

## So, How Good Were the Catholics Before 1975, Really?

We've listed the Minnesota Catholic high school basketball champions, crowned from 1923 to 1930 and from 1941 to 1974, elsewhere, and we've also listed all the games that Minnesota Catholic schools played in national tournaments from 1922 to 1940, plus one in 1959. And, that's all interesting as far as it goes. But, the real question about the Catholics before they were allowed to join the MSHSL is not who won. The real question is, How good were they? Were they really any good? SunnyDay played ball in the old Catholic League itself and yet he will tell you that even he wondered how good the Catholics were compared to the public schools. He never played a single game against a public school in his entire career, so even he didn't really know. In 1968, Rochester Lourdes' two-time defending Catholic champions challenged the two-time defending MSHSL champions from Edina to a game. (Edina didn't respond.) But, would Lourdes have had a chance?

Considering the massive hype that surrounded the MSHSL tournament during its Golden Age from the mid-'30s to the mid-'60s, even Sunny thought that the public schools were better. People were sayin.' But, where they? We've already given you some clues as to a new and better informed attitude on these questions. 53 Catholic schools are rated among our yearly Top Tens from 1922 to 1974. Nine different Catholic teams and nine different Catholic programs are rated among the top 100 teams and programs from 1900 to 2023. 14 of them are listed among the mythical Class A and Class B champions from 1913 to 1974. And, since 1975 they have enraged fans of public school basketball with the success that they've achieved as members of the MSHSL. So, here are some of the particulars.

### Catholic Schools Rated Among the Top Ten for Each Season

Year	Team	Where They're Rated	Why? What's the Evidence?
1922	Duluth Cathedral	#1 for the year, mythical Class B champion	MSHSL state champ Red Wing beat Duluth Central 30-25 in a state semi. Cathedral beat Central 30-15 and 30-18 in the regular season. Cathedral then won 2 games at the "open" national tournament (there was not yet a national Catholic tournament).

1923	Duluth Cathedral	#4 for the year	Cathedral beat St. John's 30-16 for the first state (actually, the first Northwestern) Catholic title.
1924	Duluth Cathedral	#1 for the year	Cathedral beat St. Thomas 30-22 for the state Catholic title. Cathedral also beat MSHSL champion Two Harbors in the regular season, then split two games at the new national Catholic tournament.
1925	St. Thomas	#2 for the year	St. Thomas tied MSHSL champion Mechanic Arts 21-21. It was thought that the Tommies had won 21-20, but a discrepancy in the scoring was found later, after an OT was no longer possible. The Trainers only loss of the year came in the national tournament after a pair of wins, 29-28 in OT to Kansas City Westport. We like the Trainers for #1 overall because the Tommies were still only 0-6-1 all-time vs. St. Paul public schools at this time.
1926	St. Thomas	#5 for the year	St. Thomas defeated St. Cloud Cathedral 27-10 for the Catholic title.
1927	DeLaSalle	#7 for the year	DeLaSalle clobbered Superior (WI) Cathedral 28-12 to win the "Minnesota" Catholic title (again, actually the Northwestern Tournament, which included some teams from western Wisconsin and the Dakotas), but lost its only game at the national Catholic tournament. The Islanders also

			went 0-2 against the St. Paul runners-up Mechanic Arts.
1928	St. Cloud Cathedral	#7 for the year	Cathedral beat DeLaSalle 32-25 for the state Catholic title, then lost their only game at the national Catholic tourney. DeLaSalle split two games vs. St. Paul champion Mechanic Arts, who did not make it to the state tournament.
1929	St. Cloud Cathedral	#3 for the year	Cathedral hammered Austin St. Augustine 37-16, then won one game at the national tournament.
1930	St. John's	#1 for the year, mythical Class B champion	St. John's beat Cretin 23-18 for the state Catholic title, then lost its only game at the national tournament 28-26. Mechanic Arts won the MSHSL title at 23-2, its only losses coming against Cretin and DeLaSalle.
1931	DeLaSalle (24-3)	#1 for the year, mythical Class A champion	The state Catholic tournament was disbanded after the 1930 event, but DeLaSalle won the national Catholic tournament, beating Jasper (IN) Academy in the final 26-24. The Islanders defeated Mechanic Arts 43-15 during the regular season. Cretin beat City champion Central (7-0) 21-6!
1932	Cretin	#8 for the year	Cretin went 8-1 vs. the City Conference but did not win at the national Catholic tournament.
1933	Cretin	#5 for the year	

