

HOOPS: 2025 Basketball Preview

FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025 • 1C





Photo by Tony Cox

Farragut High School

ADMIRALS

Two years ago, Farragut High School’s boys basketball team managed just seven wins. Last season, the Admirals bounced back with 20 victories.

Head coach J.P. Burris believes the program’s upward climb will continue this winter — thanks in large part to a tight-knit group of five seniors who have grown up together on and off the court.

That “band of brothers” includes point guard Parker Lane (5-10), shooting guard Dan Lanning (6-1), wing Aiden Foshie (6-3), post/wing captain Britton Lewis (6-3) and post Reid Vining (6-3).

“These five seniors have been playing together since they were in seventh grade,” Burris said. “They’re close friends off the court and play really well together. They respect each other, and all five have done a really good job leading our program.”

Lane, a four-year starter, once again will steer the offense. “He’s gonna run the show,” Burris said. “He plays as hard as he possibly can and loves the game.”

Lanning returns as one

of the team’s top defenders. “Probably our most physical guard,” Burris said. “He’s one of our better defenders, and I’m looking for him to take another step.”

Foshie, a first-year starter, brings firepower from the perimeter. “He’s a really good shooter and a big-time offensive threat,” Burris said.

Lewis, the team captain, is a versatile leader. “He can play inside-out,” Burris said. “One of the best leaders I’ve been around. He’s our ‘stretch 4’ but doesn’t live on the block.”

Vining anchors the paint. “He’s an undersized center but plays above the rim,” Burris said. “A great rebounder with a nonstop motor.”

With four returning starters, Burris said maturity and buy-in have been key. “We’ve worked to fix some of the things we did wrong two years ago,” he said.

Of course, any starting five needs help off the bench. Burris expects help from junior guard Ethan Farhat (6-0), a star on the football team, “played a good amount last year,” Burris said. Farhat was injured most of the second half last year. Junior guards Matthew Dickens and Connor Everly also will see key minutes, along with 6-3 sophomore post Alex Evans, who will back up Vining.

“Dickens is a really good shooter who had a great summer,” Burris said. “Everly’s a tough defender who plays

hard. Evans has had a really good preseason.”

The Admirals’ smaller lineup will rely on tempo and perimeter shooting. “We’re really small, so the more we can get out and run in transition, the more efficient we’ll be,” Burris said. “We’re not built to feed it inside much. We’ve got a lot of guys who shoot well from the perimeter.”

On the defensive side, the plan is to “play a lot of man (to man), to try to pressure people and pick up full-court.”

Burris is counting on the “brothers” chemistry to be a powerful dynamic in this year’s campaign.

“This might be the most cohesive group I’ve had,” Burris said. “Keeping cool heads like they have, and they’ve done a really good job this summer.”

The Admirals made the second round of the Regional Tournament last year, falling to Maryville, who went to State. For Burris, the focus will be to maintain last year’s forward momentum.

“Just trying to build off last year,” he said. Twenty wins, second round of the region. Much better (than the year before). That starts with me fixing those things and doing a better job and our guys doing a really good job of buying into the changes we made.”

The first game is against Alcoa at home on Thursday, Nov. 20.

ROSTER

1	Matthew Dickens	G/F	Jr.
2	Dan Lanning	G	Sr.
3	Bennett Wright	G	Jr.
4	Connor Everly	G	Jr.
5	Ethan Farhat	G	Jr.
10	Reid Vining	C	Sr.
11	Britton Lewis	F	Sr.
12	Wesley Jenkins	G	So.
13	Westin Carbaugh	F	Jr.
14	Brayden Atwell	G	So.
15	Blue Sagle	G	Fr.
20	Aidan Foshie	G	Sr.
23	Parker Lane	G	Sr.
32	Alex Evan	C	So.

