100 Best Minnesota High School Games

What makes a great game? It doesn't get any bigger than an OT game in the state tournament, but there's lots of variations. Lots of scoring, relative to the time and place helps. Great individual performances. Something new and different, like the earliest jump shots and the first great low post performances and an early fast break and the first three-point shots. Stuff like that. Great individual, head-to-head matchups like Lingenfelter and McHale. Wow, I wish Khalid El-Amin and Tyus Jones could have gone at it. Great dynasties, like a heavyweight championship of the world. All of that and more, it all makes for a great game of basketball.

Team and Year	Description	Top Player(s)
1. Wabasso 117 Red Lake 113 (OT), 1997 Class A semi-final	Wabasso ran Loyola Marymount fast break. Red Lake decided to run with them and Gerald Kingbird scored 13 points in 1 minute to force OT.	Gerald Kingbird, Red Lake, SG 37 Derrick Jenniges, Wabasso, SG 31
2. Edgerton 63 Richfield 60 (OT), 1960 semi-final	Richfield favored, but Edgerton emerged as the all-time Cinderella champion.	Bill Davis, Richfield, C 28
3. Lynd 58 Crosby-Ironton 47, 1946 1 st round	Lynd ran Piggy Lambert's fast break, no one had ever seen anything like it	Duane Londgren, Lynd, C 20
4. Marshall 75 Cloquet 74, 1963 final	Many call it the best final ever.	Mike Forrest, Cloquet, SF 29
5. Hopkins 71 Eastview 60 (OT), 2005 Class AAAA final	Hoffarber's "butt shot" kept Royals alive.	Blake Hoffarber, Hopkins, SG 25
6 (tie). Osseo 87 Hopkins 86 (3OT), 2012 AAAA SF; and Lakeville North 84 Hopkins 82, 2014 AAAA final	Cal Bloom came off the bench and scored Osseo's first 7 points of the 3 rd OT. North came from behind for the upset behind J.P. Macura.	Siyani Chambers, Hopkins, PG 31 J.P. Macura, Lakeville North, SG 43
7. Richfield 81 Edina 75, 1968 regular season	Ended Edina's 69-game winning streak, a record that still stands.	
8. Buhl 41 Minneapolis Edison 32, 1936 1 st round	Buhl shot 50 percent at a time when 20 percent was thought to be good.	Don "Swede" Carlson, Edison, SF 15
9 (tie). Gilbert 67 Austin 56, 1951 1 st round	One of the 2 most ballyhooed big man matchups in tournament history—here it was Halldorson vs. Simonovich.	Bill Simonovich, Gilbert, C 35
9 (tie). Bloomington Jefferson 60 Hibbing 51, 1976 Class AAAA final	The second of the 2 most ballyhooed big man matchups in tournament history—now Lingenfelter vs. McHale.	Steve Lingenfelter, Jefferson, C 26

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10. Cretin-Derham Hall 78 Apple Valley 77, 2018 AAAA final	Daniel Oturu made up for a costly technical foul with a buzzer-beater dunk.	Tre Jones, Apple Valley, PG, 36
11. Cloquet 87 Bloomington 67, 1963 1st round	Bloomington had been called the best defensive team ever	Dave Meisner, PG 30, Mike Forrest, SF 29, both Cloquet
12. Fosston 29 Mountain Lake 27, 1913 final	Fosston won the 1 st state title "in a complete surprise."	Ralph Movold, Fosston, SF 11
13. Edina 62 Henning 55 (3OT), 1966 semi-final	The first of 3 straight state titles consisted of a one-pointer, 3 OT and then another OT in the final.	Dick Peterson, Henning, PF 25
14. Red Wing 92 Braham 73, 1953 Region 4 final	No team had scored 70, much less 80 or 90, in a region final	Bernie Raetz, Red Wing, PG
15. Moorhead 107 St. Paul Highland Park 89, 1968 1 st round	Still the 2 nd highest scoring game in state tournament history.	Greg Troland, Moorhead, SG 29
16. Minneapolis Roosevelt 101 Blue Earth 54, 1956 final	The Teddies had 3 losses but one night in March 1956 they were the best team in MN history. Ironically, Roosevelt had edged Blue Earth earlier in the year 60-58 in a U of M prelim game.	Larry Exel, Roosevelt, SF 23
17. Waseca 103 Marshall 100 (4OT), 2016 Class AAA section final	3 buzzer-beaters, one from half-court, another from ¾-court.	Nick Dufault, Waseca, SG 43, 3 on an 80-footer at the end of the 3rd OT
18 (tie). Minneapolis North 54 Staples-Motley 52, 1995 Sweet Sixteen final	Kavon Westberry scored on a putback at the buzzer to win it.	Blaine Joerger, Staples-Motley, SG 28
18 (tie). Minneapolis North 67 St. Thomas 65, 1996 Sweet Sixteen quarter-final	Khalid El-Amin hit 2 3s in the final 11 seconds to avert disaster.	Khalid El-Amin, North, PG 41
19 (tie). St. James 57 Melrose 55, 1972 Class A final	Jeff Nessler hit a half-court shot at the final buzzer for the win.	Jeff Nessler, St. James, PG 22
19 (tie). Chisholm 53 Melrose 52, 1973 Class A final	Mike Kochevar's FG at the buzzer was the game-winner.	
