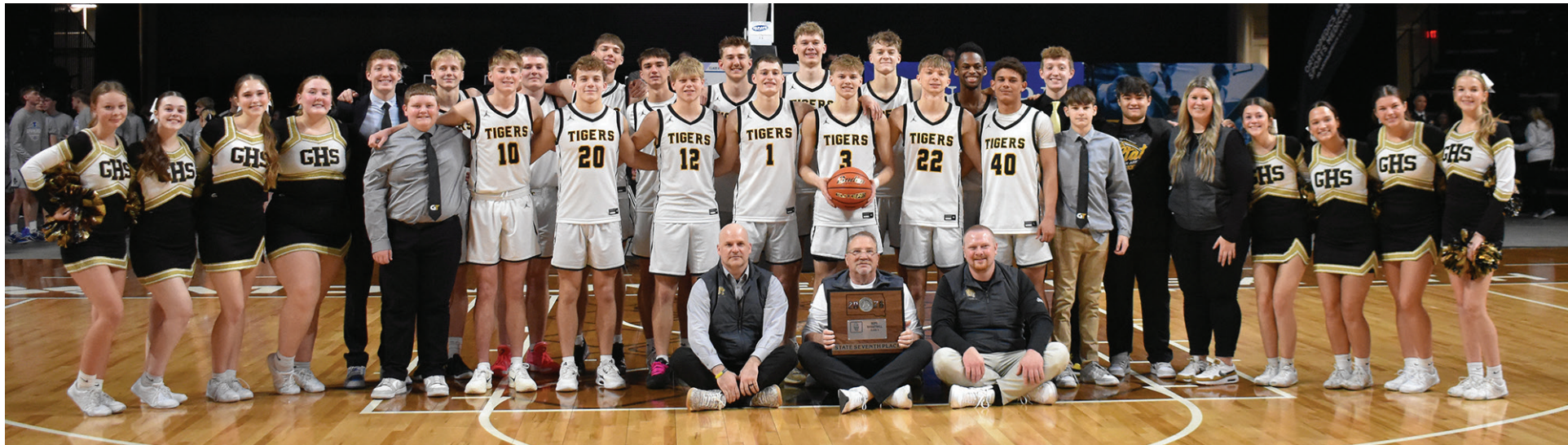
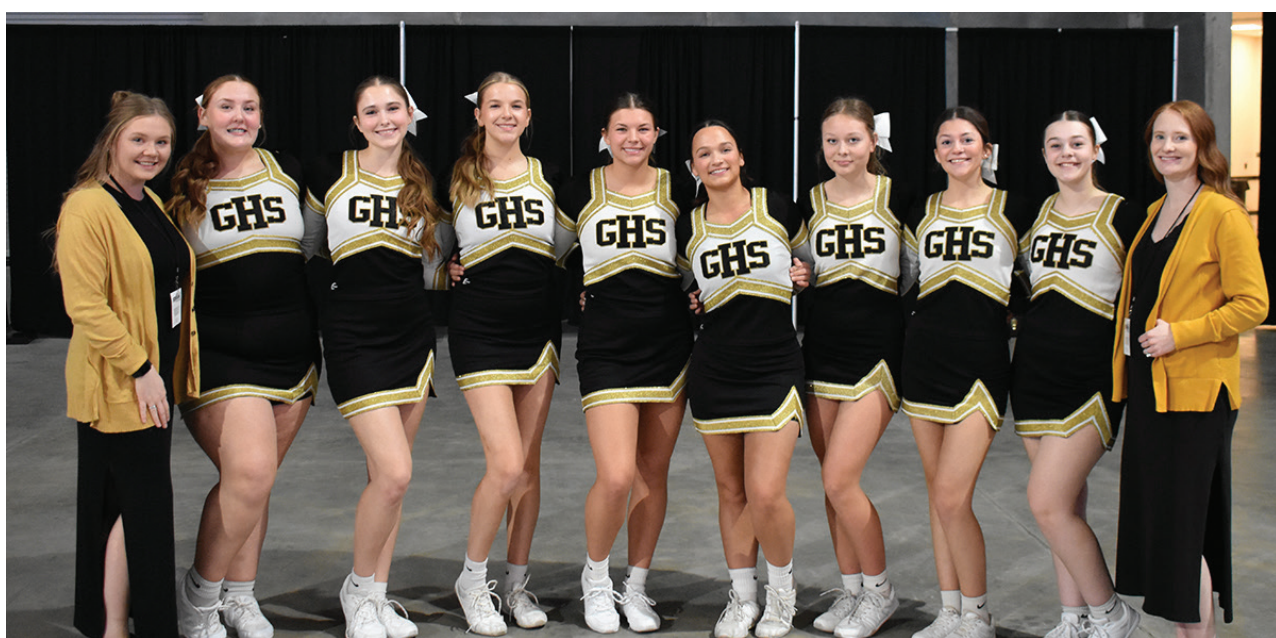


State A Boys Basketball Special Section The Groton Independent



The Groton Area Tigers capture seventh place at state. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



The GHS Cheerleaders are: Advisor Madisen Bjerke, Mya Feser, Elizabeth Cole, Adison Hoeft, Breslyn Jeschke, Paisley Mitchell, Rylie Rose, Natalia Warrington and Novalea Warrington and Advisor Aubray Miller. This will be the last year that Bjerke and Miller will serve as cheerleader advisors. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Assistant Coach Ryan Tracy, Head Coach Greg Kjellsen and Assistant Coach Jordan Carson walk onto the court. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The Groton Area crowd gathered together at the bottom of the escalator as the players went down it. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jim Aberle received a bag of goodies from Groton Area cheerleaders Novalea and Natalia Warrington. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jodi Schwan gets closeups of the medals on the table. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Chargers Use 3-Point Edge, Late Rebounds to Slip Past Groton Area in State A Opener

Hamlin 65, Groton Area 61



Keegen Tracy blocks this shot by Hamlin's Jacks Wadsworth. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Easton Weber tries to work his way closer to the basket. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Rapid City — A strong showing from Groton Area wasn't quite enough Thursday, as Hamlin used a decisive edge from beyond the arc and crucial second-chance plays in the final seconds to defeat the Tigers 65-61 in the opening round of the State A Boys Basketball Tournament.