Head coach: J.P. Burris

Assistant coaches: Adam Jenkins • Cory Johnson • Randy Swartzentruber

Manager: Hayden Duncan

ADMIRALS • VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2025-26

11/20	Alcoa High School	Home
11/22	Lakeway Christian Academy	Neutral
11/22	Powell High School	Neutral
11/24	Karns High School	Home
11/25	First Baptist Academy	Home
12/2	Maryville High School	Away
12/5	Hardin Valley Academy *	Home
12/9	Oak Ridge High School *	Away
12/12	Lenoir City High School *	Away
12/15	Jefferson Co. High School	Away
12/19	Loudon Christmas	Neutral
12/20	Loudon Christmas	Neutral
12/22	Loudon Christmas	Neutral
12/29	Rocky Top Christmas	Neutral
12/30	Rocky Top Christmas	Neutral
12/31	Rocky Top Christmas	Neutral
1/6	Rhea Co. High School *	Home
1/8	West High School	Home
1/13	McMinn Co. High School *	Home
1/16	Bearden High School *	Away
1/20	Hardin Valley Academy *	Away
1/23	Oak Ridge High School *	Home
1/27	Lenoir City High School *	Home
1/29	Fulton High School	Away
1/30	Rhea Co. High School *	Away
2/3	Concord Christian School	Home
2/6	Bearden High School *	Home
2/10	McMinn Co. High School *	Away
2/13	McMinn Central High School	Away

* - denotes region/district game





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Photo by Tony Cox

Farragut High School

Lady Admirals

Every high school team sees turnover from one season to the next, and Farragut’s girls basketball program is no exception. The Lady Admirals graduated key contributors, including starting guards Jaci Neubert and Annie Priest.

But Coach Jason Mayfield believes his returning core — anchored by senior standout KJ McNealy — keeps Farragut firmly in the District 4-4A mix.

“Excited to get started,” Mayfield said. “We’ve got good returners, but we lost some pretty big pieces. Having KJ helps. And there’s a good supporting cast around her, so I feel pretty good about that.”



Mayfield

McNealy, an all-court threat, is expected to be one of the top players not only in the district and region, but perhaps in the state. She scores, rebounds and defends at a high level, and Mayfield said she’s on pace to become the school’s all-time rebounding leader.

“She’ll play everywhere, but I’ll probably run her at point guard this year,” he said. “She’s expected to do everything. She’s a great kid, a hard worker, and she keeps taking steps every year to be a better player.”

Farragut will rely on a strong cast around her. Junior wing Gabbie Vanacker (6-1), sidelined until January with

an injury, is expected to be a key part of that group when she returns.

“She was shooting it well for us, getting to the rim, even handling the ball before she got hurt,” Mayfield said.

In the post, junior Trinity Curry (6-0) returns after starting last season.

“Her presence inside is hard to stop, but she can step out and shoot it, too,” Mayfield said. “She’s worked hard, and we’ll see what she can do.”

Junior wing Reagan Sheridan (5-10) came off the bench a year ago and is poised to start.

“She can attack the rim — a little different version of Gabbie,” Mayfield said. “She gets downhill and makes plays.”

Two senior guards, Anna Corum and Lilly Mullins (both 5-4), will provide stability. Each saw significant minutes last season with Corum logging some starts.

“Similar players — consistent,” Mayfield said. “Both guards, both have played since freshman year, and they know what we expect. They get things done.”

The bench will feature two sophomores: guard/wing Livi Slagle (5-8) and post player Makenna Hartley (6-1).

“Really athletic,” Mayfield said of Slagle. “In eighth grade, she was the leading scorer. She has all kinds of athletic and scoring ability.”

Hartley, he noted, could push Curry for a starting job.

“She can step out and shoot. She and Trinity will push each other and make each other better. She has a chance to take that spot.”

Three freshmen also could

see early opportunities. Guard Jayna Carbaugh (5-7) may play immediately.

“She’ll play a lot, I think,” Mayfield said. “We’ll see, but she should help us.”

Wing Raina Styles (5-10), who played post in middle school, also figures to contribute.

“Real athletic, hard worker,” Mayfield said. “Probably the best middle school player on her team.”

The third freshman, 6-1 transfer Alorah Branam from Seymour, brings size and versatility.

“Really, really athletic,” Mayfield said. “She can play post or wing.”

Mayfield said depth should be a strength.

