

Minnesota High School 100 Best Centers

In the early days of basketball, the center was a playmaker, like a center in hockey—or, a point guard today. The tallest players usually were guards, defenders, like hockey defensemen. But, by the 1930s, coaches began to deploy tall players at the center position, closer to the basket. By the 1940s, “tall” had come to mean not 6-feet or 6-2, but 6-5, 6-6, 6-8, 6-10, even 7-feet tall. With the really tall players then emerging, the center moved into the low post. The best ones became their team’s “designated shooter.”

The low post dominated the game of basketball for 40 years or more, until the three-point shot ushered in more aggressive defenses and more of a full-court game. Today the center or post remains the tallest boy on the floor, generally, but it has become difficult to score down low—at least, not with the old-fashioned low post offense—so the center now scores more like everybody else. He cuts to the rim, he shoots the 3, he looks to score in transition, he puts the O-board back in the hoop. He has to be vastly more mobile than the old low post, almost as mobile as everybody else on the floor.

The best posts also are extremely valuable on defense—altering and blocking shots, and clogging up the lane, and denying second chance points to their opponents. That hasn’t changed too much. Still, it’s tough choosing between a classic low post center and today’s more mobile variety. But here goes.

	High School Resume’	Post-High School Highlights
1. Chet Holmgren, Minnehaha 2021	<p>Played on 4 state champions even after his team moved up a class. It would have been 5, but his junior year was wiped out by COVID.</p> <p>Rated the #1 player in the nation in the class of 2021.</p>	<p>Averaged 14 ppg and 10 rebounds, plus 4 blocked shots, in one year at Gonzaga.</p> <p>The Zags were rated #1 in the nation most of the year, but fell to an upset in the 3rd round of the NCAA tournament. The overall #2 choice in the NBA draft but missed his first season with a leg injury.</p>

<p>2. Jim McIntyre, Minneapolis Patrick Henry 1945</p>	<p>Won state titles in 1944 and 1945, setting tournament records with 29, 36 and 43-point games, and 86 and 100 points in 2 tournaments. The 3rd boy with 1,000 points in his career. He was <i>sui generis</i> at the time, the first of his type. There was nobody else like Jim McIntyre, well, until there was.</p>	<p>McIntyre earned all-America honors at the U of MN in 1948 and 1949, set Gopher scoring records for a game and a season, and set a Big 10 record for FG percentage. He was not drafted by the NBA but 2 different teams traded to get his draft rights. He was not drafted because he told them he would not play. He wanted to be a minister, and he was for more than 40 years. He died at the age of 78.</p>
<p>3. Ron Johnson, New Prague 1956</p>	<p>Led all state tournament scorers with 94 and then a record 109 points. Retired as the #1 scorer all-time with 2,190 career points.</p>	<p>Earned all-America honors at the U of MN in 1959 and 1960. He scored 3 ppg in one NBA season. Johnson died in 2015 at the age of 76.</p>
<p>4. Randy Breuer, Lake City 1979</p>	<p>Led Lake City to the 1978 and 1979 Class A state titles, scoring a record 113 points in 1979. Co-Mr. Basketball 1979.</p>	<p>Led the U to the 1982 Big 10 title, then scored 20 ppg and was Big 10 MVP in 1983. He is only the 3rd Minnesota male to win a state championship and then a Big 10 championship as a Minnesota Gopher. Scored 40 points for the MN Timberwolves in a 1990 game.</p>

