



Boys', girls' soccer top 10

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BOYS' SOCCER TOP 10

- 1. Apple Valley:** The defending Lake Conference champion Eagles return their top eight scorers. They are looking to make their fourth consecutive appearance in the state tournament field.
- 2. Bloomington Jefferson:** Seven starters are back from the third-place state tournament squad of a year ago. The Jaguars will be strong in the midfield and on defense.
- 3. Osseo:** Only four starters returning, but defending Class 2A champions.
- 4. Eden Prairie:** Eagles remain strong even when they are reloading like this season. Their only two defeats a year ago were to Bloomington Jefferson.
- 5. Stillwater:** The Ponies are always sound defensively. This year will be no different.
- 6. Totino-Grace:** Class 1A tournament runner-up looks to be better in 2009.
- 7. Wayzata:** Players are hungry to continue their winning tradition. A strong midfield group will set the tone.

8. Woodbury: The Royals program is on the upswing. They only lost three games (two to Stillwater) in 2008, all by one goal.

9. St. Paul Central: Solid returning group has Minutemen eyeing back-to-back St. Paul City titles.

10. Minneapolis Southwest: The Lakers have a strong senior class, led by midfielder Edi Becerra. Their young defensive corp will be key.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

F--Brian Grand, North Branch, sr.

F--David Rosenthal, Apple Valley, sr.

F--Lawrence Talery, Coon Rapids, sr.

M--Edi Becerra, Minneapolis Southwest, sr.

M--Carlos Contreras, White Bear Lake, sr.

M--Kyle Erickson, Tartan, sr.

M--Ryan Goddard, Bloomington Jefferson, sr.

M--Sam Kessler, Hopkins, sr.

M--Isaac Kannah, Cooper, jr.

M--Eric Miller, Woodbury, jr.

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M--Paul Yonga, Totino-Grace, sr.

D--Bijan Jabari, Apple Valley, sr.

D--Joe Laue, Holy Angels, sr.

G--Brett Ylonen, Stillwater, jr.

G--Tyler Sanford, Minnetonka, sr.

GIRLS' SOCCER TOP 10

1. Woodbury: Five state championships (1999, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2008) in the previous 10 years.

2. Eden Prairie: New coach Tony Bidwell inherits a program that has reached the state tournament finals three of the past four years, winning the crown in 2005.

3. Wayzata: Young squad of a year ago that lost to Woodbury in the state tournament semifinals will be better in 2009. Thirteen players return from that roster.

4. Edina: Only setback in 2008 came at the hands of Eden Prairie in a shootout in the section finals. Hornets have plenty of talent returning.

5. Eastview: Fourteen players are back from last year's surprising 20-victory campaign. The Lightning has only lost one regular- season game each of the past two years.

6. Coon Rapids: Young forwards will ignite Cardinals' offensive attack.

7. Mounds View: Ten players return from last year's state tournament squad. The Mustangs will be strong defensively, and have depth.

8. Eagan: Scoring shouldn't be a problem. Defense will determine fate.

9. Bloomington Jefferson: Jaguars coming off 16-4 season and will be solid in the midfield.

10. Benilde-St. Margaret's: Only lost four players from last year's Class 1A third-place team.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

F--Shelby Funfar, Coon Rapids, jr.

F--Mary Krambeer, Park Center, jr.

F--Jordin Melchert, Simley, sr.

F--Olivia Schultz, Holy Angels, jr.

F--Catherine Sessions, Woodbury, sr.

F--Julie Sierks, Edina, sr.

F--Taylor Uhl, Eden Prairie, jr.

F--Maren Werth, Bloomington Jefferson, sr.

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M--Taylor Bare, Anoka, sr.

M--Lauren Bauer, Eagan, sr.

M--Caitlin Graboski, Woodbury, sr.

M--Brianne Price, Eastview, jr.

M--Nicole Sheehan, Maple Grove, sr.

D--Kassey Kallman, Woodbury, sr.

G--Maddie Jobe, Benilde-St. Margaret's, sr.

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