20. Ellsworth 74 Cass Lake-Bena 73, 2007 Class A final	Van Der Stoep's record 10 th 3- pointer with 4 seconds left was the game-winner for Ellsworth	Aaron Van Der Stoep, SG 32 and Cody Schilling, SF 28, both Ellsworth
21. Edina 82 Duluth East 77 (OT), 1966 final	Edina won 1 st of 3 consecutive state title.	Jeff Wells, Duluth East, SF 23
22. Minneapolis North 82 Osseo 73 (2OT), 2003 Class AAAA final		James Davis, North, C 26
23. Columbia Heights 71 DeLaSalle 69, 2018 AAA SF	The Hylanders broke the Islanders streak of 6 straight state titles.	
		Ray Buffalo, DeLaSalle, C

24. DeLaSalle 23 Jasper, IN, Academy 21, 1931 national Catholic final	DeLaSalle won national Catholic championship	
25 (tie), White Bear Lake defeats Mpls. North 51-47 in the 1984 AA finals	These were just the 2 nd and 3 rd times that a state championship game was played between 2 unbeaten teams	Joe Regnier, White Bear, C led both games with 19 and 23 points
25 (tie), White Bear Lake defeats Mpls. North 67-62 in the 1985 AA finals		
26. St. Paul Johnson defeats Hopkins 86-78, 2010 regular season	Both teams went on to win state championships.	Estan Tyler, Johnson, PG
27. Gaylord 13 Gilbert 9, 1926 final	The first Cinderella champion pulled 7 straight upsets. Nobody seemed to mind the low score and slow pace.	
28 (tie). Bird Island-Lake Lillian 78 Lake of the Woods 74 (2OT), 1980, Class A final	Bird Island won 2 straight Class A titles, enduring 3 OT. Barry Wohler made 3 buzzer-beater in 6 tournament wins.	John Koller, Lake of the Woods, C, 33 Barry Wohler, Bird Island-LL, PG, 28
28 (tie). Bird Island-Lake Lillian 49 Winona Cotter 47 (OT), 1981, Class A final		
29. Hopkins 90 Henry Sibley 82 (2OT), 2010 Class AAAA semifinal	Hopkins had to come from behind to tie at the end of regulation and 1st OT.	Joe Coleman, Hopkins, SF 25 Jordan Jackson, Sibley, PG 25
30. Blaine 62 Moorhead 56 (5OT), 1987 Class AA semi-final	The longest game…ever.	Mike Bjelland, Moorhead, C 21
31 (tie). Wayzata 75 Park Center 71 (OT), 2023 Class AAAA final	Wayzata had to come from behind to win its 2 nd state title in 3	Jackson McAndrew, Wayzata, F, 28 and 25
31 (tie). Wayzata 79 Lakeville North 77, 2023 Class AAAA semi- final	years. They led Lakeville North by 17 but trailed by 4 at 4:00. In the final they trailed by 10 at 8:45.	