			Cretin went 8-1 against the City again, with 2 wins over City champion Central, but they again did not win at the Catholic tournament.
1934	Cretin	#5 for the year	Cretin lost its only game at the national tournament 27-24. They beat St. Paul city rival Harding (5-5) twice by an average of 29-23. City champion Mechanic Arts beat Harding twice by an average of 21-17, then finished 2 <sup>nd</sup> in the MSHSL tournament. A team of St. Paul City All-Stars also beat Cretin in an exhibition, 20-19. In the 1930s, Cretin went 36-8 vs. St. Paul City Conference opponents.
1935	Duluth Cathedral	#5 for the year	Cathedral beat Pittsburgh St. Joseph's at the Catholic tournament but bowed out in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> round.
1937	DeLaSalle	#7 for the year	DeLaSalle lost 2 of 3 at the Catholic tournament, winning only in the consolation round.
1938	St. Thomas	#5 for the year	The Tommies lost their only game at the national tournament 31-28. They defeated (2-8) Humboldt 31-26 in the regular season. City champion Central defeated Humboldt twice by an average of 32-18 and finished 4 <sup>th</sup> in the MSHSL tournament.
1940	Cretin	#7 for the year	Cretin split 2 games in the final sanctioned national tournament appearance by a Minnesota high school.

1941	Duluth Cathedral	#10 for the year	Cathedral defeated Cretin 26-21 for the first championship of the new state Catholic tournament. Cretin went 6-2 vs. the city, losing to city champion Johnson 26-22. Johnson then lost to Red Wing, runnerup at the MSHSL tournament, 32-17 in the region. But, Cretin also gave the MSHSL champion Buhl one of its 3 losses.
1942	Cretin	#5 for the year	Cretin defeated Duluth Cathedral 38-34 for the state Catholic title. Cretin also went 5-0 vs. city rivals including 2 wins over runnerup Harding 56-27 and 46-28. City champion Washington beat Harding 34-21, then went on to play in the MSHSL tournament, losing to runnerup Marshall 37-21 in the 1 <sup>st</sup> round.
1943	Cretin	#1 for the year, mythical Class A champion	Cretin defeated Winona Cotter 35-28 for the Catholic title. They also went 7-0 vs. St. Paul City rivals with an average margin of 13 points. They did not play city champion Washington, who went 8-1 with an average margin of 10 points. Washington went on to win the MSHSL state title. (St. Thomas also went 7-0 vs. St. Paul City opponents with an average margin of 8 points.)
1944	DeLaSalle and Cretin	DeLaSalle #5 and Cretin #10 for the year	DeLaSalle defeated Cretin 32-28 for the Catholic title. Cretin went 8-0 vs. the City Conference while DeLaSalle went 1-0. No St. Paul public schools got to the MSHSL state tournament.

1945	Mankato Loyola, Cretin and DeLaSalle	#3, #7 and #9 for the year; Loyola was the mythical Class B champion	DeLaSalle handed the eventual MSHSL champion Mpls. Patrick Henry its only defeat of the year 53-43 in December. The Islanders then lost to Cretin in the region, and Cretin lost to Loyola 37-31 in the Catholic final. Cretin went 6-0 and DeLaSalle 1-0 vs. the City Conference. Cretin beat city champion Wilson 32-24.
1946	DeLaSalle	#10 for the year	DeLaSalle defeated Winona Cotter 48-30 to win its 4 <sup>th</sup> state Catholic title.
1949	St. Thomas	#1 for the year and the mythical Class A champion	St. Paul Humboldt won the MSHSL tournament with an 18-5 record, including 7-2 in the conference with an average margin of 48-37. Humboldt lost to the Catholic champion, St. Thomas, 47-38, however. St. Thomas went 2-0 vs. City Conference teams. Cretin went 7-0 with an average margin of 54-31, then lost to St. Thomas 63-45 in the Catholic final.
1950	St. Thomas	#4 for the year	Johnny Horan was still the man, and St. Thomas was still the state Catholic champion with a 52-41 win over Winona Cotter in the final. The Tommies also beat both of the co-champions of the City Conference, Monroe and Washington.
1951	St. Thomas 29-0	#1 for the year, the mythical Class A champion	St. Thomas beat DeLaSalle 37-30 in the Catholic final. The Tommies also beat St. Paul City Conference champion Washington 54-43, but it

