

THIRD PLACE IN STATE



Hoisting the ball awarded to the team and the third place trophy were captains Lydia Sussner (left) and Morgan Hennen as the other team members joined them after they defeated Mt. Iron-Buhl.



Vikings
2018

27-5

Minneota 85, BOLD 50
 Minneota 48, YME 35
 Hayfield 70, Minneota 60
 Minneota 56, Canby 30
 Minneota 66, Lakeview 50
 Minneota 77, RTR 44
 Tracy-MB 67, Minneota 60
 Springfield 44, Minneota 41
 Minneota 64, St. Clair 60
 Minneota 68, MACCRAV 31
 Minneota 61, Renville CW 15
 Minneota 63, Edgerton 34
 Minneota 68, CMC 45
 Minneota 76, Dawson-B 49
 Minneota 65, Pipestone 50
 Minneota 77, KMS 46
 Minneota 67, LqPV 61
 Minneota 77, YME 51
 Minneota 77, Ortonville34
 Minneota 80, SWMC 48
 Tracy-MB 70, Minneota 66
 Minneota 69, Canby 44
 Minneota 63, Maranatha
 Christian Academy 62
 Minneota 61, Lakeview 42
 Minneota 74, RTR 41

SECTION 3A TOURNEY
 Minneota 66, Handricks 41
 Minneota 57, YME 39
 North Section Championship
 Minneota 72, LqPV 57

Section Championship
 Minneota 82, Southwest
 Minnesota Christian 74

STATE TOURNAMENT
 Minneota 74, Menahga 69
 Lyle/Pacelli 54, Minneota 41

THIRD PLACE
 Minneota 74,
 Mt. Iron-Buhl 56

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All-Tournament Team

So that's what those medals are for! Baby Hazel Hammer, Abby Hennen's niece and daughter of her sister Samantha and Mike Hammer, found something to do with Abby's third place medal at the homecoming celebration. Coach Chad Johnston's sons handed out roses to the players, including Lizzy Gillingham and Morgan Kockelman, with Katie Konold in the back. Staff photos by Byron Higgin.



Lydia Sussner (left)
 made the Class A
 All-Tournament Team
 and also was named
 an All-State
 selection at the start
 of the tournament.
 She's a junior. Abby
 Hennen (right) a
 Viking freshman, also
 was named to the
 Class A
 All-Tournament
 Team.





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Vikings 'click' in third place game

By Byron Higgin
Mascot Publisher

"We clicked today" said Coach Chad Johnston.

Coming off a frustrating and physically draining loss to Lyle/Pacelli in the semifinals, Coach Johnston wasn't sure what he could expect on Saturday.

"It's a great way to end the season," he said about Minneota's 74-56 win over Mt. Iron-Buhl in the Class A State Tourney Third Place game. Minneota had control for most of the first half after stretching out the lead to 17-10 and by halftime were shooting over 65 percent and emerged with a 34-24 halftime lead.

If it hadn't been for the Rangers' Mary Burke, it wouldn't have been that close.

She scored the Rangers first 15 points before Madison Overbye stole the ball and scored a layup.

While the Rangers struggled at a 25 percent shooting clip, Minneota was shooting 13 of 20 for 65 percent and went into the break up, 34-24.

"I thought this group had great focus," said Coach Johnston.

The Vikings came out strong and took control from the start, bounding into a 43-26 lead in the first five minutes, then stayed in control the rest of the way.

The led by as many as 27 as their all-state center simply took over the game. Lydia Sussner scored 27 points, 18 in the second half and grabbed 10 rebounds.

She recorded a double-double with four steals, a block and two assists. Seven of her rebounds came off the defensive boards.

"It seemed like today we got the momentum and never really lost it," said Coach Johnston.

Sophomore forward Morgan Hennen came close to a double-double of her own, scoring 16 points and dishing out seven assists with two steals. Her freshmen sister, guard Abby Hennen scored 12 points along with eight rebounds and three assists to round out the trio.

The Rangers' Burke ended with 25 points, seven rebounds. Junior guard Madisen Overbye scored seven points with five steals and seven rebounds.

"We just handled the pressure and kept going and going. We never panicked," said Coach Johnston.

The end of a game was a chance for both teams to empty their benches and get the re-

serves into the game.

"That was their reward," the coach said, pointing especially to seniors Carolyn Hoffmann and Laura Knutson, who got a chance to play in a state tournament game.

