

West Region Girls' Basketball Tournament

March 5-7, 2020 Bismarck Event Center



Tip-off

The West Region Basketball Tournament begins quarterfinal play on Thursday, March 5 at the Bismarck Event Center. The quarterfinal games are: (1) Legacy vs. (9) Williston; (4) Mandan vs. (5) St. Mary's; (2) Century vs. (10) Dickinson; and (3) Bismarck High vs. (6) Minot. The tournament resumes on Friday, March 6 with semifinals (2 p.m. and 3:45 p.m.) and loser-out games (4:30 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.). There are two state qualifiers (11 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.) and the championship (6 p.m.) on Saturday, March 7.

The favorites: Top seed Legacy has the distinction of defeating two-time defending state and region champion Century twice en route to a share of the WDA regular season title and No. 1 seed in this week's tournament. Century, meanwhile, has again continued its dominance on the court, winning 19 games and a share of the WDA crown for the past six seasons. A potential third meeting between the top two teams in the conference could happen.

Perennial power: No team has been as dominant at the West Region Tournament in recent memory as Century. The Patriots have played in the last 11 tournament championship games, winning eight of them. The teams has a strong chance of making it an even dozen finals appearances in a row. Century has qualified for the state tournament 17-straight years. That streak is tops among all Class A teams.

Welcome back! Two of the teams in this year's quarterfinals – Minot and Dickinson – did not qualify a season ago. The Majettes are the No. 6 seed and advanced with a play-in win. Dickinson is the No. 10 seed and upended Jamestown in a play-in game.

Not easy being the underdog: Last season Williston was the surprise of the tournament, earning a state tournament berth as the No. 7 seed. That was the first time since 2016 a seed outside of the top four advanced to state (Minot/No. 6 seed). Over the past 10 tournaments, the top four seeds have routinely advanced. In fact, just three times in that stretch (2010, 2016 and 2019) has one or more of the top seeds failed to qualify.

Getting to know you: Century and Mandan have met in the region title 12 times, including the last four years. The two perennial powers have combined to win 23 region postseason tournaments.

Free throws: The last time Century did not play in the West Region Tournament final was 2008 (Mandan def. Bismarck High)...WDA teams posted a 5-2 record vs. EDC opponents this season...Five WDA teams have winning records...Minot is the only WDA team to have played No. 1 ranked Devils Lake...Of the eight teams in the field, the team with the longest state tournament drought is Dickinson (2005)...The Class A Tournament is March 12-14 in Fargo.

Team Notes

#1 Legacy (19-2 Overall; 18-2 WDA)

The Sabers entered the season with high expectations, but perhaps no one expected a regular season that included 17-straight victories; a WDA title and the top seed at regionals.

Yet, that is what Legacy accomplished through balanced scoring, tenacious defense and depth. Several players played extended minutes each game. That enabled the squad to continue to wear down oppo-

2020 West Region Tournament

Friday, Feb. 27 (Higher Seed host)

(6) Minot 99, (11) TMCHS 29

Play-in games (Higher Seed host)

(10) Dickinson 68, (7) Jamestown 62

(9) Williston 56, (8) Watford City 49

Thursday, March 5 - Bismarck Event Center

Quarterfinals

(1) Legacy vs. (9) Williston, 2 p.m.

(4) Mandan vs. (5) St. Mary's, 3:45 p.m.

(2) Century vs. (10) Dickinson, 5:30 p.m.

(3) Bismarck High vs. (6) Minot, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, March 6 - Bismarck Event Center

Semifinals, 2 p.m. and 3:45 p.m.

Loser-out, 4:30 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, March 7 - Bismarck Event Center

State Qualifiers, 11 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.

Championship, 6 p.m.

WDA Statistical Leaders

Scoring

Player	G	PTS/AVG
G. Hegerle, JAM	22	376/17.1
L. Darras, MAN	21	359/17.1
A. Nelson, MIN	22	367/16.7
P. Selle, DCK	22	328/14.9
J. Golus, BHS	21	306/14.1

Rebounding

Player	G	REB/AVG
M. Mann, SM	21	221/10.5
L. Darras, MAN	21	203/9.6
A. Dressler, LEG	21	184/8.7
K. Horgan, JAM	22	164/7.4
H. Schweitzer, SM	21	156/7.4

Assists

Player	G	AST/AVG
E. Falk, JAM	22	98/4.4
B. Carvey, WIL	22	81/3.8
J. Anderson, JAM	16	60/3.7
A. Dressler, LEG	21	77/3.6
P. Rosencrans, MIN	22	75/3.4

