



2023

# STATE CHAMPIONSHIP BASKETBALL



MARCH 8-11, 2023  
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GHSA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP





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2023 CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

CLASS A - DIV. 2 GIRLS

1:00 PM - Clinch County vs. Lake Oconee Acad.

CLASS A - DIV. 2 BOYS

3:00 PM - Wilkinson County vs. Charlton County

CLASS 4A GIRLS

5:00 PM - Baldwin vs. Griffin

CLASS 4A BOYS

7:00 PM - Fayette County vs. Pace Academy

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

CLASS 2A GIRLS

1:00 PM - Mt. Paran Christian vs. Banks County

CLASS 2A BOYS

3:00 PM - Westside-Augusta vs. Providence Christian

CO-ED 3-POINT CONTEST

5:00 PM

CLASS 5A GIRLS

5:30 PM - Kell vs. Warner Robins

CLASS 5A BOYS

7:30 PM - Kell vs. Eagle's Landing

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

CLASS 3A GIRLS

1:00 PM - Lumpkin County vs. Hebron Christian

CLASS 3A BOYS

3:00 PM - Sandy Creek vs. Cedar Grove

GIRLS 3-POINT CONTEST

5:00 PM

CLASS 6A GIRLS

5:30 PM - River Ridge vs. Lovejoy

CLASS 6A BOYS

7:30 PM - Alexander vs. Lee County

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

CLASS A - DIV. 1 GIRLS

11:00 AM - St. Francis vs. Galloway

CLASS A - DIV. 1 BOYS

1:00 PM - King's Ridge vs. Mt. Pisgah Christian

AAASP FINAL

3:00 PM

BOYS SLAM DUNK FINAL

5:00 PM

CLASS 7A GIRLS

5:30 PM - Brookwood vs. Norcross

CLASS 7A BOYS

7:30 PM - Wheeler vs. Cherokee

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All 17 games will be televised live on the GPB Knowledge Channel, and streamed live on the GPB Sports app and the NFHS Network (NFHSNetwork.com). Digital downloads can be ordered at the NFHS Network.

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The 2023 Georgia High School Association Basketball State Championship Guide is published by Score Media, a division of Score Atlanta, in conjunction with the GHSA. The guide was designed by Laura Grieve and edited by Craig Sager II, Seth Ellerbee and Graham David. Information provided by the GHSA. For more information on Score Media, go to [Scoreatl.com](http://Scoreatl.com) or call 404-256-1572.



## WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GHSA WELCOME GHSA BASKETBALL FANS



**W**elcome to the 2023 GHSA Ralph Swearngin Basketball State Championships! The games are sure to be exciting as all of the schools represented are looking forward to their team achieving the title of "Champion". However, we all know that all of our teams are outstanding and are definitely winners. This has been an outstanding season and this year's championship games will include familiar faces as well as teams that have worked hard and peaked at just the right time. Our congratulations are in order for all of the teams, coaches, administrators,

cheerleaders and parents who have supported the athletes through this year's journey to the final games. I know you will enjoy and appreciate the games and all of the work leading up to this exciting event.

I would also like to thank you for your support of high school basketball throughout the season. Your attendance and support is integral to the success of high school athletics and for the team you are here to cheer on. Good sportsmanship is expected from our athletes and I urge you to be positive in your support of all of our teams. Let's work

together to make this week's games a great experience for all involved.

To put on an event of this magnitude takes many volunteers who have worked tirelessly to provide a "first class" event. Many hours of work from this group will enhance the experience of our players, cheerleaders and fans. The GHSA staff has been working for weeks as well to ensure a special event for all involved.

Finally, I would like to thank our corporate sponsors who make it possible to put on these championships. Their advertisements can be seen throughout this program, and I encourage you to support them whenever possible. The GHSA wants to thank these exemplary companies for their involvement, we appreciate their support.

Thank you for your attendance and I know you are going to enjoy the best high school basketball anywhere!

**James R. Hines, Jr.**  
Executive Director

### TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

## ACTION-PACKED MARCH TO MACON SETS STAGE FOR HISTORIC CHAMPIONSHIP SLATE

BY CRAIG SAGER II



**F**our-straight days of state championship action will take place at the Macon Centreplex starting Wednesday, March 8 and concluding on Saturday. Class A Division II and Class 4A will crown their state champions on Day 1 and Thursday will see the Class 2A and Class 5A finals in addition to the Coed 3-point contest at 5 p.m. On Friday, Class 3A tips off a championship double-header before the Girls 3-point contest and the 5A championships will conclude Day 3. On Saturday, the Class A Division I champions will be crowned ahead of the AAASP Finals between the DeKalb Silver Streaks and Houston County Sharks. The highly-anticipated Boys Slam Dunk contest will take place at 5 p.m. before Class 7A concludes a jam-packed 17-game slate.

The 2022-23 GHSA basketball season accelerated after a compelling regular season with dramatic region tournament action across the state. Playoffs tipped off on Feb. 21 and Georgia saw a total of 480 boys and girls playoff games through the next four rounds of action. All four previous rounds occurred within the span of just two weeks and now it is all on the line for this year's finalists that have successfully marched to Macon.

### DECORATED CHAMPIONSHIP FIELD

This year's championship field includes five defending girls state champions and just one reigning boys champion. On the girls side, Lake Oconee Academy, Mt. Paran, Lumpkin County, Lovejoy and Norcross are all seeking title defenses, while the Westside-Augusta boys are the lone boys team with an opportunity to defend their crown. In Class 7A, Norcross will take on No. 1 ranked Brookwood as the Broncos attempt to make history by winning their first-ever title. In the boys matchup, Cherokee has reached the finals for the first time since 1982 and will take on No. 1 ranked Wheeler as the Wildcats look to capture their ninth all-time state title.

In Class 6A, defending state champion Lovejoy wore the No. 3 seed throughout the playoffs and will take on River Ridge in a rematch of last year's quarterfinals. The Alexander boys are one win away from their first-ever title and the Cougars will square off with a Lee County team that has a chance to capture its first championship since 1985 and is fresh off a 49-48 win over Lanier. History and a potential sweep is on the line in Class 5A as both the Kell boys and girls have an opportunity to win first-ever titles. The girls face a Warner Robins team that is one win away from breaking a championship drought that dates back to 1965 and the boys take on two-time state champion Eagles Landing—who won its last title in 2021.

Pace Academy can secure its fifth all-time championship and third in the last four seasons in the boys Class 4A finals against a Fayette County team that is one win away from achieving its first-ever title. The Griffin girls are one win away from their first-ever championship and will take on Baldwin for the fourth time this season in a must-see 4A matchup.

### HISTORY IN THE MAKING

An undefeated season is on the line for Hebron Christian as the Lions face defending state champion Lumpkin County in the girls 3A finals and Region 5 rivals Sandy Creek and Cedar Grove will clash in the boys championship. Defending Class A Private state champion Mt. Paran faces a hungry Banks County team in the girls Class 2A championship and defending state champion Westside-Augusta looks to achieve back-to-back titles against Providence Christian.

The newly-formed Class A Division I and Class A Division II will see its first champions this week. Defending Class A Public Lake Oconee Academy will face Clinch County in the Class A Division II Girls finals and Charlton County takes on Wilkinson County in the boys finals. Wilkinson County is 10-0 all-time in finals appearances heading into tipoff. Class A Division I features Region 6 teams in both matchups. The St. Francis girls can win their first title since 2016 against Galloway and Mt. Pisgah can win its second state title since 2021 against King's Ridge—who is one win away from celebrating its first-ever championship.





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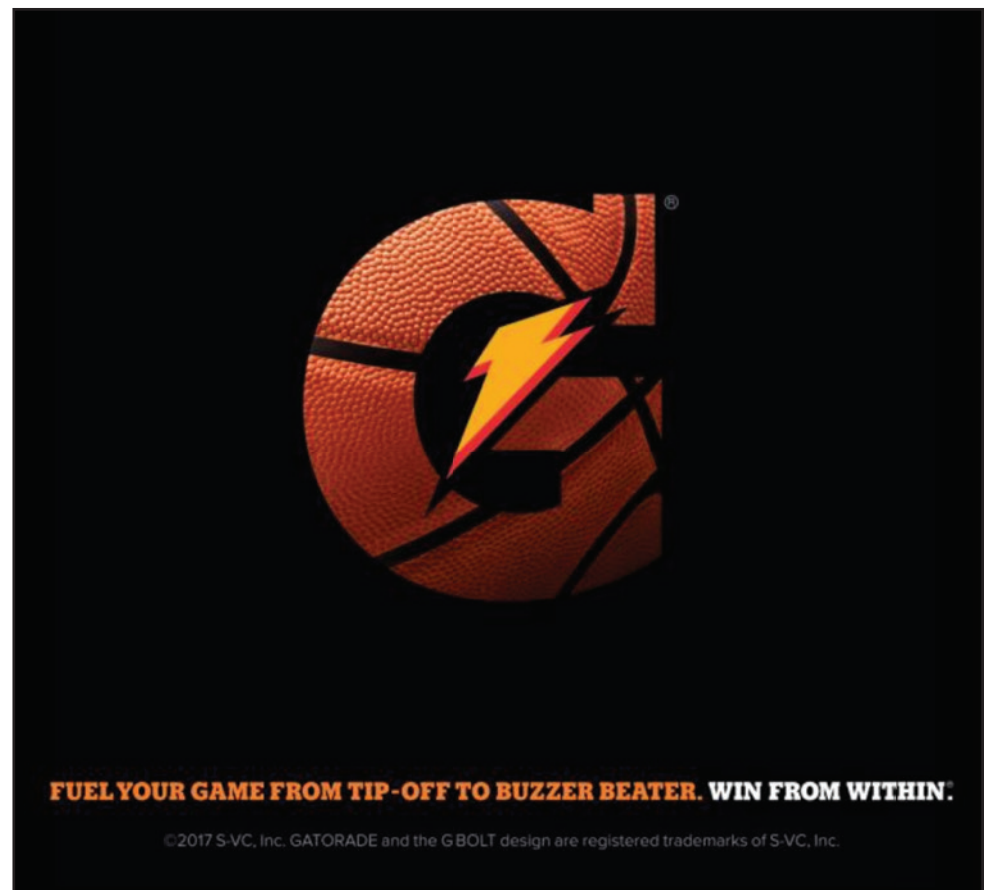
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SHARKS AND SILVER STREAKS READY FOR CHAMPIONSHIP

WWW.ADAPTEDSPORTS.ORG



The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs (AAASP) Wheelchair Basketball State Championship brings the most talented adapted athletes to center stage at 3 p.m. Saturday as the DeKalb Silver Streaks will look to upend the defending Houston County Sharks. Houston County has been the team to beat for nearly a decade but had its championship streak upended two years ago when it fell to the Gwinnett Heat 42-25. Last season, Houston County defeated the Silver Streaks 32-13 in the championship game to retake the crown.

The event became GHSA sanctioned in 2004 and was won by the Macon Bears in 2004 and 2005. The Atlanta Wolfpack captured the championship in 2006 before the West Georgia Wolverines won in 2007. The Wolfpack won the 2008 title which began a streak of four consecutive championships.

The Gwinnett Heat captured the

2012 championship before Houston County took over. The Sharks won the program’s first state title in 2013 beginning a streak of eight championships before losing to the Heat two seasons ago.

The Sharks will feature several new players, but a handful of experienced players will be tough to beat. Returning members of last year’s championship team are Dalton Crosby, Ger’mir Gordon, Jaquavious West, Adonis Brown, Ca’ron Harris, Anthony Cuti and Dylan Thompson. The fresh faces are Laila Kindness, McKayla Moody, Elianna Stevens, Ashlynn Stevens and Jaden Screen.

For DeKalb, returning players from last year’s runner-up team are William Jones, Noah Yonis, Cameron Smothers, Joe Patterson, Jamel Boston and Najee Smother. The newcomers are Justice Smith, Cleveland Elder, Josiah Jones and King McMurray.

AAASP WHEELCHAIR ROSTERS

HOUSTON COUNTY SHARKS

- |    |                 |    |                 |
|----|-----------------|----|-----------------|
| 2  | Laila Kindness  | 25 | Adonis Brown    |
| 3  | Dalton Crosby   | 31 | Ashlynn Stevens |
| 4  | Ger’mir Gordon  | 33 | Dylan Thompson  |
| 13 | McKayla Moody   | 40 | Jaden Screen    |
| 21 | Elianna Stevens | 43 | Anthony Cuti    |
| 24 | Jaquavious West | 51 | Ca’ron Harris   |

HEAD COACHES: Stephen Roberson & Anna Henry

DEKALB SILVER STREAKS

- |    |                  |    |                 |
|----|------------------|----|-----------------|
| 5  | Jamel Boston     | 20 | Cleveland Elder |
| 10 | Justice Smith    | 21 | William Jones   |
| 11 | Najee Smothers   | 24 | Josiah Jones    |
| 14 | King McMurray    | 30 | Noah Yonis      |
| 15 | Cameron Smothers | 31 | Joe Patterson   |

HEAD COACHES: Everette Schoates & Delton Schoates



TRANSFORMING LIVES AND ATHLETICS SINCE 1996

From its founding, inspired by the 1996 Paralympic games, to fostering the play of more than 7,034 athletes to date, the American Association of AdaptED Sports Programs (AdaptED Sports/AAASP) introduces “25 years of Innovation and Achievement”, an online digital archive highlighting the growth, evolution, and impact of the American Association of AdaptED Sports Programs, and the people who made it possible. Through collaboration with History Associates Inc., a historical research firm entrusted to create the site over this past year, the AdaptED Sports’ digital exhibit houses 55 stories, with over 225 images and videos, photos, newspaper clippings, videos and quotes to give virtual visitors an opportunity to experience the story and legacy of AdaptED Sports like never before. View the exhibit at: <https://adaptedsports.org/25-years-of-innovation-and-achievement/>.