“I could throw any of them out there, and we can do what we need to do,” he said. “Just a matter of using that depth to our advantage.”

He said the challenges will include establishing strength around the rim and identifying reliable defenders.

As with any team, the intangibles — effort, attitude and chemistry — will matter, and Mayfield feels good about those qualities.

“Really good attitude,” he said. “We tell them they don’t all have to be best friends, but they’re teammates. They want to be here and work hard.”

Leadership, though, centers on McNealy.

“(The season) starts with KJ,” Mayfield said. “They’ve seen the leadership the last several years. They have to have the work ethic and they have to be competitors or they’re not going to be real successful.”

ROSTER

1	Anna Corum	G	Sr.
2	Lilly Mullins	G	Sr.
3	Zoe Porter	G	Jr.
4	Jayna Carbaugh	G	Fr.
5	Gabbie Vanacker	W	Jr.
11	Alorah Branam	W	Fr.
12	Reagan Sheridan	W	Jr.
14	Arabelle Wray	G	Fr.
20	Trinity Curry	P	Jr.
22	KJ McNealy	G	Sr.
23	Livi Slagle	G	So.
24	Raina Styles	W	Fr.
33	Makenna Hartley	P	So.

Head coach: Jason Mayfield

Assistant coach: Sue Kim • Madison Maples

Managers: Ella Schlomer • Blair Thurman

ADMIRALS • VARSITY GIRLS SCHEDULE 2025-26

11/20	Alcoa High School	Home
11/22	White Co. High School HOF	Neutral
11/22	Carter High School HOF	Neutral
11/24	Maryville High School Thanksgiving Classic	Neutral
11/25	McMinn Central High School Thanksgiving Classic	Neutral
12/2	Maryville High School	Away
12/5	Hardin Valley Academy *	Home
12/9	Oak Ridge High School *	Away
12/12	Lenoir City High School *	Away
12/15	Jefferson Co. High School	Away
12/19	Loudon Christmas Tournament	Neutral
12/29	Smoky Mountain Christmas Tournament	Neutral
1/6	Rhea Co. High School *	Home
1/8	West High School	Home
1/13	McMinn Co. High School *	Home
1/16	Bearden High School *	Away
1/20	Hardin Valley Academy *	Away
1/23	Oak Ridge High School *	Away
1/27	Lenoir City High School *	Home
1/29	Fulton High School	Away
1/30	Rhea Co. High School *	Away
2/3	Concord Christian School	Home
2/6	Bearden High School *	Home
2/10	McMinn Co. High School *	Away
2/13	McMinn Central High School	Away

* - denotes region/district game

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Bearden High School BULLDOGS

Bearden boys' basketball coach Jeremy Parrott isn't shy about the biggest advantage he sees in his 2025-26 squad.

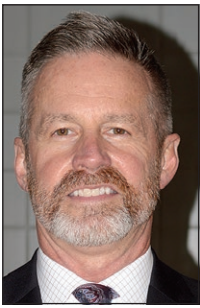
"We're deep," he said. "I think we can play several guys and not fall off a lot. We're not overly tall at the post spot, but we're long on the perimeter, and I think that gives us a distinct advantage defensively."

That length and versatility will be central to Bearden's push to return to the state stage. The Bulldogs finished 33-6 last season and captured the District 4-AAA regular-season title, but their postseason run ended one step short after falling to Oak Ridge in the Region 2-AAA semifinal round. This year's group wants to write a different ending.

Bearden's identity begins in the backcourt with senior point guard Justin Nordin, an All-State honoree who enters his third season as a starter. The two-time All-Region 2-AA and All-District 4-AAA guard is expected to shoulder a heavy two-way load.

"We're looking for a big year out of Justin," Parrott said. "We're going to need a lot out of him on both ends of the floor."

Senior guard Sean Capshaw,



Parrott



Photo courtesy of Bron Herron / Southeastern School Photography

another All-Region and All-District selection, joins Nordin as the team's most experienced returner.

"We're going to need Sean to be solid on both ends of the floor," Parrott said. "Those two are the main returners. We're gonna depend on them to set the tone for us."

