

March 13, 1983

☆

# St. Paul Sunday Pioneer Press

Minnesota's First Newspaper

\$1  
Metro Final

## Hill-Murray wins title 4-3

By the Associated Press

Hill-Murray junior center Jim Jirele's late third-period goal ended years of frustration as the unbeaten and No. 2-ranked Pioneers nipped Burnsville 4-3 to claim their first Minnesota State High School Hockey Tournament championship Saturday night at the Civic Center.

It was the first time since Edina East in 1974 that an unbeaten team has won the title. Hill-Murray finished its season 28-0.

Each team got a goal in the final period but it was Jirele's score with 3:12 left that decided the outcome.

Burnsville tied it 3-3 at 6:36 when the puck took a funny bounce off the glass and came back in front of net, allowing Tom Campbell an easy shot.

The teams fought to a 1-1 tie in the first period. Burnsville struck first when Louie Molnar backhanded in a centering pass.

See Hill-Murray, Page 4A

### Winning felt great in grandstands, too

By Patrick Marx

Staff Writer

Richard and Rosalyn Schwiets have attended every Minnesota High School Hockey Tournament since 1949.

In 34 years and hundreds of hours of watching tournament hockey, the 45 minutes they watched Saturday were the most nerve-wracking and exciting ever.

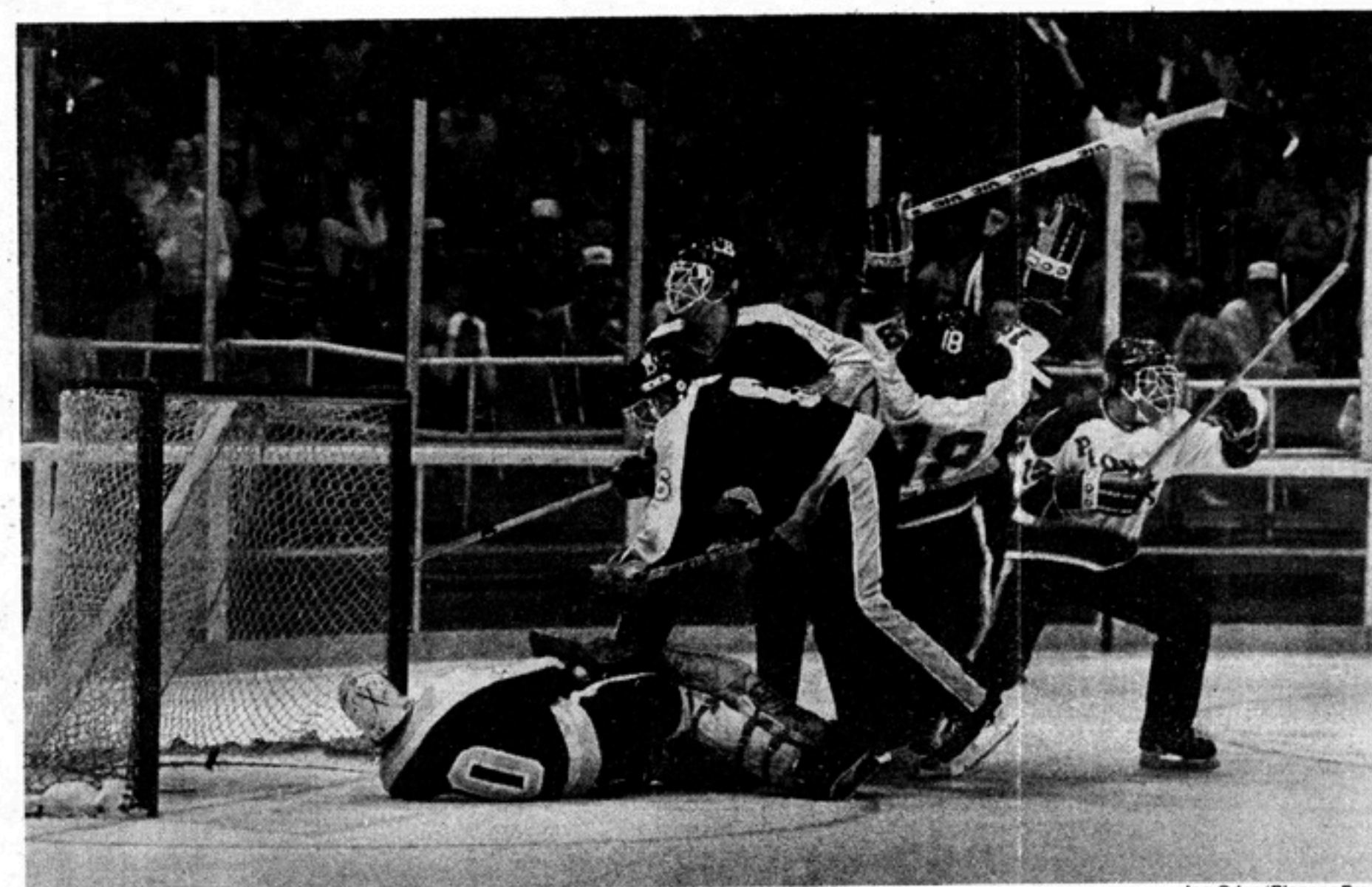
It was a special night for thousands, but for the Schwietses it was "like living a storybook," said Richard Schwiets, a low-keyed St. Paul bar owner.