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SECOND ROUND		QUARTERFINALS		SEMIFINALS		FINALS		SEMIFINALS		QUARTERFINALS		SECOND ROUND	
R6 #2 Galloway	64	Galloway	71	Galloway	70	<div>GIRLS CLASS A - D1</div>		36	Woodville-Tomp.	64	Woodville-Tomp.	33	R2 #2 Dublin
R7 #1 Darlington	35											67	R3 #1 Woodville-Tomp.
R3 #3 Screven County	37											50	R8 #2 Rabun County
R1 #1 Pelham	48											51	R5 #1 Oglethorpe Co.

FEB. 24-25		FEB. 28-MAR. 1		MAR. 3		MAR. 11		MAR. 3		FEB. 28-MAR. 1		FEB. 24-25	
R6 #2 Mt. Pisgah Christ. 78						BOYS CLASS A - D1						R1 #3 Pelham 62	
R7 #1 Darlington 66		Mt. Pisgah Christian 69						54 Woodville-Tomp.		81 R3 #1 Woodville-Tomp.			
R4 #2 Heard County 64				Mt. Pisgah Christian 53				62 King's Ridge		30 R8 #2 Rabun County			
R1 #1 Irwin County 72		Irwin County 55				Mt. Pisgah Christian		53 King's Ridge				65 R6 #4 King's Ridge	
				March 3 4:00 PM Georgia College & State University				March 3 8:00 PM Georgia College & State University					
R6 #3 Mt. Bethal Christ. 68		Athens Christian 55				March 11 1:00 PM Macon Coliseum				53 King's Ridge		61 R2 #3 Dublin	
R8 #1 Athens Christian 74										48 Mt. Vernon		70 R4 #1 Temple	
R3 #2 Savannah 54				Swainsboro 49						38 Temple		49 R7 #2 Chattooga	
R2 #1 Swainsboro 57		Swainsboro 70								68 Mt. Vernon		87 R6 #1 Mt. Vernon	

SECOND ROUND		QUARTERFINALS		SEMIFINALS		FINALS		SEMIFINALS		QUARTERFINALS		SECOND ROUND	
R6 #2 Macon County	46	Mt. Zion-Carroll	46	Mt. Zion-Carroll	14	<div>GIRLS CLASS A - D2</div>		63	Clinch County	56	Clinch County	57	R2 #2 Clinch County
R7 #1 Mt. Zion-Carroll	57											41	R3 #1 Montgomery Co.
R4 #2 Wilcox County	48											66	R8 #2 Towns County
R1 #1 Early County	46											57	R6 #4 Chatt. County
				March 4 2:00 PM Valdosta State University		March 8 1:00 PM Macon Coliseum		March 4 6:00 PM Valdosta State University					
R6 #3 Schley County	34	Lake Oconee Acad.	58	Lake Oconee Acad.	34	Clinch County		55	Taylor County	35	Randolph-Clay	37	R1 #2 Randolph-Clay
R8 #1 Lake Oconee Acad.	63											30	R4 #1 Hawkinsville
R4 #3 Telfair County	42											49	R8 #3 Greene County
R2 #1 Turner County	69											65	R6 #1 Taylor County

FEB. 24-25		FEB. 28-MAR. 1		MAR. 4		MAR. 8		MAR. 4		FEB. 28-MAR. 1		FEB. 24-25		
R6 #2 Manchester	56	Greenforest Christ.	67	Greenforest Christ.	49	<div>BOYS CLASS A - D2</div>						44	R1 #3 Randolph-Clay	
R7 #1 Greenforest Christ.	60											62	R3 #1 Portal	
R3 #3 McIntosh Co.	37											52	R7 #3 Fulton Leadership	
R1 #1 Calhoun County	66											79	R5 #1 Wilkinson Co.	
		Calhoun County		60		Charlton County								
						March 4 4:00 PM Valdosta State University								
						March 8 3:00 PM Macon Coliseum								
								Wilkinson Co.						
R5 #2 Hancock Cent.	50	Hancock Cent.	45	Charlton County	50							85	Wilkinson Co.	
R7 #4 SWAC	48											42	Portal	
R4 #3 Telfair County	42											46	Wilkinson Co.	
R2 #1 Charlton County	79											63	Macon County	
		Charlton County		68						65		Dooly County	56	R1 #2 Mitchell County
										71		Macon County	60	R4 #1 Dooly County
													61	R7 #2 Christ. Heritage
													66	R6 #1 Macon County



GIRLS • CLASS A • DIV. 2

3.8.23 • 1 PM

CLINCH COUNTY

LAKE OCONEE ACAD.

VS.

DID YOU KNOW?

CLINCH COUNTY AND LAKE OCONEE ACADEMY FACED OFF IN THE 2021 ELITE EIGHT, WITH CLINCH COUNTY WINNING 57-53.



CLINCH COUNTY

PANTHERS • 26-4 • REGION 2

Clinch County comes into the state championship game with a 26-4 record and 9-1 region record. The Lady Panthers are seeking their fourth state championship in program history, and first since 1993. Clinch County rattled off 13-consecutive victories to start the season, beating 11 of its 13 opponents by double-digits. The Panthers came into the tournament as the No. 2 seed after losing in the region tournament title game 59-53 against Turner County, a team they went 1-2 against this season. In their first-round matchup at home, the Lady Panthers defeated Calhoun County 59-32 after holding the Lady Cougars to only ten points at halftime, running away with the game in the second half. Freshman forward Amariah Dean and senior forward Amiyeon Graden each had 20 points apiece. Their second-round matchup was on the road against top-seeded Montgomery County, a team that only had one loss up until their game. Clinch County won by double-digits, defeating the Lady Eagles 57-41. The Lady Panthers went on a 16-0 run to begin the game in their quarterfinal matchup against Towns County in a 56-41 win. Dean scored 16 points and added 13 rebounds, while Grady added 11 points. In the final four, Clinch County held on after outscoring Taylor County in the third and fourth quarters. Grady scored 30 points, with 25 coming in the second half for the Panthers. Clinch County now looks to win its first title in 30 years at the Macon Coliseum.

HEAD COACH: Chase Daniel			
No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
1	Destiny Tolbert	G	9
2	Ma’Kyah Rowles	G	12
3	A’Miyeon Grady	G	12
4	Amariah Dean	F	9
5	Di’Nica Grady	G	12
10	Jalysia Riley	G	11
11	Asia Hood	F	11
12	Qua’Mya Williams	F	10
13	Tara Stevens	G	9
14	Jhi’Nerial Mingo	G	9
15	LaRhina Morris	F	11
20	Annalee George	G	9
23	Tyana Dorsey	C	11
25	Zi’ontay Harris	C	12

LAKE OCONEE ACAD.

TITANS • 28-2 • REGION 8

Defending Class A Public state champion Lake Oconee Academy is seeking their second consecutive title (now in Class A Div. 2) after winning it all last season against Hancock Central. The Lady Titans are officially back and have won 11-consecutive games. Lake Oconee hasn’t lost a game since January 21 against Towns County. Senior guard Jada Williams leads the team with 18.3 points and five steals per game. The Titans won a competitive region that included Towns County, who they went 2-1 against this year and defeated them in the region title game to secure a No. 1 seed in the state tournament. In the first round the Titans defeated Bowdon 76-32, outscoring the Red Devils 27-8 in the third quarter. In the second round, Lake Oconee defeated Schley County 63-34, holding the Wildcats offense to single digits in every quarter but the first. The elite eight pitted the Titans against No. 1 seed Turner County. With only an eight-point lead at halftime, the Titans held Turner County to just six points total in the second half while putting on a defensive clinic. The final four would be more of the same for Lake Oconee as it was the Titans’ second-consecutive game holding their opponent under 24 points in a 34-14 victory against Mt. Zion-Carroll. Williams finished the game with 18 points. Junior Georgia Bosart, another key piece on offense, is averaging 13.2 points and 8.8 rebounds per game this season.

HEAD COACH: Savannah Soles			
No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
1	Beth Harris	G	9
2	Ansleigh Padgett	SG	9
3	Georgia Bosart	PG	11
5	Jane Monachello	SG	11
10	Jacy Singleton	F	11
11	Hannah Heinen	PG	12
13	Mary Claire McCommons	PG	10
22	Jada Williams	SG	12
23	Kensi Stevens	SG	12
32	Ava Johnson	PF	12

BOYS • CLASS A • DIV. 2  
3.8.23 • 3 PM | WILKINSON CTY. <sup>VS.</sup>  
CHARLTON CTY.

DID YOU KNOW?  
THIS IS THE FIRST-EVER MATCHUP BETWEEN CHARLTON  
COUNTY AND WILKINSON COUNTY.



WILKINSON CTY.

WARRIORS • 24-6 • REGION 5

Wilkinson County will face Charlton County in the Class A Div II championship game seeking its 11th title in program history and first since 2018. The storied program has also won titles in 1999, 2000, 2002, 2007, 2011, 2013, 2014, and 2017. The Warriors carry a 24-6 record heading into the championship game, competing against private schools and Class 6A opponents like Houston County. The Warriors secured the No. 1 seed in the region tournament after going undefeated (10-0) in the regular season. Wilkinson County won its region tournament with a 70-58 victory against Hancock Central, a team they defeated twice in two weeks. In the first two rounds, Wilkinson County won both games by double-digits, beating Greenville 85-37 and Fulton Leadership 79-52. A highlight from the season includes avenging their two earlier losses to Portal when it mattered most in the postseason. The Warriors lost 65-62 on December 9 and 67-59 on January 14. In the third matchup of the season, Wilkinson County picked up a 46-42 victory in the quarterfinals on the road. An essential element of the game came at the free throw line in the second half, where the Warriors outscored the Panthers 21-3. Wilkinson County secured another double-digit victory in the semifinals against Macon County, 85-63. The Warriors took control of the game with a 26-14 effort in the third quarter, and senior Justin Stanley scored 25 points for Wilkinson County, making the Warriors 2-0 in the series against the Bulldogs throughout the season.

HEAD COACH: Xavier Whipple			
No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
00	Omarie Scott	PF/C	12
1	Jaden Williams	PG/SG	12
2	Keunjae Jackson	SG/PG	12
3	Treveen Evans	C/PF	11
4	DeKarteyia Craig	PG	12
10	Kwaveon Hill	W/SF/PF	12
11	Justin Stanley	SG	12
12	Keno Joyner	SG	11
15	J'Kwon Bonner	SG/SF	12
23	Jordan Jackson	C/PF	12
24	Jase Robinson	SG/SF	12
25	Siconius Sinkfield	C	12
30	Jatavius Hill	SF/PF	10
42	Sharodrick May	PF	11

CHARLTON COUNTY

INDIANS • 29-2 • REGION 2

Charlton County looks to make history this year after securing its first state championship berth in program history. In the first round, the Indians cruised to a 66-32 victory against Early County. Elyiss Williams finished with a double-double, scoring 21 points and grabbing 15 rebounds. Williams is averaging a double-double this season with 17 points and 13 rebounds per game. Telfair County was no match for Charlton County as they won 79-42 in the second round. A 68-45 victory against Hancock Central in the quarterfinals earned the program its first-ever final-four appearance. Jaylen King and Jarvis Wright both finished with 19 points apiece. Williams secured another double-double in the game with 11 points and 21 rebounds. The Indians have won nine-consecutive games including a thriller against Greenforest that saw Wright hit a game-winning three-pointer to send the Indians to the championship game. Wright is averaging 20 points per game this season and won Region 2 Offensive Player of the Year this season. The accolades continued to come down for the Indians this year with head coach David Bailey winning Region 2 Coach of the Year and the aforementioned Williams winning Region 2 Player of the Year. King has also been impressive for the Indians, averaging 12 points per game and receiving First-Team All-Region recognition this season. Junior Jamari Hamilton leads the team in steals averaging two per game. The Indians will look to put a bow on a storybook season with a victory in Macon.

HEAD COACH: David Bailey			
No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
0	Demorrion Martin	PG	11
1	Jarvis Wright	SG	10
2	Jamari Hamilton	SF	11
3	Imod Hamilton	PF	11
4	Elyiss Williams	C	10
5	Jalen King	PF	12
10	Donte Cribb Jr.	SF	11
11	Jordan Toliver	SG	10
12	Nathan Goss	SF	11
25	Trevon Cobb	PF	9
32	Omari Wilson	PG	9





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GIRLS • CLASS A • DIV. 1 | SAINT FRANCIS VS.  
3.11.23 • 11AM | GALLOWAY

DID YOU KNOW?

THIS WILL BE THE THIRD TIME GALLOWAY AND ST. FRANCIS HAVE PLAYED THIS SEASON, WITH ST. FRANCIS WINNING BOTH PREVIOUS MATCHUPS.



SAINT FRANCIS

KNIGHTS • 25-6 • REGION 6

St. Francis has made its third championship game in the last four years and were a basket away from the title game last season. The Lady Knights are seeking their program’s fourth championship and first since 2016, all of which have come under long-time Knights head coach Aisha Kennedy. Junior Sa’Mya Wyatt leads the team in scoring with 16.4 points per game. The Lady Knights have a high-powered offense that has already scored over the century mark in two games this season, against Mt. Bethel Christian in a 102-43 victory and Whitefield Academy in a 101-12 win. St. Francis is a battle-tested team that played a tough regular season in-state schedule and a national schedule. The Lady Knights have played Santiago (CA), Mater Dei (CA), Norcross (GA), Kell (GA), Buford (GA), and Lovejoy (GA) this year. In the first two rounds, St. Francis scored 90-plus points in each game while opponents Jasper County and Athens Christian only averaged 33 points. In the elite eight, sophomore point guard Desi Taylor scored 21 points and finished with six assists against Lamar County in a 84-45 victory. Senior center Anaja Hall scored 19 points along with 11 rebounds and three blocks. In the final four against Woodville-Tompkins, the Lady Knights dominated from beginning to end in a sound 76-36 victory. Taylor finished with 12 points and freshman guard Camryn Golston added 12 points.