32. Edgerton 72 Austin 60, 1960 final	Not as exciting as the semi-final win over Richfield, but this was for the title vs. a 3-time champion	Dean Veenhof, Edgerton, C 26
33 (tie). Winona Cotter defeated Chisholm 48-46 in the 1981 Class A semi-final	Cotter beat favored Chisholm by the identical score, holding the state's leading scorer at almost 40 ppg to 33 points in the 2	Tom McDonald, Chisholm, SG 18 and 15 points
33 (tie). Winona Cotter defeated Chisholm 48-46 in the 1982 Class A final	games	
34. Minneapolis Roosevelt 70 DeLaSalle 68, 1957 regular season	Defending state champ Roosevelt had lost twice to DeLaSalle in 1956. They played the Islanders once in 1957, at DeLaSalle, and won by 2.	Tom Nordland, Roosevelt, SF 34

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35. DeLaSalle 53 Minneapolis Patrick Henry 43, 1945 regular season	De gives the defending public school champ its only loss of the year, ending a 39 game win streak at U of M prelim game at Williams Arena.	Jim McIntyre, Henry, C 31
36. Woodbury 56 Coon Rapids 50 (OT), 1983 AA final	Thought to be the 1 st time 2 unbeatens had ever played for a state title, though this was later found to be in error.	Tom Copa, Coon Rapids, C 24
37 (tie). Silver Bay 69 Minneapolis Marshall-U 66, 1977 Class A 1 st round	Silver Bay ended Marshall-U's 54-game winning streak.	Dave Trost, Silver Bay, SF 26
37 (tie). Minneapolis Marshall-U 64 Mankato Wilson 59 (OT), 1976 Class A final		Paul Biewen, Mankato Wilson, SF 21
38. St. Paul Johnson 123 Minneapolis North 119 (2 OT), 2015 regular season (Twin Cities Game)	Highest scoring game in state history.	
39. Chisholm 29 St. Paul Mechanic Arts 27, 1934 final	Chisholm finally wins a state title in its 5 th straight tournament.	Gordon Burich, Chisholm, C 12
40. St. Cloud Tech defeats Little Falls in 8 OT, 1983 regular season	8 OT is a national record	
41. Bemidji 75 Austin 73, 1953, 1 st round	Record high-scoring game at the time. Jack Whiting scored the winning bucket.	Bob McKay, SF; Jerry Olson, PF, both Austin
42. Hopkins 46 Mountain Lake 45, 1952 1 st round	Down 10 at the half, the Lakers rallied.	Daryl Jersak, Hopkins, SF, 14
43. Minneapolis Roosevelt 73 Bemidji 70 (OT), 1957 1 st round	Defending champ Roosevelt almost derailed en route to 2 nd straight title.	Ray Cronk, Bemidji, PF, 34
44 (tie). Winona 70 Montevideo 66, 1956 1 st round	The 2 biggest comebacks in state tournament history. Montevideo	Del McClure, Montevideo, SF 27
44 (tie). Braham 60 Sibley East 59, 2010 Class AA 1st round	led Winona by 10 at 2:43. Sibley East led Braham by 20 at 6:01.	Marshall Bjorklund, Sibley East, C 33 Tyler Vaughan, Braham, SG 29
45. Apple Valley 74 Park Center 57, 2013 AAAA final	Not the tightest game, but a full house came to see Tyus Jones.	
46 (tie). Mountain Lake 37 Minneapolis Marshall 31, 1939 final	Marshall lost 2 huge upsets in consecutive state tournaments.	Don "Red" Mattson, Marshall, C 18
46 (tie). Breckenridge 32 Minneapolis Marshall 30, 1940 SF		Mel Ruud, Breckenridge, F 18
		Ruben Epp, Mountain Lake, PG

47 (tie). Mountain Lake 34 Mankato 33 in 1939 Region 2 finals	Mankato was rated #1 in the state both times. Mountain Lake won the 1939 state title, and took 2 nd in 1946.	
47 (tie). Mountain Lake 31 Mankato 28 in 1946 Region 2 finals	2" III 1940.	Ray Wall, Mountain Lake, C
48 (tie). Minneapolis Roosevelt 63 Willmar 60, 1956 Region 5 semi	Roosevelt went on to win the state title both years.	