The Chargers knocked down 10 three-pointers compared to five for Groton Area, a difference that loomed large in a game that was tight throughout.

Groton Area showed early control behind Karson Zak, who helped the Tigers build a 9-4 lead midway through the opening quarter. Gage Sippel added inside production as Groton looked sharp early.

But Hamlin answered with a pivotal first-half surge.

The Chargers strung together a 10-0 run, turning that 9-4 deficit into a 14-9 lead and shifting momentum behind timely perimeter shooting and strong interior play.

Hamlin extended the lead to 17-11 in the second quarter, but Groton Area responded with one of its strongest stretches of the game.

Zak continued to find success inside, while Keegen Tracy and Sippel added key baskets in the paint. The Tigers reclaimed the lead at 21-20 on a Tracy basket, and Becker Bosma added a three-point play. Zak's late bucket helped Groton take a 26-24 advantage into halftime.

The third quarter featured more swings.

Hamlin opened the half with a 6-0 run to regain the lead, but Groton countered again behind Zak and Sippel. The Tigers stayed within striking distance despite Hamlin's outside shooting.

Late in the quarter, Groton delivered a big momentum swing. Zak buried a 3-pointer with under a minute to play, and Easton Weber followed with a clutch triple at the buzzer to give the Tigers a 43-41 lead heading into the fourth.

The final period turned into a shootout.

Hamlin regained the lead early in the fourth and continued to rely on its perimeter shooting. Groton answered repeatedly, as Ryder Johnson and Weber hit key 3-pointers, and Weber's third triple gave the Tigers a 55-54 lead with under three minutes to play.

But Hamlin had one final push.

Boden Stevenson knocked down a go-ahead 3-pointer, then added a second-chance 3-pointer with 34 seconds remaining to stretch the lead to 61-57.

Groton refused to go away, as Zak scored twice in the closing seconds to pull the Tigers within one.

From there, the game was decided at the free-throw line — and on the glass.

With under 10 seconds remaining, Stevenson missed a pair of free throws, but Hamlin secured the offensive rebound. After Groton was forced to foul again, Jackson Wadsworth split a pair at the line to make it 63-61 — and once again, the Chargers grabbed the rebound on the miss.



Karson Zak drives to the basket. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Becker Bosma tries to work his way inside in front of Hamlin's Boden Stevenson. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

AVANTARA

- ORTHOPEDIC REHABILITATION
- OUTPATIENT THERAPY
- SHORT-TERM REHABILITATION
- SPECIALIZED CARE

1106 North 2nd St. • Groton, SD 57445
Phone: 605.397.2365

HARR Motors

When you're in the market for a new or used vehicle, contact your FAVORITE Sales Person!

Bary Keith
Sales

(605)216-6952
www.harrmotors.com

BK Custom T's

Becky Kotzer,
Owner
605-216-8894
www.bkcustomsd.com

BK Custom T's & More

Custom Apparel | Personalized Gifts | Fundraising Opportunities

Base Kamp Lodge
30 N. Main St.
Groton

Cassels House Inn & Events
501 N. 3rd St
Groton

Call us for a reservation.
605-377-0192 or 605-377-0225

PIONEER

Pioneer Seed

Crop Protection Products

Starter Fertilizer

Farm/Home Chemical and Fertilizer

BFS

Joel Bierman
605/290-0786
Jordan Steen
605/377-4210
Dylan Vogel
605-228-8370

Downtown Groton

BLOCKER CONSTRUCTION LLC

New Construction
Remodeling
Hoop Barns
Shops

Perry Blocker

605/216-2677



Ryder Johnson passes the ball off to teammate Keegen Tracy. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Moments later, Stevenson returned to the line and converted both free throws to seal the win.

"That was the difference right there," Groton Area head coach Greg Kjellsen said. "A couple free throws at the end, we didn't box out and get rebounds... just little things."

Zak led Groton Area with an efficient 23 points on 10-of-12 shooting, while Sippel added 12 points and six rebounds. Weber contributed nine points, including three clutch 3-pointers.

Hamlin was powered by Stevenson, who finished with 27 points, while Wadsworth added 20. The Chargers shot 52.6 percent from three-point range (10-of-19) compared to Groton's 35.7 percent (5-of-14).

"We didn't hit many perimeter shots until later in the game," Kjellsen said. "We haven't been a great three-point shooting team all season, and that showed a little bit. We hit some to keep us in it, but just came up short."

Despite the loss, Groton Area shot 54.5 percent from the field and stayed within a possession deep into the fourth quarter.

Kjellsen also pointed to a late-game substitution as something he wished he could have back.

"I was late getting Gage subbed back into the game, and that's my fault," he said. "Coaching blunder. Whether we get that rebound or not, I don't know, but that's on me."

