

The varsity ice hockey team holds the trophy after winning the final state match. "Our team always comes back pretty strong," coach Cary Archibald said. "It's been great. The kids are really excited about it and that's what important to me."

Photo by Izzie Ramirez



Not only did a fight break out during the game against Grapevine-Colleyville, junior Aidan Everett became airborne during a breakaway. He received a minor blow to the head. "I thought to myself, 'Wow I can fly, this is pretty awesome,'" Everett said.

Photo by Lauryn DeLaughter



Junior Devon Naphan waits for his teammate to pass the puck to him. The team did not expect their 5-1 loss against Frisco. "I was really upset and mad that our team didn't play well," Naphan said, "but we have to get back at it tomorrow and go again. I need to keep my calm a little better, work a little harder and conjoin more as a team."

Photo by Lauryn DeLaughter



Senior Collin Mills darts across the ice to help score a goal. The team was trying to maintain their current 3-2 lead against Plano West in the final match. "Once we scored the goal with four minutes left, we were all thinking 'We're not giving up this late,'" Mills said. "We blew the first two we let them have. There was no way we were doing that again."

Photo by Lauryn DeLaughter

Remember me for centuries

Photo by Lauryn DeLaughter



The ice rink is chilly and smells like musty, sweaty socks. Abandoned helmets and hockey sticks lay on the ice. Slowly, then all at once, the McKinney hockey players dart to the center of the rink and hug each other. Abrupt cheers echo from the stands and the team itself. They have just won the final round of the state championship game against Plano West.

"I'm glad that all of our hard work paid off," Boyd junior Andrew Pitts said. "It just feels really good. It feels right. We worked so hard to get here and get to state."

Even though they lost 5-1 Friday night's game against Frisco, the team rebounded with a 5-1 win against Grapevine-Colleyville Saturday morning. However, it was the first game against Plano West that pushed the team forward. It did not matter that McKinney lost to Plano West Saturday night in overtime; they still made it to the championship game.

"We played our best hockey game out of the entire season today against Plano West," McKinney High junior Garrett Jackson said. "I put us into the state championship game. I scored the tying goal that put us into overtime and I scored the fifth goal to seal us and put us into sudden death overtime."



Photo by Izzie Ramirez

The team played Plano West again on Sunday and won 3-2. This was McKinney's first state game and they are the fourth team to have ever beaten Plano West. They will be heading to nationals in Missouri in March.

"It's freaking amazing," Boyd sophomore Brendon McMahon said. "My heart is pumping. It's insane. It's indescribable."

-Izzie Ramirez