HEAD COACH: Aisha Kennedy

No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
1	Camryn Golston	PG	9
15	Amelia Basit	PF	10
14	Desi Taylor	SG	10
17	Ariel Higgins	SG	10
5	Nya Young	PG	11
10	Sa’Mya Wyatt	PF	11
22	Alli White	SG	12
3	Erica Moon	PG	12
2	Trynce Taylor	PF	12
13	Anaja Hall	C	12

GALLOWAY

SCOTS • 28-4 • REGION 6

Galloway finally broke through and made the state championship game after defeating defending Class 2A State Champion Elbert County 70-57. The Lady Scots had three scorers in double-figures including Tiana Thompson, who led them with 25 points in their final four victory and has been a key offensive piece for Galloway in the postseason. The 2024 guard has two games with 25 points in their run to the championship game. Both of Galloway’s previous two semifinal losses came against Hebron Christian, with last year being a 49-47 defeat. Galloway played a gauntlet of non-region opponents prior to the postseason that included Holy Innocents’, Norcross, Woodward Academy, and Langston Hughes, all playoff teams in the higher classifications. The Lady Scots went 2-2 in those games. Galloway secured the No. 2 seed in the playoffs with a 79-52 win in the region tournament against Mt. Pisgah, sweeping the season series 2-0. In their first round matchup against Social Circle, the Lady Scots overwhelmed the Redskins with a 72-27 victory. Senior guard Allison Hoffmann reached the 1,000 career point milestone in that game. In the second round, Galloway secured another double-digit victory with a 64-35 outing against Darlington. The Lady Scots handled business against Pelham in the quarterfinals with a 71-36 win. Kailyn Fields led the team in scoring with 18 points and added six assists. Galloway now looks to avenge its 71-63 regular-season loss against St. Francis.

HEAD COACH: Kiesha Brown

No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
1	Allison Hoffmann	G	12
5	Eliana Diaz-Williamson	F	10
10	Taryn Thompson	G	9
11	Kyla Cain	G/F	12
12	Olivia Trotman	G	9
21	Kailyn Fields	G	12
33	Denaya “Dee” Stokes	F	10
35	Tianna Thompson	G/PG	11
40	Libby Abdur Rahim	F/G	9



BOYS • CLASS A • DIV. 1  
3.11.23 • 1 PM

KING'S RIDGE vs.  
MOUNT PISGAH

DID YOU KNOW?

BOTH MT. PISGAH CHRISTIAN AND KING'S RIDGE HAVE PLAYED IN A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME TWO OF THE PAST THREE SEASONS.



KING'S RIDGE

TIGERS • 22-10 • REGION 6

King's Ridge is seeking its first basketball state title in school history and has made the championship game for the second year in a row. The Tigers won three consecutive road games to earn a semifinal berth and have beaten three No. 1 seeds en route to the finals. King's Ridge was a No. 4 seed coming into the playoffs and was matched up with Social Circle where they secured a 69-60 victory in the first round. Rabun County was no match for the Tigers as they won 65-30 on the road. A road game against Woodville-Tompkins in the quarterfinals would prove a true test, but the Tigers were able to withstand a high-octane attack and Alfonzo Ross's 28 points. The semifinals would be a chance to avenge their loss against region rival Mt. Vernon, who defeated them 53-48 earlier in the season. Senior guard Isaac Martin was a perfect 4-for-4 from the free throw line in the game's final 12 seconds to keep the top-ranked, top-seeded Mustangs (23-9) at bay. The Tigers avenged the 53-48 loss to Mt. Vernon in the region semifinals with an identical score, but this time with King's Ridge on top, letting the Tigers take the season series, 2-1, beating the Mustangs 73-63 on Dec. 9. Mt. Pisgah is another region rival that stands in their way of glory, and King's Ridge will look to avenge its December 2 loss (65-74) at home against the Patriots in the championship game.

HEAD COACH: Robert Martin

No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
1	Isaac Martin	PG/SG	12
2	Nathaniel Kittredge	PG/SG	11
3	MJ Hill Jr.	G	10
10	Jaydon Cole	PG/SG	10
11	Jackson Thomas	SF/SG	11
13	Caelan	G	11
20	Cayman Morgan	G/W	11
21	Micah Hoover	SF/SG	12
32	Zakary Thomas	PG	12
33	William Jobe	G	11

MOUNT PISGAH

PATRIOTS • 23-8 • REGION 6

Mt. Pisgah is seeking its second championship in three years as the Patriots make the march to Macon. Following their 23-8 record this year, the Patriots have won 20 games or more in each of the past four seasons. Mt. Pisgah finished third in its region in the regular season with a 6-3 record, but was able to secure a No. 2 seed in the playoffs after making it to the region championship, losing to Mt. Vernon 67-53. The Patriots went on to defeat three No. 1 seeds in their tournament run with two of the victories being by double-digits. In the first round, Mt. Pisgah secured a 52-45 victory against Prince Avenue Christian at home. Darlington would be their second-round opponent and the Patriots won 78-66 with senior Grant Randall leading the team with 20 points. In that same game, Sophomore guard Micah Tucker surpassed 1,000 career points. Tucker has been instrumental in Mt. Pisgah's title run, scoring in double-figures in every game this postseason. Against Irwin County in the quarterfinals, the Patriots pulled away in the second half to secure a 69-55 victory. In the semis, Mt. Pisgah had a wire-to-wire 53-49 victory against Swainsboro after starting the game on a 14-1 run. Tucker finished with 23 points and Tyson Pittman added 17 points in the victory. Pittman is one of two players remaining from the 2021 Class A-Private championship team, which delivered the school its first basketball state title in program history.

HEAD COACH: Matt Hixenbaugh

No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
2	Grant Randall	SF	12
3	Micah Tucker	PG	10
4	Tyson Pittman	SG	11
10	Grant McDuffie	PG	9
11	Tyler Webber	SG	12
12	Cedric Haynes	G/F	10
13	Michael Rosser	SG	11
14	Jackson Williams	G/F	9
22	Max Tucker	PF	11
23	Tomy Smith	G/F	9
25	Daseaon Watson	PF	10
34	Chip Scarbrough	PF/C	11
35	Caede Talley	G/F	10

# BOYS PAST STATE CHAMPIONS (SINCE 1970)

Year	AAAAA	AAAA	AAA	AA	A	B	C
1970	-	-	Decatur	East Rome	Early Co.	Hogansville	Arlington
1971	-	-	Carver, Col.	Berrien	Roswell	Hogansville	GAC
1972	-	-	Savannah	Russell	Calhoun Co.	Hogansville	GAC
1973	-	-	SW, Macon	SW, Atlanta	Bacon Co.	West Point	-
1974	-	-	Savannah	SW, Atlanta	College Park	Hogansville	-
1975	-	-	SW, Macon	West Fulton	College Park	Monticello	-
1976	-	-	Savannah	West Fulton	College Park	Woodbury	-
1977	-	-	LaGrange	Brown	Arnold	GAC	-
1978	-	-	SW, Macon	Peach Co.	Josey	Clay Co.	-
1979	-	SW, Macon	SW, Atlanta	Arnold	Dacula	-	-
1980	-	Tompkins	Decatur	Lakeshore	Hoganville	-	-
1981	-	Baldwin	West Laurens	Crawford Co.	Woodbury	-	-
1982	-	Campbell	Decatur	Crawford Co.	Central, Tal.	-	-
1983	-	Marietta	Gainesville	Randolph-Clay	Woodbury	-	-
1984	-	Douglass, Atl.	Gainesville	Terrell Co.	Woodbury	-	-
1985	-	SW, Macon	Lee Co.	Central, Car.	Woodbury	-	-
1986	-	Wills	Hart Co.	Randolph-Clay	Bible Baptist	-	-
1987	-	Washington	(Forfeited)	Lakeshore	Clinch Co.	-	-
1988	-	Griffin	Madison Co.	Claxton	Richmond Hill	-	-
1989	-	SW, Macon	Marist	East Rome	Clinch Co.	-	-
1990	-	Southside	Westover	Mitch.-Baker	Central, Tal.	-	-
1991	-	Statesboro	Westover	Mitch.-Baker	East Rome	-	-
1992	-	Johnson, Sav.	Westover	Wash. Co.	Greenville	-	-
1993	-	Griffin	Westover	North Clayton	Richmond Hill	-	-
1994	-	Wheeler	Marist	Wash. Co.	Richmond Hill	-	-
1995	-	Dunwoody	Westside	Dodge Co.	Atkinson Co.	-	-
1996	-	Tift Co.	Tucker	Swainsboro	Hogansville	-	-
1997	-	Roswell	Dougherty	Cedar Grove	Calhoun Co.	-	-
1998	-	Savannah	Westover	Mitch.-Baker	Seminole Co.	-	-
1999	-	Marietta	Westlake	Mitch.-Baker	Wilkinson Co.	-	-
2000	-	Berkmar	Marist	Mitch.-Baker	Wilkinson Co.	-	-
2001	Berkmar	Dougherty	Westover	East Hall	Taylor Co.	-	-
2002	Wheeler	Westlake	Cross Keys	Wilkinson Co.	Taylor Co.	-	-
2003	Wheeler	Griffin	East Hall	Mitch.-Baker	Whitefield Acad.	-	-
2004	S. Gwinnett	Mays	West Laurens	Randolph-Clay	SW Atl. Christian	-	-
2005	Wheeler	Mays	Dunwoody	East Hall	Randolph-Clay	-	-
2006	Norcross	Columbia	Dunwoody	Dublin	SW Atl. Christian	-	-
2007	Norcross	Tucker	Jordan	Manchester	Wilkinson Co.	-	-
2008	Norcross	Columbia	Glenn Hills	Wesleyan	Hancock Cent.	-	-
2009	Wheeler	Miller Grove	South Atlanta	Dublin	Whitefield Academy	-	-
2010	Milton	Miller Grove	Columbia	GAC	Wesleyan	-	-
2011	Norcross	Miller Grove	Columbia	GAC	Wilkinson Co.	-	-

YEAR	AAAAAA	AAAAA	AAAA	AAA	AA	A-Public	A-Private
2013	Norcross	Miller Grove	Eagle's Landing	Johnson, Savannah	GAC	Wilkinson County	Greenforest
2014	Tift County	Miller Grove	Jonesboro	Morgan County	GAC	Wilkinson County	St. Francis
2015	Wheeler	Brunswick	Jonesboro	Jenkins	Seminole County	Calhoun County	St. Francis
2016	Westlake	Miller Grove	Liberty Co.	Morgan Co.	Pace Academy	Wilkinson County	Greenforest

YEAR	AAAAAAA	AAAAAA	AAAAA	AAAA	AAA	AA	A-Public	A-Private
2017	Tift County	Langston Hughes	Buford	Upson-Lee	Pace Academy	South Atlanta	Wilkinson County	Greenforest
2018	Meadowcreek	Hughes	Warner Robins	Upson-Lee	GACS	Thomasville	Wilkinson County	Aquinas
2019	McEachern	Tri-Cities	Buford	Carver-Columbus	Morgan Co.	Therrell	Calhoun Co.	St. Francis
2020	Wheeler	Chattahoochee	Dutchtown	Woodward	Pace Academy	Swainsboro	Hancock Central	St. Francis
2021	Milton	Wheeler	Eagles Landing	Baldwin	Cross Creek	Pace Academy	Towns County	Mt. Pisgah
2022	Norcross	Grovetown	Tri-Cities	Spencer	Cross Creek	Westside	Drew Charter	Greenforest



GIRLS PAST STATE CHAMPIONS (SINCE 1970)

