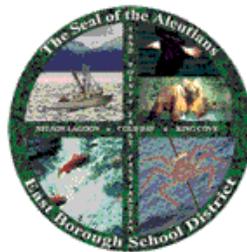
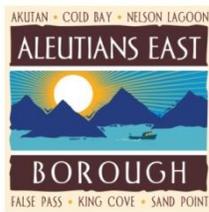


## In the Loop



Bringing the Aleutians East Borough, the AEB School District and Eastern Aleutian Tribes together by sharing common goals.

---

## Sand Point Lady Eagles Compete in First State Championship in 20 Years

For the first time in two decades, the Sand Point Lady Eagles made it to the 1A state basketball championship games to battle it out at the Alaska Airlines Center in Anchorage March 15 – 18, 2017. The Lady Eagles played aggressively in all four games and maintained a strong defense. They ended up placing 9<sup>th</sup> out of 19 teams at March Madness.

“All across the board, they were steady and strong,” said Sand Point Lady Eagles Coach Emil Mobeck. “I’m very happy and pleased with how they handled themselves and how they represented Sand Point.”

In the first game, they played the Klawock Chieftains but suffered a disappointing loss with a score of 30 – 23. However, things quickly turned around for the Lady Eagles, after coming out on top

against the Shaktoolik Wolverines the following day with a final score of 44 – 30. The third game pitted the Lady Eagles against the Tri-Valley Warriors.

The first quarter of the game against Tri-Valley belonged to the Lady Eagles, with a score of 17 –



Sand Point Lady Eagles guard Justina Porcincula (#23) gets ready to pass the ball during game #3 against Tri-Valley.

4. During the second quarter, Tri-Valley made some gains, as the Eagles’ lead shrank to 6 points. During the second half, the Lady Eagles put it back in gear, leading by 18 points, and wrapping up the game with a final score of 52 to 34. That victory earned them a spot in the consolation championship against the St. Mary’s Eagles.

However, things didn’t go their way in the final game.

“We had a lot of turnovers, which caused us to lose that game by 5 points,” said Coach Mobeck. “But it was a pretty good match all the way

around.”

The final score was 53 to 48.

Despite the loss to St. Mary’s, there were plenty of achievements to be proud of.

Four Sand Point players were awarded Player of the Game: Dantezza Pangilinan, Madison Thompson, Justina Porcincula and Nicole Gundersen.

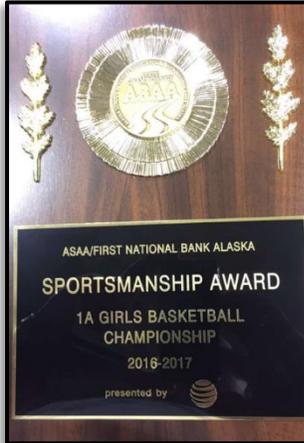
For the Lady Eagles, making it to the state championships for the first time in twenty years was a huge accomplishment. Mobeck said the entire team shined throughout the regionals and the state championship.



Lady Eagles power forward Madison Thompson (#4) waits for the ball to drop in the bucket during game #3 against Tri-Valley.

“Really, it was a team effort. They just played very good team basketball. Madison Thompson had a huge tournament (both at regionals and at state),” Mobeck said. “She really stepped it up and was just unstoppable.”

Mobeck was also impressed by the aggressiveness of Justina Porcincula and Brittany Gardner.



The Sand Point Lady Eagles earned the Sportsmanship Award. Photo by Paul Gronholdt.

“Nicole Gundersen, for rebounds and Madison Thompson, who was just rebounding the shots,”

Mobeck said. “They all stood out.”

They also stood out for the way they played, earning the Lady Eagles the Sportsmanship Award.

“That’s the best award ever!” Mobeck said. “They are a really good group of girls.”

In addition, Madison Thompson was named to the All-Tournament team, another big accomplishment.

“I’m very happy with how they all played,” said Coach Mobeck. “They knew they knew they deserved to be there.”

---

## King Cove Rookies Put on Big Performance at 1A Basketball State Championships



King Cove Rookies guard Emmaly Brandell shoots the ball, trying to score during game #4 against Buckland. Photo by Lavern Kochuten.

For King Cove Rookies team captain McKenna Gould, competing at the basketball state championships has been a dream since the fourth grade. In mid-March, that dream came true for her and the other Rookie team members as they put on an impressive performance at the 1A state championships games.

“Going to state all came from teamwork and having good attitudes,” Gould said. “It was about knowing that when we stepped out onto the floor, we needed to be nothing but positive, and that’s how we were going to win.”

That winning attitude propelled the Rookies to two victories. They lost their last two games by only a slight margin.

“They did unbelievably well in every game,” said Rookies Coach Paul Barker. “In the games they won, they won by a huge margin. The games that they lost, they lost by just two points (against Selawik) and by one point (against Buckland).”