			was 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Monroe that went to the MSHSL tournament and lost 2 games.
1953	St. Thomas	#10 for the year	The Tommies beat St. Cloud Cathedral 61-59 for its 6 <sup>th</sup> Catholic title.
1955	DeLaSalle	#1 for the year, the mythical Class A champion and #4 all-time	The Islanders were undefeated and selected by the <i>Chicago Tribune</i> as the #1 Catholic team in the nation. They clobbered Duluth Cathedral 57-33 in the Catholic final.
1956	DeLaSalle and St. Thomas	DeLaSalle #1 and St. Thomas #9 for the year	DeLaSalle beat Minneapolis and MSHSL champion Roosevelt twice 64-54 and 81-63. They then defeated St. Thomas 67-48 in the Catholic final. The two combined to go 5-0 vs. the St. Paul city. DeLaSalle defeated city champion Wilson 63-42.
1957	DeLaSalle	#3 for the year	The Islanders hammered Winona Cotter 67-41 in the final.
1958	Austin Pacelli (26-2)	#8 for the year	Pacelli edged Winona Cotter 44-43 for its first real state championship.
1959	DeLaSalle	#8 for the year	DeLaSalle defeated Cretin 59-46 to win the Catholic title.
1960	St. Thomas	#7 for the year	St. Thomas beat St. Cloud Cathedral 71-60 in the Catholic final.
1961	DeLaSalle	#8 for the year	

			DeLaSalle defeated Duluth Cathedral 74-58 in the final.
1962	DeLaSalle	#7 for the year	DeLaSalle clobbered St. Thomas for the Catholic title 67-40. The Islanders also beat St. Paul champion Wilson 64-40.
1965	Austin Pacelli	#1 for the year and the mythical Class A champion	Hammered Cotter 86-56 in the Catholic final.
1966	Rochester Lourdes	#5 for the year	Lourdes won its first-ever state title, clobbering DeLaSalle 66-43 in the final.
1967	Rochester Lourdes and Cretin	#2 and #9 for the year, respectively; Lourdes was the mythical Class A champion	Lourdes edged Cretin 67-64 in the Catholic final to finish with a 2 <sup>nd</sup> straight undefeated season. Cretin lost to St. Paul Central twice by an average of 53-48, and Central went on to finish 6 <sup>th</sup> at the state tournament.
1968	Rochester Lourdes	#6 for the year	Lourdes 3-peated with another 67-64 win, this time over St. Cloud Cathedral.
1969	St. Cloud Cathedral	#9 for the year	Cathedral won its 4 <sup>th</sup> state title, beating Benilde 64-47.
1970	St. Thomas	#4 for the year	Defeated Benilde 63-38 for the Catholic title, and edged City Conference 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Johnson 55-47.
1971	Cretin	#4 for the year	Edged Shattuck 52-50 in the 1 <sup>st</sup> joint Catholic-“independent” tournament. The Raiders also



			swept a pair of games from 6-6, 4 <sup>th</sup> place St. Paul Central.
1972	Fridley Grace	#8 for the year	Grace beat DeLaSalle 63-52 for its first state title.
1974	Cretin	#6 for the year	Defeated Rochester Lourdes 50-33 in the private school final, and defeated 10-6, 4 <sup>th</sup> place Central 44-39.