In the paint, senior post player Theo Mills returns after leading the Bulldogs in rebounding last season. At 6-foot-5, Mills gives Bearden an anchor inside, particularly on the defensive end.

"We're gonna depend on him to hold that down," Parrott said. "Rebounding and post defense will be huge for us."

The Bulldogs also welcome several new contributors, starting with senior guard Carson Asbaty, a transfer from Knoxville Catholic. His ability to play multiple positions on the floor gives Parrott additional flexibility.

Junior guard Brendan Murphy is another name expected to emerge after a strong off-season.

"He had a great summer. He can score it," Parrott said. "I'm looking for him to have a breakout year. As he improves his defense, he should be a player to watch."

Junior wing Damian Cullom

ROSTER

0	.....	Brendan Murphy	.....	G	.....	Jr.
1	.....	Jack Ferraris	.....	W	.....	Sr.
2	.....	Harrison Lynn	.....	G	.....	Sr.
3	.....	Carson Asbaty	.....	G	.....	Sr.
4	.....	Theo Mills	.....	P	.....	Sr.
5	.....	Paxton Parrott	.....	W	.....	Jr.
10	.....	Justin Nordin	.....	G	.....	Sr.
11	.....	Porter Dickson	.....	W	.....	So.
12	.....	Sean Capshaw	.....	G	.....	Sr.
13	.....	Hudson Snider	.....	G	.....	So.
23	.....	Caden George	.....	P	.....	Jr.
24	.....	Jayceon Blair	.....	W	.....	Jr.
44	.....	Damian Cullom	.....	W	.....	Jr.

Head coach: Jeremy Parrott
Assistant Coaches: Tyler Place • Kaseem Davidson
Manager: Ross Goodson

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Lady Bulldogs

For Bearden's girls' basketball program, the expectation remains the same: compete among the best in Division 1-4A. The Lady Bulldogs return one of the state's most dynamic players in senior point guard Natalya Hodge, an All-State selection and Miss Basketball finalist who again figures to be the centerpiece of Bearden's attack.

Hodge enters her final season with one target in mind.

"I think her goal is to walk out of here with the state championship," head coach Justin Underwood said. "She's thinking about helping her teammates get going. These great players are able to impact the game more than just with their scoring. I challenge Natalya to find new ways to raise the level of play for her teammates — setting them up, putting them in spots to be successful."

Bearden reached the Division I-4A state semifinals last season before falling to eventual champion Bradley Central. With several returners and a deeper supporting cast, Underwood believes the ceiling remains high.

"I think we've got a little bit of everything," Underwood said. "If we can collectively get better in each area during the season, this is a group that



Underwood



Photo courtesy of Bron Herron / Southeastern School Photography

can be very successful in a lot of ways."

That confidence stems from a lineup anchored by experience and size. Senior post Theola Mills, a 6-footer and All-District 4-AAAA pick, returns as Bearden's interior anchor. Her strength, physicality and presence on the boards made her one of the league's toughest matchups last winter.

"We're going to ask her to increase her scoring," Underwood said. "And keep dominating the boards. She's our strongest player on the inside."

Junior guard Emma Rainey, though not a starter last year, still earned All-District honors

and quickly became one of the team's most reliable decision-makers.

"Her court awareness and vision were huge for us," Underwood said. "She was a big piece, so she's going to be another starter."

Underwood also is excited about the growth of junior guard Riley Hunt, whose late-season surge last year hints at an expanded role.

"She'll give us another ball-handler," Underwood said. "She's good at slashing to the basket, and she had a really good postseason."

ROSTER

2	.....	Natalya Hodge	.....	PG/W	.....	Sr.
3	.....	Riley Hunt	.....	PG/W	.....	Jr.
10	.....	Lily Corum	.....	W	.....	Sr.
11	.....	MC LeMarbre	.....	W/P	.....	So.
12	.....	Baylie Myers	.....	W	.....	Sr.
14	.....	Ella Hudson	.....	PG/W	.....	Jr.
20	.....	Emma Rainey	.....	PG/W	.....	Jr.
23	.....	Cadence Nesbit	.....	W/P	.....	So.
30	.....	Elise Doettl	.....	P	.....	Jr.
32	.....	Mary Kate Ferraris	.....	P	.....	Jr.
34	.....	Theola Mills	.....	P	.....	Sr.
40		Katie Foster		P		Sr.