They focused all their attention on the Hill-Murray goalie, a young man they call "Fuzzy." In bad moments they were stiff and immobile; in the good they nev-

See Winning, Page 4A



Mike Schwiets



Joe Oden/Pioneer Press

Hill-Murray's Jim Jirele (18) raises his arms in jubilation after scoring the winning goal in the Pioneers' 4-3 win over Burnsville

in the State High School Hockey Tournament's title game at the Civic Center. Full tournament coverage, more photos in Sports.

## Feels great

Continued from Page 1A

er felt comfortable enough to relax. They watched as Fuzzy deflected 26 Burnsville shots on goal. Their hearts sunk when he let each of three shots slip by. But when it was over, and his teammates had scored four times, they were state champs.

And they were ecstatic.

"That's my son," Mrs. Schwietz shouted early in the third period, moments before Burnsville pulled ahead.

She was tense, nervous. Her husband didn't move, his arms locked firmly across his ample chest.

"He's like Mike. He doesn't show his nervousness," Mrs. Schwietz said. "But he's nervous on the inside."

"I can't really believe this. We've had four boys and they all played hockey. When Mike was little he'd put on overshoes and the boys would shoot at him on the ice at Lake Phalen."

Her eyes were wild with excitement. She wore a green blazer, the Hill-Murray colors. On the lapel was a small heart-shaped button. It said, "We love Fuzzy."

"Mike really concentrates. He doesn't get nervous," she said. Her voice was shaky, her tone uncertain.

They sat in a sea of Burnsville fans at the far end of the Civic Center, a long distance from their son and the rabid Hill-Murray boosters.

When Burnsville pulled even late in the third period, Mrs. Schwietz went silent.

"Whatever way it works out we're still proud," she said. "Even No. 2 isn't so bad."

And she remembered, too. Her son Rob played on the 1980 Hill-Murray team that lost the title game 2-1 to Grand Rapids.

Then Hill-Murray pulled ahead. Both parents went silent.

As the minutes became the final seconds, the pair silently mouthed "5-4-3-2-1" and all hell broke loose. She leaped into her husband's arms at the very moment their son was mobbed by his teammates on the ice.

"This is unbelievable," Schwietz said. "It's something you always dream about. We've been coming all these years and never dreamed that we'd have a son win this in his senior year like this. It's Cinderella."

A few frenzied seconds passed. Fuzzy managed his way from the pile, skated to near center ice and looked to section 104, row 9, squinting to see mom and dad.

Clasping his hands victoriously over his head, Fuzzy directed a broad confident smile toward his parents.