So, yes, they were pretty good, some of them. In many cases, where we have good comparative scores—really good comparative scores, meaning head-to-head vs. the best public schools in the state as in 1922, 1924, 1925, 1930, 1942, 1943, 1945, 1949, 1951 and 1956—they are extremely favorable to the Catholic schools. In many other instances, we have to stretch a little to find a way to compare the best Catholic teams to the best public teams. This is especially true as the 1950s gave way to the 1960s and it seemed that public-private matchups became less common. But, there is no question that some of the wins by Duluth Cathedral, Cretin, DeLaSalle and St. Thomas, in particular, are impressive.

This approach of course focuses at the very top of the food chain, at the best of the best, but we can look at it another way. You will note that many of the comps included above involve teams from the St. Paul City Conference. This is thanks to the marvelous St. Paul City Conference Archive compiled by John Vosiepkka and posted online at [www.saintpaulsports.org](http://www.saintpaulsports.org), which has the score of every game ever played by members of that conference. Here is a larger summation of the results of St. Paul City Conference teams against Catholic schools in the years before their merger with the MSHSL in 1975.

### **Catholic Teams vs. St. Paul City Conference Teams Over the Years**

<b>School</b>	<b>1910s</b>	<b>1920s</b>	<b>1930s</b>	<b>1940s</b>	<b>1950s</b>	<b>1960s</b>	<b>1970-74</b>	<b>Total</b>
Cretin	2-7	6-27	36-8	58-5	54-17	17-18	7-1	180-83
St. Thomas	0-1	8-8-1	8-9	25-12	25-3	11-4	3-0	80-37-1

St. Agnes				2-26	10-19	9-9	7-3	28-57
DeLaSalle		5-4	6-2	9-8	3-0	2-0		25-14
St. Bernard's						10-15	8-2	18-17
Hill						9-3	3-1	12-4
St. Cloud Cathedral				3-1	2-0	3-0		8-1
Austin St. Augustine/Pacelli					5-2	1-0		6-2
Brady							3-1	3-1
St. John's		2-0						2-0
Cold Spring St. Boniface				1-0	0-1			1-1
Faribault Bethlehem					1-1			1-1
Mankato Loyola					0-1			0-1
<b>Sub-Totals</b>	<b>2-8</b> <b>.200</b>	<b>21-39-1</b> <b>.350</b>	<b>50-19</b> <b>.725</b>	<b>98-52</b> <b>.653</b>	<b>100-44</b> <b>.694</b>	<b>62-49</b> <b>.559</b>	<b>31-8</b> <b>.795</b>	<b>364-219</b> <b>.624</b>

Of course, one also must grant that St. Paul public schools were never the be-all and end-all of Minnesota high school basketball—well, aside from 1925, 1930, 1943 and 1949, when St. Paul schools in fact won the MSHSL single class titles. But, in each and every one of those 4 years, we have comparative scores that suggest (and maybe prove) that the best Catholic teams were as good or better. Still, let's compare how the Catholic schools did against St. Paul with how public schools and other private schools did against St. Paul.

### Various Schools vs. St. Paul Public Schools

Division	1910s	1920s	1930s	1940s	1950s	1960s	1970-74	Total
Public Schools Except Minneapolis	14-23 .378	46-57 .447	55-83 .399	100-134 .427	165-83 .663	97-73 .571	91-31 .746	568-485 .540
Minneapolis Public Schools	0-4 .000	26-18 .591	27-14 .659	89-47 .654	83-59 .585	77-57 .575	14-13 .519	316-212 .598
Catholic Schools	2-8 .200	21-39-1 .350	50-19 .725	98-52 .653	100-44 .694	62-49 .559	31-8 .795	364-219 .624
Non-Catholic Private Schools	0-4 .000	0-1 .000	8-32 .200	18-65 .217	25-40 .385	36-50 .419	10-6 .625	96-198 .329
<b>Total Opponents W-L vs. St. Paul</b>	<b>16-39 .291</b>	<b>93-115-1 .447</b>	<b>140-148 .475</b>	<b>305-297 .507</b>	<b>373-226 .623</b>	<b>272-229 .543</b>	<b>146-58 .716</b>	<b>1,345- 1,119 .546</b>
<b>Total Non- Catholic Opponents vs. St. Paul</b>	<b>14-31 .311</b>	<b>72-76 .486</b>	<b>90-129 .411</b>	<b>207-245 .458</b>	<b>273-178 .605</b>	<b>210-180 .538</b>	<b>115-50 .697</b>	<b>981-900 .522</b>