Year	AAAAA	AAAA	AAA	AA	A	B	C
1970	-	-	Forest Park	Berrien	Monroe Area	Mitchell Co.	Taylor Co.
1971	-	-	Sequoyah	Sprayberry	Taylor Co.	Montgomery Co.	Norman Park
1972	-	-	Decatur	Berrien	Taylor Co.	Montgomery Co.	GAC
1973	-	-	Cherokee	Monroe Area	Haralson Co.	Loganville	-
1974	-	-	Waycross	Cairo	Pickens	GAC	-
1975	-	-	NE, Macon	Berrien	Haralson Co.	GAC	-
1976	-	-	Cherokee	Franklin Co.	Brooks Co.	Clinch Co.	-
1977	-	-	Lowndes	Brooks Co.	Irwin Co.	Miller Co.	-
1978	-	-	Lowndes	Waycross	Bowdon	Temple	-
1979	-	Lowndes	Berrien Co.	East Hall	Miller Co.	-	-
1980	-	Lowndes	Coffee	East Hall	Miller Co.	-	-
1981	-	NE, Macon	Madison Co.	White Co.	Warren Co.	-	-
1982	-	NE, Macon	Cairo	Putnam Co.	GAC	-	-
1983	-	LaGrange	Berrien	Morgan Co.	GAC	-	-
1984	-	LaGrange	Rockdale Co.	Seminole Co.	Central, Tal.	-	-
1985	-	NE, Macon	Dodge Co.	Terrell Co.	Central, Tal.	-	-
1986	-	Baldwin	Rossville	Terrell Co.	Central, Tal.	-	-
1987	-	Baldwin	Dodge Co.	Seminole Co.	Clinch Co.	-	-
1988	-	Baldwin	Chattooga	Upson	Taylor Co.	-	-
1989	-	Morrow	Hart Co.	Seminole Co.	Hawkinsville	-	-
1990	-	Morrow	Hart Co.	Berrien Co.	Broxton-M. Hayes	-	-
1991	-	Morrow	Hart Co.	Wash. Co.	Clinch Co.	-	-
1992	-	Cedar Shoals	Hart Co.	Tri-County	Taylor Co.	-	-
1993	-	Morrow	Hart Co.	Fannin Co.	Clinch Co.	-	-
1994	-	Sequoyah	Hart Co.	Gainesville	Taylor Co.	-	-
1995	-	S. Gwinnett	Woodward	Haralson Co.	Taylor Co.	-	-
1996	-	Sequoyah	Woodward	Randolph-Clay	Manchester	-	-
1997	-	Stone Mtn.	Richmond Acad.	Thomasville	Pelham	-	-
1998	-	Wheeler	Josey	Thomasville	Putnam Co.	-	-
1999	-	Pope	Woodward	Fannin Co.	Holy Innocents'	-	-
2000	-	Beach	North Atlanta	Randolph-Clay	Sav. Ctry. Day	-	-
2001	Collins Hill	C. Gwinnett	Gainesville	GAC	Jefferson	-	-
2002	Collins Hill	Glenn Hills	NE, Macon	GAC	Wesleyan	-	-
2003	Parkview	Mays	Gainesville	Early Co.	Taylor Co.	-	-
2004	Stephenson	St. Pius X	Gainesville	Wesleyan	Hawkinsville	-	-
2005	Collins Hill	Etowah	Hephzibah	Wesleyan	Terrell Co.	-	-
2006	Collins Hill	St. Pius X	Avondale	Wesleyan	SW Atl. Christian	-	-
2007	Collins Hill	St. Pius X	East Hall	GAC	Hawkinsville	-	-
2008	Stephenson	SW DeKalb	Kendrick	Wesleyan	Calvary Day	-	-
2009	Redan	SW DeKalb	Carrollton	Buford	Wesleyan	-	-
2010	Norcross	SW DeKalb	Columbia	Buford	Wesleyan	-	-
2011	Norcross	Fayette Co.	Washington Co.	Buford	Wesleyan	-	-

YEAR	AAAAAA	AAAAA	AAAA	AAA	AA	A-Public	A-Private
2013	Norcross	SW DeKalb	Columbia	St. Pius X	Wesleyan	Gordon Lee	St. Francis
2014	McEachern	Tucker	Redan	St. Pius X	Kendrick	Randolph-Clay	SACA
2015	McEachern	Stephenson	Buford	Laney	Wesleyan	Taylor County	St. Francis
2016	McEachern	SW DeKalb	Americus-Sumter	Morgan Co.	Holy Innocents'	Turner County	St. Francis

YEAR	AAAAAAA	AAAAAA	AAAAA	AAAA	AAA	AA	A-Public	A-Private
2017	McEachern	Mays	Buford	Columbus	Beach	Laney	Pelham	Wesleyan
2018	Westlake	Lovejoy	Buford	Spalding	Johnson-Sav.	Laney	Greenville	Wesleyan
2019	Westlake	Lanier	Buford	Carver-Columbus	Johnson-Sav.	Douglass	Marion Co.	Holy Innocents'
2020	Westlake	Forest Park	Buford	Americus-Sumter	GACS	Douglass	Wheeler County	Holy Innocents'
2021	Marietta	Westlake	Woodward	Carver-Columbus	Cross Creek	Josey	Calhoun County	Hebron Christian
2022	Norcross	Lovejoy	Woodward	Marist	Lumpkin County	Elbert County	Lake Oconee	Mount Paran

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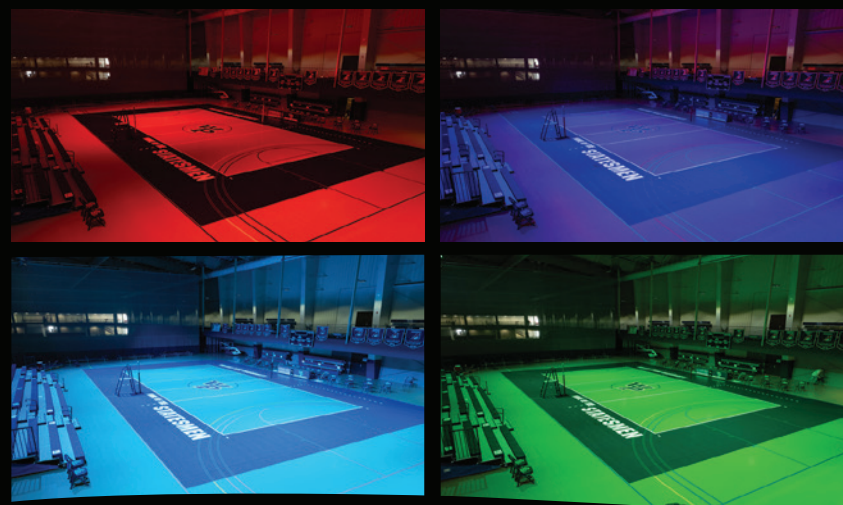


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SECOND ROUND		QUARTERFINALS		SEMIFINALS		FINALS		SEMIFINALS		QUARTERFINALS		SECOND ROUND			
R6 #2 Coahuilla Crk. 33		Wesleyan 78		Wesleyan 58		<div>GIRLS 3A</div> <div>March 10 1:00 PM Macon Coliseum</div>		31 Calvary Day		59 Calvary Day		49 R2 #2 Peach Co.			
R7 #1 Wesleyan 83		Carver, Col. 71		Hebron Christian				Calvary Day		32 Dawson County		57 R3 #1 Calvary Day			
R4 #2 Morgan County 31												58 R7 #3 Dawson Co.			
R1 #1 Carver, Col. 94										37 R6 #4 Adairsville					
R5 #2 Carver, Atl. 23		Hebron Christian 98		Hebron Christian 65		<div>March 3 2:00 PM Ft. Valley State University</div>		Lumpkin County		48 Cross Creek		49 R1 #2 Monroe, Alb.			
R8 #1 Hebron Christian 75		Mary Persons 25						Lumpkin County		63 Lumpkin County		52 R4 #1 Cross Creek			
R3 #2 Liberty Co. 43												66 R7 #2 Lumpkin County			
R2 #1 Mary Persons 47												32 R6 #1 Lakeview FO			

FEB. 24-25		FEB. 28-MAR. 1		MAR. 3		MAR. 10		MAR. 3		FEB. 28-MAR. 1		FEB. 24-25			
R5 #3 Douglass, Atl. 74		Douglass, Atl. 78		Douglass, Atl. 45		<div>BOYS 3A</div> <div>March 10 3:00 PM Macon Coliseum</div>		61 Sandy Creek		50 Johnson, Sav.		54 R1 #3 Crisp County			
R8 #4 Hebron Christian 43		Dougherty 73		Cedar Grove				Sandy Creek		56 Sandy Creek		78 R3 #1 Johnson, Sav.			
R4 #2 Harlem 59												22 R7 #3 Wesleyan			
R1 #1 Dougherty 76										68 R5 #1 Sandy Creek					
R5 #2 Cedar Grove 62		Cedar Grove 94		Cedar Grove 61		<div>March 3 8:00 PM Ft. Valley State University</div>		44 Cross Creek		72 Cross Creek		54 R1 #2 Monroe, Alb.			
R8 #1 Monroe Area 55		Long County 91						Cross Creek		65 Hart County		65 R4 #1 Cross Creek			
R3 #2 Long County 71												68 R8 #3 Hart County			
R2 #1 Upson-Lee 68												60 R6 #1 Adairsville			

SECOND ROUND		QUARTERFINALS		SEMIFINALS		FINALS		SEMIFINALS		QUARTERFINALS		SECOND ROUND			
R6 #2 KIPP 56		Murray County 38		Josey 44		<div>GIRLS 2A</div> <div>March 9 1:00 PM Macon Coliseum</div>		51 Landmark Christ.		42 Butler		39 R2 #2 Northeast-Macon			
R7 #1 Murray County 61		Josey 47		Banks County				Landmark Christ.		66 Landmark Christ.		42 R4 #4 Butler			
R4 #2 Josey 47												55 R7 #3 Fannin Co.			
R1 #1 Dodge County 40										79 R5 #1 Landmark Christ.					
R6 #3 NC Christian 35		Banks County 61		Banks County 48		<div>March 3 6:00 PM Georgia College &amp; State University</div>		58 Mt. Paran Christ.		43 Thomson		34 R2 #3 Spencer			
R8 #1 Banks County 53		Central-Macon 56						Mt. Paran Christ.		54 Mt. Paran		64 R4 #1 Thomson			
R4 #3 Laney 54												22 R7 #2 Model			
R2 #1 Central-Macon 73												55 R6 #1 Mt. Paran Christ.			

FEB. 24-25		FEB. 28-MAR. 1		MAR. 4		MAR. 9		MAR. 4		FEB. 28-MAR. 1		FEB. 24-25			
R6 #2 Washington, Atl. 44		Model 62		Model 49		BOYS 2A		52 Columbia		60 Windsor Forest		50 R2 #2 Central-Macon			
R7 #1 Model 52		Dodge County 60						Columbia		74 Columbia		72 R3 #1 Windsor Forest			
R4 #2 Putnam Co. 82												49 R8 #2 Union County			
R1 #1 Dodge County 85												83 R5 #1 Columbia			
R6 #3 NC Christian 74		Providence Christ. 84		Providence Christ. 59		March 4 4:00 pm Georgia College & State University		March 9 3:00 pm Macon Coliseum		81 Westside, Aug.		49 R1 #2 Sumter County			
R8 #1Providence Christ.78		Spencer 70								Westside, Aug.		50 S. Atlanta		82 R4 #1 Westside, Aug.	
R4 #3 Butler 54														63 R7 #2 N. Murray	
R2 #1 Spencer 58															

CLASS 2A - GIRLS

3.9.23 • 1 PM

MOUNT PARAN

VS.

BANKS COUNTY

DID YOU KNOW?  
BANKS COUNTY IS APPEARING IN ITS FIRST-EVER  
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.



MOUNT PARAN

EAGLES • 31-1 • REGION 6

The Eagles conquered a stacked playoff field last season in Class A-Private with wins over Wesleyan (66-37), Deerfield-Windsor (66-30), Trinity Christian (48-21), Holy Innocents' (53-5) and Hebron Christian (54-49) in the finals to win their first-ever state title. This season, Mt. Paran has reigned supreme in a new classification and will look to conclude a record-setting campaign. Mt. Paran cruised in the first two rounds of the playoffs—defeating ELCA 83-17 and Model 55-22. The Eagles went on the road in the quarterfinals and scored a 54-43 win over Thomson and then scored a 58-51 win over Landmark Christian in last week's semifinals. In the win over Landmark Christian, 6-foot-1, sophomore small forward Jessica Fields was sidelined with early foul trouble and Landmark Christian surged ahead to take a 27-25 halftime lead on a 13-7 run. Fields came back in the third quarter and made a strong impact with nine of her 15 points coming in the frame. Fields also tallied a game-high eight blocks and had six in the first half. Jacalyn Myrthil had 18 points, three rebounds and three assists while Isabella Ramirez tallied 10 points, five rebounds, three assists and three steals. Ciara Alexander was equally effective for Mt. Paran, posting eight points, eight rebounds, three assists and a steal. Mt. Paran carries a 19-game win-streak into the finals and its lone loss was a 56-54 thriller to Brookwood on Dec. 30.

HEAD COACH: Stephanie Dunn			
No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
1	Kitali Youmans	PG	10
2	McKinley Brothers	SG	10
3	Jacalyn Myrthil	PG	10
4	Jada Harvey	SF	10
10	Isabella Ramirez	SG	10
12	Kennedy Lee	PG	9
13	Massai Harper	SG	9
14	Lauren Ewell	SF	9
21	Jessica Fields	SF	10
22	Hailey Thornton	SF	10
23	Kennedy Deese	SF	9
32	Ciara Alexander	SF	11

BANKS COUNTY

LEOPARDS • 28-3 • REGION 8

The Leopards have improved drastically from last year's 10-18 campaign and second-round exit to Josey and now carry a 21-game win-streak into the finals and a 28-3 overall record. Banks County's last loss came to Rabun County on Dec. 9 and the team avenged that game just weeks later with a massive 76-38 victory. Avenging losses has been a theme of this season as Banks County also avenged last year's loss to Josey with a 48-44 victory in last week's semifinals to advance to the state championship. Banks never trailed in the game and went up 21-12 at the half. The Leopards preserved a 32-21 lead late in the third quarter before a 14-5 Josey run cut the lead to two points with 2:44 left, but clutch free throws from Addison Hoard—who went 6-of-10 from the line in the final quarter helped close out the victory. Hoard finished with 15 points, five rebounds, two assists and five steals. Teammate Ryleigh Murphy connected on four three-pointers in the first half and finished with 15 points, while Kyrin Grier capped a 14-point performance. Grier hauled in 10 rebounds and went a perfect 4-of-4 from the free throw line in the fourth quarter. Grier also sparked a scoring burst of six-straight points that pushed the lead to 43-38 and the senior has been critical in leading Banks County to its first-ever finals appearance.