Head coach: Justin Underwood • Assistant coach: Josh Suttles
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Hardin Valley Academy HAWKS

A new high school basketball season is at hand, and when Hardin Valley Academy’s boys team takes the floor tomorrow night, Nov. 20, the Hawks will feature a roster full of newcomers.

“We have an extremely young team,” coach Andy Arendt said. “We lost all the starters and about 95 percent of the playing time.”

Experience may be thin, but Arendt sees plenty of promise. “We’re excited to get going,” he said. “It’s going to be a season of fresh starts. We really like some of the young talent. We have a chance to be a good team. I like how hard they’re working, and they’re fun to coach.”

One of the many players expected to see meaningful minutes is freshman point guard Kymani Smith, a 5-foot-9 playmaker Arendt believes could become special.

“Fast, a playmaker ... has a chance to be special,” he said. Smith will team with 5-11 sophomore point guard Kristian Oliver. “One of the highest IQs I’ve ever gotten to coach,” Arendt said. “He shoots it well. He’s getting more physical — bigger, faster, stronger.” Senior guard Colin Dyrness,

one of the team’s most experienced pieces, brings toughness and leadership.

“Tough, a great defender,” Arendt said. “When he shoots it well, he’s tough. Vocal leader with a little experience.”

Down low, 6-2 sophomore Graham Colloredo will anchor the post.

“He’s going to have to be our physical rebounding presence,” Arendt said. “He’s a really good playmaker from the post and shoots it well from 3.”

The guard-heavy rotation also includes 5-11 sophomore Mike Fritts.

“(Fritts) shoots it fantastic,” Arendt said. “High IQ, plays really, really hard.”

Senior wing Jax Sparks, a 6-1 athlete headed for a college baseball career, returned to basketball for his final season.

“Physical, shoots it really well,” Arendt said. “Didn’t play at all last year; glad to have him back.”

Junior guard Blake Crawford will be essential defensively.

“Drives it really well,” Arendt said. “He’s our most physical defensive player. He’s got to realize how good he is.”

Junior guard Hunter Ratcliff is another expected contributor — a “playmaker, shoots it really well ... heady, smart basketball player,” Arendt said.

Arendt also expects production from 6-3 junior wing Brad Mezdo, new to the program. “Gonna count on him to rebound, make plays and make



Photo courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs Photography

ROSTER

0	.....	Kymani Smith	.....	Fr.
1	.....	CJ Martin	.....	So.
2	.....	Graham Colloredo	.....	So.
3	.....	Kristian Oliver	.....	So.
4	.....	Brad Mezdo	.....	Jr.
5	.....	Mike Fritts	.....	So.
10	.....	Hunter Ratcliff	.....	Jr.
11	.....	David Long	.....	Sr.
12	.....	Blake Crawford	.....	Jr.
13	.....	Colin Dyrness	.....	Sr.
14	.....	Colson Crutch	.....	Jr.
15	.....	Charlie Gibson	.....	So.
23	.....	Cannon Mayes	.....	So.
32	.....	Jax Sparks	.....	Sr.
35	.....	Caleb Murray	.....	Fr.

Head Coach: Andy Arendt

Assistants: Jefferson Holt, Chris Martin, Matt Cox, Austin Duncan

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Lady Hawks

Heading into the 2025-26 season, Hardin Valley Academy girls’ basketball coach Jennifer Galloway didn’t hesitate when asked how her team will look early on: young and inexperienced.

“We’re gonna look very different this year,” said Galloway, entering her 18th season at HVA. “Graduation hit us hard; we lost seven seniors. We have a lot who were on varsity last year but didn’t play as much.”

Still, she prefers to view the challenge as a fresh start rather than a rebuild.

“It’s an opportunity to get some new people in, and they’re excited,” she said. “There’s a lot of energy around our program right now.”