<p>5. George Tuck, Minneapolis Central 1901</p>	<p>The 1900 MN Gophers (10-3) defeated Iowa 30-4 and beat Tuck's Minneapolis Central team just 8-7.</p>	<p>The Gophers won their first 29 games with Tuck and he was 45-9 over 4 years. He helped the Gophers to mythical national titles in 1902 and 1903, and became the Gophers 1st all-American in 1905. He also played football at the U of M. He died in 1952 at the age of 70.</p>
<p>6. Zeke Nnaji, Hopkins 2019</p>	<p>Led the Royals to their 10th state title with 24 ppg and 9 rebounds, and 21-and-10 at state.</p>	<p>Scored 16 ppg with 9 boards in one year of college ball at Arizona, then selected in NBA draft. Scored 5 ppg in his first 3 years in the NBA.</p>
<p>7 (tie). Howie Schultz, St. Paul Central 1941; and Jim Fritsche, St. Paul Humboldt 1949</p>	<p>Schultz led St. Paul City Conference in scoring twice. Fritsche led the 1949 state champs with the 2nd highest ppg in tournament history (23.3), and led the St. Paul City Conference in scoring twice.</p>	<p>Both led Hamline to national titles, Schultz in 1942, Fritsche in 1951. Schultz then scored 8 ppg in 5 professional seasons, and also played MLB with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Schultz died in 2009 at age 87. Fritsche played briefly for the Minneapolis Lakers, scoring 4 ppg. Fritsche also passed away at the age of 87 in 2019.</p>
	<p>The 6-7 Halldorson didn't play varsity ball until his senior season</p>	<p>Burdie won all-Big 8 honors at Colorado, helping the Buffs to</p>

<p>8 (tie). Burdette "Burdie" Halldorson, Austin; and "Big Bill" Simonovich, Gilbert, both 1951</p>	<p>when he scored 24 ppg. His matchup with Simonovich in the state tournament was highly anticipated. The 6-10 Simonovich got the best of Burdie 35-4, and Gilbert went on to win the state title. He played in the North-South Cage Classic in Kentucky.</p>	<p>2 conference titles and 3rd place in the NCAA tournament in 1955. He then set all-time scoring records in the NIBL and won 2 Olympic gold medals. Simonovich played for Hamline and the MN Gophers, starting for the Gophers as a junior in 1954 and scoring 15 ppg, but losing his starting spot as a senior in 1955.</p>
<p>9. Daniel Oturu, Cretin-Derham Hall 2018</p>	<p>Led Cretin to the state title, averaging 19 ppg, 11.5 rebounds and 6 blocks, and 22 ppg, 9 rebounds and 6 blocks in the tournament. Had the #4 and #6 seasons all-time in rebounds and blocked shots.</p>	<p>Scored 15 ppg with 9 rebounds in 2 years with the MN Gophers, then was selected in the NBA draft. Scored 2 ppg in 2 years in the NBA.</p>
<p>10 (tie). Cole Aldrich, Bloomington Jefferson 2007; and Joel Przybilla, Monticello 1998</p>	<p>2 noted shot-blockers: Aldrich finished with 1,226 career rebounds, top 10 all-time at the time. Mr. Basketball finalist. Przybilla was co-Mr. Basketball 1998. Still #1 in career blocks, and was #10 all-time with 1,091 career rebounds at the time.</p>	<p>Aldrich scored 15 ppg as a soph, and played in NCAA championship game at Kansas, then played 84 NBA games. Przybilla played 2 years at MN, scoring 14 ppg as a freshman. Averaged 6 points and 4 boards in almost 600 NBA games.</p>

<p>11. Johnny Horan, St. Thomas 1951</p>	<p>Horan led St. Thomas (29-0) to the MN state Catholic title and a match-game win over the Wisconsin champ. In 1949, with Horan just a sophomore, St. Thomas beat MSHSL champion St. Paul Humboldt and Jim Fritsche 47-38.</p>	<p>Nicknamed "The Vertical Hyphen" (he was 6-8, 190 lb.), Horan played college ball at Dayton, scoring 18 ppg as a senior and finishing as their all-time leading rebounder (and he still is in 2022). Dayton was 94-29 in his 4 years there. He played in 19 NBA games. Horan died in 1980 at the age of 47.</p>
<p>12. Chris Engler, Stillwater 1977</p>	<p>Co-led 1977 tournament in scoring with 27 ppg.</p>	<p>Scored 11.5 ppg as a senior at Wyoming, and played 195 NBA games in 5 seasons.</p>
<p>13. Chad Kolander, Owatonna 1990</p>	<p>Led Owatonna to 2 state Class AA titles, leading all scorers in 4 of the 6 tournament wins. Mr. Basketball 1990.</p>	<p>Started 73 games and played in 123 for the Gophers over 4 years, including the NIT champions of 1993. Completed his career in top 10 in both blocks and steals.</p>
<p>14. Spencer Tollackson, Chaska 2004</p>	<p>Led Chaska to Class AAAA title. Mr. Basketball 2004.</p>	<p>Started for the MN Gophers and scored 8 ppg over 4 years.</p>
<p>15. Clarence "Kleggie" Hermsen, Minneapolis Vocational 1940</p>	<p>Hermsen played below the radar at Mpls. Vocational.</p>	<p>Hermsen played for the MN Gophers, then scored 9 ppg in 9 years as a pro. He died in 1994 at the age of 70.</p>

