

## HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

# State hockey tournament starts today

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The Joe Marmo and Wayne Lehto Ice Arena at Tautphaus Park will host the Idaho Amateur Hockey Association State High School Tournament this weekend where 12 high schools from across the state will compete for the state title and a spot in the Rocky Mountain Regional tournament.

Of the local teams, Skyline is expected to be a top competitor.

"There's a wide range of competition," Hillcrest coach Gary Bowden said. "From our area, I believe Skyline will be the toughest."

The Grizzlies are 13-1 and undefeated this season on their home ice.

"Our intention is to win the state championship," Skyline coach Chris Blake said. "That's my expectation. We have a really strong team that is playing very well together and we have a lot of depth as well."

Skyline will face Idaho Falls in its first game at 8 a.m. today.

"We know we can beat Skyline," Idaho Falls coach Don Miley said, even though the Tigers have yet to this season. "Realistically, I think the kids would do a lot better if they believed in themselves more."

Outside the area, schools such as

Boise and Wood River look to provide tough competition.

"Probably the toughest team is from Wood River," Blake said. "They're going to be the team to beat."

Miley is looking forward to his team getting the chance to face some new competition.

"The teams from the Boise area are always very good," he said. "And Sun Valley's team (Wood River) is always great."

Idaho Falls already has one win in the tournament — a 8-1 win over Hillcrest played in an early game Tuesday.

"It's kind of funny because all these teams are coming in from out of town, and the teams we play are the teams we play here locally anyway," Idaho Falls center Kayla Latham said.

Latham is one of only five girls who compete locally at the high school level alongside the boys on either varsity or JV. And although it is a more physical game where checking is allowed, these girls have no fear.

"With the guys, you definitely have to keep your head more on a swivel because if there's guys out there who don't think you belong, they won't stop at anything to take you out," Latham said. "And then there's other guys that won't even touch you 'cause you're a girl."

We have to have our skills developed so we can handle the puck and get out of those situations."

Hillcrest is another team with a female player on its varsity team. DiDi Crighton is the Knight's goalkeeper.

"Being a goalie we don't take any checks, we just get sat on," Crighton said. "When you're in those pads, people don't think you're this little thing. You look like a 250-pound person but in reality you're only 100 pounds or something."

Bowden says he doesn't mind having girls on his team because they can keep up with the boys, but he gets mixed comments about it.

"There are still people that don't believe girls should play the sport. But if they can keep up with the boys, that says a lot for the girls."

"When we do earn the guys' respect, we really are a part of the team," Crighton said.

Hillcrest, whose JV and varsity hockey teams are comprised of kids from not only Hillcrest but also Bonnevile, Blackfoot, Shelley, Rigby and Madison, faces Immaculate Conception at 9:45 a.m.

Other competition includes Moscow, Eagle, Centennial, Timberline, Meridian and Salmon. Salmon begins the tourna-

## State hockey schedule

### Today

Skyline vs. Idaho Falls, 8 a.m.

Immaculate Conception vs. Hillcrest, 9:45 a.m.  
Timberline vs. Centennial, 11:30 a.m.

Skyline vs. Eagle, 1:15 p.m.

Salmon vs. Boise, 3 p.m.

Moscow vs. Immaculate Conception, 4:45 p.m.

Hillcrest vs. Eagle, 6:30 p.m.

Wood River vs. Meridian, 8:15 p.m.

### Saturday

Boise vs. Wood River, 6:30 a.m.

Moscow vs. Idaho Falls, 8:15 a.m.

Centennial vs. Salmon, 10 a.m.

Meridian vs. Timberline, 11:45 a.m.

Immaculate Conception vs. Skyline, 1:30 p.m.

Eagle vs. Moscow, 3:15 p.m.

Centennial vs. Wood River, 5 p.m.

Boise vs. Timberline, 6:45 p.m.

Salmon vs. Meridian, 8:30 p.m.

### Sunday

Semifinal game, 7 a.m.

Semifinal game, 8:45 a.m.

Championship game, 2 p.m.

ment with a 3 p.m. game today against Boise.

"We have never played these schools before, so as far as I'm concerned, it could go either way," Bowden said. "My expectations are the kids will give 100 percent. But the outcome of the games could go either way."