Steals

Player	G	STL/AVG
P. Selle, DCK	22	80/3.6
E. Hill, BHS	21	59/2.8
P. Neumiller, BHS	21	58/2.7
A. Berryhill, LEG	21	53/2.5
E. Mogen, WC	22	53/2.4
B. Carvey, WIL	22	52/2.4

Blocks

Player	G	BLK/AVG
L. Nissley, CEN	20	44/2.2
H. Schweitzer, SM	21	36/1.7
A. Rodakowski, DCK	22	25/1.1
M. Mann, SM	21	25/1.1
E. Mogen, WC	22	26/1.1
A. Berryhill, LEG	21	24/1.1

nents. Legacy was second in the WDA in points scored (64.5) and points allowed (49.7). Three players average double figures in points and a couple more hover around seven points a contest. Alexis Dressler's 12.9 ppg led the Sabers. She was also among the conference leaders in rebounding and assists. Arianna Berryhill and Jaiden Baker are also in double figures in points. Berryhill is among the WDA steals and blocks leaders as well.

While Legacy enjoyed its best regular season in the program's brief history, it already has an impressive postseason resume. That includes a state title in 2017 and top four finishes in 2018 and 2019. The program is poised to make another push toward a state crown this season.

Team Leaders (Per game average): Points: A. Dressler, 12.9; Rebounds: Dressler, 8.7; Assists: A. Berryhill, 3.6; Steals: Berryhill, 2.5;

Blocks: Berryhill, 1.1

#2 Century (19-2 Overall; 18-2 WDA)

The two-time defending state champions entered the season with some questions to answer. Namely, how the squad was going to adjust with the loss of standout Lauren Ware due to injury. Her athleticism and 6-5 frame over the past three seasons posed an intimidating presence.

However, Century's program has always had a number of key contributors, so while Ware's absence was a blow, the team had experienced leaders returning as well as up-and-coming players ready to make their mark.

Three players average double figures in points and two others net just under 10 a night. That all adds up to a matchup nightmare for the opposition. Julia Fitterer's 13.2 ppg is tops on the team. Logan Nissley, 12.6 is next and Ashton Kinnebrew chips in with 11.7. Nissley leads the WDA in blocks and is among the leaders in rebounding. Kinnebrew is among the league leaders in steals. The Patriots lead the WDA in points per game, but also has been stingy on the defense. The 45.4 points allowed is a WDA-best as well.

Century's two losses have come against Legacy and it's quite possible the teams will meet again this week. The program has reached the region tournament final in each of the past 11 years and have qualified for the state tournament every season since 2002.

Team Leaders (Per game average): Points: J. Fitterer, 13.2; Rebounds: L. Nissley, 7.2; Assists: C. Markovic, 2.7; Steals: A. Kinnebrew, 2.1; Blocks: Nissley, 2.2

#3 Bismarck High (15-6 Overall; 14-6 WDA)

The Demons enter this week's West Region Tournament feeling pretty good about their game, and rightfully so.

Bismarck High has won eight of its last nine games, including an impressive triumph over WDA co-champion Legacy in the season finale.

It has been an all-hands-on-deck approach for BHS this season. The squad has adopted a style of play that relies on rapid substitutions in order to apply a defensive press throughout much of the game. It's paid off. The squad averages 15 steals a game and the opposition turns the ball over, on average, 29 times. Offensively, the team has six players averaging six or more points a game. Junior Jilee Golus has been the top scorer, averaging 14.6. Elle Hill is among the conference leaders in rebounding and steals. Bismarck High's postseason run was derailed a year ago by Williston. That upset loss to the seventh seeded Coyotes has the program on a mission. The Demons' last trip to the state tournament came in 2017, and nothing short of a berth this season will be acceptable.

Team Leaders (Per game average): Points: J. Golus, 14.6; Rebounds: Elle Hill, 6.2; Assists: Hill, 2.0; Steals: Hill, 2.8; Blocks: Cadee Ryckman, 0.3

#4 Mandan (14-7 Overall; 13-7 WDA)

Mandan has finished in the top four in the WDA regular season standings in each of the past five years, including a pair of runner-up finishes to Century.

That level of consistency is no accident. The program has used a combination of talent, depth and sound fundamentals to achieve its success.

That is on display again this season as the Braves make a run for a sixth-straight Class A appearance.

A quick glance at the team's stat leaders and one name jumps out. Senior standout Lakyn Darras is among the WDA leaders in points (17.1), rebounds (9.6) as well as as-

sists and steals.