So, obviously, Catholic schools from top to bottom gave the St. Paul public schools a vastly rougher ride than public school opponents generally—winning .624 percent of games through 1974 vs. .522 for the publics. Not only that but most observers have regarded the Minneapolis City Conference as the state's toughest conference through the late 1950s or early 1960s, when they were overtaken by the Lake. Yes, the Catholic's record (.624) was just a little better than the Minneapolis City's record (.598), but it was better. Specifically, it was better in the 1930s and the 1950s, when the City was still at or near its very best. Take away the 1970s when Minneapolis (and St. Paul) basketball really started to hit the skids, and the Catholics are still better through 1969 at .612 to .602. Again, they weren't a lot better than Minneapolis public schools, but they were better than what was generally regarded as the best conference in the state. Speaking of the Lake, the combined record of all schools that were ever members of the Lake Conference vs. St. Paul was 60-46 (.566), meaning 6 fewer wins per 100 games than what the Catholics achieved.

Now, if one wanted to point out that the Catholic schools' record is heavily weighted toward Cretin and St. Thomas, you would have a valid point. The 2 schools won 260 games, 20 percent of the overall total non-conference wins against St. Paul's publics. Still, the point is that their winning percentage (.682) is better than that of the 2 winningest Minneapolis teams combined—Vocational (49-45, .521) and Edison (43-23, .651) or a combined 92-68 (.575). Yes, you could substitute Washburn (36-6, .857) for Vocational and get a combined record with Edison of 79-29 (.731). But, if you want the teams with the best W-L percentages rather than the most wins, the Catholics can counter with Hill and St. Cloud Cathedral at 20-5 (.800).

A more granular view shows that the St. Paul public schools dominated the privates through 1929, then for all intents and purposes broke even in the 1930s, the 1940s and the 1960s—with the non-Catholic privates winning just one-third of the time, thus cancelling out the large advantage of the Catholics. For whatever reason, the privates won almost 60 percent of the games in the 1950s and almost 75 percent of the games in the 1970s. In the 1950s, of course, the dominance of the private schools is more than accounted for by the play of Cretin, Minnehaha and St. Thomas, who went a combined 96-24. Everybody else went 29-60. Conversely, in the 1960s, the Big 3 went just 40-30 and

everybody else 58-69. Cretin, primarily, slumped, but several others—Concordia, St. Agnes and St. Paul Academy—improved. By the 1970s, almost everybody could and did beat their St. Paul City Conference rivals.

But, of course, the even bigger trend is the differential between the Catholics and the non-Catholics. In the 1930s the Catholics were winning almost 70 percent of their games with St. Paul City opponents, the non-Catholic “independents” just 20 percent. In the 1940s it was about 67 percent to 20 percent. In the 1950s it was still 70 to 40 percent. The gap narrowed in the 1960s but it was still there—about 55 percent to 40. Overall, the Catholics won 62 percent of their games against the St. Paul City Conference, while the independents won just under one-third of theirs.

Looking at individual schools, the most amazing number is the turnaround at Cretin in the 1930s. The Raiders were 8-34 in the 1910s and 1920s, 63-8 in the 1930s and 58-5 in the 1940s. St. Thomas also turned it around—a decade later and a little less dramatically—from 16-18-1 through 1939, to 64-19 thereafter. St. Agnes also improved from 2-26 in the 1940s to 16-12 in the 1960s and 1970s. No question the St. Paul public schools were already falling behind the privates in the 1960s and 1970s.