<p>16 (tie). Stan Krebs, Eveleth 1970 and Como Pontlana, Duluth Central 1971</p>	<p>Krebs scored 2,081 career points and led his team to the state tournament despite playing with a broken foot. Also the #2 career rebounder to that time. Pontlana led Central to the 1st Class AA title with 104 points in 4 games.</p>	<p>Krebs played college ball at Augustana where he was all-NCC and scored 14.5 ppg as a senior, and is a member of the Augies' Hall of Fame. Pontlana played college ball at Colorado State. He passed away in 2007 at the age of 53.</p>
<p>17. Tom Copa, Coon Rapids 1983</p>	<p>Led his team to 2nd place in Class AA with 47 points in the semi and final game.</p>	<p>Scored 8 ppg with 5 boards at Marquette, and had a brief NBA career.</p>
<p>18. Noah Dahlman, Braham 2007</p>	<p>Helped Braham to 3 straight state titles, scored 2,413 career points with 1,434 rebounds, #1 at the time. His 66 career FG percentage is still #7 all-time. Mr. Basketball finalist.</p>	<p>Played college ball at Wofford, where he is career scoring leader with 2,013 points, was 3-time all-conference, and conference PoY and all-America HM in 2010.</p>
<p>19. Nick Horvath, Mounds View 1999</p>	<p>Led all tournament scorers with 77 points for state champs. Mr. Basketball 1999.</p>	<p>Played college ball at Duke.</p>
<p>20. Alec Brown, Winona 2010</p>	<p>Led Winona to state with 7 school records including a 44 point game and 141 blocks in a season.</p>	<p>Scored 1,082 career points with double figures in 58 games, plus 583 rebounds in 4 years at Green Bay.</p>
<p>21. Donald "Red" Mattson, Minneapolis Marshall 1940</p>	<p>Mattson led his team to 2 state tournaments where they were</p>	<p>Mattson played at the U of MN, where in 1946 he lost his</p>

	<p>favored each time to win the state title, but were upset by Mountain Lake and Breckenridge.</p>	<p>starting spot to Jim McIntyre. It was mostly Mattson, however, who held George Mikan to the lowest-scoring game of his college career.</p>
<p>22. Dawson Garcia, Prior Lake 2020</p>	<p>Scored 2,092 career points with 32 ppg and 10 rebounds as a senior.</p>	<p>Averaged 13 points and 7 boards as a freshman at Marquette, then moved back to the U of Mn.</p>
<p>23. Rudy Monson, Duluth Denfeld 1947</p>	<p>Led Denfeld to the 1947 state championship. He was all-state in basketball, football and track.</p>	<p>Played at UMD, where he was all-conference 3 times and was the first to average 20 ppg in a season. He is a member of their Hall of Fame. He became an engineer and land surveyor who named most of the streets in the Piedmont Heights area of Duluth. He was an avid downhill skier and a noted trick water skier. He died in 2011 at the age of 80.</p>
<p>24. Nate Holmstadt, Monticello 1995</p>	<p>Scored 2,106 points, with 1,132 rebounds. Still #8 with 419 blocks. Mr. Basketball finalist.</p>	<p>Holmstadt scored 16 ppg in 4 years at Montana State.</p>
<p>25. Jared Berggren, Princeton 2008</p>	<p>Finished his career as the #7 shot blocker in state history. Mr. Basekeball finalist in 2008.</p>	<p>Scored 11 ppg with 7 rebounds in his senior year at Wisconsin.</p>

