broke four school records, tied another and set a new region record in the sprint medley relay. Members of the championship team include, from left to right: front row, Mike Fitzgerald, Don

Reierson, Paul Battleson, Markoe Hanson and Jon Markstrom; second row, Rob Swenson, Steve Beich, Kim Murphy, Jon Wangberg and Jon Folkedahl; third row - Rande Smith and Tim Strand. Not pictured is Head Coach Jim Sims, and assistant coaches Marv Walter and Quent Jones.



Thief River Falls won its second straight Region 8 track title in 1972 by outscoring Crookston 54-39.5. The Prowlers won six individual events, which was twice as many as any other team competing in the meet.

Prowler entries in the region meet held at Bagley include: front row, left to right - Paul Battleson, Don Reierson, Mike Fitzgerald, Doug Aaseby, Steve Beich and Rande Smith; second row - Assistant Coach Quent Jones, Markoe Hanson, Jon Markstrom, Mark Hamerlinck, Bruce Johnson, Mark Kaushagen, Greg Bulger and student manager Brad Rusten; third row - Assistant Coach Marv Walter, Head Coach Jim Sims, student manager Jon Nelson, Kent Smith, Tony Dorn and Scott Olson. Hanson, Smith, Fitzgerald, Beich, Markstrom, Smith and Reierson were state qualifiers for the Prowlers.

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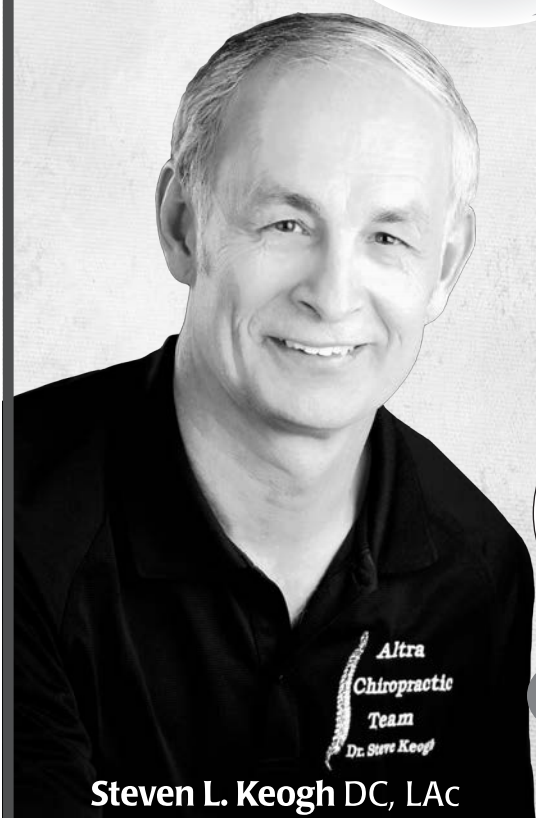
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Thief River Falls won the 1973 Region 8 boys cross country title. It was the Prowlers' first region championship in over a decade. Thief River Falls also won Region 8 cross country titles in 1955, 1956, 1957, 1960, 1961, 1962 and 1963. Team members include: front row, left to right - Brian Phelps, Lyle Olson, Cliff Shumway, Tim Engelstad and Dan Heieren; second row, Lonnie Olson, Dan Kezar, Bill LaValley, Jeff Johnson, Joe Kezar and Coach Russ Smith. The squad is shown holding some of the trophies they accumulated while winning 10 meets during the season.

State champions/Continued

[Continued from page 5] Vinny Branchaud of South Saint Paul Friday. His road to the championship included a 4-2 double overtime victory against number three ranked Tyler Lewandowski of Foley Thursday night; and a strong 9-3 win over eighth ranked Ammoren Dohm of Milaca in Friday night's semifinal round.

Johnson broke a scoreless tie with a second period escape in Saturday's 171-pound championship match. Peralta tied the match 1-1, when Johnson was called for clasp- ing early in the third period. Just seconds later, Peralta took a 2-1 lead that would stand for the remainder of the match.

Peralta ended his career as a three-time state qual- ifier and two-time place win-

ner, finishing fifth in 2008 before winning the 2009 state championship.

Meleah Biermaier 2012, 2015 and 2016 Track and Field 300 meter hurdles

Meleah Biermaier headed to the 2012 Minnesota state high school track meet as a contender. She returned to Thief River Falls as a state [Continued on page 10]



The Thief River Falls girls tennis team defeated Roseau 5-0 and Bemidji 4-1 to win the 1974 Region 8 team tennis championship. The loss to Bemidji avenged a pair of regular season losses by the Prowlers to the Lumberjacks. Members of the team include: from left to right, front row - Kris Gibson, Lori Lundin, Nancy Looker, Kathy Berg and Ginny Liden; back row - Marty Minor, Carol Watson and Kelly Bjorkman. Not present at the time of the photo was Marchell Cuppett. Thief River Falls fell 5-0 to eventual state champion Minnetonka in the tournament's opening round.



A happy Thief River Falls team posed for a team photo in its locker room at the University of North Dakota moments after winning the 1974 Region 8 basketball championship. Members of the 1974 Region 8 champion Prowler basketball team include, from left to right: front row - Jerry Sandahl, Kent Christensen, Duane Dicken and Jon Peterson; second row - assistant coach Vern Treat, Don Forney, Greg Leach, Randy Dallmann, Brian Waale and Ed Sabol; third row - Dave Carlson, Dave Grothe, assistant coach Glen Peterson, Bob Mattson, Wayne Peterson, Dick Johnson, Dallas Kemmer and head coach Lee Swanson. Seven games into the 1973-74 season, the Prowlers were in sixth place in North- west Athletic Conference play with a conference record of 0-3 and an overall

mark of 4-3. They finished the regular season by winning eight of their final 11 games, and continued to improve throughout the postseason. The Prowlers opened the postseason with a 65-44 win over Oslo, they survived a 53-51 scare against Fisher in the district semifinals and outdueled a scrappy Goodridge team 58-50 to secure a spot in the Region 8 tournament. The Prowlers upset defending region champion Mahomen, 66-61, in the semifinals and secured team's first region title in 14 years with a 60-54 win over Blackduck. The Prowlers state basketball tourna- ment lasted just two games, following a 60-53 loss to Waseca in the opening round and a 70-55 loss to Simley in the consolation bracket.



Thief River Falls defeated Alexandria and Fergus Falls in the rain-drenched 1978 Section 8 tennis tournament played at Detroit Lakes High School. Thief River Falls handled Alexandria 5-0 in the semi- final round and stopped Fergus Falls 3-1 in the championship match that was cut short by rain showers. Members of the Section 8 championship Prowler squad include, from left to right: front row - Bill Michalek, Mitch Rustad and Bill Jury; back row - Bill Holmes, Chris Hays, Tom Bjorkman, Steve Minor and Coach Whitey Olson. Jury and Rustad also qualified to compete in the individual portion of the tournament as singles players.

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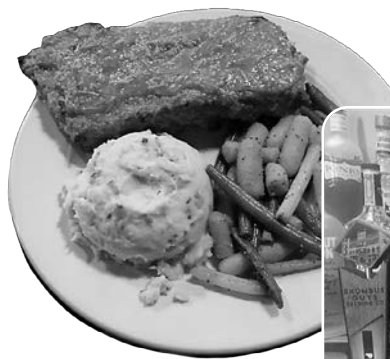


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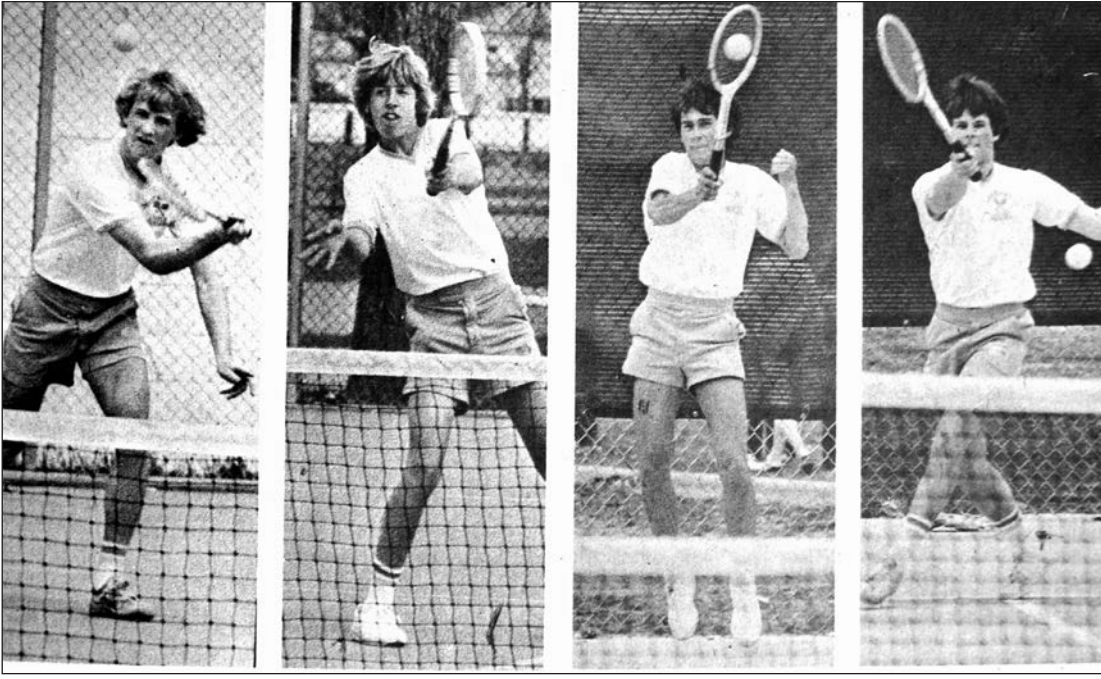
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Left: Thief River Falls made it back-to-back region championships with a 4-1 win over St. Cloud Tech in the Region 8AA championship match. The Times could not locate a team photo for the 1979 region champions. Juniors Bill Jury and Mitch Rustad in singles, along with senior Bill Michalek and junior Tom Bjorkman in doubles, qualified for the individual portion of the Class AA state

meet. The Prowlers' team title hopes ended with an opening round 3-2 loss to Virginia. The Prowlers ended the year with a 9-1 record in dual meets. Team members include Jury, Rustad, Michalek and Bjorkman, Bill Holmes, Mark Collins, Chris Simons, Mark Lundin, assistant coach Gene Jurgens and Head Coach Whitey Olson.



