

HOOPS

2023-24 HIGHSCHOOL BASKETBALL PREVIEW



WARRIOR BASKETBALL

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OPPORTUNITIES
2023/2024



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Boys Varsity

State Tournament Appearances	2005, 2016
State Sectional	2005, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
Region Tournament Championships	2005, 2022
District Tournament Championships	1993, 1994, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2014, 2015, 2016

Girls Varsity

State Tournament Appearance	2013, 2019, 2022, 2023
Region Tournament Championships	2010, 2013, 2019, 2022, 2023
District Tournament Championships	1995, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2022, 2023

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THANK YOU TO ALL

Professional photographers contributing to Hoops Preview were: Bobby Lewis and Pro Photo; Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com; Jeremy Wiggs/Jeremy Wiggs Photography; and Tammy Cheek, farragutpress general assignment reporter.

The 15 stories profiling each Farragut-area team were written by Alan Sloan, farragutpress editor, and Bill Howard, farragutpress correspondent.



Farragut High School ADMIRALS

Not long before last year’s high-school basketball season started, James Burris became Farragut High School’s varsity boys head coach. He had to hit the ground running and adapt fast.

Because of a year of familiarity, Burris is confident his second year will be more successful than last year’s 18-14 record, though the 2022-23 Admirals came close to winning the regular season District 4-AAA title before losing in the first round of the Region 2-AAA Tournament.

“We came in really late and changed a lot of things,” Burris said about last season. “They now know what we expect of them. There’s a lot more continuity, which has allowed us to be more like a true family.”

Burris’s likely starting five includes three who are returning starters.

The players

Junior small forward Dominic VanAcker, a 6-foot-3 All-District honoree last season, returns.

“He has every bit of athletic ability that you could ask for,” Burris said. “He plays above the rim. He shoots it well and has really matured over the last year.”

A pair of shooting guards return for the Admirals skipper, both of whom started last year. One is All-District sopho-



Dominic VanAcker

more guard Parker Lane, who according to Burris is a “really good scoring guard. He has a nose for getting to the basket.”

The other is senior wing Aiden VanAcker, who was Honorable Mention All-District last year. Burris expects big contributions this year from the senior on both sides of the ball.

“He might be the best shooter in the district,” Burris said. “He’s improved a lot on defense and will help us rebound. I expect him to have a big year this year.”

Senior point guard Tony Spadafora will, according to Burris, “take care of the ball.” He’s also a “great on-ball defender.”

Rounding out Burris’s likely starting five will be 6-foot-4 senior post Berkeley Naro.

“Berk has worked as hard and improved as much as anyone in our program,” Burris said. “He can take people off the dribble and shoot it from the perimeter.”

“I really think he’s gonna have a huge year for us.”

Other likely contributors for Burris include senior Claudio Song, a 6-foot-4 power forward “He provides so much energy,” Burris said. “He flies around ... very intelligent, high IQ player.”

Sophomore guard Daniel Lanning also is expected to make a sizable contribution.

Being a lacrosse player helps Lanning’s hoops skills, according to Burris. “He’s a good ballhandler and gets to the rim real well.”

FHS has no transfers on the roster.

Team strengths

Burris thinks defense will be a primary team strength. “Our guys really commit to the defensive end,” he said.

Concerns

Staying together and riding out the season’s ups and downs gives Burris pause. “Are we mature enough this year to stick together through those tough times and keep our energy level high?” he mused.

By Bill Howard

ROSTER

1	Berkley Naro	PF	12
2	Brevin Swartzentruber	G	12
3	Dominic VanAcker	G	11
4	Tony Spadafora	PG	12
5	Aiden VanAcker	SG	12
10	Claudio Song	C	12
11	Britton Lewis	SF	10
12	Daniel Lanning	G	10
13	Trey Slagle	G	11
14	Carson MacTavish	G	11
15	Kent Carbaugh	SF	11
20	Bryce Howard	SF	11
23	Parker Lane	G	10
32	Ethan Farhat	PG	9
34	Brody Appling	C	11

Head Coach: J.P. Burris Assistant Coaches: Shane Wells
• Adam Jenkins • Joel Burris

Managers: Julia Mahar • Ethan Kern

FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL

ADMIRALS • VARSITY BOYS/GIRLS SCHEDULE 2023-24

Nov. 16-18	Hall of Fame Games	Away
Nov. 20, 21, 24, 25	FHS Thanksgiving Tournament	Home
Dec. 1	Cookeville	Away
Dec. 5	Fulton	Away
Dec. 8-9	Roundball Classic at Science Hill	Away
Dec. 12	Sevier County	Home
Dec. 15	William Blount*	Away
Dec. 20 - 21	Power Games Classic	Away
Dec. 27-30	Tampa Bay Christmas Invitational	Away
Jan. 5	Karns	Away
Jan. 9	West*	Away
Jan. 12	Bearden*	Home
Jan. 16	Hardin Valley*	Home
Jan. 19	Maryville*	Away
Jan. 23	William Blount*	Home
Jan. 26	West*	Home
Jan. 27	Greeneville	Home
Jan. 30	Maryville*	Home
Feb. 2	Bearden*	Away
Feb. 6	Hardin Valley*	Away
Feb. 9	Kingston • (Senior Night)	Home
Feb. 13-20	District Tournament	Away



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Farragut High School LADY ADMIRALS

After actually having a lead on Bearden early in the fourth quarter of last season's Region 2-AAA semifinals before losing to a rival that went undefeated until the TSSAA state tournament, Farragut's girls return three huge contributors from 2022-23 while adding a talented transfer guard to the mix.

Top players

Annie Priest, junior point guard, "is the only remaining player off of that (Class AAA) state championship runner up team" of 2021-22, head coach Jason Mayfield said. "So we look to her for a lot of leadership and a lot of production on both ends of the court. "Sophomore guard K J McNealy "had a great freshman season," the coach said. "I think she'll take a really big step this year and become one of the better players in the area, even just as a sophomore. And she's a young sophomore, too; she just turned 15. "We will definitely lean on those two players a lot," he added. "Even though they're a sophomore and a junior, they've got a lot of experience so far, so that's good." Junior guard Mya Johnston "started every game pretty much last year, all the meaningful ones," Mayfield said. "She's our best defender. ...

She's always in the right spot defensively. "She's really good at kind of slashing to the rim," he added. "She's done a really good job of being able to go to her left now as well. And she can shoot and be a threat from there(-point range). "We will expect a lot out of her, too."



Mayfield

Senior wings Hannah Anderson and Carly Vining "will definitely have a role, for sure," Mayfield said. "Just being seniors, we expect a lot. They should know what's going on. They've been in our program for three years." One key newcomer is junior guard Jaci Neubert, a transfer from Heritage. "She'll be fantastic," Mayfield said. "She's a little guard, but she can really get hot (scoring). She's one of those kind, you know, pesky types of defenders that can just really bug you because she's just so quick. "Real hard nose player," he added about Neubert. Lilly Mullins, sophomore point guard, backed up Priest last season as a freshman. "She'll continue to kind of have that same role, whether she's a starter or one of the first ones off the bench," the coach said. "She's a real energetic player and adds a lot of quickness to our lineup. And

she can do some things off the dribble where she could create some things, which is always good to have in basketball." Among other newcomers, freshman guard Reagan Sheridan looks to contribute, having come a long way under Mayfield. "I remember her from my summer camp; she was 5 years old, probably," the coach said. "She did a really good job for us this summer. Once she is used to the quickness and the physicality of everything, I feel like she'll have a major role with us."

Biggest team strength

"I'd say quickness," the coach said about a team strength. "We're a little smaller, but definitely we should be able to get into some people as far as defensively and really be able to use some of our guards and some of our athleticism to bother some people defensively. "I fully expect that over the first month or two to kind of figure out kind of how good we can be defensively and how we can use all these players and all of our depth to really make a big impact," he added.

Biggest concern

"It seems to always be size," Mayfield said about a big concern. "Like it's just rare to find a girl you can just throw it to down low. "We have a couple of them, but (they are) inexperienced," he added. "... We will definitely need all 12 of our varsity players to kind of step up and be ready when it's their time."

By Alan Sloan



Tony Cox

Annie Priest

ROSTER

1	.....Jaci Neubert.....	PG	..... Jr
2	.....Lilly Mullins.....	PG	..... So
4	.....Annie Priest.....	G.....	Jr
5	.....Gabbie Vanacker	W	Fr
10	.....Anna Corum.....	PG	So
11	.....Mya Johnston	G.....	Jr
12	.....Reagan Sheridan	G	Fr
20	.....Trinity Curry	P.....	Fr
22	.....KJ McNealy	G.....	So
23	.....Hannah Enderson.....	W	Sr
24	.....Carly Vining.....	W	Sr
44	.....Kyra Wray	P.....	Jr

Head Coach: Jason Mayfield

Assistant Coaches:

Alex Munday • Madison Maples

Manager: Kyra Wray



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Bearden High School

BULLDOGS



“Block-out” rebounding position is Bearden wing Drew Brillhart, right in black, alongside BHS teammate Drew Parrott (5) during a rivalry game against Farragut last season

Two Bearden Bulldogs starters return to a team that made some post-season noise — almost upsetting powerful William Blount in the Region 2-AAA semifinals after finishing third in the District 4-AAA Tournament.