HEAD COACH: Steven Shedd			
No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
3	Madison Adams	SG/SF	12
4	Ryleigh Murphy	SG	10
5	Addison Hoard	PG	11
11	Gracie Marlow	PG	12
12	Reese Murphy	PF/SF	10
13	Kinsey Brown	SF	12
14	Carley Segars	PF	11
15	Trinity Haynes	SG	10
20	Valentina Torres	SG	11
23	Nazli de la Garza	SF	12
24	Faith Smith	SG	12
25	Emmie Chitwood	PG	10
33	Maggie Irvin	PF	10
34	Maddie Hicks	PF	11
44	Kamryn Grier	PF	12



CLASS 2A – BOYS

3.9.23 • 3 PM

WESTSIDE-AUGUSTA vs. PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN

DID YOU KNOW?

PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN’S SAMUEL THACKER SET AN ALL-TIME SINGLE SEASON SCHOOL RECORD THIS YEAR WITH 114 MADE THREE-POINTERS.

WESTSIDE-AUGUSTA

PATRIOTS • 24-7 • REGION 4

Westside-Augusta is returning to Macon to defend its state crown and is coming off a thrilling 55-52 win over Columbia in the semifinals. The Patriots held the lead the entire second half and were up 38-28 early in the third quarter, but Columbia clawed back in the game and tied it at 43-43 to start the fourth quarter. The Eagles were never able to build the lead and Westside eventually went up 51-50 and forced a turnover with 11.4 seconds left to help seal the deal. “It was about perseverance,” Westside coach Jerry Hunter told the AJC after the game. “Our guys were relentless tonight. We found something to play for. Columbia is a hell of a team and a hell of a program, and we kind of had some bumps along the way, but our character and composure showed late.” The Patriots iced the game by hitting their final four free throw attempts—with Khalon Hudson knocking down two and Au-Mauri Tillman hitting the other two. Tillman had a team-high 13 points to go with four steals and four rebounds and Hudson finished with 12 points and an incredible 35 rebounds. The patriots also got 11 points, seven assists and three rebounds from Demarco Middleton and Jalexs Ewing finished with nine points, three assists and a pair of blocked shots. Westside opened the playoffs with a 77-32 victory over Vidalia and defeated Sumter County 82-49 and South Atlanta 81-50 before the Columbia victory.

HEAD COACH: Jerry Hunter

No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
0	Jalexs Ewing	G/F	12
1	Jarius Adkinson	PG/SG	10
2	Demarco Middleton	PG	11
3	Aldrion Jones	SF	10
4	Zhian Briggs	PG	12
5	AuMauri Tillman	SG/PG	12
10	Kelsey Henderson	PG	10
11	Xavier Goss	SF	11
12	Dontrell Jackson	PG	9
15	Bobby Blackwell	SF	11
20	Keori Atwell	SF	9
21	Khalon Hudson	SF	12
24	Javan Webb	SF	9

PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN

STORM • 24-7 • REGION 8

Providence Christian is one win away from achieving its first-ever state title and is fresh off an 84-70 win over defending Class 4A state champion Spencer in the quarterfinals and a 59-49 win over Model in the semis. The Storm ride a current six-game win-streak that started with a 92-75 win over Banks County in the Region 8 tournament. This victory was just days removed from an 80-77 loss in the regular season finale and Providence Christian clinched the No. 1 seed in a convincing 73-49 win over Union County. The Storm cruised past Rockmart 89-51 to open the state playoffs and followed it up with a 78-74 thriller over North Cobb Christian. After toppling Spencer 84-70, the Storm outpaced Model behind a game-high 17 points from Devin McClain and a valiant defensive effort. Covenant College-signee Thomas Malcolm got the Storm off to a quick start with 12 of his 14 points coming in the first quarter. Providence Christian led 27-18 in the second quarter, but the lead shrank to 30-28 at the half. Devin McClain led Providence Christian with 17 points to go with his nine rebounds and one block. The Storm, who have connected on 250 three-pointers this season, were held to just seven three pointers. Samuel Thacker is the all-time single season leader with 114 three-pointers this season and he came up big with a late corner three to fuel his 10-point night. Thacker also dished out six assists.

HEAD COACH: Joey Thacker

No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
0	Kam Carryl	W	12
1	Thomas Malcolm	W	12
2	Samuel Thacker	G	11
3	Caleb Lee	G	11
4	Matthew Miller	G	11
5	Ephraim Rowell	G	12
10	Chandler Dunn	W	12
11	Lawson Stephens	W	11
13	Luke Krakoviak	P	12
14	Devin Long	W	12
32	Dre Booker	P	12

CLASS 3A - GIRLS | LUMPKIN CTY. vs.  
3.10.23 • 1PM | HEBRON CHRISTIAN

DID YOU KNOW?  
THE MUSICIAN ZAC BROWN IS A GRADUATE OF  
LUMPKIN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL.



LUMPKIN COUNTY INDIANS • 26-4 • REGION 7

Lumpkin County enters the game as the defending-champions after the program’s first-ever title last season when it beat Greater Atlanta Christian 51-46. The entire program is about one thing: Lumpkin County. The team has been playing together since they were kids and with no out-of-Lumpkin players on the roster, according to head coach David Dowse, the connection has been paramount to the success of the program. “These girls have been together so long,” Dowse told Score Atlanta’s Seth Ellerbee after Lumpkin’s 78-31 semifinal victory over Calvary Day at Fort Valley State. “When you have a senior come on the floor who doesn’t play that much and she scores two baskets and our bench erupts when we are up 50 points, that’s family.” There are four key players Lumpkin deploys, a Lethal Weapon: 4, if you will. Averie Jones, a 5-foot-6 junior shooting guard, Lexi Pierce, a 5-5 senior point guard, Mary Mullinax, a 5-10 senior shooting forward and Kate Jackson, a 5-11 senior power forward, account for a majority of Lumpkin’s offensive production. Against Calvary Day, the four accounted for 71 of the team’s 78 points – Jones (21 points), Mullinax (20), Pierce (18) and Jackson (12). The Indians – which entered the tournament as the No. 2 seed from Region 7 behind Wesleyan, have beaten Oconee County 72-47, Lakeview Fort Oglethorpe 68-32, Cross Creek 63-48 and Calvary Day to return to the championship game.

HEAD COACH: David Dowse			
No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
1	Maddie Lee	SF	9
3	Ciera Brooks	SG	11
4	Averie Jones	C/G	11
5	Lexie Pierce	PG	12
10	Breigh Rice	SG	10
11	Mary Mullinax	SF	12
14	Sarah Perry-Major	SF	12
15	Alayna Lindley	SG	9
20	Cadence Ivey	SF	9
22	Elizabeth Walker	SF	12
23	Kate Jackson	PF	12
44	Stevee Major	PF	9

HEBRON CHRISTIAN LIONS • 31-0 • REGION 8

Head coach Jan Azar, who is in her fourth season coaching Hebron Christian knows what it means to win championships. She led the Hebron girls to their first state title in 2021 and last season, Hebron lost out in the championship game to Mount Paran 54-49. Now, 31 wins and zero losses later, the girls are back. “Our girls are hungry,” Azar told Score Atlanta’s Seth Ellerbee after the Lions’ semifinal victory over Wesleyan 65-58 at Fort Valley State. “They want to go back and finish that from last year. But we are going to enjoy this now. We are going to enjoy the weekend.” The semifinal victory over Wesleyan was sweet for Azar, who coached the Wolves to 13 state championships before taking the Hebron job. There’s key players, like sophomore Audrey Beckham, junior guard Amiya Porter and junior wing Nickya Daniel, but depth is a valued asset for Hebron. Against Wesleyan, 5-foot-10 junior Kayla Lane displayed impeccable 3-point shooting prowess. “Everyone focuses on Audrey or Amiya or Nickiya,” Azar said. “But that freed up areas for players to make shots and Kayla Lane stepped up. She has been at Hebron for a long time. She played middle school ball there before I got here, and her 3-point shots were the difference in the game.” Hebron has beaten White County 68-53, Carver-Atlanta 75-23, Mary Persons 98-25 and Wesleyan on the way to the finals.

HEAD COACH: Jan Azar			
No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
0	Lily Macrina	G	10
1	Camryn Register	G	10
2	Kerra Butler	PF	10
4	Alanna Beckham	G	9
5	Jayden Watts	SF	10
10	Ali Champa	G	10
11	Kayla Lane	G	11
12	Aubrey Beckham	G	10
14	Megan Kim	PF	10
15	Aniya Moodie	G	11
22	Amiya Porter	G	11
32	Nicky Daniel	SF	11
33	Emma Flowers	G	10





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CLASS 3A – BOYS

3.10.23 • 3PM

SANDY CREEK vs. CEDAR GROVE

DID YOU KNOW?

SANDY CREEK HAS A CHANCE TO WIN BOTH A FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL STATE TITLE OVER REGION 5 RIVAL CEDAR GROVE THIS YEAR.



SANDY CREEK

PATRIOTS • 25-6 • REGION 5

Ranked atop the class the entire season, Sandy Creek is trying for the program’s first-ever championship after beating two-time defending-champion Cross Creek 62-44 in the semifinals. The Patriots have offensive depth and the floor leader is 6-foot-8 junior forward Micah Smith. “Our depth is fueled by our love for each other,” Smith told Score Atlanta’s Seth Ellerbee after the semifinal victory over Cross Creek at Fort Valley State. “We are all blood. That’s what makes this work, the love we got.” Smith gave insight into the team’s outlook and gameplan after losing in the second round last season to state runner-up Windsor Forest 47-37. “We just had to come in every game we walked into like we were playing Cross Creek,” Smith said. “We could not take anything lightly through the whole season and we were playing games and practicing like it was a final four game all season.” Against Cross Creek, Smith scored 16 points to lead a trio of Patriots players in double-figures. Junior PJ Green finished with 13 points and senior Vic Newsome scored 10 points. Sandy Creek has beaten Ringgold 100-57, Wesleyan 68-22 and No. 2 Johnson-Savannah 56-50 and Cross Creek during the Patriots’ playoff path to Macon. Sandy Creek has faced Cedar Grove three times this season and won 91-56, 71-48 and 76-52. “When we got to the semifinals, it was nothing new,” Smith said. “We go hard all the time.”

HEAD COACH: Jon-Michael Nickerson

No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
0	Jaren Alexander	G	12
1	Vic Newsom	G	12
2	Jacobi Robinson	G	10
3	Jared White	G	10
4	Caleb Rowe	G	12
5	Jordan Alexander	G	12
11	Micah Smith	F	11
12	Amari Brown	G	11
13	Osakilo Okeke	G	10
14	Avohn Florence	G	9
15	Josh Hales	G	11
21	Kani Rashied-Henry	F	11
22	Novorro Elder	G	12
24	P.J. Green	G	11
25	Amari Latimer	G	9

CEDAR GROVE

SAINTS • 20-9 • REGION 5

Cedar Grove will have to play a next-to-perfect game to beat top-ranked Sandy Creek, and it still might not be enough. The Saints’ finals opponent has beaten the Saints in Region 5 play three previous times this season. But after the team’s 61-46 victory over Douglass in the semifinals, Cedar Grove is savoring the program’s first championship appearance since it won the Class 2A title in 1997. Tempo and rhythm fuel Cedar Grove and in the semifinals, it took some settling down for the Saints to take control. “Douglass are a great shooting team, and we knew we just had to shut that down and execute on defense,” sophomore EJ Colson told Score Atlanta’s Seth Ellerbee after Cedar Grove’s semifinals victory at Fort Valley State. “My guys were talking and once we got settled down, we felt good.” A halftime talk from head coach Kendrick Callier gave insight into the Saints’ game plan in any close contest. “We went into halftime, and I told our guys to settle down,” said coach Callier. “We already knew their plans. They are a hard-playing team and I told them to take care of the ball, sit back and play disciplined defense and let them give it to you.” Colson, the quarterback of the Saints’ state runner-up football team, is a 6-foot point guard who scored 13 points against Douglass. Other offensive threats are 5-9 senior guard Jaylen Adside, 6-6 senior power forward Darius Reynolds and 6-5 freshman shooting guard Emmanuel Green.