Thief River Falls won its fifth section/region championship in boys tennis in 2004 and the first since 1980. The Prowlers claimed the 2004 Section 8A championship with a 5-2 win over East Grand Forks. Thief River Falls defeated Perham 6-1 in the semifinal round, giving the team a 16-1 record heading into state. The state tournament-bound squad included, from left to right: front

row - Jordan West, Jacob Engelstad, Jordan Swanson, Chris Mickelson, Ryan La-Coursiere, Justin Pyle, Cody Bottem; back row - assistant coach Corey Thorson, Corey Horien, Joe Ihle, Jon Kays, Michael Forney, Nathan Bylander and head coach Troy Hanestad. The Prowlers dropped a pair of 5-2 matches at state, falling to Waseca and Litchfield. (Submitted)



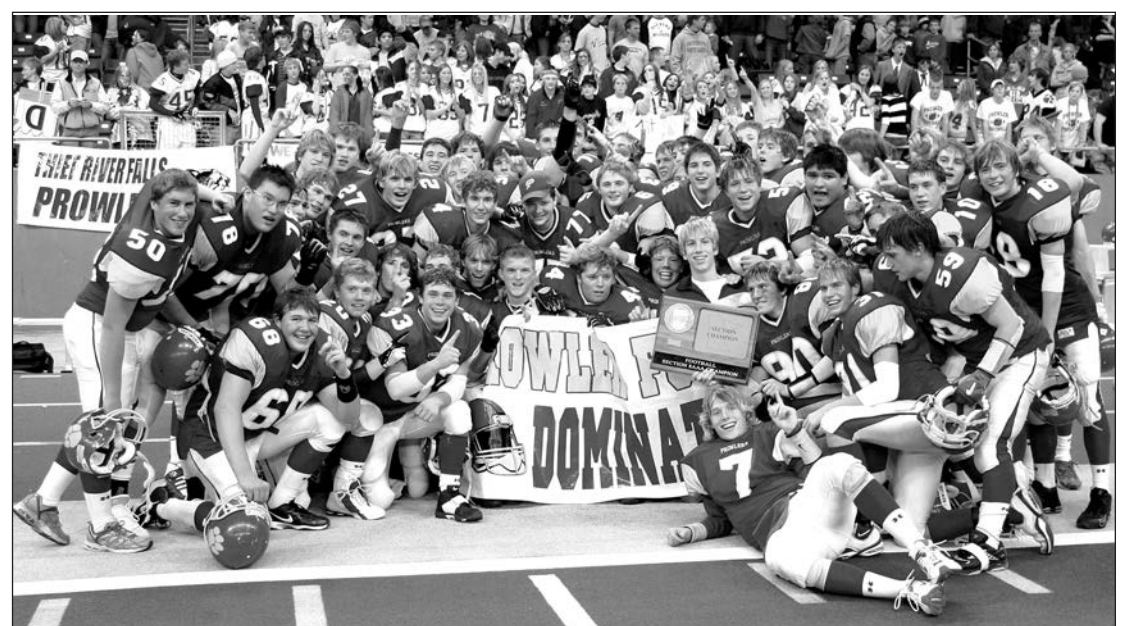
The Prowlers won their third consecutive section/region boys tennis championship in 1980 with a 3-2 victory over St. Cloud Apollo in the 1980 Section 8AA championship match. Thief River Falls was ranked number one in the Class AA coaches poll and Apollo was ranked number three. Thief River Falls won the Section 8AA north title and Apollo won

the Section 8AA south title to set up the dual. The Prowlers' bid for a team state title came to halt with a 3-2 loss to Edina West in the opening round of the state tournament. Pictured from left to right are: front row - Bill Holmes, Bill Jury, Mark Lundin and Tom Bjorkman; back row - Paul Koppang, Mitch Rustad, Mark Collins and Coach Whitey Olson.



Thief River Falls lived up to expectations and repeated as Section 8A tennis champion with wins over Perham, 7-0, and Crookston, 5-2, in Section 8A competition. The Prowlers dropped a 4-3 decision to Mounds Park Academy to open state tournament play, but got back on track with wins over Litchfield and Virginia by identical 6-1 scores to claim the consolation championship. Team members include (not in order) Jon Kays, Joe Ihle, Michael Forney, Justin Pyle, Cody

Bottem, Corey Horien, Jordan Swanson, Jacob Engelstad, Jordan West, Hugh Campbell, Chase Haviland, Brian Kays, Michael Kalinoski, Tom Kalinoski, Parker Nessen, Chris Roiland, Head Coach Troy Hanestad. Pyle and Engelstad advanced to state in singles competition after finishing first and second, respectively in individual play, while the doubles team of Forney/Bottem advanced as section champions.



Thief River Falls got hot at the right time in 2005 to earn the school's first section/region championship in football. The Prowlers were 4-4 at the conclusion of their eight-game regular season with wins over Hibbing, Cloquet, Grand Rapids and Duluth Central, and losses to Crookston, Detroit Lakes, Duluth East, and Duluth Denfeld. The Section 8AAA playoffs began with a 26-20 win over Roseau. The Prowlers added a 49-7 win over East Grand Forks in the section semifinals and a 48-6 win over Perham at the Alerus Center to claim the section title. The Prowlers' state tournament lasted just one game, with the team falling 14-8 at Albany in the Class AAA quarterfinals. Team members include (not in order) Erik Brenna, Justin Brooks, Ryan Brummund, Alex Carlson, Tony

Dorn, Jon Drees, Michael Forney, Lucas Genereux, Zach Gerardy, Blake Haviland, Tanner Jensen, Chad Johnson, Drew Kiono, Ryan Kruse, Dan LeDuc, Kyle Lunke, Matt Nordhagen, Ryan Olson, Manuel Peralta, Brady Stanley, Robby Stenson, Kyle Trontvet, Zach Wilde, Michael Benedict, Andrew Black-Lance, Brian Anderson, Travis Bach, Ben Carlson, Jon Gilbert, Corey Horien, Cole Hunt, Kyle Iverson, Josh Iverson, Zach Johnson, Tyler Nessen, Andrew Peralta, Lee Peterson, Jeremy Sich, Sean Sorteberg, Jordan Swanson, Ryan Winkelman, Alex Yaggie, Ryan Dahl, Chase Haviland, Aaron Langan, Tom Loe, Billy Mattison, Andy Rook, Josh Skalsky, Tyson Sorvig, Jake Stuckey, Kasey Trontvet, Head Coach Jeff Mumm.

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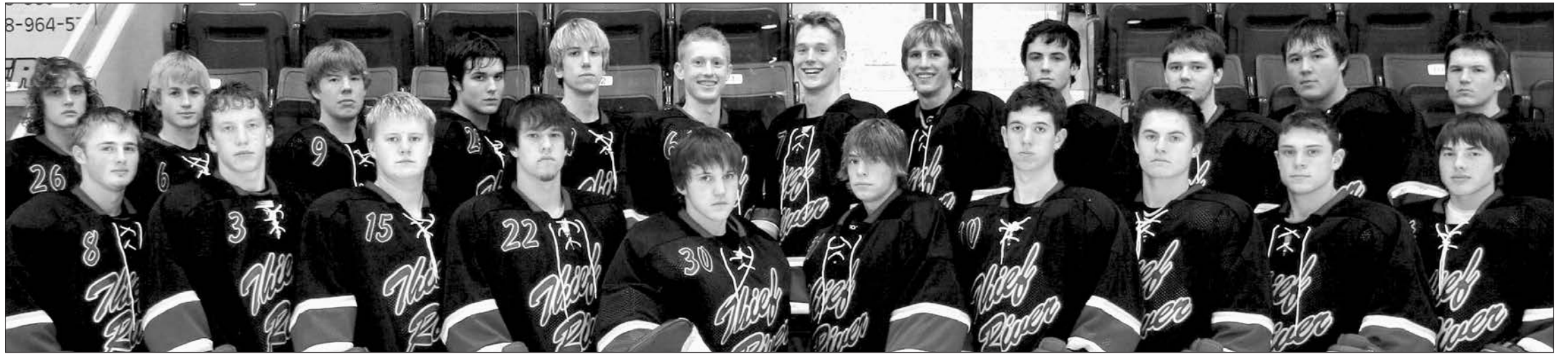
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After a 41-year hiatus filled with some disappointing losses in the section championship game, Thief River Falls returned to the boys hockey state tournament in 2006 following a thrilling 3-2 quadruple overtime win over Warroad at the Gardens Arena. The Prowlers dropped the opening game of the state tournament to Hermantown by a score of 4-3, but they bounced back to defeat Orono, 2-0, before falling

to the Blake School 4-3 in the consolation final. Pictured from left to right are: front row - Zach Wilde, John Carlson, Tyler Holen, Chad Johnson, Cole Hunt, Brady McIntyre, Corey LaSalle, Lucas Genereux, Michael Benedict, Patrick Barry; back row - Aaron Langan, Cody Bottem, Jordan Swanson, Dan Kaushagen, Corey Horien, Robby Philipp, Michael Forney, Matt Nordhagen, Evan Jones, Drew Kjono, Tony Dorn and Jack Tuthill.



