

# West Region Boys' Basketball Tournament

March 5-7, 2020 Bismarck Event Center



## Tip-off

The meat grinder that is the West Region Basketball Tournament begins quarterfinal play on Thursday, March 5 at the Bismarck Event Center. The quarterfinal games are: (1) Jamestown vs. (8) Williston, 3 p.m.; (4) Mandan vs. (5) Dickinson, 4:45 p.m.; (2) Bismarck High vs. (7) Century, 6:30 p.m.; and (3) Minot vs. (6) Legacy, 8:15 p.m. The tournament resumes on Friday, March 6 with loser-out (1 p.m. and 2:45 p.m.) and semifinal games (6:30 p.m. and 8:15 p.m.). There are two state qualifiers (2:30 p.m. and 4:15 p.m.) and the championship (7:45 p.m.) on Saturday, March 7.

**The favorites:** Top seed Jamestown is the defending tournament champion and the only team with victories over every other WDA team. However, the Blue Jays are by no means head-and-shoulders above the field. They dropped three conference games (@Minot; @Dickinson; @Williston). The key to the squad's repeat chances will be a healthy Boden Skunberg. The all-stater missed multiple games this season. He is expected to be in the lineup this week. The last team to repeat was Century (2017-18). A case could be made that any of seeds two thru seven has a shot stringing three wins together. It will be entertaining to see which team, in fact, will do it.

**Party crashers:** The last two West Region Tournaments featured lower seeds advancing to the Class A Tournament. In 2018, No. 7 St. Mary's and No. 6 Jamestown upset high seeds en route to a state tournament berth. Last season, No. 6 Legacy did the trick to earn the program's first trip to state. Given the parity this season, it's quite likely a high seed will again advance.

**Streaky:** Five tournament participants (Bismarck High, Jamestown, Legacy, Mandan and Minot High) had win streaks of five or more games this season.

**Been there, done that:** Four coaches (Darin Mattern, Century, Jacoby Lloyd, Jamestown; Dean Winczewski, Minot High; and Jason Horner, Legacy) have at least one West Region Tournament title and/or Class A championship under their belt. Winczewski has state titles leading both Minot and Dickinson. Horner's state crown came when he coached Mandan.

**Lucky seven:** Century has qualified for the Class A Tournament in each of the last seven seasons. That is the longest active streak among the field of teams.

**Free throws:** Dickinson and Legacy are the only teams without a region tournament crown...WDA teams posted a 4-3 record vs. EDC opponents this season...Seven WDA teams have winning records...Minot and Bismarck High have 29 Class A titles, collectively, but both have missed the past two state tournaments...Williston's last state tournament appearance was 2009...The Class A Tournament is March 12-14 in Fargo.

## Team Notes

### #1 Jamestown (19-2 Overall; 17-3 WDA)

The Blue Jays entered the season with a target on their back following an undefeated season in 2018-19. Despite losing some key pieces to its magical run, Jamestown showed the cupboard was far from bare. The squad won 19 games, a second WDA regular season title; and is the top seed for the West Region Tournament again. The team is led by standout Boden Skunberg who leads the conference in scoring and rebounding. His 28 ppg came in just 16 games as he was battling injury/illness. Despite his

## 2020 West Region Tournament

Friday, Feb. 28

Play-in games (Higher Seed host)

(6) Legacy 86, (11) Watford City 48

(7) Century 69, (10) St. Mary's 57

(8) Williston 63, (9) TMCHS 47

Thursday, March 5 - Bismarck Event Center

Quarterfinals

(1) Jamestown vs. (8) Williston, 3 p.m.

(4) Mandan vs. (5) Dickinson, 4:45 p.m.

(2) Bismarck High vs. (7) Century, 6:30 p.m.

(3) Minot vs. (6) Legacy, 8:15 p.m.

Friday, March 6 - Bismarck Event Center

Loser-out, 1 p.m. and 2:45 p.m.

Semifinals, 5:30 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, March 7 - Bismarck Event Center

State Qualifiers, 2:30 p.m. and 4:15 p.m.

Championship, 7:45 p.m. (approx.)