HEAD COACH: Kendrick Callier

No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
1	Emmanuel Green	W/SG	9
2	Elliot Colson Jr.	PG	10
3	Jahree Ingram	PG	11
4	Brian Valentine	SG/W	11
5	Jaylen Aside	PG	12
10	Camron Ferguson	SF	12
11	Derrick Beasley	SG	12
12	Laron Moses	PG	11
15	Darius Reynolds	PF/SF	12
20	Jeremiah Hardaway	W/F	12
23	Nathaniel Loyd	G	11
25	Harlim Perine	G/W	9





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SECOND ROUND		QUARTERFINALS		SEMIFINALS		FINALS		SEMIFINALS		QUARTERFINALS		SECOND ROUND	
R6 #2 Cambridge 63		Calhoun 62		Calhoun 53		<div>GIRLS 5A</div> <div>March 9 5:30 PM Macon Coliseum</div>		37 Jackson, Atl.		47 Union Grove		67 R2 #2 Union Grove	
R7 #1 Calhoun 68										54 R3 #1 Northside, Col.			
R4 #2 Arabia Mountain 52		Arabia Mountain 52		Warner Robins				54 Jackson, Atl.		41 R7 #3 Dalton			
R2 #4 Jones County 36										66 R5 #1 Jackson, Atl.			
				March 3 2:00 PM University of West Georgia				March 3 6:00 PM University of West Georgia					
R5 #2 Midtown 44		Midtown 62		Warner Robins 62				56 Kell		54 Bradwell Institute		66 R1 #2 Bradwell Institute	
R7 #4 Cartersville 31												42 R4 #1 Decatur	
R3 #2 Harris County 43		Warner Robins 73								68 Kell		35 R7 #2 Hiram	
R2 #1 Warner Robins 55												50 R6 #1 Kell	

FEB. 24-25		FEB. 28-MAR. 1		MAR. 3		MAR. 9		MAR. 3		FEB. 28-MAR. 1		FEB. 24-25	
R5 #3 Tri-Cities 73		Hiram 53		Jones County 54		<div>BOYS 5A</div> <div>March 9 7:30 PM Macon Coliseum</div>		33 Chapel Hill		57 Union Grove		61 R2 #2 Union Grove	
R7 #1 Hiram 93								60 R3 #1 McIntosh					
R4 #2 Tucker 50		Jones County 56		Eagle's Landing				71 Chapel Hill		52 R7 #3 Cass			
R2 #4 Jones County 64								85 R5 #1 Chapel Hill					
				March 3 4:00 PM University of West Georgia				March 3 8:00 PM University of West Georgia					
R5 #2 Mays 69		Mays 71						54 Kell		60 Dutchtown		55 R2 #3 Dutchtown	
R8 #1Winder-Barrow 68				Eagle's Landing 66								46 R4 #1 Decatur	
R4 #3 Lithonia 36		Eagle's Landing 81								73 Kell		48 R8 #3 Eastside	
R2 #1 Eagle's Landing 64												79 R6 #1 Kell	

SECOND ROUND		QUARTERFINALS		SEMIFINALS		FINALS		SEMIFINALS		QUARTERFINALS		SECOND ROUND	
R6 #2 Westminster 54		NW Whitfield 42		Hardaway 54		<div>GIRLS 4A</div> <div>March 8 5:00 PM Macon Coliseum</div>		58 Baldwin		58 Baldwin		62 R2 #2 Baldwin	
R7 #1 NW Whitfield 56										46 R4 #4 Troup Co.			
R4 #2 Fayette County 30		Hardaway 48		Griffin				51 Luella		29 R8 #2 E. Forsyth			
R1 #1 Hardaway 60										89 R5 #1 Luella			
				March 4 2:00 PM Ft. Valley State University				March 4 6:00 PM Ft. Valley State University					
R5 #2 Stockbridge 56		Chestatee 47						Baldwin		32 Trinity Christian		42 R1 #2 Westover	
R8 #1 Chestatee 66				Griffin 59								49 R4 #1 Trinity Christian	
R4 #3 Starr's Mill 30		Griffin 66						45 Holy Innocents'		63 Holy Innocents'		42 R7 #2 Heritage Catoosa	
R2 #1 Griffin 60												79 R6 #1 Holy Innocents'	

FEB. 24-25		FEB. 28-MAR. 1		MAR. 4		MAR. 8		MAR. 4		FEB. 28-MAR. 1		FEB. 24-25	
R5 #3 McDonough 78		McDonough 57		Westover 49		<div>BOYS 4A</div> <div>March 8 7:30 PM Macon Coliseum</div>		67 Benedictine		58 Benedictine		59 R2 #2 Perry	
R7 #1 Sonoraville 38								72 R3 #1 Benedictine					
R3 #3 SE Bulloch 55		Westover 66		Pace Academy				35 Madison County		49 R8 #2 Madison County			
R1 #1 Westover 67								48 R5 #1 Lovett					
				March 4 4:00 PM Ft. Valley State University				March 4 8:00 PM Ft. Valley State University					
R5 #2 Pace Academy 58		Pace Academy 62						Fayette County		83 Fayette County		59 R1 #2 Bainbridge	
R8 #1 Walnut Grove 41				Pace Academy 57								61 R4 #1 Fayette County	
R4 #3 LaGrange 47		Baldwin 31						73 Fayette County		71 Woodland, HC		52 R8 #3 N. Oconee	
R2 #1 Baldwin 57												76 R5 #4 Woodland, HC	



CLASS 4A - GIRLS | BALDWIN vs. 3.8.23 • 5 PM | GRIFFIN

DID YOU KNOW?

BALDWIN AND GRIFFIN WILL MEET FOR THE FOURTH TIME IN 64 DAYS ON WEDNESDAY.



BALDWIN

BRAVES • 24-8 • REGION 2

Baldwin is one win away from capturing the program’s first state championship since 1988. Baldwin has been one of Georgia’s top programs in the decades since its last championship and this year’s team is determined to end the drought. Baldwin’s talent and depth was on full display in the semifinals, where the Braves closed out a 58-45 victory over Holy Innocents’. Baldwin trailed 4-2 early in the contest, but quickly took over. Baldwin closed out the first quarter on a 14-5 run and a no-look pass from Jasmine Williams to a wide open Kassidy Neal under the basket helped push the lead to 20-9 early in the second quarter. “We weren’t going to change anything,” said Baldwin head coach Kizzy Walker about her team’s high tempo pace. “We were going to come out and play fast and play our style of basketball.” Neal led the Braves with 16 points in the first half as they took a 28-21 lead. She finished the game with a team-high 23 points and teammate Madison Ruff caught fire in the third quarter with 13 of her 17 points coming in the frame. Baldwin extended its lead to 44-33 heading into the fourth quarter and Zy’Keria Paschal stepped up with six of her eight points coming in the fourth quarter. “This has been a tough year,” said Walker. “We started off the year so slow, but the girls have focused and improved a ton.” Baldwin started the season 0-4 and were 5-7 before compiling an 18-1 record ever since.

HEAD COACH: Kizzy Walker

No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
1	Jordyn Bolston	G	11
3	Madison Ruff	PG	11
5	Janaye Walker	C	10
11	Donasia Cannie	G	11
13	Jasmine Williams	G/PG	11
14	Zykeria Paschal	G	11
15	Jalayah Miller	G	12
21	Kassidy Neal	PF	10
22	Emily Adside	PF	9
24(A), 44(H)	Amiya Mitchell	G	11
32	Jamya Easley	PF	11
34	Morgan Ruff	G	11
35	Kyla Levester	C	10

GRIFFIN

BEARS • 25-4 • REGION 2

Griffin (26-4) had never won in the semifinals prior to Wednesday’s 59-54 win over Hardaway (24-5) and advanced to the championship for the first time in program history. “They are a very gritty group. And these girls have experienced a lot of heartache over the years,” said Griffin head coach Roy Johnson. “So they don’t want to go home and they especially don’t want to go home knowing they did not give a complete effort and fortunately we have one more opportunity to get it done.” Hardaway was also looking to make history and compete for its first state championship next week in Macon, but was unable to hold off the Bears’ in the fourth quarter of the semis. The Hawks trailed Griffin 27-25 at the half and used a 19-14 advantage in the third quarter to build a 44-41 lead. Trailing 44-41, Griffin opened the fourth quarter on a 9-0 run to take a 50-44 lead before closing out the victory. “Zy Thompson came up big for us,” said Johnson. “She had three fouls in the third quarter and so I didn’t want her to be in foul trouble in the fourth. When she came back the fourth, she had a couple steals and made some big free throws. That helped get Aaliyah Durham get going also. And that is our senior leadership. That is what they do.” Thompson finished with 15 points and Durham led with 15 points in the second half with a game-high 26 points.

HEAD COACH: Roy Johnson

No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
1	Leah Turner	G	12
3	Zamiyah Hosley	G	11
4	Camiya Starks	G	11
5	Kimora Martin	G	11
11	Rinayah Harris	F	10
12	Lauren Henley	F	9
14	Kyler Jefferson	G	11
15	Kasey Smikes	F	11
20	Zy Thompson	F	12
21	Bella Daniel	G	9
22	Aaliyah Duranham	F	12
23	Ry’Quareona Reid	F	12
24	Samiah Puckett	C	12
30	Amme Mobley	F	12
35	Idrianna Edwards	F	11



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CLASS 4A - BOYS

3.8.23 • 7:00 PM

FAYETTE CTY.

vs.

PACE ACADEMY

DID YOU KNOW?

HEAD COACH SHARMAN WHITE HAS WON NINE ALL-TIME STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS HEADING INTO TIPOFF.



FAYETTE COUNTY

TIGERS • 26-5 • REGION 4

Fayette County advanced to the state finals for the second time in the last three seasons and will take on Pace Academy for a chance to win its first-ever state title. The Tigers’ fell 54-53 to Baldwin in the 2021 Class 4A Finals and are making their return to Macon with a fresh blend of newcomers and seniors that have made deep playoff runs before. Fayette County has lost just one game within Class 4A this season and that was an 81-80 overtime loss to rival Whitewater. The Tigers’ avenged that loss with a 75-61 victory on Jan. 24 and a 72-61 win on Feb. 17 to clinch the Region 4 championship. In the playoffs, Fayette County opened with a 98-73 win over New Hampstead and then held on for a dramatic 61-59 win over Bainbridge. Fayette County rallied from a 39-36 halftime deficit to Woodland in the quarterfinals before outscoring the Wolfpack 48-32 in the second half to secure an 83-71 win. Fayette County’s 73-67 win over Benedictine in the semifinals extended their win-streak to 13-straight. The Tigers won the opening tipoff and two passes later, sophomore Keith Gillespie had the Tigers up 3-0 with a corner three-pointer. Gillespie ended up connecting on a trio of three-pointers in the first quarter and helped the Tigers’ build an 18-16 lead. Fayette County dominated the second quarter 23-10 to go up 41-26 at the half and that scoring burst was fueled by senior RJ Kennedy—who sparked a 9-0 run in the quarter.

HEAD COACH: Andre Flynn			
No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
1	Christian McAllister	PG/G	10
3	Robert Hurst	SG	12
4	Keith Gillespie	PG/SG	10
5	Reginald Kennedy	PG/SG	12
10	Tobi Ijiwoye	G	12
11	Travis Taylor	PG	12
12	Sean Van Dorn	SF	10
15	Kahlil Allen	PG	10
22	Anthony Perry	SG	10
23	Jackson Rutley	SG	9
24	Isaiah Franklin	PG	12
25	Kalen Shemwell	SG	11
33	Aden Saunders	PG	9
44	Jayden Douglas	SF/SG	10

PACE ACADEMY

KNIGHTS • 24-7 • REGION 5

No. 2 seed Pace Academy (24-7) is one win away from achieving the program’s fifth all-time state title and third championship in the past four years. The Knights’ entered Class 4A this season after competing in Class 2A the previous two seasons and their only two losses within the classification occurred within Region 5—to a McDonough and Lovett team that they split games with. In the playoffs, Pace Academy bounced back from a two-point loss to Lovett in the region championship with a massive 67-28 win over Miller Grove. The Knights followed that win with a 58-41 road win over Walnut Grove and a 62-31 road win over Baldwin in the quarterfinals. Pace Academy squared off with a tough Westover team in the semifinals and closed out a 57-49 victory. “We did not play our best today, but the free throws were obviously huge,” said Pace Academy head coach Sharman White after the semifinals.” Pace Academy took a 34-31 lead into the fourth quarter and were 24-of-30 from the free throw line throughout the game and 15-of-19 in the fourth quarter from the charity stripe. Kyle Green hit 8-of-10 free throws in the fourth quarter and fueled his team-high 16 points with 14-of-16 shooting from the foul line. Eric Chatfield Jr. finished with 13 points and was a perfect 6-of-6 from the line. Senior Kendall Evans added 10 points and set the tone defensively with four blocks and LJ Moore added 10 points and nine rebounds.

HEAD COACH: Sharman White			
No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
0	M.J. Madison	SF/W	9
1	Kyle Greene Jr.	PG/SG	11
2	Eric Chatfield Jr.	PG	10
3	Chandler Bing	SF/W	10
4	Jackson Ferry	PG/SG	10
10	Kendall Evans	SG/SF/W	12
11	Jaydon Avery	SG	9
14	Davis Rice	SG/W	12
21	L.J. Moore	SF/PF	11
24	Ben Leach	PF/C	12
32	Gavin Jeffries	PF/C	10



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CLASS 5A - GIRLS

3.9.23 • 5:30 PM

KELL vs.  
WARNER ROBINS

DID YOU KNOW?

THE SONG 'I CAN'T HELP MYSELF' BY THE FOUR TOPS WAS THE NO. 1 SONG IN 1965, WHEN WARNER ROBINS LAST WON A STATE TITLE.



KELL

LONGHORNS • 25-5 • REGION 6

Kell lost to Sequoyah in the Class 6A semifinals last season 40-38 and that shortcoming has been the fuel for the Longhorns. Coupled with the 66-63 loss to Buford in the 2020 title game, Kell wants a championship badly. The goal since last year’s shortcoming has been the state championship game. “This is what we wanted to do last year and we got stopped short,” head coach Kendra Bailey told the AJC’s Stan Awtrey. “So we’re happy to get there.” In this year’s bracket, Kell has beaten Lithia Springs 69-23, Hiram 50-33, Bradwell Institute 68-55 and Jackson-Atlanta 56-37 in the semifinals. Against Jackson, Kell’s offensive abilities were on full display after opening the game on a 12-3 run. But, according to Bailey, that isn’t enough. “That was a slow start for us,” Bailey told Awtrey. “We only scored 19 points in the first half. That’s a super-low scoring half for us. I felt like we missed a lot of shots, you know just getting on the big stage again, but in the third quarter we picked it up.” Starting guard Makayah Harris suffered an ankle injury in the third quarter of the semifinals and was carried off the court, having her ankle heavily taped. Senior point guard Crystal Henderson scored 20 points in the semis, with 18 points in the second half to help Kell pull away. Jamiah Gregory, a 5-foot-8 senior shooting forward, added 16 points and senior Jada Green scored 13 points in the semifinals.