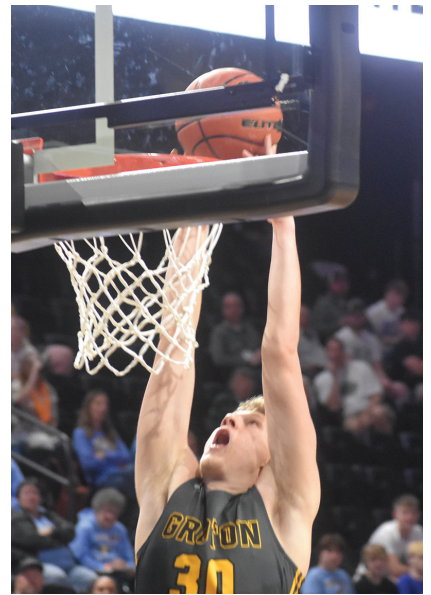
Even in defeat, Kjellsen praised his team's effort against a familiar opponent.

"We knew they were a good team and we were a good team," he said. "It was just a good close game — they just came out on top and we didn't."

Now, the focus shifts to the consolation bracket.

"You can show what kind of heart and character you have," Kjellsen said. "We can pout and be sad, or we can get after it tomorrow. We still came here to win two games — now we just have to win the next two."

Groton Area will look to bounce back in consolation play taking on St. Thomas More at noon central time. Hamlin advances in the championship bracket taking on #1 Sioux Falls Christian at 6 p.m. central time.



Gage Sippel goes for the dunk to tie the game at 30 with 5:08 left in the third quarter. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Easton Weber, Keegen Tracy and Gage Sippel all collapse in on Hamlin's Bode Stevenson. Sippel was called for the foul. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Ryder Johnson makes his move in front of Hamlin's Jack Stormo. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



The Groton Area cheerleaders face the Hamlin cheerleaders and cheer them on as they were introduced. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Congratulations Groton Tigers!

GO WITH TEAMWORK.

DACOTAH BANK

dacotahbank.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BOYS at the State A Tournament!

Doug Abeln Seed Company

Call Doug today: 605-380-0200

CONGRATULATIONS TIGERS!

Groton Area Boys Basketball
State A Tournament • Rapid City

2026
STATE A TOURNAMENT

We are Proud of You!

Farmers Union Co-Op
Ferney & Conde

Farmers Union INSURANCE

J.R. Johnson
Agent

102 N Main
Groton
397-8155

FULL CIRCLE AG
Tomorrow's Vision Today

AGRONOMY, ENERGY, FEED, GRAIN, AND TRANSPORTATION

Groton: 605-824-6851
www.fullcircleag.com

Residential ~ Ag & Commercial General Contractor

New Construction and Remodeling Concrete Work

Greg Johnson Construction, Inc.
Greg Johnson, Owner

Business: 605/492-3143
Cell: 605/216-3143
Bristol, SD

Double-Overtime Heartbreaker: Tigers Fall 94-92 in Instant Classic



Becker Bosma sets a screen for Karson Zak.

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

RAPID CITY, S.D. — Groton Area left everything on the floor Friday.

In a wild, high-scoring battle that felt more like an NBA shootout than a State A Tournament consolation game, the Tigers dropped a heartbreaking 94-92 double-overtime decision to St. Thomas More in the consolation championship bracket at Rapid City.

Even in defeat, Groton Area coach Greg Kjellsen said he could not have been prouder of his team's fight.

"I am so proud of those boys. They didn't quit, and they hung in there till the very last second and battled," Kjellsen said afterward. "It hurts, but I told them I couldn't be prouder."

The Tigers looked sharp early, using strong outside shooting and balanced offense to grab a 22-12 lead after one quarter. Ryder Johnson knocked down a pair of early 3-pointers, and Groton got inside baskets from Gage Sippel, Easton Weber and Keegen Tracy during a strong opening stretch.

Groton still held the upper hand through much of the second quarter. Tracy, Johnson and Sippel helped the Tigers keep St. Thomas More at bay, and Groton took a 35-30 lead into halftime.

But the Cavaliers began to solve Groton's defense in the second half.

"I think they made some adjustments against our zone," Kjellsen said. "We played more zone today than we played in the previous 22 games combined."

Even so, Groton continued to answer. The Tigers pushed the lead back to 10 points in the third quarter when Tracy and Karson Zak connected from long range, making it 50-40. Zak continued to attack offensively, while Johnson and Bosma also came up with key baskets.

Still, St. Thomas More kept coming.

The Cavaliers trimmed the gap to 57-51 by the end of the third, then caught fire from the perimeter in the fourth quarter. Big shots from Noah Wald,



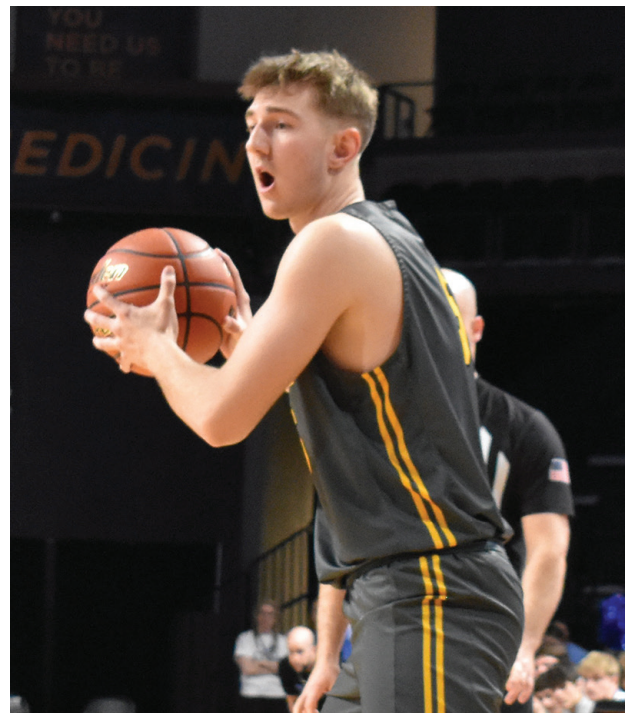
Gage Sippel puts up this shot over St. Thomas More's Broeden Sales.

