



Seven state champs chosen

By Byron Higgin
Mascot Sports Editor

Besides Minnetonka's 28-13 win over Wabasso in Class 1A, it was an historic state tournament in many ways, with records falling and several new champions named.

Class 9-Man

Spring Grove completed an historic season with a 32-0 victory over Nevis in the Nine-Man championship game, completing an undefeated season for the Lions (14-0) and giving the southeastern Minnesota school its first football state championship in three state tournament trips.

Senior Cullen Patterson rushed for 124 yards on 17 carries to pace a Lions attack that averaged 6.6 yards per carry. Junior quarterback Alex Folz contributed 112 yards in 18 carries. He also completed 16 of 22 passes for 196 yards and three touchdowns.

Class 2A

A record-tying performance helped send Caledonia a to a 57-6 victory over Pipestone Area in Class 2A.

Senior quarterback Owen King, a candidate for Mr. Football in Minnesota, accounted for six touchdowns — five through the air and one on the ground — to power the Warriors (13-0) to an undefeated season and a third consecutive Class AA crown.

King, who completed 18 of 28 passes for 246 yards and five touchdowns, powered the Warriors to their sixth state championship since 2010. His six combined touchdowns tied a Prep Bowl record previously

set by Kirk Midthun of Triton, Dodge Center in 1994.

Class 3A

Pierz won the Class AAA championship with a 34-21 victory over St. Croix Lutheran in a battle of unbeaten.

It's the Pioneers' second Class AAA title in the past three seasons and third championship overall. In 2004, Pierz was the Class AA champion.

The Pioneers (13-0) completed an unbeaten season with a punishing ground game and an opportunistic defense. Pierz rushed for 328 of its 358 total yards, and also took advantage of St. Croix Lutheran's record-tying eight fumbles, four of which were lost.

Class 4A

The Academy of Holy Angels of Richfield won the Class AAAA championship for the first time in three tries with a 14-0 victory over Cloquet.

The Stars scored two timely touchdowns and survived a game of give-and-take that featured a combined 10 turnovers.

Senior wide receiver Ryan Mazurek caught a 46-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Joseph Heimbald in the first quarter, and junior tailback Thomas Sheldstad added a one-yard scoring run in the third to spur the Stars (12-1) to the school's first football championship.

Class 5A

Owatonna claimed its second Class AAAAA crown by dethroning defending champion Elk River, 63-26.

The Huskies, the Class AAAAA cham-

pion in 2013 in the final game during the Metrodome Era of the Prep Bowl, received a record-tying performance from junior running back Jason Williamson in capturing a state crown title for the second time in five trips to a championship game.

The 6-foot-1, 191-pounder rushed for 213 yards on 23 carries and scored five touchdowns.

He had another touchdown on a 67-yard kickoff return early in the second quarter that lifted the Huskies into a 14-all tie at the time.

The six combined touchdowns equaled a mark that was set in 1994 by Kirk Midthun of Triton, Dodge Center, who threw for six TDs in a 40-21 victory over Becker in the Class B championship game.

Class 6A

Eden Prairie added another championship trophy to its football program's already-rich legacy with a 38-17 victory over Minnetonka.

The Eagles scored two second-half touchdowns to squelch Minnetonka's half-time momentum en route to winning a state-best 11th championship.

Senior running back Solo Falaniko led a balanced Eden Prairie rushing attack with 90 yards on 22 carries and a touchdown.

Senior all-purpose standout Antonio Montero chipped in 58 rushing yards and scored on three short touchdown runs, including a one-yarder early in the fourth quarter that gave the Eagles (13-0) a 21-point advantage.

State Finals

Class 9-Man

Spring Grove 32, Nevis 0

Class 1A

Minnetonka 28, Wabasso 13

Class 2A

Caledonia 57, Pipestone 6

Class 3A

Pierz 34, St. Croix
Lutheran Academy 21

Class 4A

Academy of Holy
Angels 14, Cloquet 0

Class 5A

Owatonna 63, Elk River 26

Class 6A

Eden Prairie 38,
Minnetonka 17



Faces of Viking fans

Minnetonka fans came ready to cheer on their favorite team — and they did a superb job of it. Dressed in Viking gear was Nolan Van Keulen (left) with fan Timothy Jerzak painting his face (center). Minnetonka senior girls brought posters supporting their team.

Photos for The Mascot by Brian Jeremason (center) and Laura Buysse (left) and below).



Way to go Minnetonka Vikings!

Wayne's Plumbing
Wayne B. Wyffels
Minnetonka • 507-872-6519

Catholic United Financial

- Life Insurance
- Annuities
- Estate Planning

3391 230th Ave
Marshall, MN 56258

Daniel J. Markell, FIC
Sales Representative

Cell: 507-530-6433
dmarkell@catholicunited.org

We're proud of our Minnetonka Vikings! Congratulations!

