

DOMINANT PERFORMANCE CAPS PERFECT SEASON

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THE BASICS

- ❖ **Final Score: Wisconsin Lutheran 83, Pewaukee 62**
- ❖ **Rankings:** Wisconsin Lutheran: D2 #1 (#1 sectional & state seed) / Pewaukee: D2 #2 (#1 sectional seed, #2 state seed)
- ❖ **Records:** Wisconsin Lutheran: 30-0 (12-0 Woodland West) / Pewaukee: 25-5 (10-2 Woodland West)
- ❖ **Location and Date:** Kohl Center / March 16, 2024

HOW IT HAPPENED

- ❖ The Vikings never trailed and led by as many as 29 points in claiming the third state title in program history (2009, 2014) and finishing off a perfect 30-0 season. Zavier Zens got the scoring started with a triple on the game's first possession and buckets from Kon Knueppel, Logan Rindfleisch, and Trey Raabe helped Wisco to an early 16-13 lead.

- ❖ On a night when their offense would put up historic numbers, it was the Viking defense that helped them seize control of the game for good. Wisco forced stops on 11 of Pewaukee's final 14 possessions of the first half, holding them to 3-of-10 shooting and forcing four turnovers in that time. Meanwhile, a three from Knueppel kicked off a 22-7 run to end the half. Zens connected twice more from behind the arc during that stretch and Isaiah Mellock scored seven points. When Mellock found Alex Greene for a layup just before the buzzer, the Vikings went into the locker room with a stunning 38-20 lead.
- ❖ With a perfect season in sight, Wisco kept up the focus and intensity. Treys from Rindfleisch, Zens, and Grayson Young kept the pressure on the defense to stay spread, as the Vikings opened up a 56-31 lead six minutes into the second half.
- ❖ The Pirates attempted to stay in the game by hoisting 15 three-point attempts in the second half. While they did connect on seven of them, their misses led to fast-break opportunities on the other end for Wisco. The Vikings collected 12 transition points, and when slowed up, broke down the Pewaukee defense in the half-court. With Knueppel drawing the bulk of the defensive attention, he took on the role of distributor, handing out nine assists in the second half alone. The sharing was contagious--15 of the team's 18 second-half field goals came off of an assist.
- ❖ The Wisco regulars stretched the lead all the way to 81-52 by scoring on 14 of their final 15 possessions--including the last eight in a row--before exiting to thunderous applause from the Viking faithful with just under two minutes left.

KEY NUMBERS

- ❖ The Vikings set a new state record by shooting 68% (34-for-50) from the floor. They assisted on 22 of those field goals, setting a new Division 2 state record.
- ❖ Kon Knueppel set a new Division 2 state record with 11 assists to go along with 11 points. It was the 11th double-double of the season for Knueppel, who shot 61% in the postseason and averaged 9.5 assists per game in the sectional and state brackets.
- ❖ Zavier Zens was a perfect 5-for-5 from the field in the first half and finished with 16 points on 6-for-7 shooting. He added three rebounds, three assists, and three steals.
- ❖ Logan Rindfleisch was 9-for-11 from the floor to lead all scorers with 20 points, completing an excellent postseason run in which he averaged 17.5 points per game and put up 20 or more points four times. Five rebounds and three assists rounded out an excellent effort.
- ❖ Isaiah Mellock (11 points, three rebounds, three assists) and Alex Greene (11 points, five rebounds) each cracked double figures, with Trey Raabe (nine points) right behind.

FOR THE FOES

- ❖ Nick Janowski and Luca Momcilovich led Pewaukee with 13 points apiece.
- ❖ The Pirates were outrebounded 28-17 and outscored 50-20 in the paint.

HISTORY

- ❖ [All-Time Series](#): The Vikings lead Pewaukee 12-11. The teams have met eight times in the postseason, with Wisco holding a 5-3 advantage. Neither program has won a state championship without defeating the other in the postseason.
- ❖ The state finals win caps a season in which Wisco tied a state record for wins in a season (30), knocked off 11 ranked teams (including three victories over #1 ranked squads), went 5-0 in the regular season against

eventual state qualifiers (and 3-0 against sectional runners-up), and rose as high as #6 in the nation in the MaxPreps rankings.

- ❖ Head Coach Ryan Walz became just the 15th coach in state history with at least three state titles.
- ❖ Besides the state records listed above, the 2024 Vikings set program records in several areas:
 - Wins in a season (30)
 - Points per Game (80.5)
 - Offensive Efficiency / Points per Possession (132.7 / 1.327)
 - Scoring Margin (+25.4)
 - Efficiency Margin (+41.8)
 - Effective FG Percentage (62.9%)
 - Three-Point FG Percentage (40.0%)
- ❖ Kon Knueppel graduates holding [11 different program records](#), including the career marks in points (1978), rebounds (808), and assists (398).