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Ryder Johnson shoots a long three-pointer at the buzzer and the St. Thomas More players watch as the shot goes in to tie the game sending it into overtime.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Becker Bosma looks to pass the ball off to a teammate.

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Groton Ag Partners
Hail & Crop Insurance

1202 N 1st St., Groton
605/397-2680

GROTON
Chamber Of Commerce

We are proud of the Groton Area Tigers!

PROUD TO BE LOCAL
BUY LOCAL · SUPPORT LOCAL

Check out upcoming events at . .
www.grotonchamber.com

Groton Chamber

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

HEALTH
CHIROPRACTIC

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.
1205 N 1st St., Groton
605/397-8204

DQ

Grill & Chill
US 12, Groton

STOP BY TODAY!

BURGER NIGHT

Groton American Legion

Tuesday, March 31
6:00 - 9:00 PM

Burger & French Fries!

Great Food • Great Company • Support Your Local Legion

Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling
Manure Hauling

New & Cleaning of Stockdams with our 60' reach trackhoe

605/395-6531



Gage Sippel makes this basket with 4:30 left in the first quarter to give Groton Area an 8-6 lead. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Wyatt Gylten and Ashton Paulsen helped STM erase the deficit and turn the game into a possession-by-possession thriller.

Kjellsen said the Tigers were hurt by St. Thomas More's ability to create extra scoring chances.

"You can't point your finger at one thing," he said. "Other than they got too many second looks at the basket probably."

Groton also had to battle through foul trouble, including losing Sippel in the fourth quarter.

"We expect whoever comes in to step up, and we did," Kjellsen said. "Give them credit. They hit a lot of tough threes."

Despite the pressure, the Tigers never folded.

Johnson drilled a huge 3-pointer at the end of regulation to tie the game at 73-73 and send it to overtime. In the first extra session, Zak answered again for Groton with another clutch 3 at the buzzer, forcing a second overtime with the score tied at 84-84.



Keegen Tracy goes up for this shot past the St. Thomas More defender. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

In the second overtime, Johnson buried two more 3-pointers to give the Tigers another lift, but St. Thomas More answered once more. The Cavaliers finally edged in front for good in the closing seconds and escaped with the 2-point win.

Johnson and Zak each poured in 26 points to lead Groton Area. Tracy added 15 points, Sippel had 12, Bosma scored 8, and Weber finished with 5.

Groton shot the ball extremely well, finishing 31 of 59 from the field (52.5 percent), 13 of 23 from 3-point range (56.5 percent) and 17 of 24 at the free-throw line (70.8 percent). The Tigers also got 31 rebounds and 8 assists in one of their best offensive performances of the season.

St. Thomas More finished 33 of 69 from the field (47.8 percent), 13 of 30 from 3-point range (43.3 percent) and 15 of 20 at the free-throw line (75.0 percent). The Cavaliers also controlled the glass with 37 rebounds and dished out 16 assists, using second-chance opportunities and balanced scoring to help secure the win.

St. Thomas More was led by Gylten with 24 points, while Wald added 21, Sales had 16, and Slusarski, Speed and Paulsen all scored 11.

Afterward, Kjellsen told his team the loss was painful, but their effort left no doubt. "Losing sucks, but I am so proud of the effort we gave," he said. "There was no quit. We played to the final buzzer in overtime and regulation."

Groton Area now turns its attention to one final game of the tournament.

"Our goal is to come home," Kjellsen said. "We've got to win one game, and we'll give it our best shot tomorrow."

Groton Area will play Stanley County in the seventh place game on Saturday at 11 a.m. MT (Noon Central Time).



The team gets ready to enter the court. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

HARRY'S IMPLEMENT
Family Owned & Operated Since 1935
Ferney ~ 605/395-6421
www.harrysinc.com

WAY TO GO GROTON TIGERS!
FROM Heartland Energy
#PUBLICPOWER #COMMUNITYPOWERED

JOHN SIEH AGENCY
for our way of life
SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT NOW!
605-229-1760
jsains.com
Aberdeen (800) 658-3653
Ipswich (800) 532-0457

THE JUNGLE Lanes & Café
Downtown Groton ~ 605-397-2606
~ Hamburgers ~ Appetizers ~ Chicken Sandwiches ~ Gluten Free Pizza ~ And so much more!
Open Monday through Saturday 11 a.m. to close

Ken's SUPER FAIR FOODS
FRESH Produce BEST CUTS ON QUALITY Meats
REDEEMING YOUR DIGITAL COUPONS IS EASY!
1 Browse all the available deals! 2 Clip to add to your account! 3 Redeem at the store for instant savings!
Groton ~ 397-8456 ~ kenssuperfair.com

When accidents happen, have Kevin put your vehicle back into shape!
KR BODY SHOP
Andover, SD
41709 Hwy 12, Andover
605/380-8539

Tigers Close Strong, Claim Seventh at State A

Rapid City, S.D. —The Groton Area Tigers closed out their season on a high note Saturday, pulling away early and never looking back in a 61-43 victory over Stanley County in the seventh-place game at the State A Boys Basketball Tournament.

Groton wasted no time setting the tone.

Behind aggressive defense and transition offense, the Tigers jumped out to a quick 6-0 lead in the opening minutes. Karson Zak sparked the early surge, scoring twice in the paint off turnovers, while Keegen Tracy added a second-chance bucket and later a three-pointer.

By the midpoint of the first quarter, Groton had built an 11-4 advantage, fueled by relentless pressure that forced Stanley County into a string of miscues. The Tigers capitalized repeatedly, turning steals into points and controlling the tempo.