## WDA Statistical Leaders

### Scoring

Player	G	PTS/AVG
B. Skunberg, JAM	16	455/28.4
J. Gunville, MIN	21	527/25.1
K. Krenz, DCK	21	515/24.5
C. Feeney, CEN	22	453/20.6
J. Wright, DCK	21	427/20.3

### Rebounding

Player	G	REB/AVG
B. Skunberg, JAM	16	178/11.1
L. Monroe, WC	22	230/10.4
E. Klein, MAN	21	206/9.8
T. Klatt, DCK	21	184/8.7
R. Clements, LEG	18	136/7.5

### Assists

Player	G	AST/AVG
D. Martinez, MIN	21	99/4.7
T. Davis, TM	21	88/4.1
J. Wiest, MAN	18	75/4.1
C. Lamp, JAM	21	86/4.0
J. Hilgemann, JAM	21	82/3.9

### Steals

Player	G	STL/AVG
K. Krenz, DCK	21	62/2.9
C. Feeney, CEN	22	59/2.6
L. Monroe, WC	22	51/2.3
K. Woodbury, LEG	21	40/1.9
T. Eaglestaff, BHS	21	39/1.8
J. Wright, DCK	21	38/1.8

### Blocks

Player	G	BLK/AVG
K. Levin, JAM	21	28/1.3
L. Monroe, WC	22	29/1.3
T. Klatt, DCK	21	25/1.1
E. Klein, MAN	21	24/1.1

absence, the Blue Jays kept on clicking, thanks to a strong cast. Juniors Brooks Carroll and Carson Lamp averaged over 13 points per game. Keith Levin led the conference in blocks and was among the leaders in rebounding.

The squad averaged 81 points per game and its explosive offense is a matchup headache for the opposition. Skunberg was held out of the last few regular season games, but is expected to be in the lineup as the Blue Jays try and defend their region crown.

Team Leaders (Per game average): Points: B. Skunberg, 28.4; Rebounds: Skunberg, 11.1; Assists: C. Lamp, 4.0; Steals: Skunberg, 1.5; Blocks: K. Levin, 1.3

**#2 Bismarck High (16-5 Overall; 15-5 WDA)** The Demons are right back where they were a year ago entering the West Region Tournament: As the No. 2 seed. The program hopes for better fortunes, this time. BHS missed out on a state tournament berth for

a second straight year. With heavy losses of talent and experience due to graduation, the team needed a new identity. It found it in a rather non-traditional approach. BHS called on its depth to play an up-tempo brand of play. It's featured a rapid rotation of players, sometimes wholesale changes at stoppages. It's enabled them to play a full-court, pressure defense and quick-strike offense. Four players average in double figures in points led by junior Gunnar Swanson (14.1 ppg). Junior Max Tschosik and sophomore Treyson Eaglestaff have been difference-makers as well. The BHS' style of play certainly has caught the attention of opponents which have had its hands full bringing the ball up the floor and attempting to control the tempo. With 16 wins, it's safe to say the change in style has been good. BHS is a strong contender to return to the state tournament. It just has to clear the region tournament hurdle.

Team Leaders (Per game average): Points: G. Swanson, 14.1; Rebounds: Swanson, 4.9; Assists: M. Tschosik, 2.3; Steals: T. Eaglestaff, 1.8; Blocks: Swanson, 0.5

### #3 Minot (15-6 Overall; 14-6 WDA)

One thing is quite evident by a quick glance at Magician boxscores. The squad likes to score. The team has reached the century mark three times and is averaging 80 points per game. Some teams don't have the personnel or depth to run a high-tempo attack throughout a season, but the Magi have both. The squad has three players averaging 13 or more points a game led by senior standout Jaxon Gunville, averaging 25 ppg. Junior Deonte Martinez nets 13 ppg and senior Easton Larson scored 12 ppg. A handful of other players chip in with five-six points per game. On the boards, Minot is among the conference leaders. Martinez leads the WDA in assists.

The Magicians have finished fourth or better in WDA regular season standings in each of the past eight years. That model of consistency has spring-boarded the program to postseason success. Minot won three-straight Class A titles in 2015-17. However, Minot has been on the outside looking in the past two seasons. It is looking to get back to the Class A Tournament for the first time since 2017.

