



Minnesota Hockey Coaches Association

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MHCA ANNOUNCES COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS AND ACADEMIC CHAMPIONS For Immediate Release March 17, 2011

The Minnesota Hockey Coaches Association has named its 2011 section and state coach of the year recipients along with the Class A and AA academic state champions.

The John Mariucci Awards, as the state coaches of the year, go to Bruce Plante of Hermantown and Mark DeCenzo of Hibbing in Class A, while White Bear Lake's Tim Sager is the award recipient in Class AA.

Plante led his Hawks to a 25-4-2 mark and the Class A championship game, where Hermantown dropped a 5-4 overtime decision to St. Thomas Academy.

Hibbing returned to the state tournament under DeCenzo's leadership after a six-year absence, falling in the third-place game of the Class A event to finish with an 18-11-2 record on the season.

Sager's Bears upset number-one ranked Hill-Murray to reach the Class AA state tournament for the first time since 2005. White Bear Lake finished the season 22-7-2 while winning the Suburban East Conference title.

Hermantown's Craig Peterson was named the Class A assistant coach of the year while Chris Anderson of White Bear Lake received that honor in Class AA.

Repeating as academic state champions are Litchfield-Dassel-Cokato (3.70 grade point average) in Class A and Eden Prairie (3.86 GPA) in Class AA. The Class AA honor is the third consecutive award for head coach Lee Smith and the Eagles, who also won their second state championship in three seasons. Eden Prairie earned the only Gold honor in the state (GPA above 3.75).

SECTION COACHES OF THE YEAR

Section 1A

Head Coaches—Chris Lonke, New Prague/Roy Nystrom, Albert Lea
Assistant Coaches—Bob Rajanen, Red Wing*

Section 2A

Head Coach—Tim Donahue, St. Louis Park
Assistant Coach—Dick Emhaiser, Providence Academy

Section 3A

Head Coach—Erik Setterholm, New Ulm*
Assistant Coach—Tom Macho, Sleepy Eye

Section 4A

Head Coach—Corey McKinnon, Chisago Lakes
Assistant Coach—Steve Houge, St. Paul Johnson

Section 5A

Head Coach—Bruce Plante, Hermantown
Assistant Coach—Craig Peterson, Hermantown

Section 6A

Head Coach—Scott Woods, Alexandria*
Assistant Coach—Mike Alt, Fergus Falls

Section 7A

Head Coach—Mark DeCenzo, Hibbing*
Assistant Coach—Dave Grannis, Marshall School

Section 8A

Head Coach—Mike Pepera, Lake of the Woods
Assistant Coach—Tim Lyon/Curt Bitter, Lake of the Woods

Section 1AA

Head Coach—Randy Schmitz, Lakeville North*
Assistant Coach—Paul Rutt, Lakeville North*

Section 2AA

Head Coach—Joe Pankratz, Prior Lake
Assistant Coaches—Dave Klein, Chanhassen

Section 3AA

Head Coach—Mike Taylor, Eagan
Assistant Coach—Todd Carlson, Eagan

Section 4AA

Head Coach—Tim Sager, White Bear Lake
Assistant Coach—Chris Anderson, White Bear Lake

Section 5AA

Head Coach—Dave Aus, Blaine
Assistant Coach—Scott Richert, Blaine

Section 6AA

Head Coach—Todd Weisjahn, Robbinsdale Armstrong
Assistant Coach—Tim Lloyd, Robbinsdale Armstrong

Section 7AA

Head Coaches—Bruce LaRoque, Grand Rapids
Assistant Coach—Terry Johnson, Duluth East

Section 8AA

Head Coach—Wade Chiodo, Bemidji
Assistant Coaches—Kevin Williamson, Bemidji

*-Repeat winner from 2010

— more —

SECTION ACADEMIC TEAM HONORS

Section 1A

Northfield, Silver Award, 3.50 GPA

Section 2A

Orono, Silver Award, 3.64 GPA
Delano, Silver Award, 3.50 GPA
Mound-Westonka, Silver Award, 3.50 GPA

Section 3A

Litchfield-Dassel-Cokato, Silver Award, 3.70 GPA

Section 4A

Totino-Grace, Silver Award, 3.51 GPA

Section 5A

St. Cloud Cathedral, Silver Award, 3.50 GPA

Section 6A

Willmar, Silver Award, 3.65 GPA
Sartell-St. Stephen, Silver Award, 3.59 GPA
Little Falls, Silver Award, 3.54 GPA

Section 7A

None

Section 8A

Warroad, Silver Award, 3.56 GPA

Section 1AA

Lakeville North, Silver Award, 3.61 GPA
Lakeville South, Silver Award, 3.53 GPA

Section 2AA

Burnsville, Silver Award, 3.62 GPA

Section 3AA

Eastview, Silver Award, 3.61 GPA
Apple Valley, Silver Award, 3.56 GPA
Cretin-Derham Hall, Silver Award, 3.56 GPA

Section 4AA

Roseville, Silver Award, 3.66 GPA

Section 5AA

Centennial, Silver Award, 3.57 GPA
White Bear Lake, Silver Award, 3.55 GPA
Maple Grove, Silver Award, 3.50 GPA

Section 6AA

Eden Prairie, Gold Award, 3.86 GPA
Hopkins, Silver Award, 3.60 GPA

Section 7AA

Grand Rapids, Silver Award, 3.70 GPA

Section 8AA

Bemidji, Silver Award, 3.53 GPA
Monticello, Silver Award, 3.51 GPA