The Rookies placed sixth overall. This was the first time in a decade that the Rookies qualified for state, and team members were determined to give it everything they had.

“We had such a well-balanced team,” Gould said. “We had three freshmen this year that really stepped up in a huge way (Jalaya Duarte, Elaina Mack and Sadie Newton). That really helped us develop as a team in all of our games at state.”

The first two games, the Rookies demonstrated their dominance. In game #1 against Newtok, the Rookies cruised to an easy victory, with a score of 70 to 39.

The following day, they faced Nikolaevsk, a formidable foe known for their size, however, the Rookies pulled off another thrilling victory, with a score of 67 to 41. During the first two minutes of the game, the Rookies were on top, 8 to 0. By the second quarter, Nikolaevsk began chipping away at their lead, 20 to 11, with 5:45 left to play. By halftime, the Rookies were up by 18, with a score of 39 to 21. During the third quarter, King Cove was looking solid, as the Rookies led by 26 points. The Rookies capitalized on their fast pace, jumping ahead of Nikolaevsk, with a score of 67 to 41.

“McKenna had 20 points and 12 rebounds,” said Barker. “Everybody was doing their part all the time, and it allowed them to be successful.”

“I have such a high level of competition,” Gould said. “I wanted to win state. That was my huge goal.”

It was a goal they came very close to reaching. However, the last two games proved to be just slightly out of reach.



King Cove Rookies forward/center Jalaya Duarte (#35) going up for a jump ball. Photo by Lavern Kochuten.

In Game #3 against Selawik, the Rookies lost by only two points. The score was 44 to 42. Early on during the first quarter, the Rookies lead, with a score of 6 to 4. But shortly afterward, Selawik came out on top, with a score of 14 to 12. The Rookies nipped at their competitors' heels, pulling off a tie. By the end of an exciting first half, King Cove lead by just one point. During the third quarter, the two teams traded the lead back and forth at first. Then King Cove jumped in front 39 to 36. Shortly afterward, the score was tied. Then, during the fourth quarter, Selawik pushed ahead, wrapping up the game in a wild finish with a score of 44 to 42.

In Game #4, another electrifying game kept fans on the edge of their seats as King Cove and



Buckland each fought hard to pull out in front. Buckland got off to a good start in the first quarter, with a score of 11 to 5. But their triumph was short-lived, as the Rookies came out on top at halftime, with a score of 26 to 23. The score tightened up by the end of the third quarter, with King Cove still holding onto the lead, 36 to 35. During the fourth quarter, Buckland out-scored the Rookies by five points. By the end of the game, the Rookies tried to close the gap, coming very close, but still shy by just one point. As the buzzer sounded, Buckland emerged the winner, with a score of 53 to 52.

“All of the games were very exciting,” Barker said.

The team effort by the Rookies paid off in a big way. Two of the team's freshmen, Elaina Mack and Jalaya Duarte, were chosen to play on the all-team tournament.

“So that was an honor for them,” Barker said.

McKenna Gould walked away with two player of the game awards. Elaina Mack and Jalaya Duarte also received the same awards for two other games.

Juniors Emmaly Brandell and Christine Aichele each received individual sportsmanship awards.

“Those awards were based on my recommendation for outstanding sportsmanship on the team,” Barker said.

Overall, Coach Barker and team captain McKenna Gould are proud of the exceptional effort that each of the team members put forth.

“The mantra was teamwork and unselfishness,” Gould said. “They all had huge games at state.”

---

## T-Jacks Win Three out of Four Games at the 1A State Championship Games



Senior Kris Babcock (guard, #22) aggressively goes after the ball during game #4 against Chefornek. Photo by Lavern Kochuten.

The T-Jacks emerged victorious in three out of four games they played at the 1A basketball state championship games, placing the team 9<sup>th</sup> overall.

“The boys played great!” said T-Jacks Coach Randel Newman. “It was pretty impressive.”

In game #1 against Buckland, the T-Jacks fought hard to come out ahead, but lost by only one point, with a score of 49 to 48.

“That was a tough one,” said Newman. “Buckland just came out very aggressive.”

At the end of the first quarter, the T-Jacks jumped out in front with an early lead, with a score of 17 to 4. By halftime, King Cove still maintained the advantage, with a score of 28 to 16. However, during the third quarter, with 3:20

left to play, Buckland started to chip away at King Cove’s lead, as the T-Jacks lead by 7 points, with a score of 30 to 27.

“The boys with Buckland have closed within three points, but it’s taken a lot of energy to get here,” said radio announcer Charles Pulliam.

