

Lady Braves win first section championship

By Roy Rudderforth

The Lady Braves claimed their place in Menahga School history after a 56-52 victory over Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa in the Section 5A championship game in Fergus Falls on Friday night.

The Lady Braves will now add to their legend as the first Menahga girls basketball team to play at the State Class A Tournament. Menahga, seeded 5, will start the tourney against Minnesota, the 4-seed, at 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 15 at Williams Arena in Minneapolis. A complete bracket is featured elsewhere in this edition.

The Lady Braves bring a 30-0 record to the state quarterfinal, the only undefeated team in the tournament. Menahga has an effective field goal percentage of 49 percent over, 31 percent from three-point range and 62 percent from the free throw line. They averaged 70 point per game offensively, with a defensive average of 38 points per game. In rebounding, the Lady Braves have a 71 percent coverage on the defensive end and 46 percent on the offensive glass. The team has an assists to turnover ratio of .93.

Alyssa Peterson, Cierra Ahlf and Megan Hendrickson all average double digits scoring at 20, 17 and 15 points per game, respectively. In addition, Megan Hendrickson leads the team in rebounds with 324 Peterson in steals with 95 and Tara Hendrickson in assists with 79.

Expect Minnesota to be a tough competitor. The Vikings are a seven-time state tournament participant and the 2013 champion. Lydia Sussner averages a double-double for the Vikings with 18.3 points and 11.5 rebounds per game.

Other state quarterfinal match-ups include:



We won!

-Photo by Roy Rudderforth

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Heritage Christian Academy versus Lyle/Pacelli

The Eagles of Heritage Christian Academy are making their debut state tournament appearance. Taylie Scott is the team's top scorer with 16.0 points per game, while Jordyn Allen averages a team-high 8.0 rebounds per game.

Lyle/Pacelli returns to tournament play for a second time. The Athletics average a 49.6 field goal percentage as a team.

Stephen-Argyle Central versus Mountain Iron-Buhl

Stephen-Argyle Central is making its second tournament appearance. Autumn Thompson leads the Storm in scoring with 17.9 points per game; Abi McGlynn averages 6.4 rebounds per game.

The 2017 runner-up team from Mountain Iron-Buhl returns for an eighth consecutive and ninth overall appearance.

Mary Burke averages 25.1 points and 9.0 rebounds per game for the Rangers.

Sleepy Eye versus Ada-Borup/Norman County West

Sleepy Eye returns for its third overall appearance. Madi Heiderscheidt and Sarah Ibarra both reached 1,000 career points for the Indians this year.

This is the first appearance for the Cougars of Ada-Borup/Norman County West. As Ada-Borup, the team previously made two consecutive and ten overall appearances in the tournament, winning championships in 2008, 2009 and 2015. Ada-Borup lost in the quarterfinals in 2017.

Menahga 56, BBE 52

Fouls and turnovers ultimately proved to be the undoing for Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa, but Menahga fans can be forgiven for being a little nervous in the first half. The Lady Braves

sank just six shots from the free throw line for a season low 17 points. However, their defense was still pretty effective to keep the score close. Even so Menahga was down by six points (23-17) to BBE at the half, marking only the second time this season that Menahga has trailed at half-time.

The Lady Braves picked up the pace offensively in the second half sinking eight shots from two-point range and three from beyond the arc, but it was the 14 of 23 effort at the foul line that made the difference, as did 18 turnovers by the Jaguars.

Menahga finished up with 56 points, 34 rebounds, 5 assists, 8 steals and 2 blocks.

It was a balanced team effort for Menahga. Megan Hendrickson led the way with 17 points and 9 rebounds, and Ahlf scored 11 points with 5 rebounds. Leah Schwartz

added nine points and 8 boards, and Peterson scored 9 with 3 rebounds. Rounding out the scoring were Annie lake with 6 points and Tara Hendrickson with 4 points and 4 rebounds.



GOOD LUCK!!!

GO TEAM!

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