The same is true among the independents, though their turnaround is partially explained by Minnehaha’s coming onstream as a competitor in the 1950s and going 31-7 thereafter. On the other hand, Concordia and SPA also improved from a combined 28-94 as of 1959 to 26-37 thereafter.

For the record, here are the top teams vs. St. Paul City Conference members in total wins and in winning percentage.

### **Top 25 Teams: Wins and Winning Percentage vs. St. Paul City (through 1974)**

	<b>Team</b>	<b>Wins</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Winning Pct. &gt;10 Wins</b>
1.	Cretin	180-83	Hopkins 11-1	.917
2..	South St. Paul	95-68	Minneapolis Washburn 36-6	.857
3.	St. Thomas	80-37-1	Austin 17-4	.810
4.	Minneapolis Vocational	49-45	Minnehaha 32-8	.800
5.	Minneapolis Edison	43-23	Hill 12-4	.750

6.	Stillwater	42-28	Anoka 13-5	.722
7.	Concordia	41-90	Red Wing 16-7	.696
8.	Minneapolis North	38-23	Cretin 180-83	.684
9.	Minneapolis Washburn	36-6	Minneapolis South 21-10	.677
10.	Minnehaha	32-8	West St. Paul/Sibley 10-5	.667
11.	Minneapolis Marshall (and Marshall-U)	32-20	Minneapolis Edison 43-23	.652
12.	St. Agnes	28-57	DeLaSalle 25-14	.641
13.	DeLaSalle	25-14	Minneapolis Southwest 17-10	.630
14.	White Bear Lake	22-50	Minneapolis North 38-23	.623
15.	Minneapolis South	21-10	Minneapolis Marshall/ Marshall-U 32-20	.615
16.	Minneapolis Roosevelt	21-19	Stillwater 42-28	.600
17.	Minneapolis Central	20-16-1	South St. Paul 95-68	.583
18.	North St. Paul	19-41	Minneapolis Patrick Henry 15-12	.556
19.	St. Bernard's	18-17	Minneapolis Central 20-16-1	.554
20.	Austin	17-4	Minneapolis Roosevelt 21-19	.525
21.	Minneapolis Southwest	17-10	Columbia Heights 12-11	.522
22.	Red Wing	16-7	Minneapolis Vocational 49-45	.521
23.	Minneapolis Patrick Henry	15-12	St. Bernard's 18-17	.514
24.	Anoka	13-5	Minneapolis West 11-12	.478
25.	St. Paul Academy	13-41	Minneapolis University High 12-14	.462

### Top 25 Catholic Teams

Rank Catholic	Rank Overall	School and Year	Comment
1.	6 (tie).	DeLaSalle 1955	DeLaSalle's 1955 team was undefeated and was named the mythical national Catholic champion by the <i>Chicago Tribune</i> . Led by guard Paul Lehman and coach Dick Reinhart.

