

1992 NDHSAA CLASS A GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

FARGO SOUTH BRUINS



1992 Fargo South Bruins Girls Basketball Team: Front row (L to R): Carrie Peterson, Dana Carlson, Tara Rheault, Kelly Kosobud, Missy Hanson, Jenny Olsen Back row (L to R): Head Coach Craig Flaagan, Tonah Paulson, Elisha Kabanuk, Laura Kelly, Brandi Nord, Jill Lovell, Maria Heaton, Lesley Knuttila, Rachael Nyquist, Kate Prather, Assistant Coach Terry Stargardt.

Bruins edge Roughriders in OT to capture 1992 Class A GBB title

The 1992 North Dakota High School Activities Association Class A girls basketball state championship game went right down to the wire.

Overtime was needed to decide the final played at the Fargo Civic Center between Fargo South and Grand Forks Red River. Red River hit a basket with six seconds left in regulation to force overtime. The two squads were gridlocked at 46-46 entering the final seconds of overtime and the Bruins set up a play for the win.

Off a pick set by South forward Laura Kelly, South senior point guard Tonah Paulson had an option to shoot or find teammate Elisha Kabanuk on the perimeter for a 3-pointer attempt.

With Kabanuk guarded well and the Red River defense closing in, Paulson

instead passed inside to senior center Jill Lovell who got a layup to fall right as the final buzzer sounded. Lovell's layup, her first points of the game, helped the Bruins grab a 48-46 victory over the Roughriders.

The state championship was South's second in program history with the first coming in 1985.

First-year head coach Craig Flaagan guided a talented group in 1992 as the Bruins returned a senior class made up of Paulson, Lovell, Tara Rheault and Rachel Nyquist in addition to Kabanuk (junior) and Kelly (sophomore).

The Bruins won the Eastern Dakota Conference (EDC) regular-season championship and finished runner up to Red River in East Region Tournament prior to its run at state.

At state, South opened with a 64-44 win over Bismarck St. Mary's in the quarterfinals followed by a 47-38 victory over West Region top-seeded Minot in the semifinals.

A rematch with Red River was set. The Bruins would go onto avenge its East Region championship game loss to the Roughriders a week prior. Leading the way for South was Kabanuk, who finished with 21 points followed by Kelly, who scored 10.

Paulson, Kabanuk and Lovell were named to the All-Tournament team. Flaagan earned both EDC and Class A Coach of the Year honors in 1992.

Paulson and Kabanuk were also named to the Class A Girls Basketball All-State Team.