Her athleticism and skill set enables Darras to find her shots and be a difference on the boards. Sydney Gustavsson also scores in double figures and Mandan has four others who are averaging five points or better. That depth is going to be key this weekend. Just once this season the team has lost back-to-back games. That shows its ability to bounce back, and in a tournament setting, a team needs to turn the page quickly, win or lose.

Team Leaders (Per game average): Points: L. Darras, 17.1; Rebounds: Darras, 9.6; Assists: Darras, 3.2; Steals: Darras, 2.1; Blocks: Darras, 0.4

#5 St. Mary's (12-9 Overall; 12-8 WDA)

The Saints' 2019 postseason run came to a tough ending with an overtime loss to Legacy in a state qualifier.

The squad hopes for a better fate when it enters the region tournament this week as the No. 5 seed.

The question is can the veteran St. Mary's squad get past a top seed. Of its 12 WDA wins, just one has come over a team above it in the standings (Mandan, No. 4).

At least one more victory over a top four seed will be necessary to extend the season another week.

Four players average right around 10-11 points per game and that depth is why the squad has the potential for success. Senior guard Abby Kopp leads in scoring and is among the league leaders in assists. Where the team needs to have the biggest impact is in the paint. Seniors Maria Mann (10.5 ppg/10.5 rebounds) and Halle Schweitzer (10.0 ppg/7.4 rebounds/1.7 blocks) need to shine on the postseason stage.

An area of concern is perimeter scoring. The squad has struggled beyond the arc, so it's critical for the team not to have to play catch-up.

The Saints have already matched their win total of last season, but 14 is the magic number to get to Fargo.

Team Leaders (Per game average): Points: A. Kopp, 11.2; Rebounds: M. Mann, 10.5; Assists: Kopp, 3.4; Steals: M. Grad, 1.6; Blocks: H. Schweitzer, 1.7

#6 Minot (11-11 Overall; 10-10 WDA)

The Majettes have had quite a turnaround this season.

After winning just four games in 2018-19, Minot already has 11, and has the potential to add to that total this week.

And it's not just quantity of wins, either. Minot handed WDA co-champion Legacy one of its setbacks and it also defeated No. 4 seed Mandan.

So the WDA is on notice this youthful Minot team can play.

The difference maker in the lineup has been senior Allie Nelson. She is among the conference leaders in several statistical categories, including points (16.7 ppg). Her all-around game gives Minot that go-to player. And she's delivered despite getting a lot of attention from opposing teams.

However, the team has other contributors. Five players average five points or better a contest.

The last time Minot reached the region quarterfinal round was 2018. So for many players on the roster this will be their first trip. How the young players respond to the big stage will be important to the team's chances for success.

Perhaps being the sixth seed is a good sign for the Minot. The last time the Majettes qualified for the Class A Tournament was 2016. And yes, they were the No. 6 seed. Team Leaders (Per game average): Points: A. Nelson, 16.7; Rebounds: Nelson, 6.4; Assists: P. Rosencrans, 3.4; Steals: A. Nelson, 2.0; Blocks: M. Evenson, 0.9

#9 Williston (7-15 Overall; 6-14 WDA)

The Coyotes earned a Class A Tournament appearance in 2019 and looked to build on that success when the season began. However, the squad struggled out of the gate, winning just once in its first six contests. Inconsistency on offense and lack of depth really made it hard for the team to stay in games against the WDA's top competition. However, there have been glimpses of what the team is capable of doing. The Coyotes took No. 4 Mandan to overtime twice, winning one of those games. They also went to overtime vs. No. 5 St. Mary's before losing. Williston won just seven times, but three of those wins have come in the last five games. Like last year, they needed a play-in victory to reach the quarterfinal round. This year, Williston did it on the road. Senior Brooklyn Douglas is the only player

to average double figures in points (10 ppg). However, Bridget Carvey, Shelby Meyer, Chesni Strand and Makia Remus chip in with 8-9 points a game. Carvey was among the WDA leaders in rebounds, assists and steals. With such little depth, the team can ill-afford to get into foul trouble. And fatigue is certainly an issue with the prospects of playing three games in the three days. However, the squad overcame those obstacles last season. Can history repeat itself? Team Leaders (Per game average): Points: B. Douglas, 10.0; Rebounds: B. Carvey, 7.0; Assists: Carvey, 3.8; Steals: Carvey, 2.4; Blocks: Douglas, 0.7