HEAD COACH: Kendra Bailey

No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
3	Riley Kerns	G	10
4	Jada Peterson	PG	12
5	Makayah Harris	G	12
10	Ava Rousseau	G	10
11	Jada Green	F	12
20	Brianna Cobb	F	10
21	Sydney Moss	G/F	10
23	Jamiah Gregory	G	10
30	Crystal Henderson	PG	12
32	Aiya Dudley	G	12
42	Ramatoulie Jow	C	11

WARNER ROBINS

DEMONS • 28-3 • REGION 2

It’s been 58 years since Warner Robins has won a girls basketball title and after beating Calhoun 62-53 in the semifinals, the top-ranked Demons have a chance for history. And for head coach Rebecca White, the opportunity is deeply personal as a former Warner Robins player. “It’s a dream,” White told the AJC’s Stan Awtrey. “I once wore this jersey and I fell short. So to coach at my alma mater is amazing. It’s a dream come true. It’s a lot of tradition. You walk those halls with pride and anybody who has been there before wants to come back.” Senior point guard Jada Morgan suffered a knee injury in the semifinal victory. The 5-foot-8 junior point guard is arguably the team’s best player but when the Demons needed depth against Calhoun, they found it in 5-7 senior point guard Tasia Agee “We had girls step up. We’ve stepped up all year,” White told Awtrey. “Tasia hasn’t had a game like that all season and she came out tonight and played. I’m very proud of her.” Against Calhoun, Agee scored 18 points with 11 assists and three steals. Another offensive threat is 5-5 junior guard Tori Davis, who scored 20 points with six 3-pointers in the semis. The Demons trailed 31-26 entering the third quarter against Calhoun, but displayed the ability to stun the opposition. Warner Robins outscored the Yellow Jackets 12-3 to open the third quarter and ended the period on a 10-0 run to steal momentum.

HEAD COACH: Rebecca White

No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
2	Nevaeh Mack	PG/SG	11
10	Kaitlyn Jacobs	SG	12
11	Jhaidyn Porter	C	12
12	Chayenne Phillips	F	10
14	Chelsea Thomas	SG	12
20	Kennedy Jacobs	SG	10
21	Kynnadi Howard	C/F	12
22	Tasia Agee	PG/SG	12
24	Tori Davis	PG/SG	11
30	Jada Morgan	SG/F	12
32	Zaiah Dantes	F	11
34	Korveanna Slaughter	SG	10
40	Mykiah Williams	C/F	10
44	Verkesia Fuller	F	10
52	Kennedy Bradshaw	SG	9

CLASS 5A - BOYS

3.9.23 • 7:30 PM

KELL vs.  
EAGLE'S LANDING

DID YOU KNOW?

STERLING 'SCOOT' HENDERSON WAS A 5-STAR RECRUIT FOR KELL WHEN HE BYPASSED HIS SENIOR SEASON (2021) TO PLAY PROFESSIONALLY.



KELL

LONGHORNS • 27-2 • REGION 6

After losing in last year's championship game, Kell is hungry. The team has only lost to one team from Georgia this season - a 71-67 overtime loss to Class 7A Grayson on Jan. 7 - and since, the Longhorns have won 14 games and that streak has allowed the team a shot at its first-ever state title. "The goal is to win it," head coach Jermaine Sellers told Stan Awtrey, who covered the game for the AJC. "A couple of years ago was our first experience and we didn't know what to expect. This year I think we will be more prepared and ready to take home the trophy." Last season, Kell lost to this year's 7A finalist Wheeler 71-61 in the 6A title game. The Longhorns' path through this year's bracket went through Jackson-Atlanta 97-68, Eastside 79-48, Dutchtown 73-60 and Chapel Hill 54-33 in the semifinals. Against Chapel Hill, Kell led 22-19 at the half before a smothering defensive effort allowed the Longhorns to pull away and secure the title berth. Kell's defensive effort kept Chapel Hill from scoring until 2:10 left in the third quarter, an effort that will be needed against Eagle's Landing's high-scoring offense. Junior C.J. Brown scored 24 points in the semifinals, with 14 points in the first half. Senior shooting forward Cannon Richard scored 10 points in the semifinals and Auburn-commit Peyton Marshall, a 7-foot junior center, scored six points after being hampered by foul trouble.

HEAD COACH: Jermaine Sellers

No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
1	Isaiah Wood	G	12
2	Parrish Johnson Jr.	G	12
3	Jaylon Colon	G	11
4	Tylin Delaney	G	11
5	Aaron Smith	W	12
10	Julius Strahorn	G	12
12	CJ Brown	G	11
14	Cannon Richards	W	11
20	Landon Duncan	G	10
21	Peyton Marshall	P	11
22	Connor Staphylaris	G	10
25	TJ Murray	W	12
31	Noah Bolton	P	12

EAGLE'S LANDING

EAGLES • 29-1 • REGION 2

Top-ranked Eagle's Landing lost to Dutchtown 54-52 on Jan. 28 and since, the Eagles have put together a run of nine-consecutive victories and advanced the program to the state championship game in search for the team's third state title. The key to the success was a tip from head coach Elliott Montgomery. That tip? Begin the game as if you are losing. Play from behind, even if you are ahead. It worked. Eagle's Landing won the Class 4A championship in 2013 and the 5A state title in 2021 after beating Tri-Cities 81-69. Last season, the Eagles lost to Tri-Cities in the championship game 67-59. "The hardest part is always getting here," said Montgomery to Stan Awtrey, who covered the game for the AJC. "I told Dr. (Robin) Hines when I picked up that second-place trophy, my kids told you all last year that we would be here, but I'm telling you (in 2023) we will be there. This is a great group and this is a great opportunity." In the semifinal victory over Jones County, 6-foot-3 point guard David Thomas, a Mercer signee, scored 20 points, 6-3 shooting guard Chris Morris scored 18 points, 6-6 shooting forward Kenneth Brayboy scored 15 points and 6-foot point guard Khylan McKennie scored 10 points to lead the Eagles. "We know we've been there before," Montgomery told Awtrey. "And it's easier if you've been there before. You think about those things that have happened in the past and they prepare you for where you are today."

HEAD COACH: Elliott Montgomery

No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
0	Tylon Redmond	G	11
1	Kylan McKennie	G	12
2	Nick Mason	G	12
3	Clark Masten	PG	11
4	Kenneth Brayboy	F	12
5	Prince Morell	G	12
10	Tyson Moore	G	10
11	Chris Morris	F/G	11
12	David Thomas	PG	12
13	Jaden Davenport	F	11
14	Elijah Robinson	F/G	12
15	Hannibal Smith	F	10
21	Maddox Melancon	G	9
23	Jordan Powell	F	12
24	Micah Medley	F	10





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SECOND ROUND		QUARTERFINALS		SEMIFINALS		FINALS		SEMIFINALS		QUARTERFINALS		SECOND ROUND	
R6 #2 Lambert	34	Norcross	61	Norcross	58	<div>GIRLS 7A</div>		53	McEachern	64	McEachern	47	R2 #2 Campbell
R7 #1 Norcross	59											50	R3 #1 McEachern
R4 #2 Archer	56											76	R8 #2 C. Gwinnett
R1 #1 Lowndes	53											48	R5 #1 Walton
<div>March 4 2:00 PM Georgia State University</div>													
R5 #2 Cherokee	52	Buford	66	Buford	46	<div>March 11 5:30 PM Macon Coliseum</div>		58	Brookwood	74	Brookwood	60	R2 #3 Carrollton
R8 #1 Buford	72											65	R4 #1 Brookwood
R3 #2 N. Paulding	49											35	R7 #2 Peachtree Ridge
R2 #1 Pebblebrook	39											54	R6 #1 S. Forsyth
<div>March 4 6:00 PM Georgia State University</div>													
		Archer								C. Gwinnett			
		N. Paulding								S. Forsyth			

FEB. 24-25		FEB. 28-MAR. 1		MAR. 4		MAR. 11		MAR. 4		FEB. 28-MAR. 1		FEB. 24-25					
R5 #3 Osborne	60	Norcross	58	Norcross	60	BOYS 7A		67	Wheeler	71	McEachern	51	R2 #2 Westlake				
R7 #1 Norcross	72											88	R3 #1 McEachern				
R4 #2 Newton	73											49	R7 #3 N. Gwinnett				
R2 #4 Pebblebrook	51											74	R5 #1 Wheeler				
<div>March 4 4:00 PM Georgia State University</div>																	
R5 #2 Cherokee.	73	Cherokee	70	Cherokee	63	<div>March 11 7:30 PM Macon Coliseum</div>		55	Grayson	46	Grayson	53	R1 #2 Valdosta				
R7 #4 Berkmar	58											76	R4 #1 Grayson				
R4 #3 Parkview	56											56	R7 #2 Peachtree Ridge				
R2 #1 Carrollton	58											64	R5 #4 Walton				
<div>March 4 8:00 PM Georgia State University</div>																	
		Newton								Wheeler							
		Carrollton								Walton							

SECOND ROUND		QUARTERFINALS		SEMIFINALS		FINALS		SEMIFINALS		QUARTERFINALS		SECOND ROUND			
R6 #2 Woodstock	61	Gainesville	34	Lovejoy	73	<div>GIRLS 6A</div>		46	Hughes	53	Rockdale Co.	43	R1 #3 Lee County		
R8 #4 Gainsville	63											65	R3 #1 Rockdale Co.		
R3 #3 Lovejoy	72											27	R8 #2 Habersham Cent.		
R1 #1 Veterans	53											51	R5 #1 Hughes		
<div>March 4 2:00 PM University of West Georgia</div>												<div>March 10 5:30 PM Macon Coliseum</div>			
R6 #3 Sequoyah	59	Sequoyah	47	Brunswick	62	River Ridge		60	River Ridge	43	Marist	37	R1 #2 Tift County		
R8 #1 N. Forsyth	46											61	R4 #1 Marist		
R3 #2 Woodward Acad.	57											47	R7 #2 Blessed Trinity		
R2 #1 Brunswick	64											65	R6 #1 River Ridge		
												Lovejoy			
				Brunswick								River Ridge			

FEB. 24-25		FEB. 28-MAR. 1		MAR. 4		MAR. 10		MAR. 4		FEB. 28-MAR. 1		FEB. 24-25					
R6 #2 River Ridge	59	Blessed Trinity	61	Lee County	49	<div>BOYS 6A</div>		54	Alexander	53	Jonesboro	46	R2 #2 Brunswick				
R7 #1 Blessed Trinity	69											65	R3 #1 Jonesboro				
R4 #2 Riverwood	63											57	R8 #2 Shiloh				
R1 #1 Lee County	70											66	R5 #1 Alexander				
<div>March 4 4:00 PM University of West Georgia</div>												<div>March 10 7:30 PM Macon Coliseum</div>				<div>March 4 8:00 PM University of West Georgia</div>	
R5 #2 S. Paulding	55	Lanier	62	Lanier	48	Alexander		51	Etowah	53	St. Pius X	57	R2 #3 Lakeside-Evans				
R8 #1 Lanier	67											62	R4 #1 St. Pius X				
R4 #3 Marist	51											42	R7 #2 Pope				
R2 #1 Grovetown	58											59	R6 #1 Etowah				
<div>March 4 8:00 PM University of West Georgia</div>												<div>March 4 8:00 PM University of West Georgia</div>					
		Lee County								Alexander							
		Grovetown								Etowah							



CLASS 6A – GIRLS  
3.10.23 • 5:30 PM

RIVER RIDGE  
vs.  
LOVEJOY

DID YOU KNOW?

RIVER RIDGE AND LOVEJOY FACED OFF LAST YEAR IN THE  
QUARTERFINALS WITH THE WILDCATS SECURING A 71-59 VICTORY.

RIVER RIDGE

KNIGHTS • 26-5 • REGION 6

River Ridge is seeking its first state title in program history after a 60-46 final-four win against Langston Hughes. The Lady Knights have yet to suffer an in-state loss this season and have racked up signature wins this season, beating 7A opponents Buford (53-51) and Brookwood (70-59). River Ridge has arguably the best starting five in the state. Each member of their starting five averages more than seven points per game. “We’ve got five really special players, but the thing is, every day in practice the rest of the girls have to go against those five girls,” River Ridge coach Jason Taylor said. “The reason our five can get to that level is because of the way the rest of our girls are pushing them.” The River Ridge starting five made their impact felt in their game against Hughes. Sophia Pearl led the Lady Knights with 20 points. Kayla Cleaveland scored 11, Mataya Gayla had 10 and Avery Gaw scored nine points on three 3-pointers. River Ridge went undefeated in region play and secured the one seed heading into the region tournament. The Lady Knight hoisted the region championship after defeating Woodstock 66-62. On their playoff run, the Lady Knights defeated defending Class 4A state champions Marist 61-43, and were led by Cleaveland who scored 17 points. River Ridge hasn’t lost a game since January 10th against Hazel Green (AL) and has scored 70 or more points in 14 of their 31 games this season.

HEAD COACH: Jason Taylor			
No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
3	Sophia Pearl	G	10
5	Sierra Reid	G	12
10	Octavia Hall	F	12
11	Mataya Gayle	G	12
14	Makayla Roberson	G	9
15	Avery Gaw	G	11
20	Niara Gayle	G	10
22	Jasmine Long	G	12
23	Allie Sweet	F	11
24	Kayla Cleaveland	G	10
25	Lilly Krutz	F	10
30	Ayanna Blanco	G	12
32	Kyla Canty	G	9
33	Joy Tchamabe	F	10
44	Alyssa Farmer	F	12

LOVEJOY

WILDCATS • 26-5 • REGION 3

The defending champions are back in the state championship for a second-consecutive year and are seeking their third state title in six years. Lovejoy was the only girls team in any classification to reach the semifinals that wasn’t a No. 1 or No. 2 seed. The Lady Wildcats have reached the semifinals five times in the past six seasons. Lovejoys finished the regular season tied for first place in Region 3, one of the state’s toughest regions, but lost to Rockdale County in the semifinals of the region tournament that decided their fate as a No. 3 seed. Lovejoy has impressive regular season wins this season against Norcross (64-51), Rockdale County (63-57), and St. Francis (75-63). Lovejoy went on the road to defeat Riverwood 63-20 in the first round and was one of four girls teams to win first-round games on the road in 6A, joining Gainesville, Sequoyah and Lee County. Lovejoy has two players who have been awarded Region Player of the Year in their careers in La’Nya Foster and Bryanna Preston. Preston won the award last year and Foster won the honor this season. Foster leads the Lady Wildcats with 19.5 points per game and star point guard Preston averages 18.1 points per game and seven assists. Both Preston and Foster combined for 56 points in their 73-62 win against Brunswick in the final four. Lovejoy now looks to win its third title in program history Friday at the Macon Coliseum.