Deep inside they knew this was their moment, too.

"It's something we'll never forget," Schwietz said. "Never."

## Hill-Murray: first state title

Continued from Page 1A

from Dave Thon. But the Pioneers came back to tie it on a goal by Mark Krois, who scored twice. The senior wing took a drop pass from Tony Curella in front of the net and tapped it past Burnsville goalie John Olson.

Early in the second period, Burnsville dominated play and came up with a goal on a 5-on-3 power play. Todd Skime scored his fourth goal of the tournament, flipping in a wrist shot from 25 feet.

Hill-Murray took over after that. Tom Grasse knocked in a pass from Tom Follmer after a rebound of a slapshot by Mark Horvath. The Pioneers followed that 59 seconds later with a power-play goal by Krois off a needle-like pass from Follmer, giving Hill-Murray a 3-2 lead going into the final period.

Burnsville finished its season 20-6-1.





# Hill-Murray caps perfect season

## Pioneers top Braves in finale

By Mike Augustin  
Staff Writer

Unbeaten Hill-Murray won its first state high school hockey championship Saturday night with a 4-3 victory over Burnsville at the Civic Center.

Jim Jirele, the smallest player on the team, scored what is probably the biggest goal in the school's history. The 5-foot-7, 145-pound junior center (he says he's really only 5-5½) broke a 3-3 tie when he stroked a loose puck through the legs of Burnsville goalie John Olson with 3:12 left to play.

The Pioneers withstood a furious closing surge by Burnsville and skated off with a prize their school has been close to claiming before, but never quite achieved.

A power in the independent school ranks before joining the Minnesota State High School League 10 years ago, Hill-Murray won before a crowd of 18,073. The Pioneers had been in six previous tournaments with a second-place in 1980 the highest finish.

The crowd total set a record for a championship game. The old record was 18,032 in 1980. Total  
See Pioneers, Page 2C

### State Tournament

At St. Paul Civic Center

#### CHAMPIONSHIP

Hill-Murray 4, Burnsville 3

#### THIRD-PLACE GAME

Sibley 4, Columbia Heights 3

#### CONSOLATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Edina 6, Roseau 1

### Championship

#### HILL-MURRAY 4,

BURNSVILLE 3

Hill-Murray 1 1 1-3

Burnsville 1 2 1-4

FIRST PERIOD—1, Burnsville,

Molnar 1 (Thon), 4:32. 2, Hill-Mur-

ray, Krois 1 (Curella, Norman),

12:26. Penalties—Thon, BU, 8:48.

SECOND PERIOD—3, Burnsville,

Skime 4 (Okerlund), 4:11 (pp). 4,

Hill-Murray, Graske 1 (Follmer,

Hervath), 9:31. 5, Hill-Murray,

Kreis 2 (Follmer), 10:30 (pp).

Penalties—Roth, HM, 2:22; Belde,

Hill-Murray, 2:57; Dedrick, BU,

9:58.

THIRD PERIOD—4, Burnsville,

Campbell 2 (Skime, Okerlund),

6:36. 7, Hill-Murray, Jirele 1

(Faust), 11:48. Penalties—Curella,

HM, 1:14; Skime, BU, 9:37.