About a minute later, the game was tied up, with a score of 30 to 30. Then the T-Jacks fought back, grabbing a 3-point lead, with a score of 33 to 30. King Cove managed to hold onto the lead with a two-point edge by the end of the third quarter, with a score of 35 to 22. During the fourth quarter, King Cove pushed the lead to 9 points, with a score of 41 to 32, with about six minutes left to play. Shortly afterward, Buckland amped up the pressure, as King Cove's lead started slipping away. With 2 ½ minutes left to play, the score was tied up again, 41 all. Buckland briefly snatched the lead back by one point. Then the T-Jacks briefly took control again, with a score of 47 to 45 and 44 seconds left to play. Moments later, the game was tied up again, 47 all, keeping spectators on the edge of their seats. Then in a wild finish, Buckland grabbed the lead back, with a score of 49 to 48.

“It was King Cove’s game in the early going,” said Pulliam, “but Buckland rallied and stormed back.”

“That was a big surprise,” said Coach Newman. “I didn’t see that coming. The T-Jacks played great. You can’t say anything bad about the way they played, but the other team came out a little more aggressive than we did.”

Game #2 against Scammon Bay was entirely different as the T-Jacks marched to a huge win, with a score of 73 to 45.

“They were just playing very, very good basketball,” said Newman. “That was pretty much the game plan for the Scammon Bay game. The (King Cove) boys just went out and had fun.”

Early on in the game, it was tied up, with a score of 5 to 5. Then, with about two minutes left to play, Scammon Bay led by three points, with a score of 15 to 11. However, with about a minute left in the first quarter, a 2-pointer put King Cove back on top, as the T-Jacks led by one point. By the end of the quarter, the score was 18 to 15.



Anthony Reeve (center, #54) brings the ball up the court during game #4 against Chefnak. Photo by Lavern Kochuten.

During the beginning of second quarter, King Cove widened its margin by eight points, with a score of 25 to 17. With about four minutes left to play, the lead jumped up to ten points. By the end of the second quarter, it was clear Scammon Bay was facing an uphill battle, as the score shot up, 35 – 23.

The third quarter showed even more impressive gains by the T-Jacks, leading with 20 points and a score of 45 to 26.

“The T-Jacks come roaring out to start the second half,” Charles Pulliam announced.



By the end of the third quarter, the lead jumped up to 29, with a score of 58 to 29.

During the fourth quarter, King Cove continued to dominate, as the T-Jacks held a 30-point advantage, 61 to 31 with six minutes left to play. At the two minute mark, Scammon Bay managed to make only small gains, edging up by three points, while King Cove kept pushing its lead forward. By the end of the game, the T-Jacks claimed its first victory of the tournament, with a score of 73 to 45.

Game #3 against Tanana was similar to the previous one, as the T-Jacks claimed another big triumph and a 27-point advantage, with a final score of 65 to 38.

“Like the last one, the boys were just on a roll,” said Coach Newman. “In this game, it was our game plan again to just have fun and see what happens. It was pretty cool to see. They really showed people what they can do at the games.”

In game #4 against Chefornek, the T-Jacks once again came out on top, with a score of 50 to 38.

“This one was kind of a mixture of our very first game and then the two other games,” Newman said.

At first, the game was tight, but then things began going the T-Jacks’ way.

“Once everything started to click for them, it started to be a lot more like the other two games where they were just having fun,” Newman said. “They were able to get the win that way. It was a good game.”

Newman said several of his players shined during the games.

“Pretty much the one who’s going to stand out the most in all four of the games is Ian Samuelson,” the T-Jacks coach said. “He’s good at offense, and he’s definitely the best defender. You can just tell when he’s out there. We also had three sophomores that were really good.”

Four players were presented with player of the game awards. Point guard Ian Samuelson, a senior, won the award for the game against Buckland. Small forward Graydon Severian, a sophomore, was recognized for the second game against Scammon Bay. Sophomores guard Gary Gould and power forward Mario Duarte also received the same recognition.

“All four of those guys were in double digits, points-wise, in each of those games,” said Newman. “It was a very good balance.”

For family members and friends, watching the T-Jacks, Rookies and Lady Eagles play at the state championships was very special – and even more so because this was the first time the Aleutians East Borough School District sent three out of four teams to state.

“Both King Cove and Sand Point boys and girls were a thrill to watch,” said radio commentator and KSDP board member Amy Mack. “Despite losing some key players after graduation this year, both communities are still showing signs of strength and agility in the years to come. I predict more state basketball appearances from the AEBSD in the future!”

---

## Got News?

If you have news you’d like to share or if you’d like to subscribe, please email [ltanis@aeboro.org](mailto:ltanis@aeboro.org) or call Laura Tanis at (907) 274-7579.





*Thank you for reading **In the Loop**. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe, please send an email to [ltanis@aeboro.org](mailto:ltanis@aeboro.org). For more information about our communities, our people, and our fisheries, please visit us at [www.aleutianseast.org](http://www.aleutianseast.org) and [www.aebfish.org](http://www.aebfish.org). For the latest news, find us on Facebook:*

[\*Link to AEB's Facebook page\*](#)

[\*Link to King Cove's Facebook page\*](#)