<p>26 (tie). Doug Pederson 1977 and Brian Pederson 1978, Prior Lake</p>	<p>Doug led his team to the state tournament, unbeaten, as a senior, scoring 19 ppg. Mr. Basketball finalist. Brian led Prior Lake to the Class AA state title, scored 1,154 career points, and won Mr. Basketball honors in 1978.</p>	<p>Doug played college ball at Texas A&M and Southwest Texas State. Brian went to the U of MN but his college career was cut short by injuries.</p>
<p>27. Arvid Kramer, Fulda 1975</p>	<p>Led his team to the 1975 state tournament.</p>	<p>Scored 16 ppg in 4 years at Augustana. Played 8 NBA games, and played pro ball in Europe.</p>
<p>28. Tom Masterson, Walnut Grove 1967</p>	<p>Scored 55 points in 2 state tournament games.</p>	<p>Was the MN Gophers #8 career rebounder at the time, and scored 6 ppg in 69 games. He became an anesthesiologist.</p>
<p>29. Lance Berwald, Minneapolis Washburn 1979</p>	<p>Led Washburn to the state tournament as a senior, where they took 3rd place.</p>	<p>Lettered 2 years at Nebraska and 2 at NDSU, where he holds school records for FG percentage in a season and career. His 53 points is still the NCC record for points in a game.</p>
<p>30. Tryg Johnson, Anoka, 1981</p>	<p>Led Tornadoes to the state title.</p>	<p>Montana State starter 4 years., averaging 9 ppg and 6 boards.</p>

<p>31 (tie). Otto Rortvedt, Henning 1927; and Ray Buffalo, DeLaSalle 1931</p>	<p>Rortvedt was 6-6 and described as a "giant." He led Henning to the Class B title, scoring 22 points in one game and 37 total. Buffalo led the Islanders to the national Catholic title.</p>	<p>Rortvedt led Augsburg to the 1928 MIAC title, and is a member of the Auggies' Hall of Fame. He also played baseball. Later, he coached basketball at White Bear Lake from 1945 to 1954, and also coached baseball. Buffalo became a Minneapolis softball legend.</p>
<p>32. Mel Northway, Minneapolis Central 1961</p>		<p>Scored 14 ppg with 12 rebounds over 3 years as a N Gophers. Still the #6 career rebounder.</p>
<p>33. Ray "Swede" Nelson, St. Paul Mechanic Arts 1926</p>	<p>Led the Trainers to the 1925 state title, and led the St. Paul City in scoring twice.</p>	<p>Played ball at the U of M where he started for 2 years.</p>
<p>34. Joe Regnier, White Bear Lake 1985</p>	<p>Won 2 state titles; led Bears in scoring in 4 of 6 tournament wins. Mr. Basketball finalist.</p>	<p>Earned all-NCC honors twice at North Dakota State.</p>
<p>35. Jim Korth, Mankato Loyola 1945</p>	<p>Won 1945 state Catholic title. 2nd boy ever to score 1,000 points.</p>	<p>Played at Notre Dame and Mankato State. Then coached at Janesville and Waseca Sacred Heart, then 30 years at his alma mater. He passed away in 2017 at the age of 90.</p>