SHOTS ON GOAL—Burnsville 13-

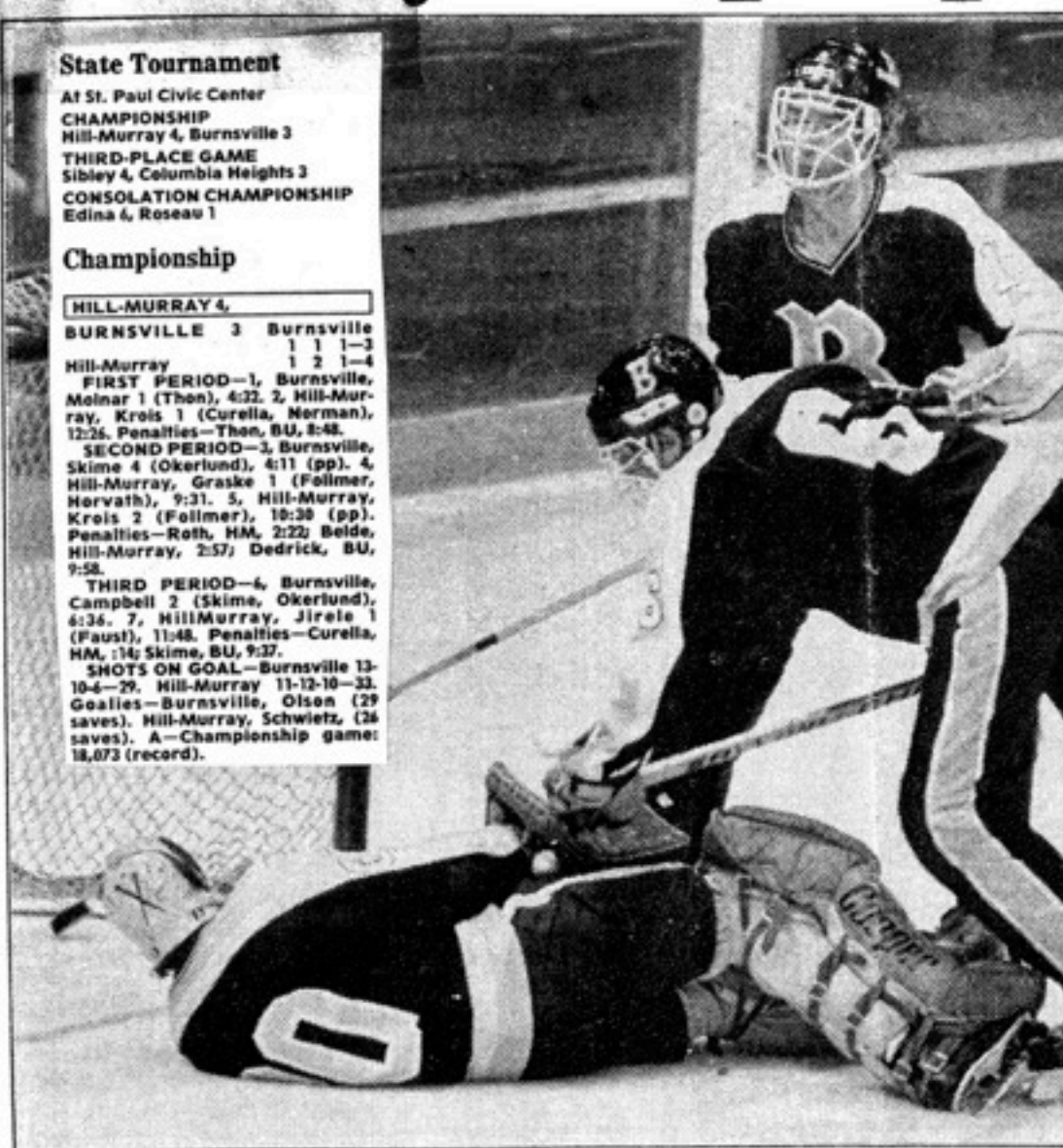
10-4-29. Hill-Murray 11-12-10-33.

Goalies—Burnsville, Olson (29

saves). Hill-Murray, Schwietz (34

saves). A—Championship game:

18,073 (record).



Murray Koodish/Pioneer Press

Jim Jirele (18) and Scott Faust (right) exult after Hill-Murray scored the championship-winning goal in the third period of the state high school tournament Saturday night at the Civic Center. Jirele scored the goal, putting the puck

(which is bouncing behind the head of Burnsville goalie John Olson) in with 3:12 remaining. Burnsville defenders Mike Luckraft (front) and Kevin Schrader were too late to prevent the score.

# Pioneers: Win first state title

Continued from Page 1C

.983 attendance was 102,596, another mark. The old standard was .02,197 in '80.