#10 Dickinson (6-16 Overall; 4-16 WDA)

After enduring a nine-game losing skid in the middle of the season, Dickinson has won four of its last seven games. So perhaps, it's not that big of a surprise the

10th place finisher in the WDA is still playing basketball in early March. The Midgets are certainly an underdog in this week's West Region Tournament, but one that doesn't lack confidence. Winning will do that, and the squad is coming off its biggest victory last week at Jamestown in a region play-in contest. Despite its struggles, there is talent on the roster. Senior standout Peyton Selle is among the conference leaders in several statistical categories. She averages 14.9 points per game and leads the WDA in steals (3.6). Audrey Rodakowski averages 11.3 ppg and is one of the conference's top shot blockers. Symone Beld is netting just over 10 ppg and provides the team a reliable perimeter scorer. The squad at times has had difficult finding the basket. Six times it has scored 40 or less points in a game. It will need to show it can

score this week in Bismarck. The team has also struggled with its free throw shooting. Dickinson averages just 52 percent which is well behind the rest of the conference. That could be a source of concern if the team is in a tight game. Dickinson is going to have its hands full in its opener vs. top seed Legacy. The goal for the Midgets will be to get to Saturday and that will require at least one upset. It's 1-0 so far in the postseason as the underdog. Perhaps more wins are on the horizon. Team Leaders (Per game average): Points: P. Selle, 14.9; Rebounds: Selle, 6.8; Assists: Selle, 2.8; Steals: Selle, 3.6; Blocks: A. Rodakowski, 1.1

WDA/West Region Tournament History

Championship Game

2019: Century 64, Mandan 35
2018: Century 71, Mandan 58
2017: Mandan 59, Century 57 (OT)
2016: Century 69, Mandan 62
2015: Century 50, Minot 47
2014: Bismarck High 64, Century 61
2013: Bismarck High 49, Century 46
2012: Century 64, Bismarck High 39
2011: Century 49, Minot 41
2010: Century 66, Williston 44
2009: Century 57, Mandan 55
2008: Mandan 64, Bismarck High 56
2007: Mandan 76, Bismarck High 59
2006: Mandan 62, Century 57
2005: Century 51, Mandan 47
2004: Mandan 56, Century 52
*2003: Mandan 48, Dickinson 28
2001: Minot 59, Beulah 32
2000: Bismarck High 74, Minot 48
1999: Williston 65, Mandan 60
1998: Mandan 55, Century 43
1997: Mandan 65, Century 47
1996: Mandan 57, Minot 53
1995: Mandan 55, Williston 32
1994: Mandan 58, Williston 31
1993: Mandan 54, Century 19
1992: Minot 46, Mandan 35
1991: Bismarck High 42, Mandan 37
1990: Bismarck High 43, Minot 41
1989: Bismarck High 50, St. Mary's 45
1988: Mandan 67, Century 44
1987: Minot 47, Century 41
1986: Century 52, Dickinson 46
1985: Bismarck High 39, Century 33
1984: Minot 50, Bismarck High 45
1983: Bismarck High 58, Century 55
1982: Minot 39, Bismarck High 35
1981: Minot 48, Williston 36

Other State Qualifiers

Legacy, Williston
Mandan, St. Mary's
St. Mary's, Legacy
Legacy, Minot
TMCHS, Bismarck High
Minot, Jamestown
Jamestown, Mandan
Mandan, Minot
Bismarck High, Jamestown
Minot, Mandan
Bismarck High, Jamestown
Minot, Century
Century, Jamestown
Bismarck High, Minot
Dickinson, Bismarck High
Dickinson, Williston
Century, Minot
Mandan, Dickinson
Mandan, Century
Bismarck High, Mandan
Bismarck High, St. Mary's
Bismarck High, Williston
St. Mary's, Century
Bismarck High, Minot
St. Mary's, Dickinson
St. Mary's, Minot
St. Mary's, Century
Minot, St. Mary's
Century, St. Mary's
Minot
Bismarck High
Mandan
Minot
Williston
Mandan
Dickinson Trinity
Century
Dickinson

Titles by Team: Mandan, 13; Century, 10; Bismarck High, 8; Minot, 6; Williston, 1

Note: From 1981-1989, the tournament was called the WDA Tournament and was under the management of the conference. Only the top 3 tournament finishers qualified for the Class A Tournament.
From 1990-present the tournament is called the West Region Tournament and is under the sponsorship of the NDHSAA. The top four tournament finishers qualify for the Class A Tournament

*2003 The girls' basketball season moved to winter