“We’ve got a good core coming back,” Bulldogs head coach Jeremy Parrott said.

The players
Junior wing Jamichael Blair “probably had our best summer for us,” Parrott said about the 6-foot-2 wing. “Look for him to have an increased role this season.

“He will be a guy that will be counted on to play numerous positions,” the coach added. “He’ll be plugged into a lot of different positions to play from the two all the way down to the four or five at different times, depending on our opponent.”

Also returning is junior guard King Hubbard, a part-time starter last season. “He’ll be counted on to have a good season,” Parrott said. “He did some good things for us last year, led us in several categories outside of scoring.

“I think he was our leading assist man last season,” he added. “He’s like all of us: he’s got to come along on the defensive end of the floor.

“But we’re expecting big things out of King.”

Senior 6-foot-3 wing Drew Brillhart “is a four-year varsity guy for us, a guy that can play the three, four or five for us, a left-handed kid,” Parrott said. “Drew started for us as a junior, so he should get into the starting line-up again as a senior. And to be a two-year starter in our program is a big deal.

“And I feel like Drew, he’s going to be looked upon for leadership and for some scoring,” the coach added. “And he’s another one needing to come along at the defensive

end of the floor to round out our first five.”

Junior wing Andrew Baker could be one to watch. “I hope Andrew has a breakout season this year,” Parrott said. “Andrew is about 6-(foot)-3, 6-(foot)-4. He played mostly JV for us last year, but I really feel like he can come along and surprise the folks. A big athletic wing.”

Sophomore guard Justin Nordin “got into a starting role late in the year because of injuries. ... As a freshman, that’s a big thing at Bearden,” Parrott said.

One of the team’s better perimeter shooters, “To get in as a freshman and get to do things — he actually made All-Region Tournament at the end of the year,” the coach added.

“So I really feel like that Justin is going to take that next step. He’s grown physically. I think he’s grown mentally. I think he’s as good a point guard as there is around.”

Adding much-needed size in the post is 6-foot-6 sophomore post Brody Smith.

“He is going to help us, I believe,” Parrott said. “This is going to be his first year in the program, but he had a good summer with us learning the system, learning how we do things, learning the culture.

“We expect Brody to perhaps start for us at the five spot,” the coach added. “So I really like Brody and glad he’s giving us something that we (don’t have) across the board. ... Brody will add some physical size presence to the paint area.”

Junior guard Drew Parrott, the coach’s son, saw action last season as a sophomore.

“He’ll probably come off the bench for us; just step in and do things we need to get a spark,” coach Parrott said

about the school’s starting quarterback and one of a handful of Bulldogs — including Blair — not available until BHS football eventually finishes its playoff run.

Junior wing Dom Mahoney, at 6-foot-3, “can come in and spell us at the post some,” the coach said. “He’s a smart, high IQ kid. He’s going to defend well and be a really great leader on the floor — an extension of the coaching staff.”

Senior wing Dalton Siva “is a long, lengthy guard that came in at spots for us last year when we needed defense and change of pace,” coach Parrott said. “Hopefully, we get Dalton in a little more this year. And as a senior, he’ll be looked to to be real solid for us.”

Elsewhere, “backing up the post spot will be Jacob Phillips,” the coach said about this 6-foot-3 senior post. “He’s a back-to-the-basket type kid that can’t step out and hit the three-(point jumper).”

Biggest team strength
“I think that we’re going to be deep,” coach Parrott said. “I think we’re going to be balanced. I think we’ve got some guys that are going to assert themselves in the league statistically, but I also feel like we’re plug-and-play with about eight guys. And that’s something we didn’t really have last year. We were still working on our depth.

“And with the strength of our league being what it is, depth could come in handy down the stretch because you’re never going to get through a season with everybody uninjured,” he added.

“Our kids are a pleasure to coach. We had a great summer,”

Biggest concern
“I think our biggest concern is making sure that we get our best (players) on the floor each and every night,” Parrott said.

“And that we don’t, like last year, deal with a lot of injuries or deal with not having everybody available.”

By Alan Sloan

ROSTER

0	.....Dalton Siva.....	W	.....12
1	.....King Hubbard.....	G	.....11
3	.....Andrew Baker.....	W	.....11
4	.....Dominic Mahoney.....	W	.....11
5	.....Drew Parrott.....	G	.....11
10	.....Justin Nordin.....	G	.....10
11	.....Justice Watson.....	G	.....11
13	.....Braden Buchanan.....	P	.....12
23	.....Anderson Doettl.....	P	.....11
24	.....Jamichael Blair.....	W	.....11
33	.....Jacob Phillips.....	P	.....12
35Drew Brillhart.....	W12
55Brody Smith.....	P10

Head Coach: Jeremy Parrott

Assistant Coaches:

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Manager: Ross Goodson

Bookkeeper: Rich Joiner

BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL BULLDOGS

BULLDOGS • VARSITY BOYS/GIRLS SCHEDULE 2023-24

Nov. 16.....	Daniel Boone (HOC).....	Away
Nov. 18.....	2 Games Tba (Boys).....	Away
Nov. 21-25.....	Food City Thanksgiving Classic.....	Away
Dec. 1.....	Morristown West.....	Home
Dec. 5.....	Cleveland.....	Away
Dec. 8-9.....	Double Tree Roundball Classic.....	Away
Dec. 12.....	Alcoa.....	Home
Dec. 15.....	Knox West.....	Home
Dec. 18.....	Morristown West.....	Away
Dec. 20-21.....	Adidas Shootout (Boys).....	Away
Dec. 27-29.....	Rhea County Christmas Invitational (Boys)...	Away
Dec. 27-30.....	Landair Classic (Girls).....	Away
Jan. 5.....	Greeneville (Boys).....	Away
Jan. 5-6.....	She Got Game Classic (Girls).....	Away
Jan. 9.....	Maryville.....	Away
Jan. 12.....	Farragut.....	Away
Jan. 13.....	Kay Maynard State Farm Showcase (Girls)...	Away
Jan. 16.....	William Blount.....	Home
Jan. 19.....	Hardin Valley.....	Home
Jan. 23.....	Knox West.....	Away
Jan. 26.....	Maryville.....	Home
Jan. 30.....	Hardin Valley.....	Away
Feb. 2.....	Farragut.....	Home
Feb. 6.....	William Blount.....	Away
Feb. 12.....	Alcoa.....	Away



King Hubbard, Bearden guard, sticks close to FHS guard Parker Lane during a rivalry game last season



Bearden High School LADY BULLDOGS

It's going to be hard to duplicate what Bearden girls basketball has accomplished during the past two seasons: the program's first state championships, in Division I Class AAA, in the 2021-22 season, followed by an undefeated season before eventual state champ Bradley Central edged the Lady Bulldogs (35-1) in the TSSAA state quarterfinals last year.

That loss ended a 56-game winning streak covering those two seasons. Star post Avery Treadwell has graduated after becoming "the winningest player in school history; we will miss her" according to head coach Justin Underwood.

But all other key BHS players return. "We've got some able-bodied kids that are going to try and step in and fill roles," Underwood said. "And I think collectively, rebounding and also just making up the points for what we're missing" with Treadwell gone. "But I think we've got a lot of kids that have worked really hard this summer," he added.



Underwood

The players
"I think it starts with Natalya (Hodge) our point guard," Underwood said about the sophomore who had a huge impact on the team's unblemished



Photo Submitted

Natalya Hodge, who made a big splash in area high school basketball circles during a stellar freshman season in 2022-23, looks to create some offense against rival Farragut last season.

pre-state tourney success as an All-District 4-AAA honoree as a freshman last season. "I think she had a great summer and picked up a bunch of college offers and opportunities. As for the other Lady Bulldogs, "I think that their roles will gradually increase and we'll spread that responsibility over numerous people," the coach said. Junior wing Kendall Anne Murphy "ended up having a great finish to the season (last year), and she would be someone that we'll count on a good bit," Underwood said. "And then I think we've got a couple that are coming off ACL (tears)," referencing senior wing Rachael Wilhoit, an All-District honoree, and sophomore guard/wing Emma

Rainey. "They're trying to get their footing and get back to what they were. And they've worked hard to get back. "And then as far as post-player wise, junior Lainey Cox "ended up having a great end of the year and has got herself in really good shape," Underwood said. "And then Amanda Parker (All-District senior post) and Lindsay Wilson (senior wing); Amanda from inside and Lindsay's ability to play guard for us, but also rebound inside as a bigger guard." Aisha Patel, junior post/wing, "has really worked extremely hard," Underwood said. "She's a 6-foot player for us who can shoot really well from the outside, but she can also rebound and play the back

“ But I think we’ve got a lot of kids that have worked really hard this summer,” ~ Justin Underwood, Head Coach

ROSTER

2	.....Natalya Hodge	.....P/W	.....10
3	.....Rachael Wilhoit	.....W	.....12
10	.....Kendall Anne Murphy	.....W	.....11
12	.....Caitlin McVeigh	.....PG/W	.....11
20	.....Emma Rainey	.....PG/W	.....10
22	.....Lindsay Wilson	.....W	.....12
23	.....Riley Hunt	.....W	.....9
24	.....Lainey Cox	.....W/P	.....11
30	.....Aisha Patel	.....W/P	.....11
33	.....Amanda Parker	.....P	.....12
34	.....Theola Mills	.....P	.....10
40	.....Katie Foster	.....P	.....10

Head Coach: Justin Underwood
Assistant Coach: Josh Suttles
Bookkeeper: Beth Underwood

side of our defense.”