Thief River Falls won its third consecutive Section 8A tennis championship with wins over Park Rapids Area, 6-1, in the section semifinals, and Crookston, 4-3, in the section finals. The Prowlers fell to the Blake School by a score of 6-1 in the opening round of the state tournament. The Prowlers stayed alive with a 6-1 win over Luverne in the consolation semifinals, before dropping a 6-1 decision to St. Paul Academy & Summit School in the consolation championship. Members of the team include from left to right: front row - Connor Hutton, Corey

Horien, Chase Haviland, Jordan Swanson; second row - assistant coach Jon Kays, Parker Nessen, Brendan Skime, Cody Bottem, Jordan West, Justin Pyle, Cody Reese, student manager Kristine Sletten; back row - student manager Sarah Larson, student manager Kassi Sparby, Brian Kays, Jacob Engelstad and head coach Corey Thorson. Pyle and Engelstad were individual state qualifiers in singles, while Bottem/Swanson were state qualifiers in doubles. (Submitted)



Members of the Thief River Falls girls tennis team proudly display the section championship plaque shortly their section team triumph. The Prowlers defeated Becker, 6-1, and Bemidji, 5-2, to earn their first state tournament trip since 1974. Pictured from left to right are: front row - Sarah Larson, Kassi Sparby, Kelly Hanson, Amanda Hoard; second row - Kristine Sletten, Carli Sandahl, Cheyenne Horien, Katie Rook, Chelsie Weeding, Mauri Gonsorowski; back row - Chelsea Daley, Laura Heschke,

Brandi Ose and Head Coach Corey Thorson. Thief River Falls' enrollment of 496 was the smallest of the eight teams to qualify in Class AA in 2006. Eden Prairie was the largest with a 2005 enrollment of 2,455 in grades 10-12. The doubles team of Larson and Hoard also qualified for the individual portion of the state tournament. The Prowlers were eliminated from team completion with 7-0 loss to Mahtomedi and a 6-1 setback against Elk River.

The Thief River Falls football team was a repeat section champion in 2006. Unlike 2005, when the Prowlers went .500 in the regular season, the 2006 edition started the season 7-0 with wins over Crookston, Duluth East, Hibbing, Grand Rapids, Duluth Denfeld, Duluth Central and Detroit Lakes, before dropping the regular season finale 26-6 at Richfield. The Prowlers dominated Warroad, 34-6, and Park Rapids Area, 52-22, to secure a Section 8AAA championship game rematch against the Perham Yellowjackets. The Yellowjackets played the Prowlers tough but came up short as the Prowlers hoisted the section championship with an 18-7 win. The Prowlers got to host Litchfield in the Class AAA state quarterfinals but came up short in a 36-18 loss to the Dragons. Team members include Brian Anderson, Travis Bach, Patrick Barry, Michael Benedict, Andrew BlackLance, Ben Carlson, John Carlson, Lance Efteland, Cole Hunt, Zach Johnson, Tyler Nessen, Andrew Peralta, Lee Peterson, Jeremy Sich, Sean Sorteberg, Jordan Swanson, Ryan Winkelman, Alex Yaggie, Chris Compeau, Sheldon Cook Jr., Ryan Dahl, Chase Haviland, Aaron Langan, Thomas Loe, Billy Mattison, Sam Mattison, Andrew Rook, Josh Skalsky, Tyson Sorvig, Kasey Trontvet, Joe Welch, Jon Vacura, Tyler Aandal, Stewart Baxter, Nick Beito, Jesse Castle, Cody Conners, Lucas Dillon, Kevin Fynboh, Kyle Haugen, Brian Hruby, Myles Keefe, Cody Knott, Billy Lewis, Kyle Niemela, Ben Olson, Justin Olson, Phillip Olson, Nick Olson, Tyler Olson, Travis Peralta, Kent Peterson, Cody Reese, J.D. Robinson, Zach Sorenson, Ben Thorstad and Head Coach Jeff Mumm.



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Left: Thief River Falls advanced to its fourth consecutive state tournament in boys tennis during the 2007 season with a pair of 6-1 wins over Park Rapids Area and Crookston in Section 8A play. At state, the Prowlers took advantage of a favorable draw, defeating Litchfield 5-2 in the state quarterfinals. It was the Prowlers' first-ever state tournament quarterfinal win. The Prowlers ended the tournament with a pair of losses to private schools, falling to St. Paul Academy & Summit School, 7-0, in the Class A semifinals, and Mounds Park Academy,

4-3, in the third place match. Pictured from left to right are: front row - Cody Bottem, Jordan Swanson; kneeling - Chase Haviland, Connor Hutton, Corey Horien, Parker Nessen, Brandon Skime; standing - Tyler Peterson, Cody Reese, Jacob Engelstad, Lucas Dillon, Brian Kays and JD Robson. Qualifying for state individually were the doubles teams of Swanson/Bottem and Horien/Haviland, and Engelstad in singles. Swanson and Bottem went on to earn the doubles consolation championship. (Submitted)

State champions/Continued

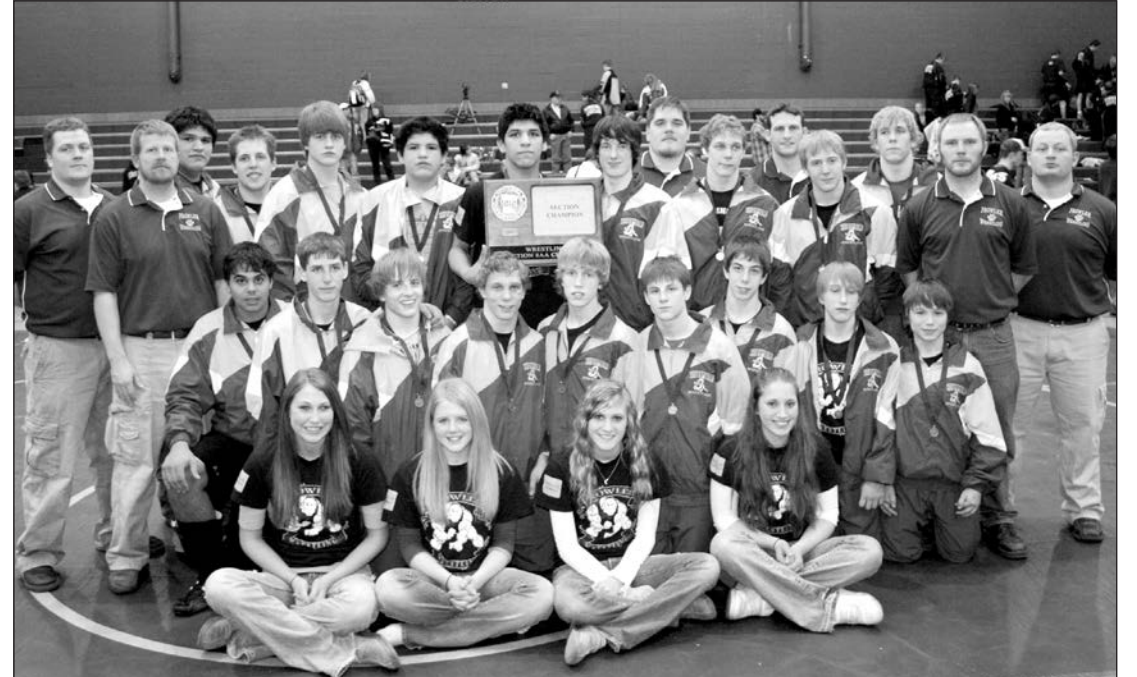
[Continued from page 7] champion. Biermaier was unbeaten in the 300 meter hurdles during the 2012 season. She had the fastest time in the field during the preliminary round with a time of 43.33, and won the state title with a time of 43.48 in Saturday's finals. Biermaier, an eighth grader in 2012, became Thief River Falls' first track and field state champion since Kopari in 1999. Biermaier finished second in the 300 hurdles at the state meet as a freshman in 2013 and again as sophomore in 2014. As a junior in 2015, she returned to the top of the medal stand. Biermaier broke the Class AA record of 43.09 with a time of 42.87 in Friday's prelims. The next day, she was even better with a 42.13 winning time that shattered the all-time state meet record of

42.62 set by Liesa Brateng of Roseau in 1987. Biermaier saved her best performance for last, with a state championship during her senior year in 2016. After running a 42.93 in the Friday prelims - second to a 42.87 turned in by East Ridge senior Karina Joiner - Biermaier shattered her own state record with a 41.35 in the Saturday finals. Joiner was second in 42.45. Biermaier also placed third in the 100 meter hurdles and she was part of the 4x100 relay team that set a new school record with a third place finish in 48.68. Joining Biermaier on the relay team were eighth graders Carley Johnson and Miah Nelson on the first two legs, Biermaier on the third leg and senior Kira Johnson handling the anchor leg.

Brady Kasprick 2021

Wrestling

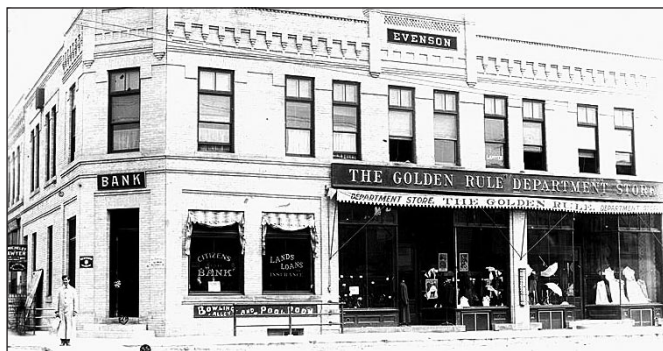
Brady Kasprick became the sixth state champion in program history and first since 2009, with wins over Lukas Paulson of Becker, 12-6, Connor Simmonds of Fairmont-Martin County West, 5-4, and Logan Vaughan of Kasson-Mantorville, 4-3 to claim the 2021 Class AA state wrestling championship at 145 pounds in March. Kasprick's title run was unique to say the least. He was unbeaten through two rounds of wrestling in a one-day Section 8AA tournament. He went 3-0 during the one-day Section 7AA/8AA Super Section, and he won all three state tournament matches in a single day. Kasprick (34-1) ended the season on a 33-match winning streak.