48 (tie). Minneapolis Roosevelt 63 Willmar 59, 1957 Region 5 final		
49 (tie). Osseo 88 Cretin-Derham Hall 82, 2001 Class AAAA semi- final	2 high-scoring games with a run 'n gun Cretin-Derham team.	Eric Crawford, Tartan, SG 37 Bryan Foss, Osseo, PF 29 Joe Mauer, Cretin, SG, 25 and 31
49 (tie). Cretin 88 Tartan 85 (3OT), 2001 Class AAAA 3 rd place		
50 (tie). Minneapolis Washburn 72 Worthington 71, Class AA 1st round 1994	Washburn had to come from behind in 2 of their 3 wins en route to the 1994 Class AA title.	
50 (tie). Minneapolis Washburn 66 Hopkins 65, Class AA final 1994		Byron Suttles, Washburn, PG, 17 in the final
51. Melrose 114 Lakeview Christian 110, 2012 regular season	6 th highest scoring game ever at the time	Anders Broman, Lakeview, SF, 71 Scottie Stone, Melrose, SF
52. Cretin-Derham Hall 89 Apple Valley 77 (OT), 2014 Section 3AAAA final	Cretin ended Tyus Jones' high school career.	Tyus Jones, Apple Valley, PG
53. Apple Valley 68 Bloomington Jefferson 66, 2007, Class AAAA 1st round	A harbinger of the tournament to come as favored Jeff with center Cole Aldrich lost it.	Cole Aldrich, Jefferson, C, 32/21 rebounds Steve McGuiggan, AV, 31/7 steals
54 (tie). Duluth Central 42 Robbinsdale 40, 1950 final	2 close shaves in state finals for the Trojans.	Don Dale, Robbinsdale, C 22
54 (tie). Duluth Central 51 Bemidji 50, 1961 final		Chet Anderson, Central, C 19
55 (tie). Marshall 54 Hutchinson 52, 1963 regular season	Marshall just got by Hutch en route to state title in 1963, yet	Terry Porter, Marshall, SG Carl Moehring, Hutch, C
55 (tie). Hutchinson 47 Marshall 44, 1964 Region 3 finals	Hutch's win in 1964 was regarded as a big upset.	
56 (tie). Lake City won 2 of 3 district finals versus Winona Cotter, 1977-1978-1979	Cotter defeated Lake City by one, and went on to win the state title in 1977. Lake City defeated Cotter by one and five the following 2 years, and went on to win the state title both years.	Randy Breuer, Lake City, C Mark Bambanek, Winona Cotter, C
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57. Minnesota Gophers 8 Minneapolis Central 7, 1900	Central gave the Gophers one of its toughest games of the year.	George Tuck, Central, C
58 (tie). Brainerd 56 Red Wing 55, Brainerd 57 Austin 56, and Brainerd 49 Bemidji 47, 1954	With 3 wins by a margin of 4 points, Brainerd had the narrowest of state titles ever won in Minnesota. (Well, Edina 1966 outscored 3 opponents by just one point in regulation but 13 points overall.)	Jerry Olson, Austin, PF 18 in SF Rod Skoog, Brainerd, SG 19 in final
59 (tie). Mankato 17 Northfield 15, 1932 1st round	Earl Pennington hit a half-court shot at the buzzer to win it for Mankato.	Earl Pennington, Mankato, SF
59 (tie). North Woods 54 Central MN Christian 51, 2017 A QF	Cade Goggleye hit a half-court, buzzer-beating game-winner for North Woods in 2017.	Cade Goggleye, North Woods, PG
60. Buffalo 67 Robbinsdale Armstrong 65, 2007 Class AAAA final	Capped the greatest day of basketball in high school tournament history—well, 3 games, decided by 6 points.	Darren Olmscheid, Buffalo, PF 25
61. Red Lake 112 Cass Lake Bena 107 (OT), 2011 regular season		
62. Sherburn 78 South St. Paul 62, 1970 final	Sherburn completes an unbeaten Cinderalla season	Tom Mulso, Sherburn, SF 39
63. Virginia 33 Austin 30 (OT), 1916 semi-final	Rooney and Dugan regarded as the 2 best centers in the state.	Lawrence Wengert, Austin, SF, 20
64 (tie). DeLaSalle defeated Mpls. Roosevelt twice in 1956, 64-54 and 81-63	DeLaSalle went on to win the 3 rd of 4 straight Catholic titles, while Roosevelt won the MSHSL title, beating Blue Earth 101-56	
65. Maple River 68 Braham 59, 2007 1st round	3-time defending champ Braham went down to defeat.	Noah Dahlman, Braham, C 20-15 rebounds
66 (tie). Gilbert 46 Mountain Lake 44 (OT), 1951 semi	Mountain Lake lost 2 heart- breakers to the eventual state	Andy Snyder, Gilbert, SG 21
66 (tie). Hopkins 46 Mountain Lake 45, 1952 1st round	champs.	Maynard Meyers, Mt. Lake, C 16
67 (tie). Gilbert 44 Duluth Central 42, and Gilbert 46 Keewatin 45, 1951, Region 7 tournament	Gilbert won 3 state tournament games by 30 points, but 2 these section games by just 3.	