Theola Mills “is a young lady who is a sophomore post that is just getting more and more comfortable,” the coach said. “She’s a very strong young lady and her skill set is starting to catch up. “So I think we’ve got a lot of kids who have the opportunity to be another year in our system,” he added. “I think we can play eight, nine or 10 kids and I think not drop off. “And so I think the ability to go against each other in practice and compete and make each other better can go a long way for us hopefully having season success and then hopefully postseason success.” **Team strengths** “It’s definitely is one of the deeper teams that we’ve had as far as just the number of kids that I think we can play,” Underwood said. “I think these young ladies want to prove that just because of those that have

graduated in the last couple of years, that there’s still a lot of talent and a hungry group here who want to compete and want to be the best that we can be and strive to win championships still.” **Concerns** “I think just like any coach, you want to hopefully stay healthy and just continue to gel as a group,” the coach said. “I think it’s a long season, so it may be different people on different nights” stepping up. **Final thoughts** “I’m just looking forward to trying to do what we set out each year to do, and that’s to compete for championships,” Underwood said. “... So I think that I’m looking forward to the combinations of young ladies that we can run out there. ... “I think they’ve got a chance to be really good.”

By Alan Sloan





Hardin Valley Academy

HAWKS

Barron Scheetz (12) fights for a rebound last season versus South-Doyle



Having key players back from a Hardin Valley Academy 23-10 team that was a serious contender for the regular season District 4-AAA title before finishing runner-up to William Blount in the district tourney, second-year Hawks head coach Andrew Arendt said he's got "seven kids who I think are good enough to start any game."

Those seven "will probably get 95 to 90 percent of the minutes; I feel like they're all really good," he added.

The players

Junior shooting guard Ben Brophy, an All-District honoree last season, returns.

"Ben shoots it really, really well," Arendt said. "He's gotten better at taking it off the dribble. He also moves without the basketball at an elite level. And then defensively he's typically in the right spots, but needs to get stronger and tougher."

Another experienced returnee, senior small forward AJ Gray, "will be somebody who starts a lot of games for us,"

the coach said. "He's a shooter and can take it off the bounce and score. I need him to be really aggressive this year and be a lock-down defender."

Arendt is high on junior transfer Patrick Carey, who likely will start at the point.

"He's probably our best player," the coach said.

"He is the consummate point guard. He commands the floor, gets everybody in the right spots at all times and can score," Arendt added.

"I mean, he had 39 (points) against Austin-East last year in a game. But for us, he'll be mainly counted on as a facilitator — unless we need him to score."

Meanwhile, senior Bryson Frey "will start some games at shooting guard, and there are some games that he'll play point guard — and some games come off the bench," Arendt said.

"But he's a high-level player."

Power forward Barron Scheetz "played a lot for us last

year," the coach said. "We're going to be counting on him to rebound, to score and to attack the basket."

"He can really shoot it, too," Arendt added. "He had multiple games this summer where he had five or more three-point jumpers."

About 6-foot-6 junior post Will Fellers last season, "he turned around the district semifinal championship game against Farragut with his physicality; he'll start at center most of the time," Arendt said. "He's going to need to be a physical presence for us inside."

Junior Isaac Ratliff is another key piece. "Isaac did not play as much as he probably should have last year, but he's the best athlete in the program and has become a lot more skilled and can play literally one through five."

Biggest team strengths

"I think we shoot the ball really well," Arendt said. "Our basketball IQ has gotten a lot better. We know how to play a little bit better."

Concerns

"You lose a senior center like Jack Smith and you have concerns about interior play, about just general overall toughness," Arendt said. "So are we going to be tough enough?"

Final thoughts

ROSTER

- 2- AJ Gray, Sr.
- 22- Tommy Joseph
- 32- Alan Torres
- 11- Ben Brophy, Jr.
- 4- Bryson Frey, Sr.
- 1- Patrick Carey, Jr.
- 3- Issac Ratliffe, Jr
- 12- Jax Sparks
- 33- Will Fellers, Jr.
- 0- Jace Burum
- 23- Barron Scheetz
- 5- Javan Curry
- 10- Rock Rogers
- 13- Nolan Miller

Head Coach: Andrew Arendt

HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY

HAWKS • VARSITY BOYS/ GIRLS SCHEDULE 2023-24

Nov. 14	Fulton	Home
Nov. 17	Halls	Away
Nov. 20	Alcoa/Alcoa Tournament	Away
Nov. 21	Sevier County/AlcoTournament	Away
Nov. 22	Austin East/ Alcoa Tournament	Away
Nov. 30	Lenoir City	Home
Dec. 5	Clinton	Away
Dec. 8-9	Science Hill Classic	Away
Dec. 12	Central	Home
Dec. 14	Karns	Home
Dec. 15	AC Reynolds 5 Star Preps Classic	Home
Dec. 16	Girls v. Webb/Boys v. Catholic 5 Star Preps Classic	Home
Dec. 19-21	Anderson County Holiday Tournament (girls)	Away
Dec. 27-29	Smoky Mountain Classic (boys)	Away
Jan. 4	Maryville	Home
Jan. 8	Morristown East	Away
Jan. 9	William Blount	Home
Jan. 12	West	Home
Jan. 16	Farragut	Away
Jan. 19	Bearden	Away
Jan. 23	Maryville	Away
Jan. 26	William Blount	Away
Jan. 30	Bearden	Home
Feb. 2	West	Away
Feb. 6	Farragut	Home
Feb. 8	Central	Away

"The team really likes each other, which I think really helps," the coach said. "And if we do the things that we need to do to get better, which in my

opinion is just be a tougher team and make the little plays, I think we will be right there."

By Alan Sloan





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Hardin Valley Academy

LADY HAWKS



Lady Hawk Kaitlyn Friedrich, left, last season versus Halls

Hardin Valley Academy has its talented junior post Kamiyah Love returning from a season-ending injury in January, and with three other starters back in the fold the program looks to improve upon last season's losing record.

Perhaps the future looks bright in the Valley: this season's Lady Hawks have no seniors on the varsity team roster.

The players

Junior point guard Kyndra West returns as the team leader in "scoring, rebounds and assists," HVA head coach Jennifer Galloway said. "She's got offers from the University of Pikeville and UVa-Wise (Virginia). "She's put a lot of work in on her shot in the off-season," the coach added. "We're excited to see what all she'll bring this year.

"Kamiyah Love is coming back from an ACL injury," Galloway said. "She was one of our leading rebounders and scorers."

Junior guard Kamryn Butcher "is one of our top defenders," the coach said. "She's been working on her offensive game this year, so we're excited to see that."

Junior guard/forward Ava Claire Wrather "is a really versatile player," Galloway said. "She can guard while playing either the wing or post.

"And she brings a lot of energy to our team," she added.

Junior guard Lily Adkisson "was one of our better three-point shooters last year," Galloway said.

Sophomore guard Madison Smith "is coming off an injury from last year, too," the

coach said. "She can play point guard, she can play wing. She's a really good three-point shooter."

Other Lady Hawks looking to contribute are junior guard Kaitlyn Friedrich, junior forward Bella Buccola, sophomore guard Harper Abercrombie, freshman guard Rylee Taylor and freshman forward Holly Lindsey.

Team strengths

"I think our strengths are our guard speed; and also, this team just never gives up," Galloway said.

Concerns

"We're not super tall, but I feel we'll make up for that with our effort," the coach said.

By Alan Sloan

“She’s put a lot of work in on her shot in the off-season,”

~ Jennifer Galloway, Head Coach, speaking about junior point guard Kendra West

ROSTER				
3	Kyndra West	Jr	G	
5	Kamryn Butcher	Jr	G	
10	Madison Smith	So	G	
12	Bella Buccola	Jr	F	
20	Ava Claire Wrather	Jr	G	
21	Harper Abercrombie	So	G	
22	Lily Adkisson	Jr	G	
23	Holly Lindsey	Fr	F	
24	Kaitlyn Friedrich	Jr	G	
30	Rylee Taylor	Fr	G	
42	Kamiyah Love	Jr	F	

Head Coach: Jennifer Galloway

Assistant Coaches: Brianne McCroskey

• Tiffany Cantrell • L.C. Wilson

Trainer: Cindi Juarez-Logan



Kamryn Butcher, Lady Hawks junior guard, finishes a lay-up during a home scrimmage versus Powell.