Thief River Falls won its first section/region wrestling championship since 1968 with a convincing run through the Section 8AA field in 2007. The Prowlers, who entered the post season as the number one seed in the west half of Section 8AA, survived an upset bid by Mahnomens in the quarterfinals (35-32), before dismantling Deer River, 56-13, and defending section champion Hibbing, 46-24. The Prowlers' season ended with state tournament losses to Adrian Area, 31-24; and Jackson County Central, 30-24, to give the team a final record of 18-7. Pictured from left to right are: front row, student

managers Frannie Twistol, Marissa Lillestol, Emma Heaton and Jodie Roy; row two, Jordan Anderson, Brian Anderson, Kevin Fynboh, Tom Kalinoski, Jordan Engen, Steve Keogh, Mike Dyrdal, Kyle LeDuc and Chaz Abrahamson; third row, Coach Eric Attig, Coach Mark Davis, Billy Mattison, Orlando Peralta, Travis Peralta, William Hess, Mike Kalinoski, Kyle Iverson, Coach Kenny Geiser, Coach Jeremy Lian; back row, Andrew Peralta, Josh Iverson, Coach Scott DCamp, Coach Kyle Jensen and Jake Toren. Andrew Peralta, third, and Keogh, sixth, were state place winners.

Bowling continues in Thief River Falls for over 100 years

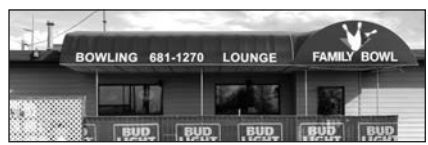


Bowling in Thief River Falls has been around since the early years of the town. In 1906 the bowling alley was located in the basement of the Golden Rule Department store at 220 Main Ave. N. (Wells Fargo lot).

In the 40s it was located on LaBree Ave. N., near the present day King Tobacco store. Family Bowl was opened in 1958 with 10 lanes of bowling at its present location on Hwy. 32



South. In 1975, 6 additional lanes were added. In 2021 it was purchased by Logan & Jackie Kalinowski and has now become SouthTown Lanes, Pizza & Pub, which is scheduled to open in the fall of 2021 after an extensive remodeling project.



Tallon, Jackie, Logan & Kennedy Chocolate Lab Macee



Make it five straight Section 8A tennis titles for Thief River Falls. Following a 10-4 regular season, the Prowlers dominated Wadena-Deer Creek 7-0 in the opening round of Section 8A. They won six of seven matches against East Grand Forks in the semifinals and survived another 4-3 battle against Crookston in the Section 8A championship match. Much like 2007, the 2008 Prowlers won their opening match at the state tournament, edging Duluth Marshall 4-3 in the quarterfinals. The Prowlers finished fourth at state after dropping matches to

Rochester Lourdes and the Breck School by scores of 6-1. Team members include from left to right: front row - Stephen Bates, Head Coach Corey Thorson, Parker Nessen; second row - Chase Haviland, Grant Spears, Beezer Skime, JD Robson, Micah Rodahl; back row - Ben Olson, Cody Reese, Connor Hutton, Brian Kays, Jacob Engelstad and Josh Kopp. Engelstad also won the Section 8A singles title, while the doubles team of Kays/Haviland was a section runner-up to qualify for state.

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With the championship trophy in their possession, Thief River Falls players celebrated their 2008 Section 8AA high school baseball tournament title at Park Rapids. Owners of a 13-5 regular season record, the Prowlers' postseason run included wins over Crookston, Park Rapids Area, Detroit Lakes and Pelican Rapids to reach the championship round. The Pelican Rapids Vikings came through the elimination bracket to face the Prowlers in the championship round. The Vikings claimed game one by a score of 5-1, but the Prowlers won the winner-take-all game two by a score of 8-3 to claim the Section 8AA title and earn their first state tournament trip since 1963. The Prowlers won their state tournament opener 3-2 over Albany. They finished fourth after dropping a 9-8 decision to

St. Anthony Village in the semifinals and a 13-3 decision to Winona Cotter in the third place game. Team members include Spencer Johnson, Sam Mattison, Jake Nelson, Nick Gagner, Keaton Joppru, Derek Lunde, Jacob Malwitz, Briar Verbout, Dillon Barry, Jordan Espeseth, Zach Sorenson, Cody Connors, Joey Dondelinger, Lucas Fornshell, Jake Collins, Dan Nelson, Myles Keefe, Brady Johnson, Jordan Anderson, Brian Hruby, assistant coaches Courtney Skjervan and Carter Rogalla, and Head Coach Shane Zutz. The 2008 season capped a four-year stretch in which the Prowler baseball team won at least 13 games per season, with an overall four-year mark of 61-32. (Submitted photo)



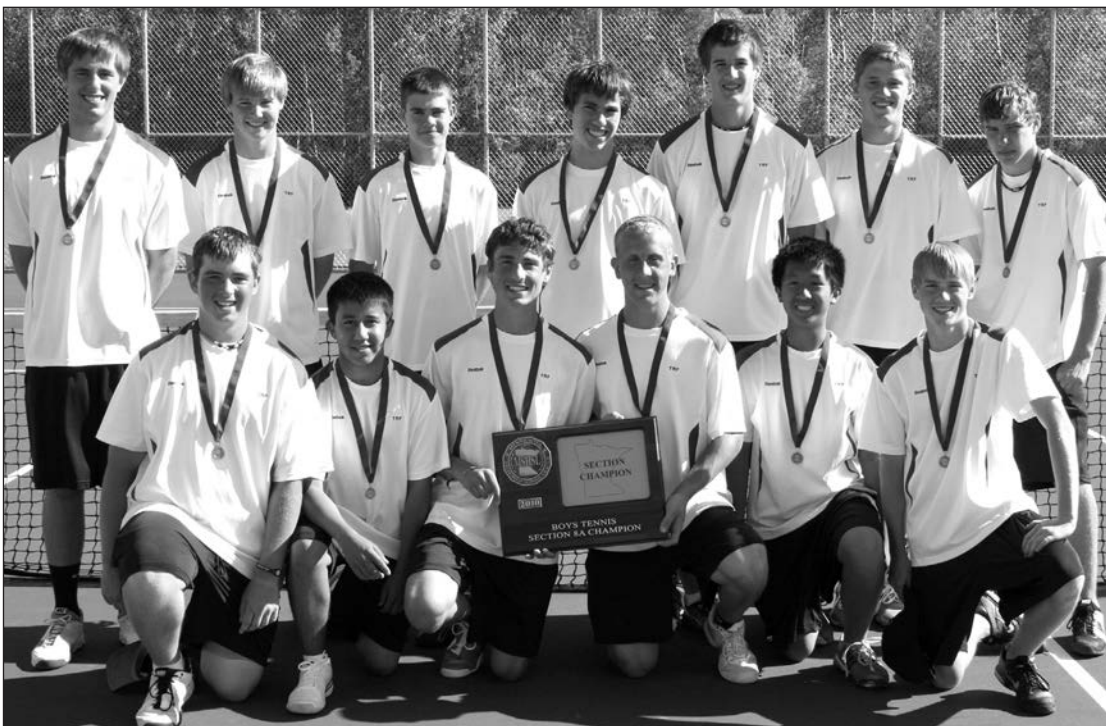
Make it six in a row. Thief River Falls was once again the premiere team in Section 8A Boys Tennis in 2009. Following a 14-3 regular season, the Prowlers dominated the Section 8A field with wins over Park Rapids Area, 7-0, and East Grand Forks, 6-1. The Prowlers were shut out 7-0 by Rochester Lourdes in the state quarterfinal round. The Prowlers bounced back with a 4-3 win over Virginia to secure a spot in the consolation final, before falling to another private school, the

Blake School, 7-0. Pictured from left to right are: front row - Nathan Bates, Chris Borseth, Ethan Redd, Micah Rodahl, Logan Engelstad; second row - Devin Spears, Beezer Skime, Tyler Peterson, Parker Nessen, Tanner Nessen, Fabian Tunberg, Evan Georgewill; back row - Joey Zaviska, Josh Koop, Ben Olson, Connor Hutton, Don Rupprecht, Jorde Hutton, JD Robson. Not pictured: Stephen Bates, Grant Spears, Anish Patel and Tevin Douglas.



Thief River Falls won its fourth region/section wrestling championship in program history and first since 2007 after a 40-28 win over two-time defending section champion Perham in 2020. The Prowlers also posted section wins over Detroit Lakes, 42-24, and Fergus Falls, 41-30, in the first Section 8AA wrestling tournament to be held at the Ralph Engelstad Arena. The Prowlers dropped both of their state dual matches, falling to eventual state runner-up Foley 53-18 in the opening round, and Adrian 34-28 in the consolation semifi-

nal. Team members include: student managers Kelsi Kinsman, Lisa Benter, Olivia Kilen, Kelly Fynboh and Trisha Bernier; wrestlers Alex Engen, Ben Kucera, Nick Cervantes, Tyler Thorpe, Mike Dyrdal, Holden Nelson, Chaz Abrahamson, Austin Hjelle, Sam Twistol, Kyle LeDuc, Jason Brinkman, Spencer Hron, Jacoby Bergeron, Logan Alten, Joel Schram, Craig Williams, Codey Lang, Orlando Peralta, Nolan Dyrdal; assistant coaches Mark Davis, Scott DCamp, Aric Attig, John Cervantes; and Head Coach Kenny Geiser.



The Thief River Falls boys tennis team continued its impressive string of section championships with its seventh consecutive section in 2010. The Prowlers dominated regular season play with a 14-0 record that saw the team win at least six individual matches in 13 of the 14 wins. The dominance continued at the Section 8A tournament, where the Prowlers defeated Perham, 7-0, East Grand Forks, 6-1, and Crookston 6-1. Things got a little tougher at state, but the Prowlers were up to the task in a 4-3 win over Mound-Westonka in the state quarterfinals. The Prowlers suffered their only loss of the 2010 season in the state semifinals, falling 7-0 to Blake, but bounced back to defeat Virginia 4-3 to finish a program-

best third at the state tournament. Pictured from left to right are: front row - Josh Koop, Fabian Tunberg, Beezer Skime, Micah Rodahl, David Szeto, Nathan Bates; back row, Connor Hutton, Stephen Bates, Chris Borseth, Logan Engelstad, Ben Olson, Jorde Hutton and Tanner Nessen. Thief River Falls was also represented by a pair of doubles teams at the state tournament, Engelstad/Rodahl beat Connor Hutton/Skime in an all TRF doubles final during the Section 8A individual tournament. A week later, the same two teams met for the state consolation championship, with Hutton and Skime winning the rematch. (Submitted photo).

