

Hesse, Mathiowetz, Kottkes lead 2023-24 All-Journal Team

First Team

Kadence Hesse, Sr.,

G, Sleepy Eye

Hesse finishes her career as the Indians' all-time points (2,750), assists (526) and steals (529) leader, along with achieving 1,020 career rebounds. A three-time team captain and four-time Unanimous All-Conference selection, Hesse averaged 23.7 points, 9 rebounds, 6.1 assists and 5.5 steals per game this season. She also took home her second Tomahawk Conference Player of the Year and was an All-State Honorable Mention. Hesse will play college basketball at Southwest Minnesota State University next winter.

Morgan Mathiowetz, Fr., G, St. Mary's

Surpassing 1,000 career points in just her freshman season, Mathiowetz is separating herself as one of the top players in the area. Mathiowetz averaged 28.9 points, 8.2 rebounds, 4.1 assists and 3.1 steals per game this season, leading the Knights to a Section 2A, North Subsection runner-up finish. Mathiowetz earned her second All-Conference selection and an All-State Honorable Mention this year. She currently has 1,374 career points.

Rachel Kottke, Sr.,

G, BLHS

A three-time all-conference player and two-time all-state player, Rachel Kottke demonstrated the fundamentals and techniques necessary to be an outstanding teammate. The Mustangs' floor general and two-time captain, Kottke's leadership was a big part of the team's success in a 29-4 season. Kottke averaged 17.8 points, 6.2 assists, 5.9 rebounds and 3.6 steals, finishing her prep career with 1,834 points, 770 rebounds, 796 assists and 464 steals, with her assists total being a school record and top 10 in state prep history and her steals placing second only to her twin sister, Kristi, in school history. Kottke also tied the school single-season 3-point record with 101 made 3s and plans on attending St. Cloud State University to play basketball.

Kristi Kottke, Sr.,

G, BLHS

Kristi Kottke pairs great footwork and basketball IQ on defense with solid 3-point range and a hard work ethic to claim her second All-Conference selection this season. Kottke averaged 17.1 points, 6.4 rebounds, 6.8 assists and 4.2 steals this year and finishes her career with 1,794 points, 911 rebounds and 682 assists, setting the school record in steals with 464. These numbers helped Kottke to an All-State Honorable Mention. Kottke will be attending St. Cloud State University with her sister, Rachel.

Lily Hubin, So.,

G, BLHS

A slasher whose length and athleticism make her a threat on offense, Hubin made great strides this last season and stepped up defensively to help take BLHS to the state tournament. Hubin led the team in scoring with 20 points per game and surpassed 1,000 career points this year, setting school records for points in a season (664) and tying the 3-point season record (101). Hubin has also averaged 6 rebounds and 3 steals per game on her way to a Tomahawk All-Conference selection.

Second Team

Aubrey Steffl, Fr., G, Cedar Mountain

Steffl shot 42% from the field and averaged 18.8 points per game this season to go along with 7.7 rebounds, 5.9 assists and 4.2 steals, earning a Unanimous All-Conference selection. Steffl surpassed 1,000 career points this year as well, scoring a career-high 36 points in a Christmas tournament. As a freshman, she has over 1,200 career points and 550 career rebounds. Steffl was the lead playmaker for the Cougars while improving her outside shot significantly. Cedar Mountain head coach Brook Christensen said Steffl has the ability to work hard to become one of the best players in the Tomahawk.

Daviney Dreckman, Sr.,

F, New Ulm

Despite tearing her ACL twice in her career and missing the final eight games of her senior season, Dreckman managed to score 1,000 points for her career, finishing with 1,301. This season, Dreckman averaged 16.8 points, 6.2 rebounds, 2.6 steals and 1.9 assists as a team captain. Dreckman was an All-State Honorable Mention and Minnesota Miss Basketball Finalist. Dreckman also holds the school record for most rebounds in a game with 18.

Morgan Hulke, Jr.,

G, New Ulm

A 1,000-point scorer for the Eagles in her junior year, Hulke averaged 15 points per game and shot 44% from 3-point range. Hulke also averaged 3.9 rebounds, 1.8 assists and 1.7 steals for the 21-7 Eagles.

Brooklyn Sturm, Sr.,

F, Springfield

A four-time All-Conference selection, Sturm led the Tigers in points (15.2 ppg), rebounds (13 rpg), assists (128), steals (90) and blocked shots (79), all while shooting 34.7% on 3s and 44.4% inside the arc. Sturm achieved 1,643 points and 1,057 rebounds in her career, along with 304 assists, 283 steals and 258 blocks as she led the Tigers to the Section 2A championship game.

Brea Mertz, Sr.,

F, Sleepy Eye

Mertz is a three-time Unanimous All-Conference selection and earned an All-State Honorable Mention this season, averaging 17.4 points, 8.8 rebounds and 3.8 steals, as well as leading the team in blocks and field goal percentage. Mertz finishes her career at Sleepy Eye with 1,957 points (second all-time), 1,094 rebounds, 254 assists, 320 steals and 171 blocks. Mertz will play college basketball next season at Briar Cliff in Sioux City, Iowa.

Third Team

Leah Bode, Jr.,

G/F, Nicollet

A Valley All-Conference player for the Raiders, Bode led Nicollet in points and rebounds this season, averaging 16.2 points, 9.4 rebounds, 2.9 steals and 2.4 assists per game. This is Bode's second All-Conference season and second season leading Nicollet in scoring. Nicollet head coach Sarah Strobel said that Bode was strong in the paint as well as a good shooter and driver.

Jenna Hotovec, Sr.,

G, Cathedral

Hotovec was an All-Conference Honorable Mention this season after averaging 15.7 points, 7.4 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 2.8 steals per game. She was named the team MVP after finishing her career with 1,228 points, second all-time for Cathedral girls basketball. Cathedral head coach Dave Wilfahrt described Hotovec as a leader for the Greyhounds and a fierce competitor whose leadership on and off the court was impressive and helped her teammates improve as players and people.

Brooklyn Lewis, So.,

G, New Ulm

Lewis missed 12 games this season with a broken wrist, but in the games she did play, she was one of New Ulm's top scoring options, averaging 14.7 points, 3.1 rebounds, 3.7 steals and 2.7 assists. When Lewis was out with injury, she became a player-coach for the Eagles, contributing during practices and games with what she was seeing from the sidelines.

Maddie Backer, Jr.,

G, New Ulm

The Eagles' top perimeter defender, Backer was often also asked to carry the load offensively with the injuries the team sustained over the year. In that role, Backer nearly doubled her assist total from a year ago, averaging 4.1 per game to lead the team. Backer also posted averages of 10.8 points, 3.3 rebounds and 2.6 steals, for a total of 65 steals, leading the team.

Emma Hauger, Jr.,

G, Springfield

After missing last season with a torn ACL, Hauger had a strong return this year, averaging 14.7 points and 4.8 rebounds per game on her way to her first All-Conference selection. Hauger was also the team's top perimeter defender, being tasked with guarding the opposing team's best player and handled her point guard duties well, averaging less than three turnovers per game.

Honorable Mention

Savannah Klockziem, Jr., G, Nicollet (13.8 ppg, 8.5 rpg, 2.3 spg)

Natalie Fischer, So., G, St. Mary's (13.1 ppg, 3.3 rpg)

Avery Carlson, Sr., G, Wabasso (11.7 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 2.8 apg)

Jenna Schweiss, Sr., G, GFW (11 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 3.5 apg, 2.9 spg)

Shay Wilfahrt, So., F, Cathedral (10 ppg, 10.1 rpg)