Looking to score under the basket is Kamiyah Love, junior post, during a home scrimmage versus Powell.





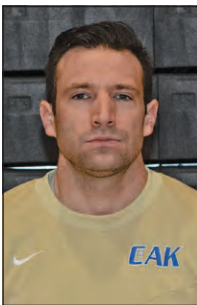
Christian Academy of Knoxville WARRIORS

If a Knox-area high-school basketball fan were looking for an exciting team to watch this season, he or she might consider Christian Academy of Knoxville's boys' team.

According to fourth-year head coach J D Johnson, his team is going to have the shooters to make the Warriors a high-flying offense that scores a lot of points.

"We've got a lot of guys who can shoot it," Johnson said. "Oftentimes we'll have five guys on the floor who can shoot the ball. Our goal is to create as many open shots for them as we can."

The players



Johnson

According to Johnson, one of his most potent offensive weapons will be Ohio transfer Caden Owens, a 6-foot-4 junior wing. Owens also can play defense, Johnson said.

"Elite 3-shooter," the coach added. "Very physical guy. He's gonna help us rebound. He has a chance to play at the next level."

Bringing the ball up the court will be senior point guard K P Campbell. "He'll run the offense for us," Johnson said about the 5-foot-10 returning starter. "He shoots the ball well ... looking for him to have a big year."

Johnson's lone All-District player from last year who returns is 6-foot shooting guard Bennett Simerlein.

"He can really score, shoots the three(=point) jumper" at an elite level," the coach said about the senior. "Gonna rely on him to score ... plays really hard."

For Johnson, defense is hardly overlooked. "We always hang our hat on our defense," he said. "We'll continue to do

that."

A stalwart of Johnson's defense will be Foster Coleman, a 6-foot-5 sophomore post player who brings some experience.

"Good around the rim," Johnson said. "Gonna rebound for us; gonna have to guard other teams' bigs."

Another returning starter, 6-foot-3 junior forward Will Kelley, will be a big contributor for Johnson on both ends of the court.

"Tremendous rebounder and defender, always in the right spot," the coach said. "He can score around the basket."

Two other contributors Johnson expects to help are a pair of 5-foot-10 junior guards, both of whom have experience: Bryson White and Zachary Coffman.

About White, "He shoots the ball really well and defends well," Johnson said.

Coffman, Johnson said, "guards hard. He'll help us a lot."

Concerns

While Johnson is confident his team will score, what con-

ROSTER		
0	Kelley, Will	F Jr
1	Stokely, Colby	G So
2	Campbell, KP	G Sr
3	McPherson, Paxton	G Jr
4	Simerlein, Bennett	G Sr
5	Bennett, Hunter	G Fr
10	Thad Sealey	F Jr
11	Coffman, Zachary	G Jr
12	Anderson, Sawyer	G Fr
14	Coleman, Foster	F So
15	White, Bryson	G Jr
20	Owens, Caden	G/F Jr
23	Harvey, Jonah	G So
24	Hutchinson, Teeno	G So
34	Lundgren, Brogdon	F So

cerns him most headed into the season is inexperience.

"We relied so heavily on our seniors last year," he said in reference to the Warriors' 22-12 record, finishing second in Division II-A District 1 of East Region. Their season ended in a regional quarterfinal. "We don't have a lot of guys who

have played a lot of varsity minutes.

"We have a lot of potential, but we're gonna have to gel and develop chemistry," Johnson added. "I think we'll get better as the season goes."

By Bill Howard

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF KNOXVILLE

WARRIORS • VARSITY BOYS AND GIRLS SCHEDULE 2023-24

Nov. 14	Chattanooga Christian (HOF)	Away
Nov. 16	Girls vs Heritage (HOF)/	
	Boys vs McMinn Central (HOF)	Home
Nov. 20-25	Farragut Thanksgiving Tourney (girls)	Away
Nov. 20-25	Grainger Thanksgiving Tourney (boys)	Away
Nov. 28	Walker Valley	Home
Nov. 30	Karns	Home
Dec. 2	McMinn Central	Away
Dec. 5	Apostolic	Away
Dec. 8	Grace Christian	Home
Dec. 12	Berean	Home
Dec. 15	Lakeway Christian	Away
Dec. 21	Girls vs MTCS/Boys vs Austin East	Home

Dec. 22	Science Hill	Away
Dec 27-Dec 29	Lenoir City Christmas Tournament	Away
Jan. 4	Concord Christian	Away
Jan. 5-6	She Got Game Classic (Girls Only)	Away
Jan. 6	Tri Cities (Boys Only)	Away
Jan. 9	FBA	Home
Jan. 12	The King's Academy	Away
Jan. 16	Providence	Away
Jan. 19	Grace Christian	Away
Jan. 23	Lakeway Christian	Home
Jan. 26	Clayton Bradley Academy	Away
Jan. 30	The King's Academy	Home
Feb. 2	Providence Christian	Home

"Oftentimes we'll have five guys on the floor who can shoot the ball. Our goal is to create as many open shots for them as we can."

~ J D Johnson, Head Coach



Zachary Coffman, CAK junior guard, drives to the basket.



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Christian Academy of Knoxville LADY WARRIORS

Whatever you want to call Christian Academy of Knoxville’s situation — rebuilding or reloading — there’s a whole of new players asked to play big roles. And all but two are either sophomores or freshmen.

“I don’t know that I’d call it a rebuilding situation, but it is definitely a different situation,” head coach Abby Williams said about losing four starters and other key role players from the Lady Warriors’ talented Class of 2023 that reached the state quarterfinals and finished 29-6. “When you graduate nine and you’ve only got two upperclassmen in your program, your gametime experience just looks different. “So there’s going to be that learning curve of how to handle late-game situations, how to keep your composure down the stretch, when you have the youth,” she added. “Now we have a lot of talent in the group, it’s just figuring out how to use that talent together to have a successful season.”

The players

As for “turning a Proffitt” with experience, “I’ve got one senior, Izzy Proffitt, she’ll be a three-year starter for us who comes with a ton of drive, work ethic and competitive spirit that you need from your senior leader,” Williams said. “She’s like a Bulldog; she’s the kid that’s going to run through the wall for your

team, for you,” the coach added. “She’s going to be a vocal leader and is going to lead by her effort.”

Guard Karlie Whited is the team’s only junior. “She comes off a really good year for us last season. She came off the bench and slid into that point guard position, especially late in the season,” Williams said. “She didn’t score a lot of points if you look back at the score sheets, but what she did do was the little things.

“She gets you the rebound, she drives and kicks (the pass),” the coach added. “She’s constantly creating. She’s doing the little things for your team that don’t always make the stat sheet, but make the difference for your team to have success, especially later down the season.”

About Colie Thompson, a 5-foot-10 sophomore forward, “She’s going to have to be a very versatile player for us,” Williams said. “She can step out and knock down the three-(point jumper), she can get to the rim and finish.

“So she’s got the opportunity to step in and fill a big role in that four or five position as the season goes on,” the coach added.

At 5-foot-11, freshman guard Maddie Braden “actually played as an eighth-grader last year on the varsity team,” Williams said. “Maddie brings a different element to the team. She’s long, extremely athletic and has a knack for the game.

“She’ll do things, and you look at her like, ‘how did you do that?’” the coach added. “She’s got a bounce like no one else in our program. And so understanding what her role looks like this season, and stepping into it and owning it will be big for our success.

“It’s a lot for a freshman to slide into that position and get ready to have a lot expected

of you. But if she’ll take some ownership in it and play her role to her strengths, she’s going to be really good.”

As for depth, “We’ve got four other sophomores, none of whom played varsity last year,” Williams said. “So they’re going to have to transition to those spots. But the thing is, any one of them could step in and give us eight, 10 points a day; it just depends on who’s going to separate themselves from that group.”

Although “there is a lot of youth,” the coach added, “We’re excited about it.”

Schedule, goal

When it counts on the scoreboard, “We are going to be challenged early on in our season. We tried to schedule hard just to get thrown to the wolves and see how we responded in preparation for hopefully a late-season run in the post-season,” Williams said. “But we got a lot to work through together these next few weeks in order to be where we want to be in late January or February.

“The hope is to take this group back” to state, she added. “It won’t look like it looked last year. It’ll look different, but doesn’t mean that the goal is not the same.”