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Thief River Falls returned to the boys hockey state tournament for the first time since 2006 with a 4-1 win over Warroad in the Section 8A championship game at the Ralph Engelstad Arena. The Prowlers' other section wins in 2011 included a 10-1 win over Park Rapids in the section quarterfinals and a 3-1 win over Lake of the Woods in the semifinals. Thief River Falls defeated the Breck School 7-5 in the state quarterfinals, fell 5-0 to St. Thomas Academy in the semifinals, but finished strong with a 3-0 win over Hibbing/Chisholm in the Class A third place game. The third place finish was Thief River Falls' highest state tournament finish the 1956 state championship season. It also marked just the second third place finish in program his-

tory for the Prowlers, who also finished third in 1951. Team members include Andrew Lansing, Kael Fontaine, Derek Kayser, Jon Narverud, Drew Erickson, Logan Kennedy, Chris Forney, Brady Mener, Evan Ose, Riley Soderstrom, Austin Odberg, Kaleb Torgerson, Logan Engelstad, Tanner Nessen, Micah Ranum, Matt Ortloff, Billy Dicken, Riley Olson, Connor Doherty, Beezer Skime, Josh Koop, Tanner Holmes, Ryan Crossen, Hans Harder, Ryan Hutton, Jared Shaffer, Grady Pederson, Tanner Peterson, Logan Johnson, Blake Torkelson, Sam Matter, Ryan Daniels, Tyler Decowski, Murphy Fellman, Evan Dondelinger, Collin Horien, Isaac Skalsky; assistant coaches Scott Bergland, Bob Huot and Greg Bottem; and Head Coach Tim Bergland.



Thief River Falls had its second consecutive Section 8AA wrestling title in 2011 and third since 2007. Seeded third going into the tournament, the Prowlers claimed the section title with section wins over Walker-Hackensack-Akeley/Nevis, 51-22, Perham, 38-16, and top-seeded Staples-Motley, 41-21. The Prowlers dropped a pair of competitive state tournament duals, falling 38-22 to Foley in the quarterfinal round, and Grand Rapids, 33-30, in the consolation semifinals. Pictured from left to right are: front row - Nathanael Holecek, student

manager Kelsi Kinsman, student manager Olivia Kilen, student manager Hailee Ueland, student manager Mishayla Klemetson, Spencer Hron; middle row - Head Coach Kenny Geiser, Stephen Holecek, Noah Biernier, Austin Hjelle, Chaz Abrahamson, Jacoby Bergeron, Holden Nelson, Jacob Bohl, Travis Dagen, Coach Mark Davis; back row - Coach Scott DCamp, Nolan Dyrdal, Cody Bannert, Nick Kazmierczak, Logan Alten, Craig Williams, Ben Kucera, Jon Erickson, Nick Cervantes, Coach Kyle Jensen and Coach Aric Attig.

Athletic history of LHS/Continued

[Continued from page 1] 1962, 1963, 1973. However, we were unable to locate any team photos of the various region championship teams, with the exception of the 1973 team.

Wrestling was added as an MSHSL-sponsored sport in 1938 and Thief River Falls fielded a team for one season in 1942. Wrestling returned to Thief River Falls in the fall of 1957. The program won a pair of Region 8 titles in 1964 and 1968, respectively. The sport was dropped in 1979 and resurrected in the fall of 1987.

Boys track and field became a sponsored sport by the MSHSL in 1923. Thief River Falls won its first Region 8 title in 1962 and the Prowlers added back-to-back region championships in 1971 and 1972. We were unable to locate a team photo of the 1962 boys track team.

Before it was the section-winning dynasty that it has become today, the Thief River Falls boys tennis won its first Region 8 championship in 1968 - 18 years after boys tennis was first recognized as a high school league sport. The Prowlers would return to state as a team with region championships in 1978, 1979 and 1980.

Girls tennis was added as an MSHSL-sponsored sport in 1974 and Thief River Falls was the first Region 8 champion in girls tennis that same year.

While there were several teams that came close with strong seasons, Thief River Falls did not have a team qualify for the state tournament from 1981 through 2004. That changed in 2004, with the boys tennis team winning the Section 8A tennis championship. It was the true start to the boys tennis dynasty, as the Prowlers would go on to win 11 consecutive section titles from 2004-14 and three more from 2018-21.

After steady success throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, the Prowler football team broke through in 2005 with the school's first section championship in football. The Prowlers repeated as Section 8AAA champions in 2006. The MSHSL began sponsoring football in 1916, but it didn't organize a play-off system until the 1972 season.

In 2006, the Thief River Falls boys hockey team returned to the state tournament following a 41-year hiatus. The modern era Prowlers have won Section 8A titles in 2006, 2011, 2012, 2016 and 2018.

The girls tennis team returned to the state tournament in 2006 after a 22-year absence after winning the Section 8AA title. The Prowler girls added Section 8A championships in 2019 and 2020.

The Prowler wrestling team won its fourth

region/section title in 2007 and first since 1968. The 2007 season also marked the Prowlers' first appearance as a full team at state. In 1975, MSHSL began using a team tournament like other sports, rather than team scoring of the individual tournament, to determine its state champion. Thief River Falls returned to the state tournament in 2010 and 2011 as Section 8AA champions.

Like girls tennis, volleyball was added as a girls sport by the MSHSL in 1974. Thief River Falls won its first section volleyball championship in 2012 and it returned to state in 2014.

After a heartbreaking section championship loss in 2014, the Thief River Falls girls hockey team won its only section championship in program history in 2015. The Prowlers made that trip count by winning a state championship. The 2015 girls hockey team is the only Thief River Falls girls team to win a state championship. It was just the fifth in school history and first since the boys hockey team won a state title in 1956. Girls hockey was added as an MSHSL sport in 1995.

The Thief River Falls girls basketball team won its first section championship in 2015 and they repeated as section champions in 2016 en route to a third place finish. Girls basketball was added as an MSHSL-sponsored sport in 1974.

Softball became an official MSHSL sport in 1977 and 30 years later, Thief River Falls won its first section championship in 2017. The Prowlers added a section title in 2019.

According to the MSHSL, Thief River Falls has made four state tournament appearances in boys golf but it did not list the years.

Acknowledgements
This issue focused on the athletic history of athletics at Lincoln High School. Due to space limitations, the focus was placed on region champions and state tournament participants. There are several teams with outstanding seasons that were deserving of mention in this article, but they did not win a region/section title or detailed information was missing.

Also missing from this section is information on the outstanding teams from Northland Community & Technical College.

Thank you to former TRF Times sports editors Huck Olson, Bob Wielinski and Mike Lundgren for their attention to detail in documenting the history of Lincoln High School sports as it happened.

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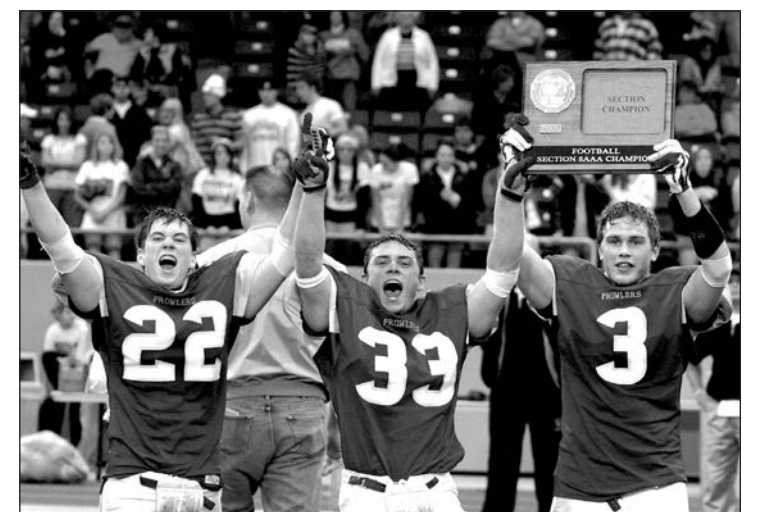
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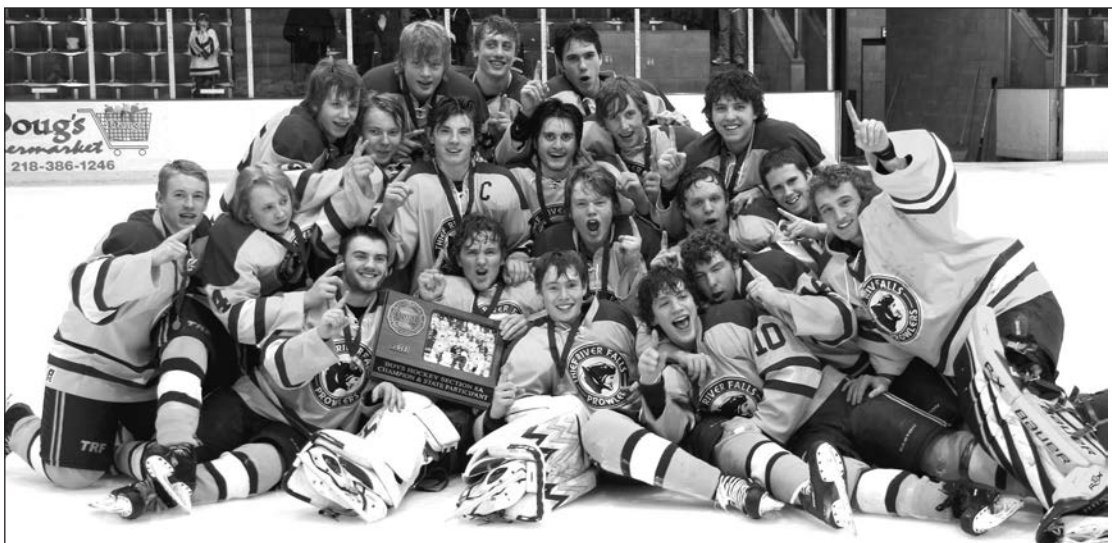
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Thief River Falls won its eighth consecutive Section 8A championship in boys tennis in 2011 with another dominant run through the section tournament. The Prowlers, who entered section play with a 16-3 regular season record, beat Park Rapids Area 7-0, defeated Detroit Lakes 6-1 and dominated Staples-Motley 6-1. The Prowlers shutout Luverne 7-0 in the opening round at state and went on to finish fourth after back-to-back losses to Rochester Lourdes, 6-1, and the Blake School, 5-2. Pictured from left to right