"This is great, the ultimate," said Hill-Murray coach Terry Skrypek, the coach of all the school's tournament entries. "We hadn't even been back to the tournament since we lost the championship game in '80 (2-1 to Grand Rapids). That was a first-tier goal — just to get back here. But, with this bunch, winning the whole thing was really the major goal all along."

The Pioneers finished with a perfect 28-0 record, the 12th undefeated champion and first since Edina East was 24-0 in 1974. No previous unbeaten champion won as many as 28 games. It was the first state championship won by a St. Paul team since Johnson won in 1963. It is the fifth title for a St. Paul team.

Burnsville (20-6-1) stayed with Hill-Murray throughout in what was probably the best-played game of the tourney.

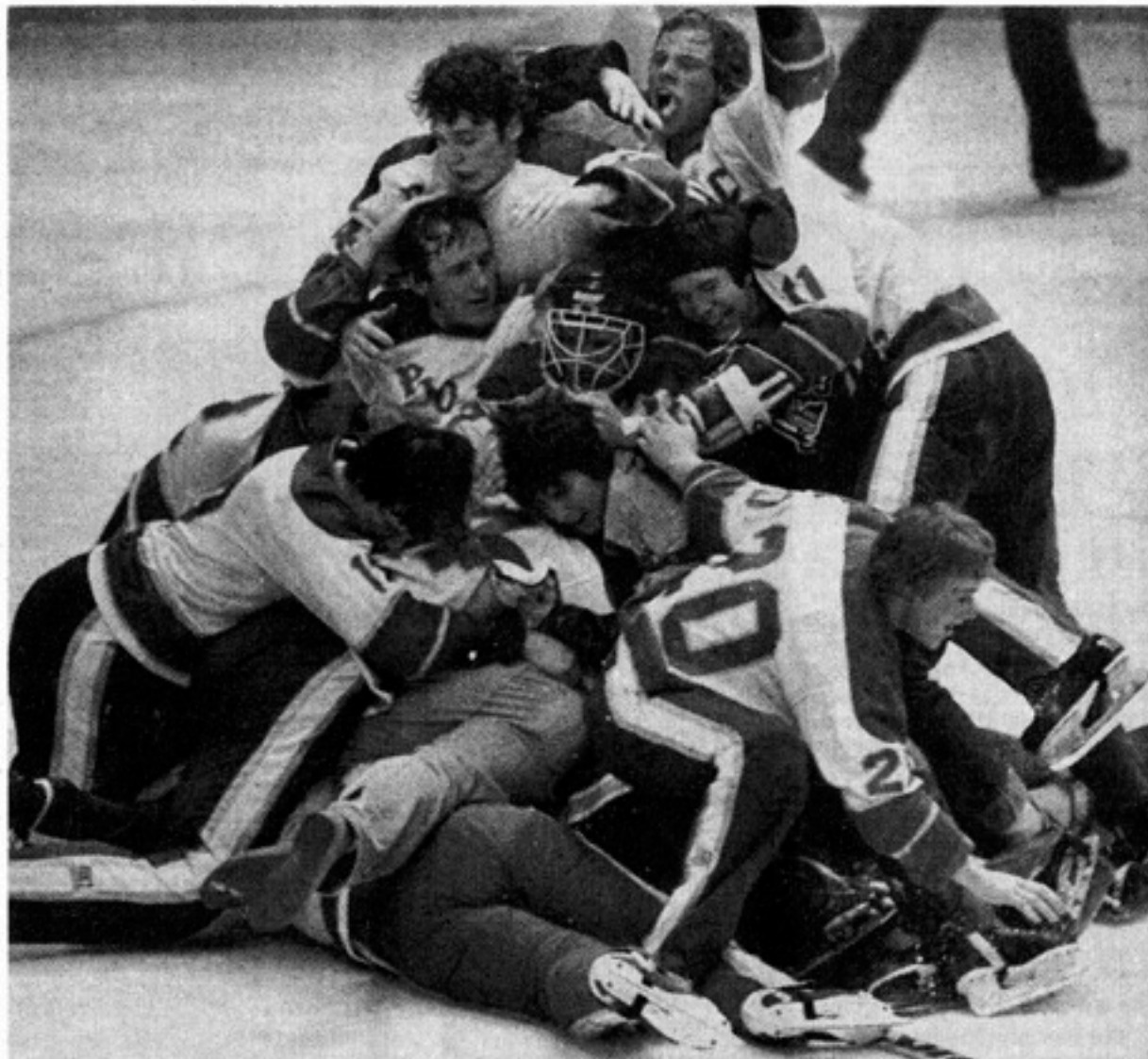
"Hill is really an outstanding team," said Burnsville coach Tom Osiecki. "For any team to go undefeated in this day of balanced teams is almost unimaginable."