By Alan Sloan

“I don’t know that I’d call it a rebuilding situation, but it is definitely a different situation,”

~ Abby Williams,
Head Coach

ROSTER

2	.....Ivey Brewster	.....G	.....SO
3	.....Maddie Braden	.....G	.....FR
11	.....Sophie Carroll	.....SF	.....SO
12	.....Karlie Whited	.....G	.....JR
14	.....Ava Jane Puckett	.....SF	.....SO
15	.....Ali Wilkinson	.....G	.....SO
20	.....Izzy Proffitt	.....G	.....SR
23	.....Marley Phillips	.....G	.....FR
30	.....Colie Thompson	.....G	.....SO

Head Coach: Abby Williams

Assistant Coach: Travis Thompson

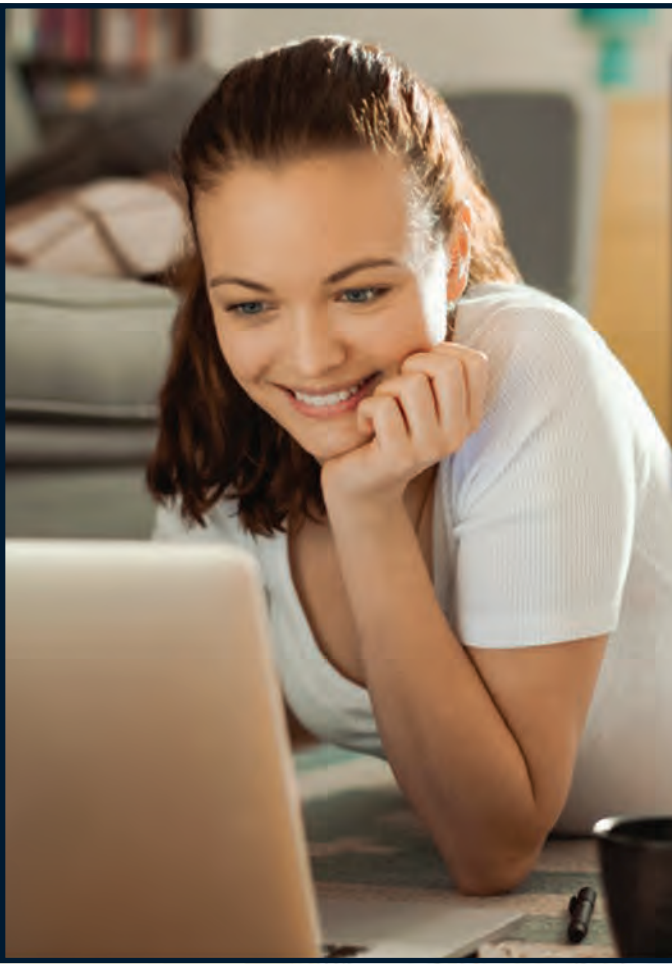
Bookkeeper: Larry Holden



Underwood




Izzy Proffitt,
Lady Warriors
senior guard



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Concord Christian School LIONS

Athletic coaches commonly worry about injuries to their players, and Justin Zachary, Concord Christian School varsity boys basketball head coach, had more than his share last year.

But there might have been a silver lining to last year's depleted squad: it gave some of this year's players valuable experience they otherwise wouldn't have gotten. "For me, it was one of my most fun years because we had guys who kept stepping up (to replace injured players)," said the second-year coach and Farragut High School alum. "They didn't quit. They just kept getting after it."

The players
CCS's offensive set this year will focus on getting the ball into the paint, often to center Drew Sloan. The 6-foot-10 senior battled some injuries last year but had a number of starts. Zachary considers the inside-out offense the team's strength. "He's had a really great start to our season condition-wise," Zachary said. "We need Drew to be aggressive around the basket. I'm excited to see how he finishes off his career." Senior Dom Alford might well be the Lions' MVP this year. The 6-foot-2 wing player returns as a starter, and, according to his head coach, could lead the team in both scoring and on the boards. "He can play inside and out," Zachary said. "He can score mid-range and at the basket. He's done a good job working

on his game" in the off-season. Cale Smith, another wing, got starting experience late in the season because of injuries. "Very athletic; plays with energy," Zachary said of the 6-foot-2 senior. "He started at the end and did really well." Yet another wing player will likely start for Zachary, 6-foot-1 junior Cade Keeton. Keeton also saw starting action toward the end of last year because of injuries. He'll be the Lions' best threat from long range. "Really good 3-shooter," Zachary said. "More athletic and faster, quicker, gets up and down the floor so much better than last year."

Rounding out Zachary's likely starters will be junior Landon Housley at point guard. The position is Zachary's biggest concern heading into the season because Housley is more of a wing player by nature. Zachary's depth at the position is very limited. "He knows what to do and what's expected," Zachary said. "It will be a challenge for him, but I think he'll do a good job." Jace Gheen, a 6-foot-1 junior wing, likely will see regular action this year for the Lions. "He can score pretty well; excited to have him back," Zachary said. Senior 6-foot-1 wing Manu Porter completes Zachary's list of most likely contribu-

tors. "He's worked hard and improved his game," Zachary said. "A real good three-point shooter." Zachary knows his team's commitment to defense will be key. "We won games last year strictly off 'D'; you gotta get some stops," he said. "You can't just outscore everyone." CCS finished 12-12 last year and lost in the first round of the district tournament in the injury-plagued year. Zachary knows this year's squad will have to find its identity. "Biggest thing is finding our personality," he said. "We lost so much from last year. But they're a good group. They're starting to understand what it takes to win."

By Bill Howard



Zachary



Senior guard Cale Smith joins fellow Concord Christian School senior guard Dominic Alford as Lions team captains for the 2023-24 season.



ROSTER

Dom Alford	Sr
Cale Smith	Sr
Drew Sloan	Sr
Manu Porter	Sr
Victor Ferriera	Sr
Thales De Oliveira	Sr
Landon Housley	Jr
Jace Gheen	Jr
Cade Keeton	Jr
Mason Sparks	Jr
Jake Daughtry	So
Guro Lind	Fr

CONCORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL LIONS • VARSITY BOYS/GIRLS SCHEDULE 2023-24

Nov. 14	Stone Memorial (HOF)	Home
Nov. 16	Knox Apostolic (HOF-boys only)	Home
Nov. 21	Maryville Christian	Home
Nov. 24 - 25	Union Co. Thanksgiving Classic	Away
Nov. 30	Sweetwater	Home
Dec. 2	Boyd-Buchanan	Away
Dec. 4	Grace Christian	Away
Dec. 8	Berean Christian (Homecoming)	Home
Dec. 12	The King's Academy	Home
Dec. 15	Providence Academy	Away
Dec. 21	Apostolic Christian	Away
Dec. 28 - 30	Soddy Daisy Tournament (Girls Only)	Away
Dec. 29 - 30	Harriman Classic (Boys Only)	Away
Jan. 4	CAK	Home
Jan. 9	Clayton - Bradley Academy	Away
Jan. 12	Apostolic Christian (Maryville)	Home
Jan. 13	Boyd-Buchanan	Home
Jan. 16	First Baptist Academy	Away
Jan. 19	Lakeway Christian	Home
Jan. 22	Maryville Christian	Away
Jan. 23	Clayton - Bradley	Home
Jan. 26	Apostolic Christian (Maryville)	Away
Jan. 29	Sweetwater	Away
Jan. 30	First Baptist Academy	Away
Feb. 2	Berean Christian	Away

“For me, it was one of my most fun years because we had guys who kept stepping up (to replace injured players),”

~ Justin Zachary, Head Coach

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Concord Christian School LADY LIONS

Two years ago as the Lenoir City girls' basketball head coach, Brad Cochran won nine games. Last year his Lady Panthers won 25 games and made the semifinals of the regional tournament.

Cochran now is the high school girls head coach at Concord Christian School. He's confident he can help the Lady Lions make a similar improvement.

"Great school, great community, great support here," Cochran said. "You can feel the vibe changing about basketball for the better. They wanna win."

The players

Youth abounds on CCS's guard-heavy roster this year. Its lone senior — point guard Natali Fender — will anchor the team. Cochran expects a lot from the returning starter, who earned All-District honors last year.

"We're gonna build the team around her because she does everything you want," Cochran said. "She handles the ball really well, sees the game really well. She's gonna set the standard."

Joining Fender in the backcourt will be Emory Thomas, only an eighth-grader. "She's fast, she's strong, she's quick," Cochran said. "Excited to see how she's gonna develop over the next five years."

Sophomore guard Sheridan Patterson brings experience back to the team from last year. She's likely the Lady Li-

ons' biggest threat from long range.

"Probably be our knock-down three-point shooter," Cochran said. "Very skilled; has a nice release."

Only one other Lady Lion likely starter is an upperclassman, junior Brianna Hughes, who will play the post.

"Excited for her to hang and bang in the paint," Cochran said.

Others Cochran said he expects to see regular action this year include junior guard Esther Pattison, freshman post Kiran Keeton and a pair of sophomore guards: Irelan Fender and Caris Baggett.

Team strengths

Cochran said he thinks his squad's athleticism will be a team strength. "Probably the most athletic bunch I've seen in a long time," he said. "We're gonna have to play high-tempo defense and press all game long. We're not big. We gotta use our speed and knock down some shots."

Cochran said the team will play man-to-man defense and trap in order to try to get steals. "We gotta use our athleticism to deny the ball and pressure people," he said.

Concerns

In addition to not being "big," staying healthy concerns Cochran the most. "It's a long season; the goal is to be

playing at the end of February," the new coach said.