are: front row - Logan Engelstad, David Szeto; second row, Micah Rodahl, Connor Hutton, Beezer Skime, Nathan Bates; back row, head coach Tim Engelstad, Sam Olson, Ben Olson, Josh Koop, Jorde Hutton, Fabian Tunberg, Chris Borseth, Hunter Blowers, assistant coach Troy Bates and assistant coach Rob LaCourriere. Engelstad qualified for state as an individual winning the section singles title, while Rodahl and Hutton won section doubles titles.



Thief River Falls won its second consecutive Section 8A Boys Hockey championship in 2012 with a 4-1 win over East Grand Forks at the Gardens Arena in Warroad. It was the Prowlers' 21st win of the season up to that point (21-4-2). The Prowlers' postseason run also included a 6-0 win over Lake of the Woods/Indus/Rainy River and a 5-0 win over Park Rapids Area in the semifinals. At state, the Prowlers were a quarterfinal winner for the second consecutive season, with a 5-1 triumph over New Ulm. Their bid for a championship ended

with a 3-2 semifinal loss to Hermantown. The Prowlers went on to finish fourth after dropping the third place game to the Breck School 4-3 in overtime. Team members include Andrew Lansing, Kael Fontaine, Isak Bergland, Regan Pederson, Austin Odberg, Chris Forney, Grady Peterson, Evan Ose, Adam Pancoast, Riley Soderstrom, Logan Ose, Logan Engelstad, Tanner Nessen, Ryan Hutton, Riley Olson, Connor Doherty, Ian Lund, Jon Narverud, Tanner Holmes, Murphy Fellman and Head Coach Tim Bergland.



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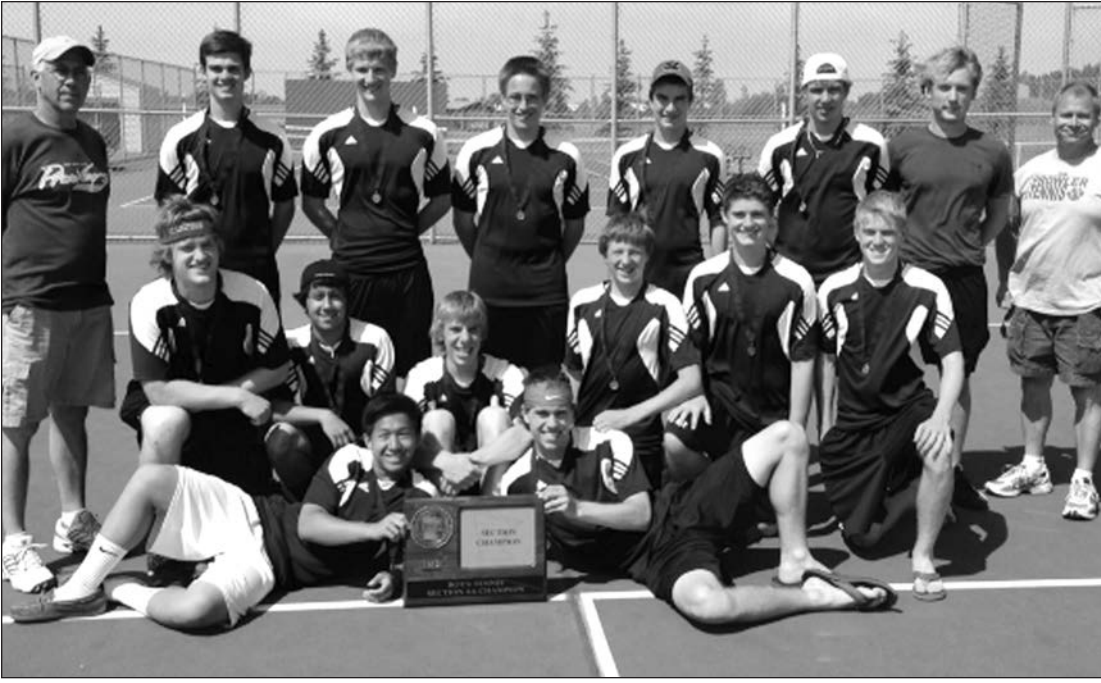
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A tough state tournament draw awaited Section 8A tennis champion Thief River Falls after the team won its ninth consecutive section title in 2012 with a 5-2 decision over Crookston. Wins over Wadena, 7-0 and east Grand Forks, 6-1, rounded out section competition for the Prowlers who entered state tournament play 17-0. Like many years, the state field included four public schools and four private schools. In 2012, three of the four state qualifying private schools were located in the Prowlers' half of the bracket. The Prowlers dropped the state quarterfinal match to the Breck School, 7-0, before rising to the occasion to beat Duluth Marshall 4-3 and Fergus Falls 4-3 to claim the state consolation title. Team mem-

bers include Fabian Tunberg, Nathan Bates, Chris Borseth, Tanner Nessen, Logan Engelstad, David Szeto, Sam Olson, Cullen Horien, Amit Patel, Jorde Hutton, Hunter Blowers, Tanner Holmes, Isaac Dvergsten, Nick Twamley, Michael McGrath, Garrett Byron, Lucas Yonke, Matthew Sorvig, Brady Nessen, Brody Poe, Dahl Davidson, Austen Hanson, Nolan Johnson, Dalton Fredrickson, John Peterson, Logan Swanson, Ethan Johnson Devin Hutton, Isaac Olson, Head Coach Tim Engelstad. Logan Engelstad defended his Section 8A singles crown and went on to finish fourth in the individual portion of the state tournament.

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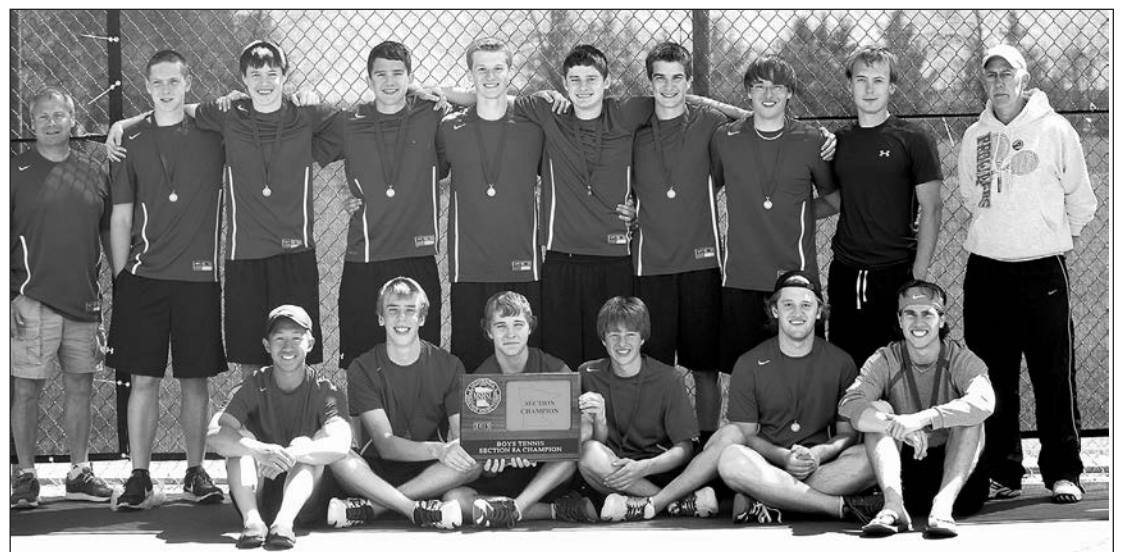
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The Class AA state high school volleyball tournament consolation trophy belonged to Thief River Falls following the Prowlers' 3-2 win over St. Croix Lutheran at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. The consolation championship win was win number 28 on the season for the Prowlers, who finished the year 28-6. The postseason run included Section 8AA wins over Bagley, 3-0, Roseau, 3-1, Pequot Lakes, 3-0, and Wadena-Deer Creek, 3-2, to claim the first volleyball program's first section championship. At state, the Prowlers fell to Belle Plaine 3-0 in the opening round, but finished strong with a 3-0 consolation semifinal win over Mora and the previously men-

tioned win over St. Croix Lutheran in the consolation championship match. Members of the team include from left to right: front row - Brooke Anderson, Brooke Yaggie; second row, student manager Courtney Lee, Courtney Amirayan, Shelby Norlin, Alexee Nelson (11), McKayla Erickson, (behind Nelson), Hannah Kraemer, head coach Laurie Bitter, assistant coach Isaac Bitter; back row, athletic trainer Jaelyn Rudoni, Meleah Biermaier, Ally Lovejoy, Madison Brekke, Crystal Amundson, Emily Bergland, Billie Lindland, assistant coach Mary Holthusen, Lilly Kainz and assistant coach Heidi Carlson.