A late flurry pushed the lead even further. Tracy scored inside and then knocked down a triple, while Zak continued to attack the rim. By the end of the first quarter, Groton held a commanding 22-8 lead.

Groton's defense was the story early — and often. The Tigers forced turnover after turnover in the opening half, disrupting Stanley County's rhythm and creating easy scoring chances. Ryder Johnson and Zak were especially active in the passing lanes, while Gage Sippel controlled the glass and protected the paint.

Stanley County tried to answer early in the second quarter with a three from Paxton Deal, but Groton responded immediately. Johnson buried a three of his own, and Sippel added inside buckets to keep the Tigers comfortably in front.

Despite a brief Stanley County run that trimmed the deficit to 11, Groton closed the half strong. Another Johnson three and steady interior play from Sippel helped the Tigers take a 33-20 lead into halftime.

Stanley County made its best push in the third quarter, hitting a pair of three-pointers to cut into the lead.

But each time the Buffaloes threatened, Groton had an answer.

Tracy scored in the paint, Johnson added another basket, and Sippel dominated inside with multiple finishes and key free throws. Zak also continued his efficient night, attacking the rim and converting opportunities created by turnovers.

By the end of the third quarter, Groton had pushed the lead back out to 48-34, regaining full control. Groton put the game away early in the fourth.



Karson Zak flies past the defense for this basket. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Ryder Johnson gets past his defender to drive to the basket. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Jayden Schwan dribbles the ball as teammate and brother Jordan Schwan awaits the pass. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Keegen Tracy zips past the defense for this basket. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

KB LAW, PLLC
D/B/A KOLKER LAW OFFICE

CONGRATULATIONS BOYS!
at the
State A Tournament

★ ★ ★

KARI A. BARTLING
ATTORNEY AT LAW
605-397-8464 tdlawenvc.net

KRUEGER BROTHERS
ROAD MAINTENANCE,
GRAVEL & DIRT

Dave: 397-8387
Roger & Dan: 397-2618

Way to electrify Rapid City!

Locke Electric

We're proud of you!

- Installation, Service & Repair
- Underground and Aerial Work

Office: 605-397-2440
9 N. Third St.
Groton

Lori's Pharmacy

Pick out your Easter items to decorate around your home!

Many Gift Ideas to choose from!

Lori Giedt, RPh
1205 N 1st St., Groton
605/397-2363

Malpert insurance

Protect your business with coverage that matters & service that cares.

605-475-2600
staff@malpertinsurance.com
306 W. 11th Avenue • Redfield, SD
CROP - HAIL - LIVESTOCK
DYLAN HANSON • 605-846-7724

MCGANNON

Plumbing • Heating • A/C

Groton
605-397-2686



Becker Bosma looks ahead to the next play. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Tracy opened the quarter with a bucket, and moments later converted another steal into points. Johnson added a second-chance basket, and Zak continued to finish inside as the Tigers stretched the lead past 15.

With the outcome well in hand, Coach Greg Kjellsen emptied the bench late, allowing multiple players to see meaningful minutes in the closing stages. The Tigers still added the final highlight, as Jayden Schwan knocked down a three-pointer in the closing seconds.

Groton placed four players in double figures, showcasing a balanced offensive attack:

- Keegan Tracy – 15 points
- Karson Zak – 15 points
- Ryder Johnson – 15 points
- Gage Sippel – 13 points

The Tigers also dominated the glass (34-24 rebounding edge) and forced consistent turnovers, key factors in building their early lead.

Following the win, Coach Greg Kjellsen emphasized both the result and the bigger picture.

"I kind of had two goals coming in — I wanted to make sure everybody got on the floor and that we got seventh, and we got both things done."

Kjellsen praised his team's character and resilience after a tough tournament path.

"These kids are a class act, every one of them. The Groton community can be very proud of what



Gage Sippel and Stanley County's Teegyn Breitag go for the jump ball with Keegan Tracy and Brend Bothwell keeping an eye on the ball. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

they've done — not just here, but all year."

Despite graduating several seniors, Kjellsen remains optimistic about the program's future.

"The cupboard's not bare. It might be a little shorter, but there's a lot coming."

The Tigers finish the season 19-6.



Everyone stands and watches as Gage Sippel goes for the dunk. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Jayden Schwan steals the ball away from Stanley County's Carson Bourne.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Logan Warrington tries for a shot under the basket. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc.
 39870 139th St, Groton
 (605) 395-6581 ~ ggm@nvc.net

Custom manufacture of haystack movers. Installer of auxiliary axles and on-board scales for heavy trucks. D.O.T. inspections, frame alterations.

Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc.

MJ's

105 US-12 Groton

- * Carwash
- * Interstate Batteries
- * Propane
- * Convenience Store

Call Ahead - Carry Out
 Large 12" Pizza - \$11.99
 Each Additional Pizza only \$10.99

605-397-2717

Choose toppings: Pepperoni, Italian Sausage, Beef, Bacon, Banana Peppers, Mushrooms, Jalapeno Peppers, Bell Peppers, Black Olives, Onions.

CONGRATS TIGERS!

NVC

Congrats Groton Tigers

FOET | Congrats Groton Boys Basketball for placing 7th at State in Rapid City.

Congratulations!

BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM AT STATE!

from
 Professional Management Services
 111 N Main, Downtown Groton
 605/397-FEED (3333)

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

Ryan Likness Agency, Inc

Justin Monson: Sales Specialist - All Lines
 717 Main St. | Britton | 605.448.2357

Merry Lone: Sales Specialist - All Lines
 702 Main St. | Webster | 605.345.4860

Terri Pallesen: Sales Specialist - Personal
 420 2nd Ave E. | Sisseton | 605.698.3411



The Groton Area cheerleaders were giving out little bags of goodies to tournament workers. Ira Taken Alive said, "I got the coolest thing I have ever gotten from the Groton cheerleaders." He was very impressed with the gesture and the bag of goodies and was very thankful.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Colton Zimmerman (the first boy on the left) was one of the junior officials for the State A Tournament.