Her top six players — none of them seniors or returning starters — will carry the load and log heavy minutes this winter.

Sophomore Audree Riehn, a 6-foot-1 post, will anchor the interior.

“She’s a physical post player. She can play with her back to the basket and can hit a 3 if we need her to,” Galloway said. “We’re looking for her to be a rim protector on defense. She can help direct people because she’ll be able to see the whole floor.”

HVA plans to run much of its offense through its size.

“We’re going to look inside quite a bit because we have some big post players who can move,” Galloway said.

Another interior presence, sophomore Alaina Lineberry (6-0), fits that plan well.

“Very, very athletic,” Galloway said. “We’re looking for her to create on the boards at both ends. She’s an energizer, a vocal leader ... we’re looking for her to do big things.”

The backcourt group is deep and versatile.

Junior guard Holly Lindsey (5-6) again will be counted on.

“She was a spark for us off the bench last year, and we still need her to be that spark,” Galloway said. “She’s a good rebounder, plays really strong



Photo courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs Photography

ROSTER

2	.....	Gracie Edwards	.....	G	.....	So.
11	.....	Marley Edwards	.....	G	.....	Jr.
12	.....	Sarah Galloway	.....	G	.....	So.
21	.....	Emma Rhoden	.....	G	.....	So.
23	.....	Alaina Lineberry	.....	F	.....	So.
24	.....	Brynn Williams	.....	G	.....	Fr.
25	.....	Holly Lindsey	.....	G	.....	Jr.
32	.....	Maimai Ngom	.....	F	.....	Fr.
34	.....	Audree Riehn	.....	F	.....	So.

Head Coach Jennifer Galloway

Assistant Coaches

Brianne McCroskey • Tiffany Cantrell
L.C. Wilson • Michelle Karlon

on-ball defense and can shoot the 3.”

Galloway’s daughter, sophomore guard/wing/post hybrid

Sarah Galloway (5-8), brings versatility.

“She can play point; she can play wing; she can play post,”

Galloway said. “We’re looking for her to help handle the ball,

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See Hardin Valley schedules on page 12C



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DMD, MS

Christian Academy of Knoxville WARRIORS

Head coach JD Johnson doesn't buy into the notion Christian Academy of Knoxville is entering a rebuilding year. Yes, the Warriors lost four starters from last season, a group that carried them through key stretches. But Johnson is far from discouraged. In fact, he sees something brewing in the gym he believes could elevate the program.

Thanks to a gifted freshman class, Johnson said the talent pool may be as deep as it's ever been. "I think this is the most talent we've had in our gym," he said.

The anchor of this season's squad is junior point guard Hunter Bennett, CAK's lone returning starter and a steady force on both ends of the court. Bennett is known for his defense and his maturity as a floor leader, but Johnson believes his impact is about to grow.

"He's an incredible defender, he's a leader for our team, he's a great point guard," Johnson said. "I think he's going to take a step as being more of a scorer for us this year. I think he has untapped ability in that regard."

CAK's only senior starter, forward Foster Coleman, emerged last season as a versatile, high-energy contributor off the bench. Johnson expects Coleman to be essential in shaping the team's offensive identity.

"He was a big part of our team last year," Johnson said.



Johnson



CAK photos by Tony Cox

ROSTER

0	.....	Barrett Lundgren	.....	So.
1	.....	Brooks Anderson	.....	Fr.
2	.....	Bennett Jelks	.....	Jr.
3	.....	Cole Piers	.....	Sr.
4	.....	Rio Curry	.....	Fr.
5	.....	Hunter Bennett	.....	Jr.
10	.....	Terrence Carlos	.....	Fr.
11	.....	Walt Parker	.....	Fr.
12	.....	Foster Coleman	.....	Sr.
14	.....	Brogdon Lundgren	.....	Sr.
15	.....	Jonah Schwarz	.....	Fr.
20	.....	Isaac Kannah	.....	Fr.
23/33	.....	Jonah Harvey	.....	Sr.
24	.....	Trey Hilliard	.....	Jr.
34	.....	Jack Shaw	.....	Jr.