HEAD COACH: Cedric King			
No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
1	Bryanna Preston	G	11
2	Jabria Lesane	G	9
3	Ayana Boyd	G	12
4	Kennedi Harley	G	9
5	Camiah Muldrow	G	10
11	Morgan Bone	G	12
12	Jahilya McDonald	F	11
23	La’nya Foster	G	12
32	India McIntosh	F	11

CLASS 6A – BOYS | ALEXANDER vs. LEE COUNTY  
3.10.23 • 7:30 PM

DID YOU KNOW?

ALEXANDER IS SEEKING ITS FIRST-EVER STATE TITLE IN SCHOOL HISTORY. THE COUGARS CLOSEST FINISH CAME IN 2014, AFTER A 78-75 SEMIFINAL-LOSS TO JONESBORO.



ALEXANDER

COUGARS • 27-5 • REGION 5

Alexander has been a top-ranked team in Class 6A all season. The Cougars erased a nine-point fourth-quarter deficit in the semifinals against Etowah and used a 14-4 run in the final 3:29 minutes of the game for their first state title berth in program history. Braeden Lue finished with 22 points and eight rebounds, and Marvin McGhee had 11 points. The Cougars played in a tough region that included Langston Hughes and South Paulding. Alexander swept South Paulding and split the season series with Hughes. Alexander has three scorers who average double figures this season: Lue (15.9), Jay’Quan Nelson (14.1), and McGhee (11.0). On its run to the title game, Alexander defeated Rome 65-57 in the first round, led by McGhee who had 19 points on an efficient 75% shooting from the field. Against Shiloh in the second round, the Generals held a lead at halftime against the Cougars, but a third-quarter run saw Alexander take control of the game. Nelson led the team in scoring with 19 points. Trailing 53-52 against Jonesboro in the quarterfinals, freshman guard Greg Dunson hit the go-ahead basket with 9.6 seconds left in the game which pushed Alexander past the Cardinals and into the semifinals. The victory marked head coach Jason Slate’s 500th win for the Cougars. Trailing 53-49 against Etowah with 1:52 left in the semis, Lue scored five-unanswered points and McGhee’s late dunk sealed the game for the Cougars.

HEAD COACH: Jason Slate

No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
1	Noah Melson	G	12
2	Milan Kennedy	G	12
3	Jay Quan Nelson	G	12
4	Marvin McGhee	F	12
5	Braeden Lue	F	11
10	Christian Gravett	G	12
11	Jazzdon Streeter	F	12
12	Gregory Dunson	G	9
15	Josh Kimble	G	11
20	Raymond McKoy	G	11
22	Christopher White	G	11
23	Christopher Hutchinson	G	10
24	Terrance Bowen	G	10
25	Amari Atchison	C	12

LEE COUNTY

TROJANS • 28-3 • REGION 1

The Trojans are making their first state title appearance in 38 years. Lee County is the only un-ranked Class 6A boys team that made it to the semifinals. In a tight, low-scoring battle against Lanier in the final four, Trojans’ senior DJ Taylor hit two free throws with 4.5 seconds remaining this past Saturday to lift the Trojans to the one-point win over the Longhorns. Taylor was the Region 1 Player of the Year this season. Josiah Parker led the Trojans in scoring with 16 points, while Harrison Skinner scored nine points. Lee County is led by a top football recruit in Ousmane Kromah, a sophomore, who averages a double-double with 10.1 points per game and 10.7 rebounds per game and is second on the team in scoring. The Trojans advanced to the quarterfinals with victories over Evans (61-49) and Riverwood (70-63) in the first two rounds, respectively. The Trojans lost just one game in region play this season, 35-24 against Tift County. With their 65-61 quarterfinal win against Blessed Trinity, the Trojans advanced to the semis for the second time in three seasons. Lee County previously had not advanced past the second round since winning the Class 3A title in 1985. Christian Brown led the Trojans with 17 points against Blessed Trinity, and sophomores Kromah and Parker had 10 each. Lee County is now just one win away from the program’s second-ever state title.

HEAD COACH: Kirven Davis

No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
1	Kani Laster	SG	11
2	Christian Brown	SG	12
3	DJ Taylor	PG	12
4	Will Myles	PG	9
5	Braylon Chaney	PG	10
8	Connor Harris	PF	10
10	Andrew Knight	SF	12
11	Caden King	PF	12
12	Torren Williams	PG	9
13	Ousmane Kromah	PF	10
15	Josiah Parker	SF	10
20	Nick Fabrizio	C	12
21	Demetrius Davis	C	12
23	Harrison Skinner	SG	12
34	Matthew Hardwick	PF	10
40	Mark Saadeh	C	12



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CLASS 7A - GIRLS  
3.11.23 • 5:30 PM

BROOKWOOD  
NORCROSS

VS.

DID YOU KNOW?  
NORCROSS TOOK ITS LAST MEETING WITH THE BRONCOS  
77-60 IN LAST YEAR'S QUARTERFINALS.



BROOKWOOD

BRONCOS • 30-1 • REGION 4

Brookwood is just one win away from bringing home the program's first-ever state title. The Broncos have been at the top of the poll for the duration of the season and have continued to get the job done against Georgia's stiffest competition. Leading the way has been Ohio State-signee Dianna Collins—one of four players to be named a McDonald's All-American this season. Collins' exceptional talent is just one of the main strengths of Brookwood as the Broncos also have 6-foot-2 senior Jade Weathersby, senior point guard Kennedy Daniels and sophomore Danielle Osho leading the way on both sides of the court. In Brookwood's 58-53 semifinal win over McEachern, Collins and Weathersby each finished with 17 points and the Broncos also got 10 points from Osho. Brookwood was tested, however, and had to storm back from a 10-point deficit against the Indians. McEachern was able to take the double-digit lead at halftime, only to be outscored 23-13 in the third quarter to see Brookwood take a 44-38 advantage into the final frame. Brookwood opened the playoffs with a 75-36 win over Harrison and scored a 65-60 win over Carrollton before topping South Forsyth 74-58 in the quarterfinals. "We haven't been wanting to focus on the rankings and things like that," Brookwood head coach Courtney Mincy told the AJC. "It's just the process of one game at a time. We approached this game like any other game and now we're where our goal was to get to. I'm just proud of them."

HEAD COACH: Courtney Mincy			
No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
1	Justyce McCoy	G	9
4	Samirah Walters	G	11
5	Kate Phelan	F	11
11	Zayjah Knight	G	11
12	Kennedy Daniels	G	12
15	Ciera Hall	G	12
20	Diana Collins	PG	12
21	Kailynn Richard	G	12
23	Jade Weathersby	F	12
30	Danielle Osho	F	10
33	Payton O'Bryant	F	12

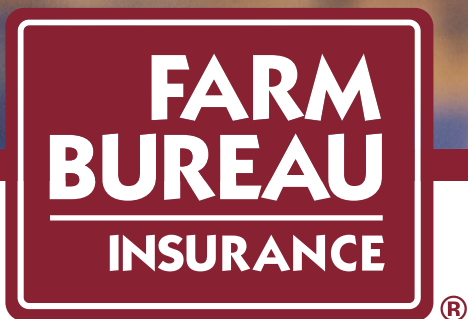
NORCROSS

BLUE DEVILS • 29-2 • REGION 7

Defending state champion Norcross is back in the finals and is looking to take home the program's fifth all-time state title. While the Blue Devils have not faced Brookwood this season, they are familiar with the Broncos after last year's 77-60 victory in the Elite 8. The rosters have certainly changed since the last meeting, but the star power is as high as it has ever been for the two Gwinnett County powerhouses. Norcross' only two losses this season came to Class 6A finalist Lovejoy on Dec. 10 and a one-point loss to McEachern in non-region play. The Blue Devils have won 12-straight since the loss to the Indians and ran through a playoff gauntlet that included Collins Hill (65-41), Lambert (59-34), Archer (61-53) and Buford (58-46) to return to Macon. In the semifinal win over Buford, Veronaye Charlton scored 19 points followed by Jania Akins' 12 points, Markiesa Lancaster's 10 and Kayla Lindsey's 8 points. The Blue Devils were down by three points at the half, but maintained course and closed out the 12-point win. "Going in down three at the half, I felt pretty good about it," Norcross head coach Ashley Luke Clanton told the AJC. "We just told them, no one's taking the ball out of our hands anymore. Take care of the basketball, play with confidence ... and we've been there before." Norcross is in position to win back-to-back titles for the first time since 2010-11.

HEAD COACH: Ashley Luke Clanton			
No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
5	Hayda Toro	G	12
10	Kayla Lindsey	PG	12
11	Veronaye Charlton	PG	12
13	Hope Ayim	SG	12
14	Cate Sidey	SG	11
15	Ebonie Watson	PF	12
20	Mariyah Valrie	SF	10
21	A'dia Mckelton	SG	9
23	Jania Akins	SG/PG	11
24	Cadence Peterson	SG	10
25	Markiesa Lancaster	PF/SF	10
30	Harmonie Cooper	G	9





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CLASS 7A - BOYS | **WHEELER vs. CHEROKEE**  
3.11.23 • 7:30 PM

DID YOU KNOW?

PRIOR TO THIS SEASON, THE LAST TIME WHEELER AND CHEROKEE FACED EACH OTHER WAS THE FIRST ROUND OF THE 2017 PLAYOFFS.



WHEELER

WILDCATS • 25-6 • REGION 5

Wheeler will attempt to win its ninth all-time state championship and close out this season without a single in-state loss. The Nationally-ranked Wildcats have been on a mission after last year’s early playoff exit spoiled a bid for three-straight state titles. In Wheeler’s latest victory, a 67-55 win over Grayson, the Wildcats used a dominant fourth quarter to pull away with the victory. “We knew it would be kind of a tug of war,” assistant coach Darnell Shepherd, who was filling in for head coach Larry Thompson, told the AJC. “As far as points are concerned, we want to play in the 70s and 80s and Grayson is more in the high 60s, so we knew something had to give. It just kind of went our way.” The Wildcats trailed by as many as eight points in the third quarter before they sparked a 10-2 run to tie the game at 41-41 and position themselves for their 16th-straight victory. The game would be tied on three more occasions before Wheeler poured on an 8-0 run in the fourth quarter to seal the win. Leading Wheeler is the Nation’s No. 1 senior prospect, Isiah Collier and Arrinten Page—both University of Southern California-signees. The duo both finished with 19 points apiece against Grayson and teammate Ricky McKenzie came up big with 14 points. Page added 11 rebounds and seven blocks. Additionally, Collier was named the fifth Naismith boys winner from Georgia this week.

HEAD COACH: Larry Thompson

No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
0	Calvino Stallworth	F	12
1	Kota Suttle Jr.	G	9
2	Damion Mitchell Jr.	G	12
3	Julian Ormond	F	11
4	Isaiah Collier	PG	12
5	Rickey Mckenzie	F	11
10	Jelani Hamilton	PG/SG	12
11	Amari James	G/F	9
12	Nathan Earl	G	9
13	Cameron Brown	C	12
14	Josh Hill	F	11
15	Lamarrion Lewis	G	9
22	Arrinten Page	PF	12
23	Malcolm Stephney	G	11

CHEROKEE

WARRIORS • 25-6 • REGION 5

Cherokee used a thrilling 63-60 overtime victory over defending state champion Norcross on Saturday to advance to the state championship for the first time since the 1982 season. The Warriors were unsuccessful in their finals appearance more than four decades ago and will attempt to capture their first-ever title against a Wheeler team that has already scored three wins over them this season. In the playoffs, the Warriors picked up a 59-45 win over West Forsyth and then defeated an outstanding Berkmar team 73-58. In the quarterfinals, Cherokee out-dueled Carrollton 70-66, but the biggest win however, was this last victory over the Blue Devils. Cherokee got 19 points from Braylin Giddens and Lawrence Sanford scored 15 points. Tayden Owens had 14 and Cameron Pope added nine to fuel a brilliant team performance. Cherokee made five-of-six free throws in overtime “They said we couldn’t win in this region. They said we couldn’t win in 7A. They said we couldn’t win with home-grown kids,” Cherokee coach Joe Veihman told the AJC. “They said we couldn’t guard man-to-man against the best in the country. All this group has done is proven it over and over again. We played them last year in the first round – that was my first year as a head coach – and I wasn’t ready for it, my guys weren’t ready for it,” Veihman said. “But we knew after playing them last year that we had a chance.”

HEAD COACH: Joe Veihman

No.	Name	Pos.	Gr.
0	Dastin Hart	F	12
1	Cameron Pope	G	12
2	Tayden Owens	G	12
3	Hayden Darko	G	10
4	Carter May	G	10
5	Mason Bennett	G	12
10	Peyton Allen	G	10
11	Hudson Moore	G	9
15	Cayden Walsh	G	10
20	Hampton Cox	G	9
22	Nate Speaks	F	12
24	Lawrence Sanford	G	10
30	Braylin Giddens	G	12
32	Sammy Ericson	G	10
33	Ben Weitzenkorn	F	9