CCS won but five games last year against 14 losses. A first-round loss against King's Academy in the Division II-A East Region District 1 Tournament ended its season.

Final thoughts

Cochran plans to bring about a seismic cultural shift.

"This is a special place and special time," Cochran said. "They're tired of being a low-tiered team. We wanna be the premiere school of Knoxville."

By Bill Howard

“Great school, great community, great support here,”

Brad Cochran.
Head Coach



(Above) Natali Fender, Concord Christian School senior standout guard. (Right) Junior post Brianna Hughes, left, and junior guard Esther Pattison.

ROSTER

11-Natali Fender.....	Sr.....	G
40-Brianna Hughes	Jr.....	P
12-Esther Pattison	Jr.....	G
10-Maddie Greene.....	So.....	
15-Sheridan Patterson	So.....	G
3-Irelan Fender.....	So.....	G
1-Caris Baggett	So.....	G
35-Nell Pattison.....	So.....	
30-Katie Phillips.....	So.....	
21-Kiran Keeton	Fr.....	P
2-Haylee Hamilton.....	Fr.....	
0-Mariya McGrew.....	Fr.....	
5-Emory Thomas	8th.....	G



Good Luck LIONS

Concord Christian School is looking forward to a great season and would like to welcome new High School Girls Head Coach, Brad Cochran; and returning High School Boys Head Coach, Justin Zachary.



CONCORD
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

concordchristianschool.org



Knoxville Catholic High School

IRISH

The new head coach with Knoxville Catholic varsity boys basketball has a special way of referencing his 2023-24 Fighting Irish.

“Right now I call my guys midsize SUVs: We don’t have too many super small guys, we don’t have too many super big guys. We’re right there in the middle,” Irish head coach Gabriel Blair said.

The players

“Right now, Cade Murphy is our leader; he’s about a 6-foot-5 sophomore, played last year,” the coach said. “He’s got a really good shot, really good body, has developed into a vocal leader, gym rat, works very hard and really enjoys the game.”

“And then I would say next would probably be Caleb Asbaty who played last year as well,” the coach added about the 6-foot-3 senior guard. “I think he averaged double digits last year, about 10 or 11 points. Very, very strong kid, really good spot-up shooter. I have him in the post sometimes in small line-ups and he’s really effective right there.”

“He’s starting to learn how to be a leader, how to be more

vocal, how to lead by example. I really like his potential this year.”

Next, “I would go to Carson Asbaty, that’s Caleb’s younger brother, 10th-grader,” the new coach said about this 6-footer. “... I don’t think he played any minutes; He was on varsity last year.

“His consistency, with his ability to score and with his shooting, has really put him in that top three, top four spot,” Blair added. “And on top of that he’s a really good teammate, tries hard, wants to do the right stuff, very coachable.”

As for junior guard Juice Eleam, big for the position at roughly 6-foot-6, “I heard a few times he was probably the best player on the team a couple of games last year,” the coach said. “Very athletic, very coachable, does a great job pushing the ball in transition. He does a great job with on-ball defense.

“I like what he brings to the table; he’s going to have a really good year,” Blair added.

Jayson Gainey, a 5-foot-10 junior, has risen from the junior varsity ranks at KCHS.

“For me right now, he’s more a facilitator, spot-up shooter, get guys in the right spot, an on-ball defender,” Blair said. “He’s doing a great job with that and is very coachable.

“And he pretty much stirs the pot, makes sure everybody get the ball when they need it, communicates well,” the coach added.

As for how many to play

each game, “I’m probably going deeper into my roster,” Blair said.

Senior guard Ben Stovall, “played last year, but limited minutes,” the coach said. “All my guys are good teammates, but he’s a very good teammate, very coachable, plays very hard, a very capable scorer that can score at all three levels right now. He can make a shot, he can make pull-ups, he can get to the rack, solid on defense, works hard on that part.

“And the energy he brings to the team, the camaraderie he brings to the team is something that really stands out for his game,” Blair added.

Bently Turbyville, a senior guard/forward, “sets a great screen, moves the ball well, fights hard on defense — and you leave him open, he’s going to make an open shot,” Blair said.

Biggest team strength

“The biggest team strength is more than likely going to be shooting; our abilities for everybody to be able to make the right play; ball movement, player movement and getting good shots and knocking them down,” the coach said.

Concerns

“A concern is always going to be our size,” Blair said. “We don’t have a true big man. So I know when we face a team that’s got a true post, we’ve got to play post defense by committee. But I feel like the concern on one end is an advantage on the other end.”

Final thoughts

“Building the foundation



Juice Eleam, Knoxville Catholic junior guard, takes it hard to the bucket during a home scrimmage versus Oak Ridge

ROSTER

23	.....Caleb Asbaty	.....Sr	.....G
24	.....Ben Stovall	.....Sr	.....G
22	.....Bently Turbyville	.....Sr	.....F/G
34	.....Cooper Crook	.....Sr	.....F
12	.....Jayson Gainey	.....Jr	.....G
1	.....Juice Eleam	.....Jr	.....G
3	.....Carson Asbaty	.....So	.....G
2	.....Cade Murphy	.....So	.....G
4	.....Aron Mase	.....So	.....G
14	.....Brady Renfree	.....Fr	.....G
33	.....Finn Kerchbalm	.....Fr	.....G
5	.....Chandler Thompson	.....Fr	.....G

and building the culture is my main priority right now,” Blair said. “And I will say right now, our guys are understanding what it means to be selfless basketball players, play the right way.

“And I’m excited about the opportunity this year to show

the city, show the state, show the country who we are,” he added. “We play a few national games. But they’re like, ‘hey, regardless of who’s on our roster, playing the right way is going to give us success.’”

By Alan Sloan

KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

IRISH • VARSITY BOYS/GIRLS SCHEDULE 2023-24

Nov. 16.....	Austin-East (boys).....	Home
Nov. 16.....	Karns (girls).....	Home
Nov. 17.....	West (boys).....	Home
Nov. 18.....	West Ridge/McMinn Co. (girls)	Home
Nov. 20-21.....	ND Thanksgiving Classic.....	Away
Nov. 24.....	York Institute (girls).....	Away
Nov. 25.....	Lincoln County (girls)	Away
Nov. 27.....	Oak Ridge (boys).....	Home
Nov. 28.....	The Kings Academy	Home
Dec. 5.....	Asheville School (NC).....	Away
Dec. 9.....	Ensworth (girls).....	Away
Dec. 8-9.....	Battle of the Peach (boys).....	Away
Dec. 15-16.....	5 StarPreps Hoop Jam Classic (boys).....	Home
Dec. 18.....	Kings Academy	Away
Dec. 21-22.....	W. Kentucky Hoops Classic (boys).....	Away
Dec. 21-23.....	Doc Maples Classic (girls)	Away
Dec. 27-29.....	King of the Smokies | Tournament.....	Away
Dec. 27-31.....	Ladies Classic (girls).....	Away
Jan. 5.....	McCallie	Home
Jan. 5.....	GPS.....	Home
Jan. 6.....	Tri-Cities.....	Away
Jan. 6.....	West Ridge.....	Away
Jan. 9.....	Baylor	Home
Jan. 15.....	Bearden (girls).....	Away
Jan. 16.....	Chattanooga Christian.....	Away
Jan. 17.....	Farragut.....	Away
Jan. 19.....	Webb.....	Home
Jan. 23.....	Walker Valley (boys)	Home
Jan. 27.....	Legacy Early College (SC).....	Away



#GoIrish

Knoxville Catholic Fighting Irish

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Knoxville Catholic High School LADY IRISH

Lots of firepower returns from last season's TSSAA Division II-AA state champion Knoxville Catholic girls team.

"I don't know if we've ever been this deep before," KCHS head coach Travis Mains said.

The players

Senior guard/forward Sydney Maines, a three-time All-State honoree and two-time Ms. Basketball state finalist, enters her final high school season "240 points away from 2,000 points scored," said her coach and father, as Sydney also helped lead KCHS to a state runner finish and final four state appearance in her first two seasons, "which is pretty phenomenal."

Moreover, this talented senior and Florida Atlantic University commit was named state tourney MVP in her role of helping the Lady Irish win it all early last March.

"And she's been the Player of the Year in the Eastern Division in the last two years, too," her father added. "She's just a good team player. She's getting to the point where she'll guard the other team's best player. She's been the leading (team) rebounder all three years she's been at the school as well."

"She's working on becoming a better assist maker this year. And she's got more people to throw to this year."

Forward/center Caroline Krueger, the team's only other senior, returns. "She was the second or third-leading rebounder, and she led her team in field goal percentage — probably the biggest turnaround in one year," coach



Guard Amaya Redd drives to the basket against Ensworth during last season's TSSAA Division II-AA state title game.

Mains said. "The year before she shot 30 percent; this past year she shot 60 percent from the field. So that's phenomenal to me. And she's probably the best screener that I've ever had play for me."

