

# Dakota bowler Danielle McBride wins state singles championship



Danielle McBride of Dakota gets a hug after winning the state Division 1 singles bowling championship at Sterling Lanes. DAVID DALTON -- FOR THE MACOMB DAILY

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Danielle McBride of Dakota and Matt Buck of Rockford display medals they won after emerging as the girls and boys state Division 1 singles bowling champions at Sterling Lanes in Sterling Heights. DAVID DALTON -- FOR THE MACOMB DAILY

Danielle McBride is such a business-like bowler that Dakota coach Paul Price is known to ask her teammates, “Where did Danielle put her briefcase today?”

“She leads by example with that,” Price said. “She’s amazing on so many levels.”

The “amazing” McBride had a memorable time Saturday, bowling to the state Division 1 singles championship at Sterling Lanes in Sterling Heights.

The junior defeated senior Macallin Rodriguez of Caledonia 488-385 in the final match.

McBride won three matches to reach the final, where the left-hander became Dakota’s first girls state singles champion.

“She was unreal,” Price said.

McBride’s championship drive came a day after she and the Cougars experienced a disappointing end to the state team finals.

Her open frame late in the match gave Oxford an opportunity that the Wildcats took exploited in a 13-pin victory over the Cougars, who were trying to win a second championship in four years.

“She was really crushed yesterday,” Price said.

But Price expected the business-like McBride to rebound in the singles championship.

“You can’t keep someone like her down,” Price said. “She dug down.”

McBride was the third-leading qualifier. In her first match in the final 16, she was paired against Rachel Doran, a Farmington Hills Harrison senior who this season set a state record for high average.

“It seemed like Danielle’s path to the championship was always the toughest path,” Price said. “There was always pressure on her.”

McBride, Price said, showed signs in the quarterfinals that her day would turn out special.

She made an 8-10 split in the first game against Westland John Glenn freshman Anna Maxwell.

“I said, ‘We just might be seeing something magical here.’” Price remembered.

In the second game, Maxwell had an open 10th frame while McBride struck out to claim a 432-416 victory, her closest in match play.

“Every time her opponents saw light, Danielle would hammer a strike,” Price said.

McBride defeated Doran 473-403. In the semifinals, she beat Jenison sophomore Lauren Slagter 418-382.

McBride was the second county bowler to win a Division 1/Class A singles championship. Sarah Lokker of Anchor Bay won in 2010.

Stephanie Schalk of Lakeview also made the field of 16.

In the boys tournament, Jacob Frogge of Lake Shore, Keegan Ratobylski of Chippewa Valley and David DeCruydt of Lake Shore made the field of 16.

Frogge won his first-round match before bowing out of the tournament that was won by Rockford sophomore Matt Buck.

In Division 2 at Super Bowl in Canton, Cassie McCarren of Warren Woods-Tower reached match play.

In Division 3 at Norway Lanes in Muskegon, Jessica Michalac of Clintondale made the girls field of 16, and Zach Ray of Richmond did likewise in the boys tournament.

In Division 4 at M-66 Bowl in Battle Creek, Diana Cottrell of New Haven reached match play and posted a first-round victory.