The Pioneers outshot the Lake South team 33-29 and won behind the second straight strong goaltending effort by 6-foot-3 senior Mike Schwietz. Schwietz played only eight games before the tournament, but started the 3-1 semifinal victory over Henry Sibley and played so well that Skrypek stuck with him for the title game. With Hill-Murray leading 3-2 after two periods, Tom Campbell earned a tie for the Braves by ripping in a rebound from the backboards at 6:36.

Dave MacNulty just missed a careening puck as it ricocheted in front of the net a minute later.

Not long afterward, Jirele tapped in his game-winner and the Pioneers were lifting Skrypek onto their shoulders. It was the second time Skrypek coached a team to the state crown, but the other was a baseball team. His diamond team won the Class AA state championship in 1976 and finished second in 1982 to two-time champion Cretin. Skrypek has since resigned as baseball coach.

"That last minute seemed an eternity," said Skrypek, noting that Osiecki pulled Olson with 35 seconds to go. "The guys on the bench



Murray Koodish/Pioneer Press

A happy bunch of Hill-Murray hockey players whoop it up in the traditional championship by piling on their goalie, Mike Schwietz, after

the Pioneers won the state title Saturday night by beating Burnsville 4-3. Identifiable in the heap is Jim Boryczka (20).

started hugging me with 10 seconds to go, but I didn't get into it (the hugging) until the clock was down to zero."

Mark Horvath shot wide on a good chance in the first minute, but Burnsville had the better opportunities in the early going.

Lou Molnar backhanded Dave Thon's centering pass past Schwietz at 4:32 for a quick 1-0 Braves lead.

Less than a minute later, Todd Skime shot and hit the goalie's pad and Tom Campbell was wide on the rebound as he was being ridden out of the play.

Olson stymied Tom Follmer and Schwietz thwarted Todd Okerlund on a pair of wide open breakaways within minutes of each other mid-

way in the period.

The Pioneers tied the game on a beautiful play by Todd Norman, who skated down the left wing, deked twice and threw a perfect pass to Mark Krois. Krois, who had played two outstanding games in the tournament but had not scored a goal, beat Olson at 12:26.

A two-man advantage helped stake Burnsville to a 2-1 lead at 4:11 of the middle period. Skime moved from a wide wing toward the center of the ice between the circles. He took Okerlund's feed and whisked the puck past Schwietz, who deflected it into the net.

The Pioneers skated off the remainder of the one-man penalty, then struck for two goals to take a

3-2 lead after two periods.

First, Scott Faust hit the near pipe from just outside the crease. But Horvath's shot from the right circle rebounded to Tom Graske, who lofted it over Olson's left leg at 9:31.

Krois' second goal, a power play score at 10:30, gave Hill-Murray its first lead. Follmer, stationed along the right boards, looked toward the net, then spotted Krois cutting down the middle. Krois met the pass with his shot, blasting it into the left side of the cage.

Burnsville outshot the Pioneers 13-11 in the first period and built the margin higher early in the second. But Hill-Murray commanded play for a long stretch after that and evened the shot totals at 23-23 at the second intermission.