Thief River Falls made it 10 consecutive Section 8A tennis championships with a 6-1 win over Crookston in the 2013 championship match. The Prowlers also notched a section win over Detroit Lakes by the same score. The Prowlers dropped a 7-0 decision to the Breck School in the state quarterfinal round but bounced back with a 5-2 win over Virginia in the consolation semifinals. The Prowlers' bid for state tournament trophy ended, however, with a 5-2 loss to Rochester Lourdes in the consolation

final. The team includes, from left to right: front row - David Szeto, Cullen Horien, Brady Nessen, Ethan Johnson, Jorde Hutton, Logan Engelstad; back row, coach Rob LaCourisere, Issac Dvergsten, Austen Hanson, Nolan Johnson, Sam Olson, Devin Hutton, Issac Olson, Hunter Blowers, coach J.D. Robson and Head Coach Tim Engelstad. Logan Engelstad won his third straight Section 8A singles title and went on to finish third during the individual portion of the state tournament. (Submitted)

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Thief River Falls won its 11th consecutive Section 8A boys tennis title in 2014 with a 5-2 semifinal victory over East Grand Forks and a 4-3 championship match victory over Fergus Falls. The Prowlers took a 15-2 record into the state tournament, where they edged Foley 4-3 in the quarterfinals, before falling to Rochester Lourdes and the Breck School in back to back contests by identical 7-0 scores. The 2014 Prowler boys tennis team included from left to

right: front row - Matt Sorvig, Nick Onkka, Hunter Blowers, Jorde Hutton, Isaac Dvergsten; middle row, Brady Nessen, Michael Magnusson, Ethan Johnson; standing - Cole Gillespie, head coach Joe Wasfaret, Isaac Olson, Nolan Johnson, Devin Hutton, Carter Onkka, assistant coach Rob LaCourisere and assistant coach Sam Olson. Blowers and Hutton qualified for the individual portion of the state tournament as the section runner-up in doubles.

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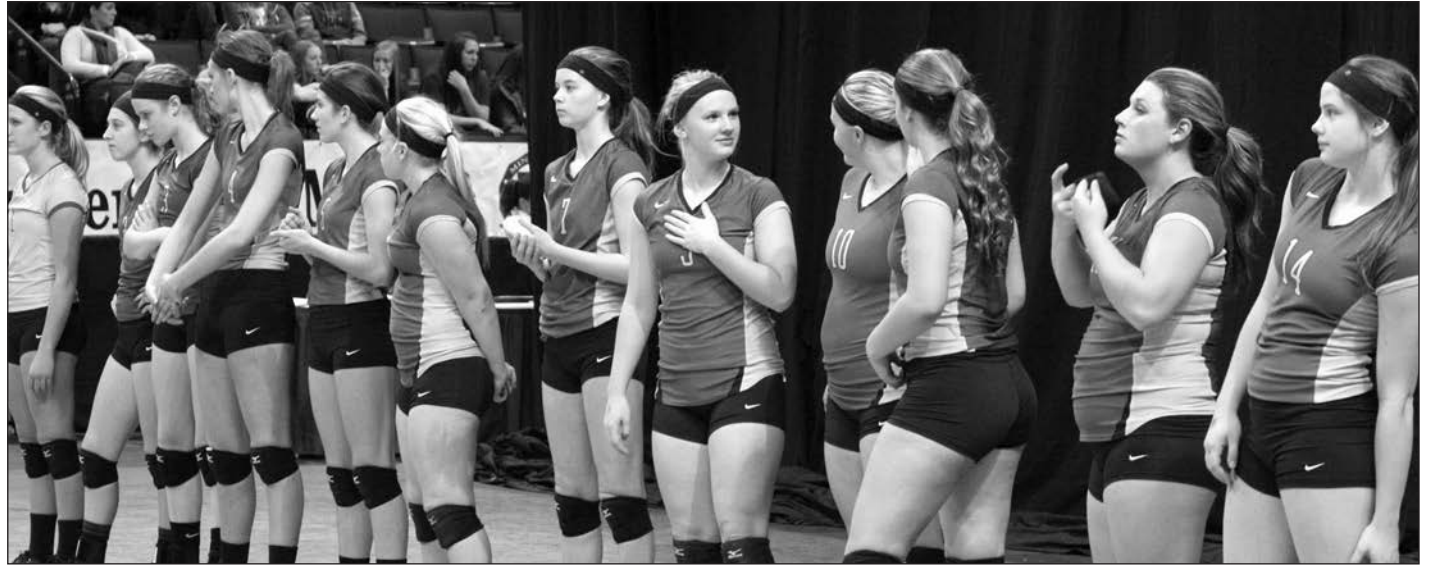
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Members of the 2014 Section 8AA champion Thief River Falls volleyball team lined up for introductions prior to their state quarterfinal match against Marshall. Pictured from left to right are Abbie Olson, Kylea Praska, Kendra Wiggs, Madison Brekke, Meleah Biermaier, Alexee Nelson, Mattlyn Erickson, Emily Bergland, McKenna Blaine, Mikki Erickson, Morgan Martell and Jennicca Leier. Under first-year head coach Kerri Wichaer, the Prowlers returned to state for the second time in four years. The Prowlers went 19-9 in the

regular season. They swept Crookston and Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 3-0, served a 3-2 match against Roseau in the section semifinals and claimed the second section championship in program history with a 3-0 win over Perham. The Prowlers fell to Marshall 3-0 in the state quarterfinals and were eliminated with a 3-2 loss to Rocori in the consolation semifinals. The 2014 season capped a four-year stretch in which the Prowlers went 102-25-3 and reached the section championship match each year from 2011-14.



In January of 1890, eleven families formed the Scandinavian Evangelical Congregation, which in 1903 reincorporated into Zion Lutheran Church. Zion's facilities progressed from a schoolhouse to a storefront to a remodeled church building and finally in 1949, to the basement of the present Lannon stone building on Main Street. On Christmas Day in 1950, Zion held its first worship service in the sanctuary of the present church.

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It is broadcast at 12:00 noon on Garden Valley TV Channel 37.

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Thief River Falls team members gathered around the 2015 Class A Minnesota girls state high school hockey tournament championship trophy after the Prowlers win over the Blake School – the two-time defending Class A champion – 3-1 to earn the prize in their first state tournament trip. The Prowlers' first, and to date only, state tournament trip followed a disappointing 2014 season in which the Prowlers went 24-2 and suffered a double overtime loss to East Grand Forks in the Section 8A championship game. The Prowlers were nearly perfect a year later, going 21-1-3 in the regular season. The only setback was a 4-0 loss to Minnetonka in the second game of the season. The three ties were to Roseau on two occasions and Eden Prairie. The Prowlers' postseason run in-

cluded a 9-0 semifinal win over Crookston, a 3-1 Section 8A championship win over Warroard, a 5-1 win over New Ulm in the state quarterfinals, a 4-1 win over South St. Paul in the Class A state semifinals and a 3-1 championship win over the Blake School. Team members include Fran Marshall, Kora Torkelson, Emily Bergland, Sylvia Marolt, Madison Poole, Mariah Nelson, Alexee Nelson, Kira Johnson, Juliet Tunberg, Briana Jorde, Ava Marolt, Abbie Olson, Hannah Enge, Jaimee Nelson, Morgan Martell, Ann Skalsky, Jaecee Pribyl, Jady Schindler, Tessa Jorde, Gracie Woods, Kaylee Eskeli, Callie Fagerstrom, Jordyn Coltom, Assistant Coach Dan Jago, Assistant Coach Shoan Nelson, Head Coach Whitney Restemayer.



The 2015 Section 8AAA girls high school basketball tournament championship trophy was claimed by Thief River Falls with a 43-42 win over Alexandria in the Sexton Arena on the St. John's University campus at Collegeville. The Prowlers' Section 8AAA run also included wins over Little Falls, 61-28 and Detroit Lakes, 56-45. The Prowlers' delegation included, from left to right: front row - assistant coach Devin Diedrich, student manager Abbie Nomeland, Jordan Casteel, Kylea Praska, Meleah Biermaier, Madison Brekke, Makayla Peterson, Kelsey Kainz, Bailey Greene, student manager Morghan Bugge, stu-

dent manager Nate Halsas; back row - medical attendant Jaclyn Rudoni, student manager Kayla Selvin, Morgan Espe, Tiahna Nicholson, Jennicca Leier, Jenna Tadych, Gabriel Holte, Allison Okeson, student manager Jill Safranski, assistant coach Paula Praska and head coach Jeff Loe. The Prowlers fell to top-seeded Orono 70-42 in the state quarterfinals. The Prowlers' section championship in 2015 was part of a four-year run in which the team went four years, Thief River Falls is 98-14. The Prowlers were 23-4 in 2011-12, 25-3 in 2012-13, 24-3 in 2013-14 and finished the 2014-15 season with a 26-4 mark.



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The third place trophy in the 2016 Minnesota boys Class A state high school hockey tournament went to Thief River Falls following a 4-1 Saturday morning (March 5, 2016) win over St. Paul Academy and Summit School at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. The win gave the Prowlers a 24-7 record for the season. The Prowlers' postseason run included section wins over Red Lake Falls, 5-0, Detroit Lakes, 4-0, and East Grand Forks, 3-1, to reach the state tournament for the first time since 2012. The Prowlers defeated Princeton 6-1 in the Class A state quarterfinals but were eliminated from championship contention following a 4-

1 loss to the Breck School. The Prowlers bounced back, however, and ended the tournament on a high note with the win over St. Paul Academy and Summit School. Team members include Aaron Berzinski, Briar Lindholm, Wyatt Ortloff, Kris Joppru, Christian Larson, Riley Bakken, Rudy Johnson, Trandon Lehrer, Lucas Magnusson, Ethan Johnson, Zach Lee, Aaron Meyers, Logan Lane, Brandon Green, Jorde Sturgeon, Brady Anderson, Michael Johnson, Brandon Gehrls, Chase Myhrer, Kade Nelson, Brendan Bushy, assistant coach Rick Johnson, assistant coach Bob Huot, assistant coach Scott Bergland, head coach Tim Bergland.