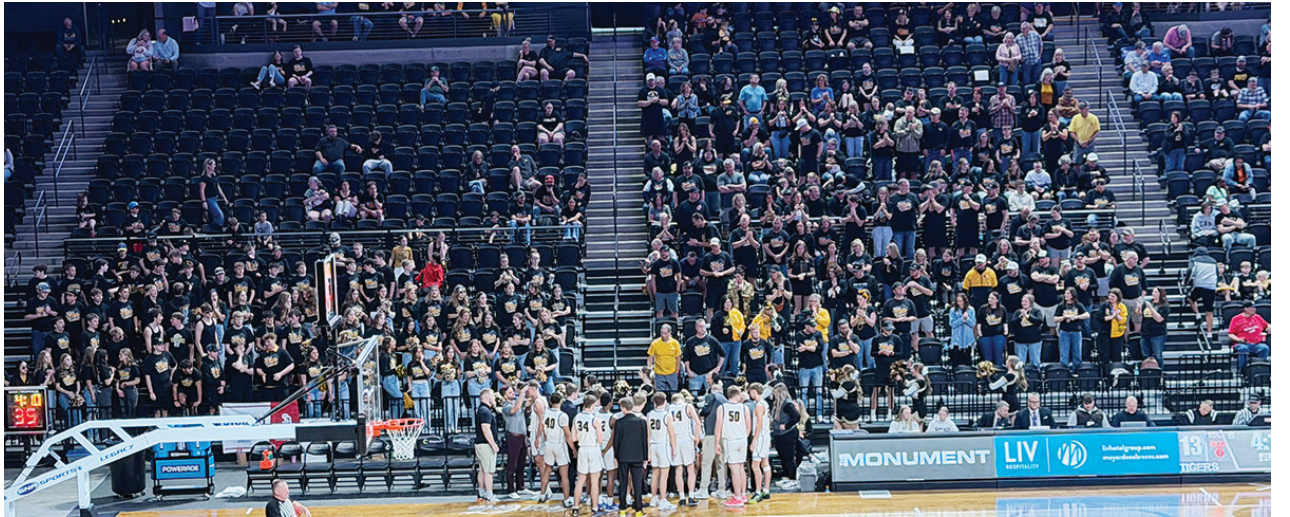
Groton Area had by far the larger crowd - probably about twice as many as Hamlin's crowd.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



The Groton Area crowd was back in full force in the St. Thomas More game.

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



The Groton Area crowd during the final game for the GHS Tigers.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

The Groton Independent

In conjunction with the Groton Daily Independent and GDILIVE.COM, we are proud to have followed the Tigers, home and away! Thank you for making it possible by supporting your hometown newspaper!

Class A Awards

- Spirit of Su: Hamlin's Jackson Wadsworth
- Spirit of Six: Hamlin
- All-Tournament Team
- West Central: Will Kuhl, Connor Mebius
- Sioux Falls Christian: Brant Wassenaar, Canyon Prins
- Stanley County: Paxton Deal
- Groton: Karson Zak
- Cheyenne-Eagle Butte: Damien Clown
- St. Thomas More: Wyatt Gylten
- Hamlin: Jackson Wadsworth, Boden Stevenson
- Clark/Willow Lake: Chris Bevers, Sullivan Felberg

S&S LUMBER CO.
— & Hardware —



201 East Highway 12

605-397-2361



THE MEATHOUSE

ESTD 1975

Andover
605-298-MEAT
Mon.-Fri: 9-6
Sat: 9:30-2



Groton Area Full Box Score

#	Player	PTS	FG	3FG	FT	OR	DR	REB	A	PF	TO	BL	ST	MIN
1*	TRACY, KEEGAN	7	3-9	0-3	1-2	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	31
3*	ZAK, KARSON	23	10-12	1-3	2-5	1	1	2	3	1	1	0	1	32
4*	JOHNSON, RYDER	5	2-11	1-4	0-0	1	3	4	2	3	2	0	1	29
5*	BOSMA, BECKER	3	1-2	0-1	1-1	0	4	4	1	4	0	1	1	26
30*	SIPPEL, GAGE	12	4-6	0-0	4-5	3	3	6	1	2	0	1	0	22
14	KROLL, ETHAN	2	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
22	WEBER, EASTON	9	3-3	3-3	0-0	1	2	3	2	5	1	1	0	18
TM	TEAM	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTALS		61	24-44	5-14	8-13	6	18	24	10	19	4	4	3	
GAME PCT			54.5	35.7	61.5									



Hamlin Full Box Score

#	Player	PTS	FG	3FG	FT	OR	DR	REB	A	PF	TO	BL	ST	MIN
1*	STEVENSON, BODE	27	9-14	4-5	5-11	1	2	3	4	3	3	1	1	32
10*	STORMO, JACK	8	3-7	2-5	0-0	0	2	2	5	0	1	0	1	32
20*	ABRAHAM, AIDEN	8	3-4	2-3	0-0	0	4	4	1	2	1	0	0	32
23*	WADSWORTH, JACKS	20	5-12	2-5	8-13	2	1	3	3	4	2	1	0	32
30*	HEINRICH, TRIG	2	1-2	0-1	0-0	2	6	8	1	1	0	1	0	32
4	OLSEN, JADEN	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TM	TEAM	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTALS		65	21-39	10-19	13-24	6	19	25	14	10	7	3	2	
GAME PCT			53.8	52.6	54.2									



