

# 2023 State Journalism Championship



## **#10 Sports News Writing** **Time Limit – 1:15**

**Directions:** Assume the role of reporter for a student newspaper. Using the information below write a sports news story. You do not have to use all the information and quotes below. Entries will be evaluated on objectivity, accuracy, and balance.

### **When you are finished:**

1. Type your first and last name at the top of the document.
2. Save your document as a PDF with the filename: yourfirstlastname\_sportsnews\_Class (For example: SusieSmith\_sportsnews\_ClassA).
3. Notify the proctor when you are finished.

### **Team Facts**

Drake High School Destroyers Boys Basketball

- Regular season record 24-1
- #1 seed in the state tournament
- Defeated #8 seed Millrose (67-38) and #4 seed Wilcox (61-44)
- Qualified for the state tournament 19 times
- Twelfth appearance in the championship game

Boxley High School Buzzards Boys Basketball

- Regular season record 17-7
- #7 seed in the state tournament
- Defeated Schubert (50-48 in Overtime), Green Valley (40-36)
- First state appearance
- Last year had a 3-20 record
- First state title in program history

### **Quotes**

**Boxley High School Coach Rick Dees (First year as head coach)** – “We did the unimaginable. I just can’t believe it. We started this year with only eight kids on our team and that number diminished to seven with Doug Anderson’s ankle sprain. We just upset the #1 seed in the tournament. Last year our School Board considered dropping boys basketball because we just couldn’t get any wins. My guys worked their rears off this season. We believed in each other. And what a second half! Even though we went into halftime down by thirteen these guys never gave up. Our community rallied behind us and the gym was just electric. This is the highlight of my coaching career. So proud of these young men. They believed in themselves and came out in that second half on fire.”

**Drake High School Coach Monte Dean (Been the head coach since 2019, Hall of Fame Coach, won 10 straight titles in an 11-year span at Drake High School)** – “I felt like they were competitive and they were great in big moments, they hit some big shots when they needed to, especially in the second half. Our energy on the defensive end and rebounding was terrible towards the end. You can’t win basketball games if you can’t get those rebounds. And we got some turnovers and got frustrated a little bit, but we were tough. They were really hard to get out of their game. It was like we were playing a different team that second half. We just couldn’t stop them. They got hot on the three’s and we couldn’t stop them. It didn’t help that our shots stopped falling. We are obviously disappointed, but we will come back more intensity next year. Proud of my guys for all their hard work their season.”

**Boxley Guard Ernie Hernandez (5-foot-8, senior)** – “We were about to give up after that first half. We just couldn’t get into our flow and our shots weren’t falling. We were happy just to make it to state. I don’t know. Our coach wouldn’t let us give up. He fired us up and made us remember what got us here. We are a team, a family, and we needed to band together. I think we did just that. I can’t believe this is real life. It feels like a dream. We beat Drake. No one beats Drake. I just can’t believe it. What a way to end my senior year. Last year we couldn’t even hardly win a game let alone make it to state and then win the championship.”

### State Championship Game Box Score

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>T</u>
Drake	11	18	9	6	44
Boxley	5	11	22	20	58

### Team Comparison

<u>STATISTIC</u>	<u>Drake</u>	<u>Boxley</u>
<u>2FG%</u>	49%	31%
<u>2FGs</u>	20-41	12-39
<u>3FG%</u>	0%	41%
<u>3FGs</u>	0-9	7-17
<u>FT%</u>	50%	76%
<u>FTs</u>	2-4	13-17
<u>TOs</u>	11	9
<u>PtsOffTO</u>	4	13
<u>TotReb</u>	29	28
<u>DefReb</u>	24	23
<u>Off Reb</u>	5	5
<u>2ndChPts</u>	3	2
<u>BenchPts</u>	5	3
<u>PtsPaint</u>	28	16
<u>FstBkPt</u>	4	4
<u>Blocks</u>	1	0
<u>Steals</u>	5	4
<u>Assts</u>	8	2
<u>Times Tied:</u>	1	
<u>Time Tied:</u>	1:12	
<u>Lead Chg:</u>	2	
<u>LeadTime</u>	23:32	7:13

### Individual Leaders

Drake

PTS #1 PEONIO 19

REB #30 SMITH 5

AST #15 WALKER 5

Boxley

PTS #18 HERNANDEZ 32

REB #42 BRYANT 8

AST #10 MCDONALD 14