36. Bob Martin, Apple Valley 1988	Led his team to its first state tournament, and finished 5th. Mr. Basketball finalist.	Played 4 years with MN Gophers, scoring about 5 ppg, plus 55 NBA games in 2 seasons.
37. Don Dale, Robbinsdale 1950	Led Robbinsdale to 2 nd place at state, scoring 80 points in 3 games, 2 nd only to Jim McIntyre at the time. Finished with 1,162 career points.	Played briefly at the U of MN, scoring just one ppg in 11 games. The Gopher roster listed him as 6-6.
38. Bob Laney, Proctor 1964	Led his team to 4 th place at state, taking a record 32 rebounds in 1 game and 69 for the tournament.	Still holds Concordia (Moorhead) career scoring record with 1,847 points.
39. Ray Wall, Mountain Lake 1947	Only the 2 nd player ever to lead the state tournament in scoring 2 years, leading Lakers to 2 3 rd place finishes.	
40. Dave Daugherty, Rochester John Marshall 1965	Daugherty led JM to 2 nd place in the 1964 state tournament, and to the Big 9 title in 1965, scoring 1,104 career points. He was JM's only 1,000 point scorer for almost 30 years, and is still #5 all-time.	Daugherty played college ball at William & Mary, where he averaged 12 points and 8 rebounds per game over 3 seasons.
41 (tie). Norm Galloway 1936, and Jimmy Jensen 1978, both Bemidji	Galloway led Bemidji to the 1936 title, and earned all-tournament honors twice. Jensen scored a	Galloway played basketball and football at Minnesota and Bemidji State, lettering 3 times

	<p>record 50 points in 1 state tournament game, and finished his career with 1,763 points. Mr. Basketball in 1978.</p>	<p>and making the athletic Hall of Fame at the latter. Later, he coached football at Fergus Falls for many years with unbeaten seasons in 1955 and 1956.</p>
<p>42 (tie). Dave Lobb, Austin Pacelli 1965; and Dick Ravenhorst, Austin 1946</p>	<p>Lobb led Pacelli to the state Catholic title with 1,068 career points. Ravenhorst led the Packers to the state title, leading all scorers with 24 and 19 points in 2 of the 3 wins.</p>	<p>Ravenhorst played college ball at Central Washington, helping them to a 1949 Evergreen Conference title with 11 ppg. Lobb did not play college hoops, instead signing a contract as a pro baseball pitcher. He went 48-54, 3.58 in 8 years of minor league ball, including 10-7, 5.35 in 2 years in AAA.</p>
<p>43. Ed Nylund, Buhl 1942</p>	<p>Led Buhl to consecutive state titles in 1941 and 1942 earning all-tournament honors each year.</p>	<p>After serving in the military, Nylund played college ball at Stout (WI).</p>
<p>44. John Thomas, Minneapolis Roosevelt 1993</p>		<p>Thomas scored 7 ppg over 4 years with MN, and helped the Gophers to the 1997 Final 4. He also scored 3 ppg in 208 NBA games.</p>
<p>45. Jed Dommeyer, Pipestone approx. 1953</p>		<p>Beat out Bill Simonovich for the Gophers center spot in</p>

		1956 and 1957. Averaged 10 and 16 pppg in 2 seasons.
46 (tie). Mike Broghammer 2009, and Dan Vandervieren 2006, both Hopkins	Both won state titles, Vandervieren 2 of them. Coach Ken Novak, Jr., said that Vandervieren had the best hands of any (high school) big man he has ever seen.	Broghammer scored 2 ppg in 3 years at Notre Dame. Vandevieren played college ball at Purdue, Colorado State and Concordia (St. Paul).
47. Carl Johnson, Balaton, 1966	Johnson scored 1,294 points in his high school career, and once scored 62 points in a game, #3 all-time at the time.	Johnson 1,528 points at Gustavus, where he won 3 championships. Johnson is a member of the Gustavus Hall of Fame.
48 (tie). Darren Kent 2005 and Steven Crawl 2020, both Eastview	Kent led his team to 2 nd place in Class AAA in 2005, losing only to Blake Hoffarber's "butt shot." Crawl scored 27 ppg as a senior and 1,747 career points.	Kent scored 4 ppg in 4 years at Kansas State. The 7-footer Crawl is playing college ball at Wisconsin.
49. Urule Igbavboa, Tartan 2005	Helped Tartan to the 2005 state tournament.	Scored 10 ppg over 4 years at Valpo. Played pro ball in Europe.
50. Sam Dower, Osseo 2010	Lost to Broghammer and Hopkins in the 2009 state final.	Scored 7.5 ppg on 56 percent shooting at Gonzaga.
	Dudek was a Mr. Basketball finalist in 1982, and led East to a	Dudek played college ball at Iowa State and UMD. Lindahl