Team Leaders (Per game average): Points: J. Gunville, 25.1; Rebounds: E. Larson, 7.3; Assists: D. Martinez, 4.7; Steals: D. Martinez, 1.3; Blocks: C. Johnson, 0.9

### #4 Mandan (13-8 Overall; 13-7 WDA)

The Braves were blown out at home by Minot by 49 points on Jan. 7. The loss dropped them below .500 (3-4) and allowed some doubt to creep in. Could this team be a contender for a region title and state tournament berth?

Well, the Mandan ship was righted. The program went 10-4 since that lopsided defeat to Minot. Perhaps the signature moment was a victory at Minot in late January. That win kick-started a season-high six game unbeaten streak. The squad has three players in double figures in points and it's go-to-player is Elijah Klein. The senior standout is a matchup nightmare and he averages nearly a double-double (points-rebounds). Several other players have provided consistent scoring and quality minutes, including junior Jayce Lowman. Another key piece to the puzzle as been the return of guard Jaxon Wiest from injury. The senior's defensive play and passing has been a shot in the arm for the squad.

The Braves have reached the state tournament in each of the past two seasons and last time the program made it three years in a row was part of a stretch of five consecutive appearances (2009-13). The squad has a good chance to do that if it can continue

its balanced scoring and strong defense.

Team Leaders (Per game average): Points: E. Klein, 19.5; Rebounds: Klein, 9.8; Assists: J. Wiest, 4.1; Steals: T. Thimmony, 1.3; Blocks: Klein, 1.1

### #5 Dickinson (12-9 Overall; 12-8 WDA)

The Midgits won just seven games last season, none against teams with a winning record.

Well, that changed in a hurry this season. Dickinson picked up a road win at perennial power Minot in early December and also earned three more victories over teams with above .500 records, including one over WDA regular season champ Jamestown. Indeed, it's been a turnaround season for Dickinson which had to qualify for the region quarterfinal round the past two seasons with play-in victories.

Much of the success has centered around pair of standout seniors - Kobe Krenz and Jaiden Wright. The two average 20 or more points per game and their scoring prowess makes it difficult for teams to contain Dickinson's offense, which averages 72 points per game. The team does have other contributors, including senior Tallon Klatt, who is among the WDA leaders in rebounding and block shots. If there is any area of concern, it's on defense. The squad allows just shy of 70 points a game.

Dickinson's last trip to the Class A Tournament was 2017. The squad finished third with 23 wins. This is a veteran team and has good shot to get back there, if their offense stays hot.

Team Leaders (Per game average): Points: K. Krenz, 24.5; Rebounds: T. Klatt, 8.7; Assists: Krenz, 3.0; Steals: Krenz, 2.9; Blocks: Klatt, 1.1

### #6 Legacy (14-8 Overall; 12-8 WDA)

The Sabers are not your typical sixth seed. They have 14 wins, including a pair over No. 2 seed Bismarck High and a victory over No. 3 Minot.

The program has proven it can get on a roll, illustrated by a six-game winning streak in the second half of the season.

And it knows how to be the underdog. Legacy was the No. 6 seed at last season's regional and navigated its way to a first-ever Class A Tournament appearance.

The question is can the squad do it again? Legacy is among the WDA leaders in team defense, allowing just a tick over 60 points per game. It is in the top-half in steals per game as well. Offensively, the Sabers have several players who can score (six averaging seven or more points per game). Senior Rhett Clements leads the way with 16 ppg. He is among the WDA leaders in points and rebounding. Junior Keagan Woodbury also is in double figures and is among the conference leaders in steals. That balanced attack and defense will be key for the squad's chances of returning to the state tournament.

The team doesn't have much size, so quickness and good positioning are needed to be effective on the glass to prevent, and create second-chance scoring opportunities.

