



2023 State Soccer Championships



Class A-3A

Girls

For the 3rd season in a row, the Sandia Prep Sundevils won the Class A-3A NMAA State Soccer Championships. The Sundevils defeated Bosque School (17-5-1) in the final for the second straight year, this time beating the Bobcats by a 2-0 score. Top ranked Sandia Prep scored two minutes into the match on a goal by Penny Hashagen. The Sundevils took a 1-0 lead into halftime and added an insurance goal in the second half by Maya Burgos. Sandia Prep (20-3) ended the season on a 17-game win streak. It's the 12th overall title for Sandia Prep and 7th in the last eight years.



Boys

It was #1 vs #2 for the Class A-3A Boys Soccer State Championship and #2 won #1 for the school. New Mexico Military Institute beat three-time defending state champ Sandia Prep 4-2 to win their first NMAA State Soccer Championship. The second-seeded Colts (18-3) scored a pair of early goals in the first half and never trailed. Daniel De Rueda scored the first goal in the third minute and Humberto Valdez gave NMMI a 2-0 advantage in the 9th minute. Sandia Prep's Noah Lovato cut the lead in half in the 31st minute, but Valdez scored his second goal of the game for NMMI just three minutes later to give the Colts a 3-1 halftime lead. Sawyer Hull would make it 4-1 early in the second half as NMMI would hold off Sandia Prep (14-8-1) for their 1st state title in school history.



Class 4A

Girls

For the third year in a row, Hope Christian finished the girls soccer season on top. The Huskies beat rival Albuquerque Academy 4-1 to claim the Class 4A State Soccer Championship. Hope (20-2-1) got on the board in the 28th minute with a goal by Seanna Anaya. Hope senior Savannah Sanchez would give the Huskies a 2-0 lead after converting a penalty kick in the 45th minute. Sanchez would score her second goal of the match in the 58th minute to put this one out of reach. The Chargers (17-5-1) would cut into the lead on a goal by Adeline Spratley, but Zylee Dominguez answered three minutes later with Hope's fourth goal of the game. It's the second time the Hope Christian girls program has won three consecutive state titles. The Huskies also won three straight from 2013-2015.



Boys

The Class 4A boys title couldn't be decided in regulation. St. Pius X beat Hope Christian (18-3-2) 1-0 in overtime to claim the 2023 State Soccer Championship. Javan Barela scored the game winner in the 86th minute to give the top seeded Sartans (21-2) the victory. It was Barela's first goal of the season. It's the first state championship for St. Pius since 2008. For St. Pius X head coach A.J. Herrera, his soccer career has come full circle. Herrera helped the Sartans win a state title 25 years earlier.



Class 5A

Girls

2023 was a breakthrough season for the Cleveland girls soccer program. The top-ranked Storm (22-1) beat La Cueva 1-0 to claim their first Class 5A State Soccer Championship. The lone goal came from Cleveland's Rylie Pengelly in the 27th minute. Cleveland finished the season winning their last 18 matches, six by shutout. Cleveland goalie Maddie Johnson stopped all three La Cueva (19-3-1) shots on goal. Cleveland's only loss on the season was to Class 4A State Champion Hope Christian.



Boys

It was perfect end to a perfect season for the Hobbs Eagles. Top-ranked Hobbs beat Atrisco Heritage to win the 2023 Class 5A State Soccer Championship. The Eagles (23-0) beat the Jaguars in penalty kicks 3-2 to win the title. Senior Eli Hernandez kicked in the game-winner in the 5th round of penalties, right after Hobbs goalkeeper Diego Castanon made his second save of the shootout. Atrisco Heritage (17-5) scored the first goal of the game on a shot by Michael Rios in the 21st minute. Later in the first half, Jorge Martinez tied it up on a header for Hobbs. The score remained 1-1 through regulation and a pair of overtimes. It's the first state soccer championship for Hobbs in 26 years.