51 (tie). Mark Lindahl 1972, Brad Dudek 1982, and Josh Quigley 1995, all Duluth East	2 nd place finish at state. Lindahl scored 1,113 career points. Quigley led East to the state tournament.	played at North Dakota where he twice earned all-NCC honors; and he played pro ball in Europe. Quigley was a Little All-American at UMD.
52. Nate Althoff, Delano 1997	Shot 70 percent from the field for his career, #2 all-time in the state.	Played 4 years and started 2 at Utah, scored 6.5 ppg on 61 pct shooting.
53. Ryan Amoroso, Burnsville 2004	Led his team to 2 nd place in Class AAAA, scoring 24 ppg as a senior.	Scored 4 ppg at Marquette and San Diego State. Played pro ball in Europe.
54. Harold Bergstedt, Esko 1955	Bergstedt led the Eskomoes to the 1955 state tournament with 28.5 ppg, and is still Esko's top career scorer.	Bergstedt started for 4 years at UMD. He remained in northeast MN and lived in Sturgeon Lake at the time of his death in 2020.
55. Big Bill Ekberg, Minneapolis Marshall 1941		Played college ball at Army during WWII and of course served in the military. He later settled in North Dakota where he was a radio executive and a television pioneer.
56. Jerry Holmen, St. Paul Humboldt 1999		Holmen scored 9 ppg with 5 rebounds over 2 years at MN.
57. Bill Mattson, Virginia 1958		

	Mattson scored 1,132 points in his high school career.	UMD went 81-18 and won 3 MIAC titles in Mattson's 4 years as a starter for the Bulldogs. He is still #5 all-time in ppg at UMD. He was drafted by the L.A. Lakers in 1962 but did not play in the NBA. He died in 2002 at the age of 62 after a long battle with Lymes and ALS.
58. Bob Manley, Cretin approx. 1934		Started for the MN Gophers in the glory years of 1936-1938, when they won a Big 10 title and went a combined 30-10.
59. Jeff Hagen, Hopkins 2000		Scored 6 ppg in 4 years at MN.
60. Mark Bambanek, Winona Cotter 1979	Helped Cotter to the 1977 Class A title, then gave Randy Beuer the toughest workouts of his career, losing 2 District 3 finals by 1 and 5 points.	Played ball at Winona State.
61. Pete Castle, Anoka, 1950	Led Anoka to 1949 state tournament and scored 1,170 career points.	
62. Frank Cleve, Minneapolis South 1920	Cleve starred in 1920 state tournament.	Cleve was all-state at St. Olaf, then coached Concordia (Moorhead) to its only MIAC

		<p>title before 1982, and also taught Jim McIntyre how to play basketball at Minneapolis Henry. When the Minnesota high school football coaches association founded its Hall of Fame, Cleve was the very first coach they ever honored.</p>
<p>63. Henry (Hank) Epp, Mountain Lake 1940</p>	<p>Helped his team to the 1939 state title.</p>	<p>Led Mankato State to runner-up in NAIA in 1947, and is member of the Mavericks athletic Hall of Fame. Later coached at Tracy and New Ulm, where he also is a member of the ISD88 Foundation Hall of Fame for his 30-year contributions to the industrial arts curriculum.</p>
<p>64 (tie). Kevin Loge, Morris 1994; and Jackson Loge, Morris Chokio Alberta 2022</p>	<p>Kevin led Morris to Class A runner-up in 1994; his son Jackson led them to Class AA 4th place in 2022.</p>	<p>Kevin played for the Minnesota Gophers, Jackson at Augustana.</p>
<p>65. Trevor Winter, Slayton 1992</p>	<p>Mr. Basketball finalist.</p>	<p>Played college ball at Minnesota. Played 1 NBA game, getting 5 fouls in 5 minutes vs. Shaquille O’Neal.</p>