"What a wonderful ride this year," Coach Johnston told the players and fans at the homecoming celebration on Saturday night.

"We thought we had the capability of a state tournament, but when you graduate eight seniors, we had to go through growing pains," he said.

For Hoffmann, it wasn't a problem not getting playing time. "I just wanted to be there to support the girls. I am so proud of them," she said.

"I will miss the bus rides with the girls," Knutson added. A third senior, Hidie Moore was unable to make it to the state tournament.

BUZZER BEATERS:

•Minneota, which finished the season 27-5, finished third, yet was never ranked that high all year.

•Mt. Iron-Buhl completed the season with a 29-4 record and had been ranked second in the state much of the season.

•Mary Burke of Mt. Iron-Buhl came into the tournament averaging 25.1 points and nine rebounds per game, so her performance in the third place game was expected.

•Minneota's Lydia Sussner had an 18.3 points per game and 11.5 point per game average coming into the tournament.

Minneota 74, Mt. Iron-Buhl 56
MINNEOTA (2's, 3's, FT, F, TP) Morgan Kockelman 0 0 3-7 1 3; Lizzy Gillingham 2 0 2-2 3 6; Morgan Hennen 2 3 1-4 1 16; Abby Hennen 1 2 2-2 2 10; Lydia Sussner 12 0 3-4 3 27; Abby Rost 1 0 2-4 0 4; Natalie Rolbiecki 2 0 1-1 0 5; Mariah Muhl 0 1 0-0 1 3; Laura Knutson 0 0 0-0 0 0; Carolyn Hoffmann 0 0 0-0 0 0; Katie Konold 0 0 0-0 0 0; Madison Sorensen 0 0 0-0 0 0; Ali DeVlaeminck 0 0 0-0 0 0. Totals 27 6 14-23 10 74.
MT. IRON-BUHL (2's, 3's, FT, F, TP) Macy Savella 2 0 4-4 4 8; Allie Negen 1 1 0-0 4 5; Mattison Bennett 2 0 1-1 2 5; Patia Hayes 1 0 0-0 0 2; Mia Ganyo 0 0 0-0 1 0; Madisen Overbye 2 1 0-0 4 7; Jacie Kvas 1 0 0-0 0 2. Totals 20 4 12-12 19 56.

Score by Halves:

Minneota	34	40	—	74
Mt. Iron-Buhl	24	30	—	54

Statistics:

SHOOTING: Minneota (2's 27 of 46 for 59 percent; 3's 6 of 10 for

60 percent; overall 33 of 56 for 59 percent; MIB (2's 20 of 68 for 29 percent; 3's 4 of 25 for 16 percent; overall 23 of 93 for 24 percent.

FREE THROWS: Minneota 24 of 23 for 61 percent; MIB 12 of 12 for 100 percent.

REBOUNDS: Minneota 40 (Lydia

Sussner 10; Abby Hennen 8; Kockelman 5; Rolbiecki 3;

Morgan Hennen, Rost

2 each; Gillingham,

Muhl, Sorensen, De-

Vlaeminck 1 each); MIB 30

(Burke, Overbye 7 each;

Negen 6; Ganyo 3; Hayes,

Bennett 2 each).

TURNOVERS: Minneota 19;

MIB 19.

STEALS: Minneota 11 (Sussner

4; Moran, Abby Hennen, Hoffmann

2 each, Kockelman 1); MIB 15

(Overbye 5, Burke 5 each; Savella 3).

ASSISTS: Minneota 19 (Morgan Hennen 7;

Kockelman 4; Abby Hennen 3; Sussner 2;

Gillingham, Rolbiecki, Rost 1 each); MIB 8

(Savella 3, Negen 2).

BLOCKS: Minneota 5 (Abby Hennen, Rost 2

each, Sussner 1); MIB 3 (Negen 3).



Mariah Muhl kept the ball away from Mt. Iron-Buhl's Patia Hayes. In the enter, Morgan Kockelman and Mt. Iron-Buhl's Mattison Bennett fought for the ball as Natalie Rolbiecki also got in on the fight. On the right, Carolyn Hoffmann raced up the court ahead of Mt. Iron-Buhl's Paris Pontinen. Above, Kockelman tried to drive toward the basket against Mt. Iron-Buhl's Madisen Overbye.

Photos for the Mascot by Brian Jeremiason (top photo by Byron Higgin)



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