



March 16, 2025

Dear DePaul Prep Students, Families, Alumni, and Friends,

With a 55-52 instant classic double-overtime victory over Br. Rice on Saturday evening at the State Farm Center in Champaign, IL, the DePaul College Prep boys basketball team captured 1st Place in the IHSA Class 3A State Tournament! With this win, the Rams secured the third consecutive State Championship - a Three-Peat - making them one of only 5 teams (East St. Louis, Peoria Manual, Simeon, and Orr are the others) in the state to accomplish this feat - simply amazing! Senior Makai Kvamme led the Rams with 16 points, 9 rebounds, and 4 assists, and Junior Rashaun Porter filled the stat sheet with 14 pts, 11 rebounds, 5 steals, and 1 timely block to keep the game tied late in the contest. The boys qualified for the State Championship Game by defeating Chatham Glenwood in the State Final Semi-Final Game on Thursday, March 13.

The IHSA State Finals were filled with a shootaround, photoshoots, media press conferences, and fun activities for all the State Final teams, and, of course, the incredible basketball games. Everywhere the DePaul Prep team went, people commented how nice the boys were and how excited they were to watch them play. Our team had wins both on and off the court all weekend.

In Thursday's Semi-Final contest vs the tough and disciplined Glenwood team, the Rams struggled to score in the first half but dominated on the defensive end of the floor. The team used an 11-0 run to start the 3rd quarter to earn a 39-25 win. The Rams were led by junior Rykan Woo's 12 pts, 6 rebounds, 5 assists, 4 steals, and an amazing hustle play to stop a fast break and give the Rams the ball at a crucial moment in the first half.

There was no relaxing for the team, however, as they used Friday to practice and watch film to prepare for Saturday's championship game. Head Coach Tom Kleinschmidt and Assistant Coaches Michael Sneed and Kenny Gryzwa worked around the clock from late Thursday night to late Friday afternoon finalizing the game plan, culminating with a film session and walkthrough in the hotel conference room on Friday evening at 9pm and one final practice and walk through Saturday morning.



In the State Championship game, the Rams and Br. Rice both started out slow as the Chicago Catholic League rivals tried to figure out each other's game plan. The teams exchanged blows from the middle of the first quarter through the rest of the game. Br. Rice made the game's first big run, getting a 9pt lead on the Rams through the middle of the 4th quarter. During the media timeout, Coach Kleinschmidt switched from his smothering half court defense to a full court frenzied press. The results of the press and the explosion in scoring by Makai Kvamme brought the Rams back and Rykan Woo's clutch 3 free throws tied the game at 40 and forced overtime - what a comeback! The two teams exchanged 3-pt shots early in the first OT and then both teams went scoreless forcing a 2nd OT. Kvamme scored a jumper in the lane to start the 2nd OT, and timely baskets by Kvamme and Porter and clutch free throw shooting by senior Rob Walls sealed the victory for the Rams! What. A. Game! The Rams earned the Championship trophy and ended the season with a 33-4 final record. It was another historic season for our boys basketball team and the DePaul Prep community.

We are proud to celebrate the 3rd Basketball State Championship in school history! Combine the 2025, 2024, and 2023 State Championship wins, a 3rd place finish in State twice (2019, 2022), and achieving a #1 ranking in the State in 2021 (no State tournament because of COVID), and you have a 7 year run that is nothing short of spectacular for the boys basketball program!

It's a great season to be a DePaul Prep Ram!

Be Positive! Pass It On!

Patrick M. Mahoney
Director of Athletics



Highlights

While at State Finals, juniors Rashaun Porter and Rykan Woo were named 1st Team All State while senior Makai Kvamme earned 3rd Team All State by the Illinois Basketball Coach Association (IBCA).

Seniors Rob Walls, Jonas Johnson, and Gus Donohue were fantastic leaders and performers all year and junior AJ Chambers had a wonderful season and made tremendous contributions at the State Finals. The experience of the seniors passed on to the underclassman ensures that the future is bright!

Shout out to the Student Section, Parents, Alumni, and DePaul Prep Administration and Faculty for their tremendous support this weekend - your presence was felt and appreciated.

The State Finals were not only a fun event for the boys team, it was also a wonderful opportunity for our entire school community to experience Championship excitement. The cheer team was in attendance for both games and brought great spirit as they do for all our sports teams - the cheer team and coaches are amazing! Our phenomenally supportive parents, six busloads of students and many more who drove down on their own, and a large contingent of administrators and faculty, led by President Mary Dempsey and Principal Dr. Megan Stanton-Anderson, established a huge DePaul Prep presence at both the Semi-Final and State Championship games this week.

Behind the Scenes

Coach Tom Kleinschmidt passed the 300 victory mark as a head coach this year and also earned the Tony Lawless Coach of the Year in the Chicago Catholic League. Coach Kleinschmidt and top Assistant Coaches Michael Sneed and Kenny Gryzwa are the masterminds leading the basketball program, but many people help make the program run smoothly. Special thanks and recognition to assistant coaches Dillion Sneed, Christian Joya, and Keenan Franklin who helped with video work and took care of many of the logistics on the trip. Thanks to Athletic Trainer Whitney Carter who kept our players healthy and safe and Johnny "Maz" Maciaszkiewicz who kept a great scorebook. Extra special thanks to Assistant Athletic Directors Sam Colon and Caroline Gajzler, and Chris Petersen, Dean of Student Activities and Student Life, for coordinating an exciting few days for our students! We are blessed with great people in our school community.