66 (tie). Paul Knight 1965, Jake Kuppe 1999, and C.J. Erickson, 2008, all Minnetonka	All helped the Skippers to a state title.	Kuppe played football at the U of M. Erickson played basketball at Evansville and Winona State, scoring 7 ppg as a senior for the latter.
67. Paul Van Den Einde, Willmar 1983	Led Willmar to the state tournament	Played 2 years for the MN Gophers before transferring out.
68 (tie). Jim Smith 1951 and Ron Falenschek 1979, both Brainerd	Smith scored 1,376 career points. Falenschek scored 20 ppg as a senior and played in the state tournament.	Falenschek started for 3 years at Iowa State.
69 (tie). Everett Hansen 1933 and Maynard Meyers 1952, both Mountain Lake	Hansen led the 1933 state tournament in scoring with 14 ppg. Meyers led in 1952 with 17.	
70. Gene Volz, Janesville 1956	Scored 1,291 points, #15 at the time. His 40 FGA in a game is still #5.	Played college ball at Gonzaga.
71. Jim Springer, Minneapolis West, 1962		Played for Gustavus where he scored 1,662 points and led Gustavus to 3 championships.
72. Raymond Hanson, Red Wing 1915	Hanson was player-coach for the 1915 state champions.	Hanson became a noted coach. After fighting in WWI, he was football, baseball and basketball coach and AD at

		Western Illinois for more than 30 years. The football field is still called Hanson Field.
73 (tie). Bob Freund 1956 and Greg Larson 1957, Minneapolis Roosevelt	Freund was Roosevelt's leading scorer at state, but did not make the all-tournament team.	Larson played football for the Gophers 1960 national champs. Freund passed away in 2020.
74 (tie). Brock Bertram, Apple Valley 2016; and Ian Theisen, Osseo 2014	<p>Pair of 7-footers: Bertram helped his team to state titles in his freshman and junior years.</p> <p>Theisen led the Orioles to 3 state tournaments. Won state title in 2012 beating Hopkins 87-86 in 3 OT, then Theisen made winning shot at the buzzer in the final.</p> <p>Scored 1,590 points with 1,083 boards with 59 FG percentage.</p>	Bertram scored 1 ppg in 5 years at Buffalo, and Thiesen scored 4 ppg in 4 years at South Dakota State.
75 (tie). Loren Erickson and Greg Kettler, Anoka 1973	Led the tallest team ever to play in the state tournament to the 1973 Class AA and overall titles.	Kettler played ball at St. Cloud State.
76. Javier Collins, St. Thomas 1996	Helped his team to the Sweet 16 tournament where they nearly upset Minneapolis North.	Played football at Northwestern and for the Dallas Cowboys.
77. Tom Weaver, Faribault 1965	Weaver led Faribault to state tournament runner-up in 1965, and to a Big 9 title in 1964.	Weaver played college ball at Carleton.

78. Erik Allen, LeSueur 1988	Led all scorers in 1988 state tournament with 85 points.	Played for Gustavus.
79. David Holmgren, Prior Lake 1983	Mr. Basketball finalist.	Earned 2 letters at the U of M before bad knees ended his career. His son came to be rated #1 at this position.
80 (tie). Ervin Mickelson 1953 and Herb Mickelson 1947, both Canby	Erv scored 1,326 career points, Herb 1,026 (#4 all-time at the time). Erv led Canby to runner-up in the 1951 state tournament.	Erv played college ball at St. Olaf.
81. (tie). Curt Schilling 2004 and Trevor Gruis 2009, both Ellsworth	Schilling scored 2,255 career points and led his team to 2 nd place in 2004 state tournament. Gruis played in 4 tournaments, winning all-tournament honors 3 times and two state titles.	Schilling played college ball at Northwestern IA, Gruis at South Dakota.
82 (tie). Bob Wagner, Hopkins 1952; and Eugene "Boots" Watts, Duluth Central 1918	Wagner was the first black player to win a state title and all-tournament honors. But, Watts was the first African-American to play in the state tournament.	Watts played college basketball and football at LaCrosse State.
83. Wells Wright, Appleton 1930	Led his team to the state tournament.	Started for the MN Gophers in 1933.