Head Coach: JD Johnson

"He came off the bench and he was an offensive weapon for us. He also was a great rebounder. A lot of our offense will run through him. He's an inside-outside threat offensively."

Beyond Bennett and Cole-

man, Johnson highlighted a senior group that will play meaningful roles and help stabilize a roster with so many young newcomers.

Senior forward Jonah Harvey, a 6-foot-5 presence in the

WARRIORS • VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2025-26

11/20	.....	Silverdale Baptist Academy	.....	Home
12/2	.....	First Baptist Academy *	.....	Home
12/4	.....	McMinn Central High School	.....	Home
12/9	.....	Lakeway Christian Academy *	.....	Away
12/12	.....	Providence Academy *	.....	Away
12/16	.....	Berean Christian School *	.....	Home
1/6	.....	Concord Christian School *	.....	Away
1/9	.....	Grace Christian Academy - Knoxville *	.....	Home
1/13	.....	The King's Academy *	.....	Away
1/16	.....	Lakeway Christian Academy *	.....	Home
1/20	.....	Providence Academy *	.....	Home
1/23	.....	Concord Christian School *	.....	Home
1/27	.....	Grace Christian Academy - Knoxville *	.....	Away
1/30	.....	The King's Academy *	.....	Home
2/2	.....	Knoxville Catholic High School	.....	Away
2/3	.....	Clayton-Bradley Academy *	.....	Away

* - denotes region/district game

paint, brings defensive instincts and shot-blocking ability, along with the touch to stretch the floor.

"He's a really good defensive player and can shoot the ball well," Johnson said. "Great

shot blocker; really understands what we're trying to do offensively and defensively."

Another front court piece is 6-foot-9 post Brogdon Lun-

See CAK BOYS on Page 8C

Lady Warriors

Head coach Abby Williams can feel something different brewing at Christian Academy of Knoxville — and she's not shy about saying so.

"We're excited about this group," Williams said. "We've got some depth that we didn't have last season."

With a roster built for pace and pressure, she said the Lady Warriors want to force the issue every night.

"We want to play fast and run with people," she said. "Have defensive energy and use that to create lots of havoc."

That identity, she added, is strengthened by a team-first mindset.

"We've got a great cohesive group that wants to play for each other," Williams said.

CAK reached the Division II-A Elite Eight last year before bowing out, and Williams believes this season's squad has the pieces to go even further.

Leading the way is senior guard Colie Thompson, a versatile standout who sets the tone on both ends.

"She can really impact the game at all three levels," Williams said.

Junior guard Maddie Braden enters the season as one of CAK's most intriguing talents. "She's just special," Williams said. "I think she's elevated her game. In the off-season she became more explosive and has the ability to play defense."

Junior point guard Lexi Hammock gives CAK a competitive edge and steady presence.

"She is super competitive," Williams said. "Great court vision."

Anchoring the post is senior center Sophie Carroll, a relent-



Williams



ROSTER

1	.....	Emery Adams	.....	G	.....	Fr.
2	.....	Lexi Hammock	.....	G	.....	Jr.
3	.....	Maddie Braden	.....	G	.....	Jr.
10	.....	Kate Rousayne	.....	G	.....	8th
11	.....	Sophie Carroll	.....	C	.....	Sr.
15	.....	Karlie Gray	.....	G	.....	8th
21	.....	Katelyn Coffman	.....	G	.....	So.
22	.....	Natalie Brown	.....	F	.....	Fr.
23	.....	Marley Phillips	.....	G	.....	Jr.
30	.....	Colie Thompson	.....	G	.....	Sr.

Head Coach — Abby Williams

Assistant Coaches Shane Wells • Erisha Talley

less rebounder whose nose for the ball made her one of last season's most productive players.

"She's got a knack for finding the ball," Williams said. "She averaged about 10 rebounds last year. She plays with a lot of toughness, and we need that on the inside."

The Lady Warriors also will lean on one of the youngest impact players in the region: eighth-grader Karlie Gray, who is expected to step in immediately.