"Just a good defensive player, good rebounder, just overall great teammate, good culture kid," he added. "Always shows up and works hard."

While Sydney led the Lady Irish in made three-pointers with 93, sophomore guard Logan Connatser "hit around 60 last year," the coach said.

Maybe the team's top player off the bench last season, junior guard Amaya Redd is primed to start. "She really came on toward the end of last year, battling through injuries," coach Mains said. "Just improved every game. She

averaged about 7.63 points a game. She was on the All-State Tournament Team last year and was an All-Region selection last year coming off the bench."

Redd "has several colleges interested in her as well," the coach added. "So she's had a great summer and great fall. And she's an elite level athlete, high school level, and could play multiple positions and guard multiple positions. Just a really strong 5-foot-11 athlete."

Another likely new starter, sophomore shooting guard Andrea Flores, is a transfer. "She averaged about 15 points a game last year for her high school team, Daniel Boone," as a freshman, and was All-Region," coach Mains said.

Colleges already eyeing Flores include Memphis, Middle Tennessee State, East Tennessee State and Murray State.

As for depth, "Honestly, we have about seven kids that will have a chance to start for us this year," coach Mains said.

Junior guard/forward Tinsley Walker "is a kid that started for us as a freshman,



Mains

ROSTER

1	.....Ariana Swain	..... So	..... G/F
3	.....Camara Minefield	..... So	..... G
5	.....Evaiyah Mitchell	..... So	..... G
11	.....Logan Connatser	..... So	..... G
12	.....Caroline Krueger	..... Sr	..... F/C
14	.....Ensley Perry	..... Jr	..... G
15	.....Sydney English	..... Jr	..... G
20	.....Andrea Flores	..... So	..... G
22	.....Tinsley Walker	..... Jr	..... G/F
23	.....Amaya Redd	..... Jr	..... F/G
24	.....Sydney Mains	..... Sr	..... G/F
30	.....Maggie Frana	..... Jr	..... F/G

Head Coach: Travis Mains Assistant Coaches:
Missey Mains • Carolyn Cantrell "Dubs"

but tore her ACL," the coach said. "Her sophomore year she came back at the end of the year and gave us good minutes to make big shots. She's a kid that stirs the drink for us. ... knows how to play basketball; just a really good teammate."

As for a point guard, "We may use Sydney at the point guard some," coach Mains said. "And then there's a sophomore that came back from last year, Evaiyah Mitchell, who came on toward the end of last year and scored seven points in the championship game."

"And she is just a really strong defender, and really quick, and gives us more of a true point guard when she's in the game," the coach added. "So she could possibly start at some point this year."

Junior guard/forward Maggie Frana "was a starter for us last year," coach Mains said. Averaged about five points and five or six rebounds a game."

Junior guard Sydney English "had multiple concus-

sions last year, so I had to sit her out," coach Mains said. "She's a transfer from Farragut that is a 5-foot-11 athlete that can shoot the three and is a good defender. So she'll play a good amount of minutes for us."

Junior guard Ensley Perry "is another guard that will be a good defender, good overall team player for us," he added.

Biggest team strength

In addition to the team's championship experience, "I would say we have eight kids that are more likely to have a chance to start and play a considerable amount of minutes for us," the coach said.

Biggest concern

"We played this summer and we had five or six kids get hurt and injured again," the coach said. "So just keeping those kids healthy and keeping them wanting to come back and win another state championship and not being happy with just what you did last year."

By Alan Sloan



Only a freshman last season but a big contributor in Knoxville Catholic's TSSAA Division II-AA state title game win against Ensworth, Evaiyah Mitchell gives the gold championship ball trophy a big kiss



Good luck to the defending 2023 TSSAA
Division II Class AA State Champions!

Knoxville Catholic Lady Irish

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Knoxville Christian School KNIGHTS

For a young Knoxville Christian School high school varsity boys basketball team, it was a hard lesson to learn in a season opener following a 62-45 loss to Knoxville Apostolic Christian School on KCS's Wade & Allan Houston Court Thursday night, Nov. 9.

"A lot of the boys are young and they still don't get it," head coach Geno Anderson said about having only two returning players from last year's team. "You got to bring that intensity in practice."

Dylan Richmond, Brian Ailey Jr. and Jon Cooper were the team's leading scorers in the opening game.

Profiling the players

Richmond, a junior guard, "has got some potential," Anderson said. "He's just got to keep pushing his body, get in better shape, because he came in later in the year."

"I think Dylan has the potential to be a point guard for us and score at the same time," he added.

Ailey, a junior wing, is a returner from last year, along with Cooper, a sophomore forward.

"Those three right there are going to make a big impact and have a big influence on our game if we win," Anderson said. "Brian Ailey is a knock-

down shooter. That's mainly his role. He can get to the hoop a little bit.

"Jon Cooper is one of the most improved; honestly, if I had to vote for most improved, Jon Cooper would be the guy," the coach said. "He's going to bring it defensively and hustle-wise and rebounding."

Keith Barry, a junior forward, "has got some potential," Anderson said. "Keith has come along very well; he's a really good slasher, and he can rebound."

"He's a really hard worker, too," the coach added. "Him and his brother (junior forward Kevin Barry), the twins are really hard workers, honestly."

"And they've just been introduced to basketball. They have been playing rec league before, so this is a new intensity for them."

Javonta Brown, a junior wing/forward, "has some guard skills, really physical, can finish around the rim and has a nice shooting touch," Anderson said.

Freshman guard/small forward Liam Swanson "has a little bit of playmaking ability I've seen over the last couple of months," the coach said. "Just has to get adapted to the speed of the game. Very strong. And then I've seen him make some good passes in scrimmages."

At 6-foot-4, sophomore forward Didoc Lobo "is a foreign exchange student from Spain" who looks to contribute, Anderson said.

Freshman David Podlisseteky "is a real hustle player, he's going to give us his 100 person best effort," the coach said. "A really good defender. Offensively, he's got a ways to go."

Kevin Barry "is going to do all the little dirty work, crash the boards every time," Anderson said. "He's going to get his hands in there defensively."

Team strength

"We have size; our size is good," the coach said about a team strength. "Once we get in peak form, I feel like we could really try to stretch the boards a little more."

"And they're's not really any selfish guys out there."

Concerns

"But like I told the fellows, 'we've got to get in better shape,'" Anderson said.

"I'm still trying to figure out what we're good at and what our strengths and weaknesses are as of right now."

Final thoughts

"We're still developing, but we're heading in the right direction," the coach said. "We've got a lot more size than we had last year. Last year was a struggle, but we've improved talent-wise, I feel."

"Now we've just got to keep improving," Anderson added. "That's the way I look at it. ... We've got a lot of 11th-graders, so they'll be back next year because it's pretty much a new team for us right now."

By Alan Sloan

ROSTER

Brian Ailey Jr.	Jr
Keith Barry	Jr
Kevin Barry	Jr
Javonta Brown	Jr
Dylan Richmond	Jr
Didoc Lobo	So
Jon Cooper	So
Liam Swanson	Fr
David Podlisseteky	Fr

KNOXVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

KNIGHTS • VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2023-24

Nov. 7	Temple Baptist	Home
Nov. 9	Apostolic	Home
Nov. 14	Temple Baptist	Away
Nov. 17	Berean Christian	Away
Nov. 28	Paideia	Home
Dec. 7	Tenn. School of the Deaf	Home
Dec. 8	Maryville Christian School	Home
Jan. 6th	Catholic	Home
Jan. 16	Maryville Christian School	Away
Jan. 25	Knox. Ambassadors	Away
Jan. 26 - 27	MCS Tournament	Away
Feb. 1	Tenn. School of the Deaf	Away
Feb. 6	Paideia	Home
Feb. 9	Apostolic	Away
Feb. 20	Knox. Ambassadors	Home



Left: Javonta Brown, KCS junior wing/forward, pulls up for a short jumper against Knoxville Apostolic Christian School



Right: Knights junior forward Keith Barry gets open in the paint for a short jumper again Knoxville Apostolic Christian School.



Webb School of Knoxville SPARTANS

Backcourt experience may be the key for Webb School of Knoxville boys basketball to succeed early in the 2023-24 season, with two Honorable Mention All-Region performers returning.

Last year's success may be a challenge to replicate for long-time head coach Ricky Norris, as his 2022-23 Spartans reached the Division II-AA "final four" in Cookeville before losing to eventual state champion Brentwood Academy.

The Players

Junior Jaylen Pompe "is our returning starter at the point; Drake Ingram is our returning starter at the wing, a senior," Norris said.

Ingram "is a three-year varsity guy; Jaylen has been on the varsity for two years," the coach added.

The pair offer "their experience and their leadership on the floor," Norris said. "They have a complete understanding of what we're trying to do on both ends, both offensively and defensively. And both are really well-respected by their teammates."

"And they're going to be as good as most backcourts that we have to go up against."