68. Glencoe 15 Chisholm 14, 1931 semi-final	Glencoe got a steal and a layup at the buzzer to beat favorite Chisholm.	Leroy Karsten, Glencoe, SG
69. Atwater 146 points in a game, 1958	At the time Atwater's 146 points, 82 points in a half, and 55 points in one quarter were all state records that all stood for at least 47 years (the latter still stands).	

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70. Rochester 76 Edina 71 (OT), 1964 semi-final	Rochester avenged a 74-49 drubbing at the hands of Edina earlier in the year, then finished 2 nd to Luverne.	Bryan Grohnke, Edina, SF 29
71 (tie). Buhl 31 Red Wing 29, 1941 final	Buhl was just the 2 nd team to win 2 straight titles, but they were both heart-stoppers.	Jim Maetzold, Red Wing, SG 14
71 (tie). Buhl 30 Marshall 29, 1942 final	In 1942, George Klasna was knocked out cold, was revived, and scored the last 3 points in Buhl's win.	John Klarich, Buhl, SF 15
72 (tie). Minnesota Transitions 153 Community of Peace 69, 2005 regular season	Two of the state's highest scoring games: Cash Eggleston scored a state record 90 points against Community of Peace, breaking	Cash Eggleston, Transitions, SF 90
72 (tie). Minneapolis Patrick Henry 144 Red Lake 91, 2001 regular season	Norm Grow's 47-year-old record. At the time, Henry's 144 points was a state record, and the 235	
73. Hopkins 98 Minneapolis North 96, 2017 regular season	total points was #2 all-time. Both went on to win state titles.	
74 (tie). Austin 59 Wanamingo 55, 1952 Region 1 finals	This is how they broke small town hearts in southern Minnesota in	
74 (tie). Austin 55 Dodge Center 54, 1960 Region 1 finals	the heyday of the Austin Packer dynasty.	
75. Pelican Rapids 80 St. Bernard's 68, Class AA 2009 final	Storrusten outplayed the Bernie's Jordair Jett in a fast-paced game.	Tydan Storrusten, Pelican Rapids, PG 34
76. Thief River Falls 30 Crosby- Ironton 28 (OT), 1938 semi	Thief won by 2 in the semis, and by 2 again in the final.	Don Lorentsen, Thief, SF 11
77. Cretin-Derham Hall 103 Eastview 95 (2OT), Class AAAA 3 rd place 2022	The first and only time that 2 players scored 40 points in the same game.	Jamal Ambrose, Eastview, C 43 Tre Holloman, Cretin, PG 42
78. Duluth East 72 Chaska 70 (2OT), 1982 Class AA semi	East assumed the favorite's role after this thrilling win, only to fall to Jefferson in the final.	Brad Dudek, Duluth East, C 36
79. Minnehaha 78 Sierra Canyon, CA 58, 2020 regular season	Bronny James' team came to the Target Center and got hammered by Minnehaha. Sierra went on to rank #2 nationally, however.	Jalen Suggs, Minnehaha, SG 23
80 (tie). Pelican Rapids upset Moorhead in district semis, then Crosby-Ironton defeated Pelican Rapids 68-67 (2OT) in 1969 Region 6 final	#1 ranked Moorhead was one of several state tournament favorites to be upset during district and region playoffs in 1969.	