Groton Area Full Box Score

#	Player	PTS	FG	3FG	FT	OR	DR	REB	A	PF	TO	BL	ST	MIN
1*	TRACY, KEEGAN	15	6-10	1-2	2-2	1	1	2	1	2	0	0	1	40
3*	ZAK, KARSON	26	6-17	4-5	10-11	2	3	5	4	2	3	0	2	40
4*	JOHNSON, RYDER	26	8-15	6-11	4-10	0	2	2	2	3	2	0	1	40
5*	BOSMA, BECKER	8	3-6	1-4	1-1	1	3	4	0	2	1	0	0	29
30*	SIPPEL, GAGE	12	6-9	0-0	0-0	2	2	4	0	5	0	2	0	25
14	KROLL, ETHAN	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
22	WEBER, EASTON	5	2-2	1-1	0-0	0	6	6	1	4	0	0	1	26
TM	TEAM	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	8	8	0	0	4	0	0	
TOTALS		92	31-59	13-23	17-24	6	25	31	8	18	10	2	5	
GAME PCT			52.5	56.5	70.8									



St. Thomas More Full Box Score

#	Player	PTS	FG	3FG	FT	OR	DR	REB	A	PF	TO	BL	ST	MIN
10*	GYLTEN, WYATT	24	8-19	6-12	2-2	2	6	8	3	3	2	0	0	40
20*	SLUSARSKI, BARO	11	4-10	1-4	2-3	2	1	3	1	5	0	0	0	19
22*	SPEED, MAX	11	5-7	0-0	1-2	2	5	7	1	4	0	0	2	35
23*	SALES, BROEDEN	16	6-11	0-1	4-4	4	6	10	1	2	1	0	1	38
24*	PAULSEN, ASHTON	11	4-7	2-3	1-4	0	3	3	5	2	3	0	1	31
4	NEUGEBAUER, RYA	0	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
5	WALD, NOAH	21	6-13	4-8	5-5	1	2	3	4	2	2	1	2	28
14	HEIG, HAYDEN	0	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
TM	TEAM	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	
TOTALS		94	33-69	13-30	15-20	12	25	37	16	18	9	1	6	
GAME PCT			47.8	43.3	75.0									

John Wheeting
605-228-3309

WEBER LANDSCAPING
— EST. 2004 — INC.
204 N. State St., Groton ~ 605/380-7811
www.weberlandscaping.net

SOME OF THE SERVICES THAT WE OFFER ARE LISTED BELOW

FULL LANDSCAPE DESIGN / INSTALLATION	PLANTING BEDS
COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL	LAWN SEEDING / SODDING
LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE	PLANTING BED IRRIGATION
LANDSCAPE REMOVAL	LAWN AERATION
PAVER PATIOS / WALKWAYS	LAWN OVER-SEEDING
BLOCK RETAINING WALLS	PERENNIALS
RAISED PATIOS	SHRUBS
BOULDER WALLS	TREES (BARE-ROOT, POTTED OR B&B)
WATERFALLS / PONDS	

W
Weismantel
AGENCY

Marty Weismantel
605/396-7341
weisag@nvc.net

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC ASSURANCE ALLIANCE
LIABILITY & PROPERTY POOL

PROGRESSIVE

GREAT AMERICAN INSURANCE GROUP

Northwest GF

SFM
The Work Done Right

North Star
MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

And many more to choose from!

2026 SDHSAA State Boys Basketball, Quarterfinal Recap
SDPB | By Nate Wek
#1 Sioux Falls Christian 82 #8 St. Thomas More 59

Sioux Falls Christian took care of business on Thursday to defeat St. Thomas More 82-59. Brant Wassenaar led the Chargers with 26 points on 11 of 16 shooting. He also led the squad in rebounds with seven and assists with six. Wyatt Gylten was the top performer for St. Thomas More in the game. He led the team with 21 points and nine rebounds.

#4 Hamlin 65 #5 Groton Area 61
Hamlin hung on late to defeat Groton Area 65-61 in the 'A' quarterfinals. Boden Stevenson led the way for the Chargers with 27 points. Jackson Wadsworth also had a nice 20 point game for Hamlin. Groton Area's Karson Zak scored 23 points and led the team with three assists in the loss.

#2 West Central 75 #7 Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 41
West Central defeated Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 75-41 on Thursday to advance to the semifinals. As a team, West Central shot nearly 52% for the game. Connor Mebius led the way for West Central scoring 25 points on 10 of 17 shooting. Will Kuhl also contributed 11 points and eight rebounds in the winning effort. Damien Clown was the top performer for Cheyenne-Eagle Butte. He finished with 15 points and four rebounds.

#3 Clark/Willow Lake 66 #6 Stanley County 36
Clark/Willow Lake punched their ticket to the semifinals with a 66-36 win over Stanley County on Thursday night. The Cyclones were led by Chris Bevers, who scored 24 points and three steals. Emmerson Larson also had 18 points. Sullivan Felberg had a double-double performance for Clark/Willow Lake too, 12 points and 12 rebounds. Stanley County was led by Paxton Deal, who finished with 15 points, six rebounds, and four steals in the loss.

2026 SDHSAA State Boys Basketball, Semifinal and Consolation Recap
SDPB | By Nate Wek
Consolation Semifinals
#8 St. Thomas More 94 #5 Groton Area 92 (2OT)

St. Thomas More defeated Groton Area 94-92 in a double-overtime thriller that saw multiple buzzer beaters at the end of regulation, first overtime, and second overtime. Wyatt Gylten led the Cavaliers with 24 points. He also had eight rebounds. Broeden Sales had a double-double in the game too with 16 points and ten rebounds. Karson Zak and Ryder Johnson each scored 26 points in the loss for Groton Area.