Team Leaders (Per game average): Points: R. Clements, 16.5; Rebounds: Clements, 7.5; Assists: K. Woodbury, 3.8; Steals: Woodbury, 1.8; Blocks: Clements, 0.7

#7 Century (12-10 Overall; 11-9 WDA)

The last time the Patriots entered the West Region Tournament seeded this low was 2007. But don't let the No. 7 seed fool you. This year's Patriot squad has plenty of traits that resemble the teams that won region and state titles just a few years ago. Among them is playing solid defense and taking care of the basketball. Century is among the conference leaders in points allowed and first in fewest turnovers. The team also possesses one of the conferences's top all-around players in senior Cade Feeney. He is averaging 20 points per game, despite getting a lot of the attention of opponents. He is also among the WDA leaders in steals. Ian Ely has also been a key contrib-

utor this season. The junior averages in double figures in points and leads the team in rebounding. Nine of Century's 10 losses have come to teams with winning records and it has not dropped more than two games in a row. At first take, that is a good thing. It reveals the team is able to regroup quickly and get back to winning basketball. However, the squad is going to need a couple wins over some talented teams this week to extend its Class A Tournament appearance streak to eight years in a row. Will this team rise to the occasion yet again? Team Leaders (Per game average): Points: C. Feeney, 20.6; Rebounds: I. Ely, 4.6; Assists: Feeney, 2.6; Steals: Feeney, 2.5; Blocks: R. Erikson, 0.5

#8 Williston (7-15 Overall; 5-15 WDA)

The Coyotes return to the quarterfinal round of the West Region Tournament for the first time since 2016. Oddly enough, the only team in the quarterfinal field Williston had success against was top seed Jamestown. Despite a late-season win over the Blue Jays, the squad will be the underdog in its tournament matchups. A return to the conference quarterfinals is a step forward for the program which last won five or more conference games in a season in 2010. The seven overall victories is three more than a season ago and the team also boasted a three-game win streak in late January. All but one of the victories came at home, so finding success outside of

Jon Cole Gymnasium has been a challenge. A trio of players have provided steady offense this season Junior Joren Everson's 17.3 ppg leads the way. Senior point guard Wil Olson has also been a key contributor. Senior Garret Hill leads in rebounds and steals. Williston's chances of picking up two wins this week are slim, but the squad has demonstrated it can be competitive against good teams for stretches of time. The question is can they put together a complete 36-minute effort. Team Leaders (Per game average): Points: J. Everson, 17.3; Rebounds: G. Hill, 6.9; Assists: W. Olson, 3.3; Steals: G. Hill, 1.6; Blocks: G. Hill, 0.8

WDA/West Region Tournament History

Championship Game

2019: Jamestown 71, Mandan 63  
2018: Century 71, Jamestown 29  
2017: Century 70, Minot 64  
2016: Minot 82, Century 69  
2015: Minot 69, Century 42  
2014: Century 53, Bismarck High 32  
2013: St. Mary's 63, Century 50  
2012: Mandan 63, Bismarck High 62  
2011: Bismarck High 56, Century 44  
2010: Bismarck High 50, Mandan 48  
2009: Mandan 65, Williston 63  
2008: Bismarck High 76, Minot 75  
2007: Bismarck High 70, Dickinson 55  
2006: Minot 72, Bismarck High 66 (OT)  
2005: Bismarck High 55, Mandan 44  
2004: Bismarck High 55, Williston 51  
2003: Bismarck High 68, St. Mary's 50  
2002: St. Mary's 57, Minot 35  
2001: Bismarck High 53, Century 49  
2000: Bismarck High 52, Century 48  
1999: Minot 63, Bismarck High 61  
1998: Bismarck High 63, Minot 58  
1997: Century 70, TMCHS Belcourt 62  
1996: Minot 68, Mandan 55  
1995: Bismarck High 70, Minot 61  
1994: Bismarck High 44, Mandan 41  
1993: TMCHS Belcourt 54, Century 53  
1992: Minot 54, Century 39  
1991: Bismarck High 62, Century 51  
1990: Williston 84, Minot 72  
1989: Century 83, Minot 67  
1988: Bismarck High 62, Minot 55  
1987: Bismarck High 57, Minot 54  
1986: Minot 58, Williston 52  
1985: Minot 62, Williston 49  
1984: Century 54, St. Mary's 49  
1983: Century 59, St. Mary's 52  
1982: Williston 52, Century 39  
1981: St. Mary's 55, Minot 48

Other State Qualifiers

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

Titles by Team: Bismarck High, 15; Minot, 8; Century, 7; St. Mary's, 3; Mandan, 2; Williston, 2; TMCHS, 1; Jamestown, 1

Note: From 1981-1990, 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 1991-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