To make an appointment call: 872-6262 • 428-3248
For an appointment with Desi call: 507-828-8489

Minnetonka Mascot
507-872-6492 • Minnetonka

It's been a great season! Congratulations Minnetonka Vikings!

Farmer's Co-op Association
301 First Street on Highway 68
Minnetonka • 872-6182

We're proud of our Minnetonka Vikings!

MINNETONKA
115 W. 1st Street • Minnetonka • 507-872-6147 BUILDING MATERIALS, INC.



Leaving & Coming Home!



Coach Chad Johnston spoke to the audience behind all the hardware they have won — with his players behind him. A standing room only crowd turned out to welcome the team home.



Seniors with their hardware were: (left to right) Tyler Myhre, Brant Buysse, Alex Pohlen, Ethan Krier with Skylar Gilbertson, Isaac Hennen, T.J. Esping with Landon Abraham and Lucas Bot.

Staff Photos by
Byron Higgin
and
Brian
Jeremiason

**CONGRATULATIONS
MINNEOTA
VIKINGS!**

**Ivanhoe Municipal
Liquor**

324 N. Sherwood St. • Ivanhoe
507-694-1816

**WAY TO GO
VIKINGS!**

**OTTER TAIL
POWER COMPANY**

Minneota • 872-6196

**What a season for our
Minneota Vikings!**

**Minneota Manor Health Care Center, Madison Avenue
Apartments and Town & Country Home Health Care**

700 N. Monroe St. • Minneota • 507-872-5300

**YOU ZAPPED THE
COMPETITION ALL SEASON
MINNEOTA VIKINGS!**

**Pete's Electric Motor
& Powder Coating**

Brandon Peterson
3690 County Road 3 • Minneota • 507-872-5188 • 507-829-7214

Welcome home

Continued from Page 1

"All I've ever wanted to do is coach," said Myrvik. He's gotten his wish — and has been part of Minneota's huge winning tradition.

"This group has put in the time and effort and have done the little things. We as coaches didn't agree all the time, but we made it work," Myrvik said.

"It's truly an honor to be proud of this," he added.

He told the crowd the first game these seniors every played as elementary kids — was against Wabasso. "And the last game they played was against Wabasso," he chuckled.

"I couldn't be more proud of these guys. They put in so much time and worked so hard. They deserve everything they've achieved," he said.

Captains Thomas Hennen, Alex Pohlen and Isaac Hennen all talked about the tremendous fan support they received — and Pohlen thanked the coaching staff, "And my teammates."

"You all make a huge difference," Thomas Hennen told the crowd. "Our fans were great today. Thanks to our teammates. You gave us seniors a heck of a ride," Isaac Hennen said.

Myrvik called this 2017 state championship team, "The most unselfish team I've ever had. They didn't care who got the ball."

Coach Chad Johnston wanted everyone to understand how special this state championship was. "This (title) is a constant reminder of how special it really is," he said.

He thanked the coaches and their wives for all their support.

Then he said, "It's a credit to them (the team), they became an even better team that I thought would be."

Myrvik closed by saying he got a "Tweet" after the game that told him a lot about the Minneota tradition.

It said, "Isaac Hennen is a better football player than me."

It was written by Garrett Hennen.

The former all-state player who got hurt in the championship game against Minneapolis North three years ago said, "Yes, I tweeted that."

How much better to end, than for one great Minneota athlete honoring his brother.

AMEN!



Minneota Vikings
2017 Class A State Champs

Player Landon Abraham got a "five" from his niece Averi, who was held by his sister Emily, as Fuzzy Downing looked on. Assistant Coach Brian Rodas held son Axel as the players got on the bus, ready to leave for the Twin Cities and the Class A State tournament. The team rode a coach bus down to the Twin Cities, where they stayed overnight and they played Saturday morning and won the Class A State Championship!

**CONGRATULATIONS
STATE CHAMPION
MINNEOTA VIKINGS!**

Olson Sanitation LLC

Minneota • (800) 420-1914

Great season Vikings!

**Rehkamp Horvath
Funeral Directors**

(507) 872-6119 • Minneota
www.rehkamp-horvath.com

**You ran through
the competition
all season long!**

**Stephanie Vlamincik,
D.C., CCSF®**

202 E. 1st St. • Minneota
(507) 872-5200

**Congratulations
Vikings!**

**HOT STUFF
PIZZA**

CONGRATULATIONS!

Orion Food Systems & Hot Stuff Pizza
would like to congratulate the Minneota
Vikings on winning the 2017 State Class A
Football Championship!