

# Sports

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## Seventh heaven for Fraser



Macomb Daily staff photo by Ray J. Skowronek

The Fraser girls basketball team hoists the district trophy high after beating Regina 39-26 in the Class A final.

### McHenry, Irwin spark Ramblers to district final victory over Regina

By John Hetzler  
Macomb Daily Sports Writer

#### Girls H.S. Basketball District Final

Becka McHenry sealed her final home game—and another Fraser district championship—with a kiss.

McHenry scored a game-high 15 points, including nine during a pivotal second-quarter run, to lead Fraser to a 39-26 victory over Regina in a Class A girls basket-

ball district final Friday night. Afterward, McHenry and senior guard Kelsey Irwin celebrated their school's seventh consecutive district crown by kissing the Ramblers logo painted at midcourt in the Fraser High School gym.

"It's our last home game," McHenry, a senior and four-year varsity player at Fraser. "That's why we kissed the horse mascot." McHenry and Irwin made sure they would go out as winners with another strong showing in the district tournament for the Ramblers.

Fraser has not lost in the district portion of the state playoffs since 2001, and the Ramblers

have won district championships in eight of the last nine years.

"We have high expectations each year," said Fraser coach Dave Kuppe, whose team improved to 17-6 overall and advanced to a regional semifinal matchup against Ford next Tuesday at L'Anse Creuse North.

"The more battles you win, the

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### FRASER: Beats Regina

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more championships you win, the kids start to believe it," Kuppe said. "That's half the battle. That really makes a difference."

"It feels good to keep that going and make a goal for the younger girls," McHenry said. "It feels amazing to win again."

Irwin, another four-year varsity player, made three 3-pointers and scored nine points, and senior forward Sadie Howell added six points, including a key jumper that halted a fourth-quarter Regina run.

Senior forward Hannah Sabol scored 13 points to lead Regina, which finished the year with an 8-14 record that included three

losses to Catholic League power Marian.

"She's had a great year," Regina coach Diane Laffey said of Sabol, who came in averaging 17.8 points and 11.5 rebounds per game. "She's had a super year."

Sabol and the Saddlelites battled Fraser to an 8-8 tie in the first quarter, but McHenry took charge in the second.

McHenry started the quarter with a 3-pointer, and after a pair of putbacks by Hannah Howell, she made two quick pull-up jumpers to cap an 11-0 run give the Ramblers a double-digit lead with 5:07 remaining in the first half.

"That's big," Kuppe said. "Kelsey got us going early, and then Becka got us going in the second quarter. That's where we really

took off." Fraser took a 21-12 advantage into halftime, and the Ramblers led by as many as 14 points in the third quarter before Regina tried to mount a comeback.

After scoring the final three points of the third quarter, Regina scored two baskets in the first minute of the fourth to cut the deficit in half and get within 29-22 with 7:08 remaining.

But Sadie Howell made a jumper less than a minute later to halt Regina's run, and the Ramblers made all eight of their free throws in the final minute to seal the victory.

After edging Roseville 49-45 in the quarterfinals on Monday, Fraser held its next two opponents to just 27.5 points in the next two games.

"The second half of the year we focused on defense," Kuppe said.

"The first half (of the season) I don't think we played that great defense. They're helping each other out better, communication better and making their slides better."

Irwin said the Ramblers refocused after a midseason meeting. "We decided we pride ourselves on fundamentals and defense," Irwin said. "Since then, we decided to work on this every night."

It worked, and it helped Fraser claim another district title.

"It means a lot," Irwin said. "This year means a lot because it's our senior year and this was our last home game."

Fraser 39, Regina 26	
Regina	8 4 6 8 26
Fraser	8 13 8 10 39
REGINA (8-14): Amanda Doyle 2, Cory Delamieure 2, Hannah Sabol 13, Emily Frikken 8, Katy Jakubek 1. Totals: 10 (2) 4-10 - 26.	
FRASER (17-6): Kaitlyn Minchella 3, Kelsey Irwin 9, Becka McHenry 15, Sadie Howell 6, Paula Mader 2, Hannah Howell 4. Totals: 13 (4) 9-10 - 39.	



Macomb Daily staff photo by Ray J. Skowronek

Regina's Hannah Sabol, left, battles Fraser's Rachael Wagner for the ball in the Ramblers' 39-26 victory over the Saddlelites.