#7 Cheyenne-EB 58 #6 Stanley Co. 57
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte defeated Stanley County in a back and forth battle, 58-57. Damien Clown led the way for the Braves with 23 points and four steals on defense. Levi Elk Nation also added 16 points in the win. Stanley County's top scorer was Paxton Deal, who finished with 18 points. Teegyn Breitag had a double-double performance for the Buffaloes scoring ten points and recording 14 rebounds.

Semifinals
#1 SF Christian 58 #4 Hamlin 47
Sioux Falls Christian defeated Hamlin 58-47 to advance to their fifth straight state championship game. Brant Wassenaar had a big game scoring 28 points on 12 of 19 from the field. Canyon Prins also contributed with 14 points and nine rebounds in the win. Hamlin's Jackson Wadsworth led the team in points with 15.

#2 West Central 56 #3 Clark/Willow Lake 43
West Central defeated Clark/Willow Lake 56-43 to advance to Saturday night's championship game. The Trojans were led by Connor Mebius, who scored 22 points with a perfect 14 of 14 from the free throw line. Will Kuhl also had 16 points and nine rebounds for West Central. Sullivan Felberg led the Cyclones with 13 points and eight rebounds.

2026 SDHSAA State Boys Basketball, Placement Recap
SDPB | By Nate Wek
7/8 | #5 Groton Area 61 #6 Stanley County 43

Groton Area defeated Stanley County in the seventh place game on Saturday in Rapid City. The Tigers were led by Keegan Tracy, Karson Zak, and Ryder Johnson, who each scored 15 points in the win. Gage Sippel also had a 13-point, five rebound performance for Groton Area. Stanley County was led by Paxton Deal, who finished with 16 points in the loss.

5/6 | #8 St. Thomas More 63 #7 Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 40
St. Thomas More took home the consolation championship in Class A following a 63-40 win over Cheyenne-Eagle Butte. The Cavaliers were led by a double-double performance from Wyatt Gylten – 17 points and 11 rebounds. Max Speed finished with nine points and 14 rebounds. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte's top performer was Levi Elk Nation. He had 11 points, five rebounds, and three assists.

3/4 | #4 Hamlin 61 #3 Clark/Willow Lake 43
Hamlin defeated Clark/Willow Lake in the third-place game for Class A, 61-43. Bodee Stevenson led the Chargers with 22 points on 66% from the field. Jackson Wadsworth also had a 17-point, eight rebound performance in the win. The Cyclones top scorer was Chris Bevers, who finished with 13 points.

Championship | #2 West Central 66 #1 Sioux Falls Christian 56
West Central completed the undefeated season after defeating Sioux Falls Christian 65-56 in the 'A' state championship game. The Trojans top scorer was Connor Mebius, who finished with 20 points. Will Kuhl added an additional 15 points for West Central. Ryan Dieleman led Sioux Falls Christian with 16 points and six rebounds.

 **Groton Area Full Box Score**

#	Player	PTS	FG	3FG	FT	OR	DR	REB	A	PF	TO	BL	ST	MIN
1*	TRACY, KEEGAN	15	7-11	1-4	0-0	0	1	1	2	1	3	0	2	28
3*	ZAK, KARSON	15	7-12	0-1	1-2	0	2	2	8	0	2	0	2	28
4*	JOHNSON, RYDER	15	5-13	3-6	2-2	2	4	6	1	0	1	0	3	29
5*	BOSMA, BECKER	0	0-2	0-1	0-0	0	5	5	3	2	0	0	1	17
30*	SIPPEL, GAGE	13	5-7	0-1	3-4	0	5	5	0	0	0	1	1	27
10	JOHNSON, JACE	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
11	SCHWAN, JAYDEN	3	1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
12	SCHELLE, RYDER	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
14	KROLL, ETHAN	0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
20	JOHNSON, ASHER	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	2
22	WEBER, EASTON	0	0-2	0-2	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	15
32	MULLER, JJ	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
34	SCHWAN, JORDAN	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
40	TRACY, ANTHONY	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
50	WARRINGTON, LOG	0	0-2	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	2
TM	TEAM	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	3	4	7	0	0	4	0	0	
TOTALS		61	25-51	5-16	6-8	9	25	34	14	5	13	1	10	
GAME PCT			49.0	31.3	75.0									

 **Stanley County Full Box Score**

#	Player	PTS	FG	3FG	FT	OR	DR	REB	A	PF	TO	BL	ST	MIN
4*	BOTHWELL, BREND	3	1-3	1-2	0-0	0	0	0	1	4	1	0	1	23
5*	DUFFY, EDDIE	7	3-16	1-7	0-0	0	2	2	3	0	2	1	3	26
11*	DEAL, PAXTON	16	6-15	4-12	0-0	0	1	1	0	1	4	1	2	30
24*	BREITAG, TEEGYN	6	3-6	0-1	0-0	2	3	5	0	2	0	0	2	21
40*	CALDWELL, TREVO	6	2-5	0-0	2-2	2	6	8	0	0	1	0	0	22
0	DEAL, JACK	2	1-2	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	5
1	PRINCE, WESTON	0	0-3	0-3	0-0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	16
12	FOSHEIM, JAMES	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
13	BOURNE, CARSON	2	1-1	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	8
23	HOFTIEZER, JAX	1	0-0	0-0	1-2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	10
TM	TEAM	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	2	3	0	0	3	0	0	
TOTALS		43	17-51	6-26	3-4	8	16	24	5	10	13	2	9	
GAME PCT			33.3	23.1	75.0									