Sophomore Owen Lentz "is a combo guard, a wing and point," the coach said. "Owen's an elite shooter, like really shoots the ball well. His dad coaches at Tennessee, so he's grown up around the game, has a really high basketball IQ. ... He practiced with us as an eighth-grader and then was on the varsity last year, so he's

also got a great understanding of what we try to do."

Sophomore wing Cam Swearngen "has loads of potential," Norris said. "Cam's got good genes as well. His dad, Clarence, was an all-SEC point guard at Tennessee back in the day. And Cam's got the size and the athleticism and can shoot the ball as well. ... can do a lot of things really well."

Expecting loads of playing time is 6-foot-6 sophomore forward Alex Leeth. "Really long arms, probably one of the better defenders that we've had in a while, can guard multiple positions," the coach said. "And with his size can play both inside and out. But defensively, he can guard a variety of people."

Freshman forward Tahj Bowers, at 6-foot-4, "was a post player growing up, but has really worked on developing his game to where now he could step out and play a little bit on the perimeter," Norris said. "A strong, physical, really good athlete and just plays incredibly hard."

Sophomore wing Wilson Luton "is a really big-time shooter that we're going to bring off the bench, a two sport guy that plays baseball," the coach said. "But he's definitely one of the better shooters we have. He's going to be in the rotation this year."

"And we need him to give us

productive minutes as well."

Another inside presence looking to contribute big is 6-foot-5 junior forward Emmett Melton.

Biggest team strength

"I think one of our strengths is we're still really young and we're really hungry," Norris said. "I think our team is young and they want to prove that they're good because they haven't been able to prove that yet. And I think that's a big deal."

"They're a bunch of gym rats and just love being in the gym playing ball — and they're very coachable," he added. "And so I hope that ends up paying off as we go into the year."

Concerns

"Depth is our biggest concern," Norris said. "We've got a couple of freshmen on the bench that are going to have to grow up and get ready to play in a hurry if we were to have some injuries. So I do think we're a little bit thin with our numbers."

By Alan Sloan

"I think one of our strengths is we're still really young and we're really hungry. I think our team is young and they want to prove that they're good because they haven't been able to prove that yet. And I think that's a big deal,"

~ Ricky Norris,
Head Coach

ROSTER

0	.....Owen Lentz	.....So	.....W
1	.....Jaylen Pompey	.....Jr	.....PG
2	.....Tahj Bowers	.....Fr	.....F
3	.....Cam Swearngen	.....So	.....W
4	.....Javon Dirl	.....Fr	.....W
5	.....Alex Leeth	.....So	.....F
10	.....Wilson Luton	.....So	.....W
11	.....Emmett Melton	.....Jr	.....F
14	.....Luke Neiss	.....Fr	.....W
22	.....Drake Ingram	.....Sr	.....W

Head Coach: Ricky Norris

Assistant Coaches: Zach Gulmire • Jon Green

• James Michel • Rashawn Rembert



Drake Ingram (green), Webb School of Knoxville senior wing, looks to make a move toward the basket against a Stone Memorial defender during during a "Play Day" scrimmage in Webb's Lee Athletic Center Saturday evening, Nov. 11.



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Webb School of Knoxville LADY SPARTANS

Looking to find a spot on the upper tier of programs in TSSAA Division II-AA, Webb School of Knoxville varsity girls have a new head coach.

Greg Hernandez replaces Shelley Collier, whose coaching helped earn seven state championships for the Lady Spartans.

Beginning to get familiar with his new team, Hernandez introduces the individual pieces making up the 2023-24 Webb team.

The players

"I've got a senior guard, Katelyn Overton, who is just the definition of what a leader is," he said. "She's going to help get us set up offensively this year, and then just be our voice defensively and making sure people are in the right spots."

Senior Brooklyn Bush "is a long, athletic wing/forward," Hernandez said. "I'm expecting a big year out of her production-wise: rebounding, causing havoc defensively and then just putting pressure on the rim, just a player that I'm expecting a lot out of."



Hernandez

Junior post Meeyah Green "is going to be somebody that we lean on a lot in the sense of being a rebounder, being a facilitator, being someone who can really put the ball in the basket," the coach said, "and who gives us a lot of flexibility in doing a lot of things offensively and defensively just because of her size and strength."

Those looking to contribute include junior Avery Green, plus a pair of freshmen: Cailyn Taylor and Mary Mac Emery.

"Those are the girls that I'm going to be looking at coming off the bench or starting possibly alongside two other seniors, Sydney Stinson and Maliyah Mixon, that are going to be glue pieces for us in the sense of you know what you'll get from them game in and game out," Hernandez said.

"And I have two young girls that are new to the program, (freshman) Harper Ladd, whose sister graduated last year, and Kyndall Mays, who's a young eighth-grader that's already got good size," he added. "We've just got to get her accustomed to the speed of the high school game."

Team strengths

"I think we'll have a little



Webb senior Katelyn Overton (3) goes up for a jumper during a home scrimmage.

bit of depth just being able to throw bodies out there," Hernandez said. "And then, too, I think just our length and athleticism is going to be a strength. We're going to be able to put pressure on teams and make them uncomfortable in the half court."

Concerns

"The concern is I wish I had two months to practice before we played our first game, but we've only got two weeks," Hernandez said. "So that's really just more of my concerns. But besides that, I'm excited about this team and the direction that we're going in after

the first two days of practice."

Path to Webb

"What led me to Webb School was obviously the opportunity to take over a program that's got a lot of tradition," Hernandez said. "My goal is to continue to build off of that and just continue to keep the standard high. I understand that comes with pressure, but that's a privilege."

"And obviously I'm very excited that I get a chance to lead these girls," he added.

By Alan Sloan

“I’ve got a senior guard, Katelyn Overton, who is just the definition of what a leader is,”

~ Greg Hernandez, Head Coach

Right: Meeyah Green, Lady Spartans sophomore, makes a move to the basket during a home scrimmage against Farragut.

ROSTER

2	.....Lorelei Lee	.....So
3	.....Katelyn Overton	.....Sr
4	.....Harper Ladd	.....Fr
5	.....Maliyah Mixon	.....Sr
10	.....Corisa Lowery	.....Fr
11	.....Mary Mac Emery	.....Fr
12	.....Brooklyn Bush	.....Sr
21	.....Cailyn Taylor	.....Fr
22	.....Sydney Stinson	.....Sr
23	.....Avery Green	.....So
24	.....Meeyah Green	.....So
32	.....Matazja Goins	.....So
33	.....Kyndall Mays	.....8th
	.....Ivy Napier	.....7th

WEBB SCHOOL OF KNOXVILLE SPARTANS • VARSITY BOYS/GIRLS SCHEDULE 2023-24

Nov. 15	.....Asheville High School (boys)	.....Away
Nov. 16	.....Dobyns-Bennett (girls)	.....Home
Nov. 18	.....Morristown East (boys)	.....Home
Nov. 18	.....Alcoa	.....Home
Nov. 20	.....Notre Dame (boys)	.....Away
Nov. 20	.....Hamilton Heights (girls)	.....Away
Nov. 21	.....Chattanooga Central (boys)	.....Away
Nov. 21	.....Soddy Daisy (girls)	.....Away
Nov. 28	.....Cookeville	.....Away
Dec. 1	.....Cleveland	.....Away
Dec. 5	.....Cookeville	.....Home
Dec. 8-9	.....Iverson Classic (boys)	.....Away
Dec. 8-9	.....Roundball in the Hall (girls)	.....Away
Dec. 12	.....Stone Memorial	.....Away
Dec. 15	.....Brentwood Academy (boys)	.....Away
Dec. 15	.....Alcoa (girls)	.....Away
Dec. 16	.....Hamilton Heights (boys)	.....Away
Dec. 16	.....Hardin Valley (girls)	.....Away
Dec. 20	.....Ensworth (boys)	.....Home
Dec. 21	.....Science Hill (girls)	.....Away
Dec. 22	.....Austin-East (boys)	.....Home
Dec. 22	.....MTCS	.....Home
Dec. 28-30	.....Cleveland Tourney (boys)	.....Away
Jan. 5	.....Blue Ridge (boys)	.....Away
Jan. 6	.....Miller (boys)	.....Away
Jan. 9	.....Tri-Cities Christian (boys)	.....Home
Jan. 12	.....Chattanooga Christian	.....Home
Jan. 16	.....Baylor	.....Away
Jan. 19	.....Catholic	.....Away
Jan. 23	.....McCallie/GPS	.....Home
Jan. 26	.....Chattanooga Christian	.....Away
Jan. 30	.....GPS	.....Away
Feb. 1Hamilton HeightsHome
Feb. 6BaylorHome
Feb. 9CatholicHome



Webb School

OF KNOXVILLE



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STATE TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES

2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009,
2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018,
2019, 2022

STATE TOURNAMENT RUNNER-UP

2008, 2011, 2013, 2016

STATE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP

2007, 2009, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2018

VARSITY BOYS

STATE TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES

1984, 1985, 1990, 1995, 1998, 2006, 2010,
2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2023

STATE TOURNAMENT RUNNER-UP

2018

STATE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP

2019

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