# Hill-Murray's title for its former players, as well

By Charley Hallman  
Staff Writer

This was one for the new champs and all the others.

The others? Why, the great Hill and Hill-Murray hockey players through the years, starting out with Billy Klatt. Then there were Matt, Pat and Bobby Conroy; Jeff and Tim Whisler; Pat and Sean Regan; Bobby Young and Les Larson; David Langevin and Dick Spannbauer; Steve Griffith and Bill Schafhauser; the Belde clan; Steve Janaszak and the rest.

Since 1960, Hill High School and then Hill-Murray has had a hockey program. But the 1983 squad, which

finished with a 28-0 record, was the first to capture the state championship.

Brother Francis Carr, the school's athletic director for most of those years, said he was thinking about all the school's former players when the Pioneers wrapped up the state championship with a 4-3 triumph over Burnsville Saturday night.

Many believe the accomplishments of the 1971 team saved Hill from oblivion. "It's true that winning the state independent title that year did generate a lot of emotion for the school," Carr said.

The Christian Brothers had announced they were

pulling out of the old Hill. Hockey may have kept the school open. Then, the sisters at the old Archbishop Murray girls high school agreed to a merger.

Thus, Hill and Archbishop Murray became Hill-Murray.

"I'm tickled for this group of kids," Carr said. "And for Terry Skrypek (the Pioneers' coach). In terms of seeing young kids grow, become close to each other, this team had the right chemistry."

Those Hill-Murray kids showed off that chemistry by winning the tournament, then displaying class at

almost every turn in the post-game ceremonies. They lifted Skrypek to their shoulders, shared the usual hugs, shook hands with the Burnsville players and saluted their rivals in the finals with raised sticks.

"I'll never forget this moment," said winger Mark Krois. "When (Jim) Jirele scored that goal that put us ahead, I went nuts with relief, with joy, the culmination of anything."

Krois, the Pioneers' leading scorer, scored two goals in the title game.

See Title, Page 2C

## Title: Hockey kept Hill together

Continued from Page 1C

"Hey, the passes were right there, especially those from Tony Curella," he said. "Tony has been putting them right on my stick all year."

Jirele, called "Rat" or "Rat Junior" by his teammates, is 5-foot-6 and 145 pounds. But he had the biggest moment in the title game.

Linemate Jeff Borndale talked to both Jirele and Scott Faust before they took the ice. "I told the other two guys that this was probably our last shift of the game, that we'd better go out and do something," Borndale said. "Rat came through for us. It's the best feeling I've had in a long, long time. Nothing can compare with

**"In terms of seeing young kids grow, become close to each other, this team had the right chemistry."**

**— Brother Carr**

this, nothing."

Jirele, seated next to Borndale, agreed. "Three years ago, my older brother Joe played on the Hill-Murray team that went unbeaten into the state finals and lost to Grand Rapids," Jim Jirele

said. "We wanted to outdo those guys."

Joe Jirele, now a hockey player at the University of Maine, was known as "Rat" to that Hill-Murray team. "When I got to Hill, they handed down Joe's nickname to me," Jim said.

Skrypek was pleased Jirele scored the winner. "I'm glad it happened to Jimmy," the Pioneer coach said. "He's a helluva kid and just a junior. He'll be back with us next year."

Skrypek credited Burnsville with "having an excellent team. On any given night, they could beat us as often as we'd beat them. They were well coached and had a great top line."

Hill-Murray winger Tom

Follmer agreed. "That top line of Burnsville's (Todd Okerlund, Tom Campbell and Todd Skime) was unreal. We didn't play any better team all year."

Asked to describe his own emotions, Follmer said, "It feels unbelievably great — knowing you're on top, knowing no one is better, it's awesome."

Burnsville coach Tom Osiecki paid tribute to Hill-Murray as a "fantastic team."

But Osiecki knows how close his Braves came to the championship. "When we got the tying goal in the third period, I thought it was ours," Osiecki said. "I was thinking overtime and I thought we'd win it."