2.	6 (tie).	DeLaSalle 1956	DeLaSalle's 1956 team beat MSHSL champion Mpls. Roosevelt 64-54 and 81-63. Led by guard Paul Lehman and coach Dick Reinhart.
3.	15 (tie).	DeLaSalle 2013	Repeated as Class AAA champion at 30-1 with a 69-49 average margin of victory in the state tournament. Beat Park Center, while AAAA champion Apple Valley split with Park Center. Led by Reid Travis.
4.	30.	Cretin-Derham Hall 2018	Won the Class AAAA title at 30-2 (70-61). Led by Daniel Oturu.
5.	38.	St. Thomas 1951	Finished 29-0 with a match game win over the Wisconsin Catholic champion LaCrosse Aquinas. Led by Johnny Horan.
6.	43.	DeLaSalle 1931	Won the national Catholic tournament, beating Jasper, IN, 23-21 to finish 24-3. Led by Ray Buffalo and coach George Roberts.
7.	44.	Duluth Cathedral 1922	Won the Lake Superior Conference title beating Duluth Central 30-15 and 30-18. MSHSL champion Red Wing beat Central 30-25 in the state semi. Led by Joe Benda.
8.	47 (tie).	Cretin 1943	Went 8-0 with a 13-point average margin vs. St. Paul City opponents. MSHSL champion St. Paul Washington was 8-1 with a 10-point margin.
9 (tie).	61 (tie).	Cretin 1991 and 1993	Played in 3 straight Class AA finals, winning in 1991 and 1993 and finishing 2 <sup>nd</sup> in 1992. Led by Arvesta Kelly and coach Len Horyza.
10.	62.	Rochester Lourdes 1967	Unbeaten, the 2 <sup>nd</sup> of 3 straight Catholic titles. Led by Steve Fritz and coach Orris Jirele.
11.	77.	DeLaSalle 1957	Completed their 4-peat behind Paul Lehman, but lost to Roosevelt this time.
12.	85.	DeLaSalle 2019	Won their 7 <sup>th</sup> Class AAA title in 8 years behind point guard Tyrell Terry.
13.	86.	Austin Pacelli 1965	Hammered Winona Cotter 86-56 to win the state title at 25-1. Led by Dave Lobb.
14 (tie).	87 (tie).	St. Thomas 2007 and Benilde-St. Margaret's 2008	The Tommies beat Benilde in the 2007 Class AAA final, then Benilde beat the Tommies in 2008. Benilde was led by point guard Jordan Taylor.
15.		St. Thomas 1949	Defeated MSHSL champion St. Paul Humboldt 47-38. Catholic champion.
16.		St. Thomas 1925	Tied St. Paul Mechanic Arts 21-21, then both went on to win their respective state titles.
17.		DeLaSalle 2014	26-3, Class AAA champion.
18.		Cretin-Derham Hall 2001	29-2, 3 <sup>rd</sup> place in Class AAAA. Led by Joe Mauer

19.		Benilde 1964	Repeated as Catholic champion. Led by Larry Mikan.
20.		DeLaSalle 2006	Won Class AAA title at 27-5 (63-42). Led by Cameron Rundles.
21.		Mankato Loyola 1945	Catholic champion, led by Jim Korth.
22 (tie) .		Totino-Grace 2022 and 2023	Class AAA champions at 26-6 and 25-8.
23 (tie).		DeLaSalle 1985 and 1988	25-2 and 26-1, Class A champions.
24.		Winona Cotter 1977	25-2, the first Catholic school to win an MSHSL title, in Class A. Led by coach John Nett.
25.		St. John's 1930	The Johnnies beat Cretin to win the Catholic title. Cretin had beaten MSHSL champion Mechanic Arts in the regular season.

### Catholic All-Star Teams

Position	1922-1960	1960-1996	1997-2022
<b>C</b>	Johnny Horan, St. Thomas 1951 (Dayton)	Dave Lobb, Austin Pacelli 1965	Daniel Oturu, Cretin-Derham Hall 2018 (Minnesota)
<b>PF</b>	Jim Korth, Mankato Loyola 1945 (Mankato State)	Larry Mikan, Benilde 1964 (Minnesota)	Reid Travis, DeLaSalle 2014 (Stanford, Kentucky)
<b>SF</b>	Ray Buffalo, DeLaSalle 1931	Joe Keenan, Mankato Loyola 1967 (St. Mary's)	Darius Lane, Totino Grace 1998 (Seton Hall)
<b>PG</b>	Orris Jirele, Austin Pacelli 1958 (St. Bonaventure)	Dan Ward, Mankato Loyola 1991 (Mankato State)	Jordan Taylor, Benilde-St. Margaret's 2008 (Wisconsin)
<b>SG</b>	Paul Lehman, DeLaSalle 1957 (Minnesota)	Arvesta Kelly, Cretin-Derham Hall 1993 (Texas-San Antonio)	Tyrell Terry, DeLaSalle 2019 (Stanford)
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	Joe Benda, Duluth Cathedral 1922	Steve Fritz, Rochester Lourdes 1967 (St. Thomas)	Cameron Rundles, DeLaSalle 2006 (Wofford)
<b>Coach</b>	Dick Reinhart, DeLaSalle	John Nett, Winona Cotter	Dave Thorson, DeLaSalle