<p>84 (tie). Fred 1960 Izzy 1961 and Joe 1963 Schmiesing; Fred was from Walnut Grove, Izzy and Joe were brothers from Sauk Centre</p>	<p>Izzy and Joe each led Sauk to the state tournament, where each took 3rd place.</p>	<p>Fred led the MIAC in scoring once and rebounding 3 times at Hamline, and coached Tartan for 20 years. Izzy scored 56 points in a game at St. Cloud State. Joe played football at New Mexico State and in the NFL.</p>
<p>85. Bret Brielmaier, Mankato Loyola 2004</p>	<p>Helped his team to the 2003 Class A title.</p>	<p>Scored 2 ppg in 92 games at Arizona.</p>
<p>86. James Davis, Minneapolis North 2003</p>	<p>Helped his team to the Class AA title, scoring 26 points in the 2OT final.</p>	
<p>87. Ted Burke, Stewart 1966</p>	<p>Scored 1,801 career points.</p>	<p>Played football at the U of MN.</p>
<p>88 (tie). Peter DanColovic 1923 and Bill Wrage 1956, both Aurora</p>	<p>Both led their team to the state tournament, where Aurora won the 1923 title. (DanColovic was reported as both Paul DanColovic and Peter DanColovic at the time; we are unsure which is correct.)</p>	<p>Wrage played semi-pro ball. His sister Jackie played for the All-American Redheads.</p>
<p>89. Walt Andrewski, Minneapolis Edison 1937</p>	<p>All-tournament for one of Minnesota's greatest teams.</p>	
<p>90. Mike Kochevar 1973, Chisholm</p>	<p>Won a Class A state championship.</p>	

91. Bob Rosier, Onamia Crosier 1970		Scored 2,133 points at St. Thomas, where he is a Hall of Famer.
92 (tie). James Longtin 1953 and Greg Lens 1963, both Marshall Central Catholic	Longtin scored 1,510 points, then #2 all-time, while Lens scored 1,365 and once scored 61 points in a game, #3 at the time.	Lens played college football at Trinity (TX) and played several years in the NFL. He died in 2009 at the age of 64 due to long-term complications of concussions.
93. Jim Lewison, Owatonna 1941	One of the tallest boys ever at 6-8, led the Big Nine in scoring.	
94 (tie). Randy Holthusen 1996 and Delwyn Holthusen 1999, both Red Lake	Randy scored 2,246 career points, Delwyn scored 30 points in 117-113 state tournament loss to Wabasso.	
95. Eric Sczublewski, Little Falls 1994	#1 all-time in career and #3 for season FG percentage.	Earned all-conference honors at UMM.
96. Pharrel Payne, Park of Cottage Grove 2022	Mr. Basketball semi-finalist.	Currently getting minutes as a freshman at the U of MN.
97 (tie). Elgar "Cherry" Thune 1918 and Leonard Thune 1919, both Albert Lea	Elgar made all-tournament in 1918, as Albert Lea lost to the eventual champion Waseca 18-14 in the semis. Leonard made all-tournament in 1919 as Albert Lea won the state title. Waseca 1918	Elgar lettered in football 3 times at South Dakota State, then coached Moorhead high school to the state tournament in 1924 and 1925. He later operated an insurance agency

	and Albert Lea 1919 were the first 2 undefeated state champions.	in St. Paul. He died in 1960 at the age of 62 and is buried at Fort Snelling Cemetery. Leonard died in 1963 at the age of 61 in Green Bay.
99. Willis Parr, Winona 1914	Played in 2 state tournaments, leading his team to 2 nd place in 1914.	
99. George Dean, Blue Earth 1957	Led his team to the 1956 state final, but then they lost to Mpls. Roosevelt 100-54.	Dean played briefly at Colorado and Minnesota. He passed away in 2022 at the age of 82.
100. Alex Illikainen, Grand Rapids 2015	9 th in career rebounds with 1,402.	