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81. New London-Spicer 50 Maple River 49, 2008 Class AA semi	Wade Powers hit the game- winner with 7 seconds left.	Wade Powers, NLS, C 13-15 rebounds
82 (tie). GHEC 64 MN Transitions 61, 2009 Class A 1 st round	Ellsworth and Transitions finished 1st and 2nd the previous year; Ellsworth had beaten GHEC in the 1st round. GHEC beat them both to win the Class A title in 2009.	Kevin Noreen, Transitions, PF 23- 16 rebounds
82 (tie). GHEC 62 Ellsworth 54 (OT), 2009 Class A final		Tim Garry, GHEC, C 25
83. St. Thomas 54 Rocori 51, 2007 Class AAA semi	St. Thomas hit a pair of 3s in the last 10 seconds to win.	Justin Stommes, Rocori, PG 19
84. Lexington, KY 23 Madison, MN 22, 1922 national tournament, 1st round	Lexington went on to win the national title.	
85 (tie). Minnehaha 76 Holy Family 72 (OT), 2023 Class AA semi-final	Minnehaha trailed by as many as 11 but rallied to beat the #1 seed.	Boden Kapke, Holy Family, C 27- 13 reb. Leonard Levy, Minnehaha, G, 27
85 (tie). Albany 82 Minnehaha 75, 2023 Class AA final	Minnehaha trailed Albany by as many as 10 and got within 2 but never caught up.	Rolyns Aligbe, Minnehaha, C 20
86. Cretin-Derham Hall 72 Elk River 69 (2OT), 1993 semi-final	Cretin was en route to a 3 rd straight final and its 2 nd title in 3 years.	Skip Schaefbauer, Elk River, SG 34
87. Bloomington Jefferson 52 Duluth Central 51, 1986 Class AA final	Central almost pulled the upset of highly favored Jefferson.	Tim Radosevich, Central, C 16
88. Eagan 108 Burnsville 107 (4 OT), 2002 regular season		
89. St. Louis Park 75 Crosby- Ironton 73 (OT), 1962 1st round	Park almost derailed but survives and goes on to win state title.	Arlo Knoll, Crosby-Ironton, PF 27
90. St. Thomas 29 St. Cloud Cathedral 27 (5 OT), 1939 regular season	The 5 OT remained a state record for 40 years.	
91. Austin 56 Bemidji 55, 1955 semi-final	Two great dynasties meet with a title game appearance at stake.	Jerry Olson, Austin, PF 25
92 (tie). Waseca 18 Albert Lea 14, 1918, semi	Waseca went on to win in 1918, Albert Lea in 1919.	Lester Juhnke, SF, Waseca Elgar Thune, C, Albert Lea
92 (tie). Waseca 51 Caledonia 49, 2021 Class AA final	A record 103 years between state championships (1918 to 2021) for the Bluejays.	Ryan Dufault, Waseca, CG, scored the winning basket
93 (tie). DeLaSalle 57 Minneapolis Washburn 56, 2012 Class AAA final	A great night of state tournament basketball, 2 state titles decided by 3 points.	Joseph Doby, Washburn, SF 21- 10 reb Reid Travis, DLS, PF 20-18 reb
93 (tie). Osseo 49 Lakeville North 47, 2012 Class AAAA final		DJ Hebert, Osseo, SG 13 Tyler Flack, LN, PF 12

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94. Braham 96 Jackson County Central 90, 2016 Class AA final	The highest scoring final ever. 9 players scored in double figures.	Chris Olson, Braham, SG 33
95. Sanborn 101 Westbrook 100, 1972 regular season	The only double-100 game of the 20 th century other than Red Lake-Wabasso	
96. Breckenridge 43 Red Wing 40, 1940 final	The 1 st 2 teams ever to score 40 points in a state final.	Vern Ulness, Breckenridge, SG 14
97. MN Transitions 87 Cass Lake- Bena 77, 2008 Class A semi	Transitions became the 1 st charter school in the country to play for a state title.	Virgil Baker, Transitions, SG 26
98. Kenyon 59 Red Wing 57, 1970 Region 1 final	Red Wing rated #1 in the state, but Kenyon outscored them 13-3 in the 4 th .	
99. Wadena 28 Buhl 27, 1936 semi-final	Buhl upset Minneapolis Edison, then laid an egg after staying up all night celebrating.	Johnny Dick, Buhl, SF 15
100. Minneapolis Central 21 Hyde Park, IL 19, 1920 national tournament	En route to 3 rd place.	Martin Norton, PF, won all- America honors