The Thief River Falls girls basketball team built on its successful 2015 season by repeating as Section 8AAA champions in 2016. The defending section champion Prowlers entered post-season play at 22-3. They crushed Sartell-St. Stephen 62-37 in the section quarterfinals, defeated Detroit Lakes 39-30 in the semifinals and edged Alexandria 57-55 in overtime. At state, the Prowlers upset pre-tournament favorite Hutchinson 61-59 in the quarterfinals. The team's bid for a state championship ended with a 55-42 loss to the Academy of Holy Angels, but the Prowlers bounced back with a 56-42 win over Becker in the third place game. Pictured from left to right are: front row - assistant coach Paula Praska, student

manager Kayla Selvig, Jordan Casteel, Allison Okeson, Kelsey Kainz, Meleah Biermaier, Kylea Praska, Bailey Greene, Leah Kainz, student manager Jill Safranski; back row - head coach Jeff Loe, medical personnel Jaclyn Rudoni, student manager Abbie Nomeland, Alexa Rogalla, Gabbie Holte, Jenna Tadych, Shawna Spears, Tiahna Nicholson, Jenicca Leier, Marley Nelson, Morgan Espe, Anna Robson, student manager Morghan Bugge, assistant coach Bryce Lingen and assistant coach Brian Loe. The third place finish in 2016 capped a five-year stretch in which the Thief River Falls girls basketball team won 125 games and lost just 18.



One year after making it to the Section 8AAA championship series and falling to Alexandria, the Thief River Falls softball team put it all together and won the 2017 section championship. The Prowlers played their way to a 16-6 regular season record and rolled through section competition with wins over Fergus Falls, 7-3, and Sartell-St. Stephen 10-4, before ousting defending champion Alexandria Area 16-11 and 6-2. The Prowlers were overmatched in their state tournament debut, falling to eventual champion Winona 10-0. The Prowlers bounced back with a hard-

fought 11-7 win over Big Lake before suffering a 4-2 loss to Waconia in the consolation championship. Team members include Mariah Nelson, Hailey Kvick, Allison Okeson, Alexis Huot, Erin Kraemer, Kora Torkelson, Cayley Sabol, Breanna Wiene, Bailey Greene, Claire Mattiosn, Josie Davis, Kailtyn Molstand, Kylea Praska, Alexa Rogalla, Khloe Lund, Hannah Magnusson, Madalyn Determan, Annah Harder, Camryn Schwab, assistant coach Bob Huot, assistant coach Tony Greene, and head coach Carter Rogalla.



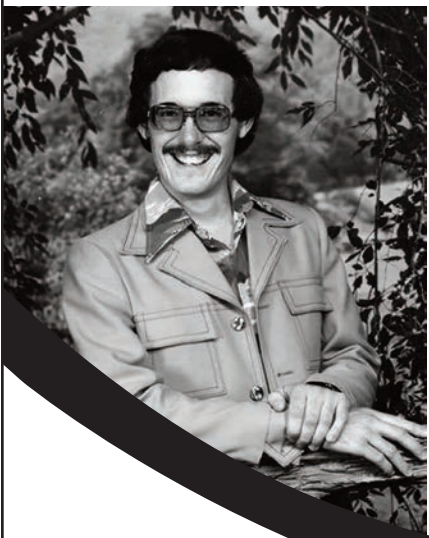
Thief River Falls recaptured the Section 8A boys tennis crown in 2018 and returned to the state tournament following a three-year absence. The 2018 season presented what many described as a dream scenario. Perennial power Breck did not qualify for state in 2018 and the Blake School was in Class AA. To top that off, beatable Mounds Park Academy was the only private school on the Prowlers' side of the state bracket. The Prowlers took care of business in Section 8A with wins over Detroit Lakes, 6-1, and Perham, 5-2 to make the return trip to state. At state, the Prowlers took advantage of the dream scenario and beat Luverne 4-3 in the opening round and they beat Litchfield 5-2 in the semifinals to

reach the state championship. The Prowlers ended up settling for a runner-up finish after suffering a 6-1 loss to Rochester Lourdes in the championship match. Pictured from left to right are: front row - Jack Onkka, Ethan Janisch, Tucker Skime, Cole Gillespie, Zach Twamley, Noah Rupprecht, Carter Onkka and Assistant Coach Logan Engelstad; back row - Head Coach Fabian Tunberg, Assistant Coach Rob LaCoursiere, Camden Broadwell, Dylan Hahn, Aiden Martell, Reece Janisch, Sam Williams, Rhett Janisch, and Manager Trista Spears. Carter Onkka and Gillespie finished third in the Class A state doubles tournament.



Thief River Falls reached the section championship match for the 17th consecutive season in 2019 and claimed its second consecutive Section 8A championship with back-to-back 6-1 wins over East Grand Forks and Perham. The Prowlers were 20-2 going into the state tournament, but faced a much more difficult draw at state. All four public schools that qualified played a private school opponent in the opening round. The Prowlers opened the tournament with a 6-1 loss to St. Paul Academy and Summit School in the opening round but quickly bounced back with a 6-1 win over Luverne to reach the consolation

championship. The 2019 consolation championship match between Thief River Falls and Hibbing was effectively the Class A public school championship match. It went down to the wire with Hibbing claiming a 4-3 win. Team members include Andrew Olson, Ethan Lunsetter, Dylan Hahn, Aiden Martell, Jack Onkka, Samuel Williams, Rhett Janisch, Reece Janisch, Wyatt Halvorson, Cole Gillespie, Tucker Skime, Ethan Janisch, Noah Rupprecht, Camden Broadwell, Isaiah Villarreal, assistant coach Tom Harbott, assistant coach Rob LaCoursiere, assistant coach Tim Engelstad and Head Coach Fabian Tunberg.



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One year after suffering a heartbreaking 3-2 loss to Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton in the 2018 section championship game to end a 20-5 season, the Thief River Falls softball team picked itself up and got even better in 2019. The 2019 Prowlers rolled through the regular season with an 18-3 record and put together a dominating Section 8AA run with wins over Crookston, 16-1, East Grand Forks, 6-0, Park Rapids Area, 8-1, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton, 2-1, and Park Rapids Area, 10-3. The Prowlers were seeded fourth in the 2019 Class AA state tournament and lived up to the seed with a 4-3 walkoff win over LeSueur-Henderson in the opening round. The Prowlers led early in the semifinal against top-seeded Nor-

wood-Young America but ultimately lost 9-5. Trailing 4-1 against Pipestone through four and a half innings of play in the third place game, the Prowlers rallied with two runs in the bottom of the fifth to make it a 4-3 game. They couldn't get any closer, however, as Pipestone claimed the third place trophy. Team members include Breanna Wiene, Gwen Stengrim, Maizy Kraemer, Yasmine Vondal-Gayden, Eme Gunderson, Paige Greene, Alexis Huot, Abby Molstad, Khloe Lund, Haylie Rogalla, Alexa Rogalla, Molly Halsa, Hannah Magnusson, Alanah Mack, Gabriella Steele, Camryn Schwab and Kendal Martell; assistant coaches Tony Greene and Bob Huot; head coach Carter Rogalla.



The Thief River Falls girls tennis program won its second ever section championship and first since 2006 with a Section 8A run that included wins over Parkers Prairie, 7-0, Crookston, 5-2, and Perham/New York Mills, 5-2. The win over Perham/NYM gave the Prowlers an 18-5 record heading into the state tournament. The Prowlers had the toughest draw imaginable, falling to eventual state champion The Blake School by a score of 7-0, and dropping a 4-3 decision

to eventual consolation champion Minnewaska Area. Pictured from left to right are: front row - Abby Flaagan, Bela Nelson, Brea Prickett, Ava Yuska; back row - Coach Hegge, Paige Weets, Avery Malone, Rachel Kloety, Trista Spears, Stephanie Dagg, Brooklyn Brouse, Wyatt Halvorson, Gabby Steele, Dylan Hahn, Emma Fagerstrom, Bell Hamre, Avery Skaar, Coach Engelstad, Brooklyn Broadwell and Coach Tunberg. (Submitted)



Players and coaches from the Thief River Falls girls tennis team accepted the 2020 Section 8A championship trophy shortly after the conclusion of the Section 8A championship dual. Due to COVID protocols, the 2020 season limited teams to single duals against conference or section opponents. The Prowlers went 8-1 during a nine-dual regular season and went 3-0 in the postseason with wins over Roseau, 6-1; East Grand Forks, 6-1;

and Perham/New York Mills, 6-1. Pictured from left: front row - Hannah Clevon, Gabby Steele, Brooklyn Brouse, Emma Fagerstrom, Trista Spears, Rachel Kloety; back row - Coach Brock Borchardt, Coach Shawna Spears, Avery Malone, Paige Weets, Jenae Johnson, Braylee Wiene, Stephanie Dagg, Brooklyn Broadwell, Bell Hamre, Avery Skaar, Abby Flaagan, Head Coach Fabian Tunberg and Coach Tim Engelstad.



Thief River Falls won six of seven matches to defeat second seeded Minnewaska Area 6-1 and, in the process, claim the 2021 Section 8A boys tennis championship. The win over Minnewaska Area was the Prowlers' third straight 6-1 in the 2021 section tournament. The Prowlers also defeated Osakis and Fergus Falls by the same score. The section championship was the program's 14th since 2004. Excluding the cancelled 2020 season, it marked the 18th consecutive season in which the Prowlers played in the section championship match. The Prowlers' 2021 state

tournament lasted just one match, with the team dropping a 5-2 decision to Mound-Westonka in the quarterfinals. Team members include: Dylan Hahn, Camden Broadwell, Jack Onkka, Reece Janisch, Ethan Lunsetter, JJ Cornelius, Rhett Janisch, Isaiah Villarreal, Jett Cornelius, Wyatt Halvorson, Geran Gonsorowski, Connor Roff, Spencer Hempel, student manager Emma Fagerstrom, assistant coach Rob LaCoursiere, head coach Fabian Tunberg. Onkka and Hahn finished fourth in the state doubles tournament.

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