"Our plan is to start her right now," Williams said. "She

WARRIORS • VARSITY GIRLS SCHEDULE 2025-26

11/24	.....	McMinn Central High School	.....	Neutral
11/25	.....	Maryville High School	.....	Neutral
12/1	.....	Bradley Central High School	.....	Away
12/2	.....	First Baptist Academy *	.....	Home
12/4	.....	McMinn Central High School	.....	Home
12/9	.....	Lakeway Christian Academy *	.....	Away
12/12	.....	Providence Academy *	.....	Away
12/16	.....	Berean Christian School *	.....	Away
12/19	.....	Hammer's Hardwood Classic	.....	Away
12/20	.....	Hammer's Hardwood Classic	.....	Away
12/22	.....	Hammer's Hardwood Classic	.....	Away
12/27	.....	Gulf Shores Christmas Tournament	.....	Neutral
12/29	.....	Gulf Shores Christmas Tournament	.....	Neutral
12/30	.....	Gulf Shores Christmas Tournament	.....	Neutral
1/6	.....	Concord Christian School *	.....	Away
1/9	.....	Grace Christian Academy - Knoxville *	.....	Home
1/13	.....	The King's Academy *	.....	Away
1/16	.....	Lakeway Christian Academy *	.....	Home
1/20	.....	Providence Academy *	.....	Home
1/23	.....	Concord Christian School *	.....	Home
1/27	.....	Grace Christian Academy - Knoxville *	.....	Away
1/30	.....	The King's Academy *	.....	Home
2/2	.....	Knoxville Catholic High School	.....	Away
2/3	.....	Clayton-Bradley Academy *	.....	Away

* - denotes region/district game • N - denotes neutral site game

See CAK GIRLS on Page 8C

WARRIOR BASKETBALL

SMALL
COMMUNITY;
BIG
OPPORTUNITIES
2025/2026



CAK WARRIORS BASKETBALL



Boys Varsity

State Tournament Appearances	2005, 2016
State Sectional	2005, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
Region Tournament Championships	2005, 2022, 2024
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, 2024

For more information about CAK,
please call **813-4CAK** or visit
cakwarriors.com

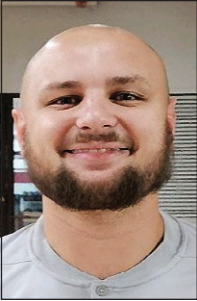


Photo submitted

Concord Christian School LIONS

Concord Christian School boys’ basketball coach Mike Evers doesn’t hide his enthusiasm. Entering his second year leading the Lions, he sees a roster packed with energy, size, speed and promise — and a young core he believes can accelerate the program’s growth.

Last year’s team finished seventh in its district and exited in the first round of the district tournament. The Lions also graduated five seniors who Evers said were essential in shaping the program during his first season.



Evers

“They were great leaders and great for our locker room,” he said. “They helped mold young guys.”

Now, those young players are no longer newcomers. Concord enters the season with four seniors and three juniors, supported by a large group of sophomores and freshmen who gained experience in varsity environments a year ago. Evers said the Lions’ youth — once a challenge — is becoming a strength.

“We’re just a really young team, and that’s something I’m optimistic about,” he said. “Last year, we had four freshmen and four sophomores on varsity. This year, they’re more confident, older and ready to take a step forward.” Evers said the biggest offseason change is the Lions’ style of play.

“This year we handle the ball much better,” he said. “We’re very quick, very fast. We didn’t lose any size from

last year — we just got faster.” He expects the defense to set the tone.

“Our goal is to defend very physically at a high level and let that be the staple of our game,” he said. “Then we want that to flow into transition offense, playing fast and sharing the ball.”

With improved ballhandling and depth on the wing and in the post, Evers plans to give his players more freedom, relying less on structured sets and more on pace, spacing and decision-making.

Among the returners, senior forward Jake Johnson is the Lions’ most experienced varsity player. The 6-4 post — who also excelled as a football standout this fall — brings toughness, versatility and vocal leadership.

“Jake has fantastic energy and effort,” Evers said. “He can score on the block, shoot the midrange, shoot the three and help us handle pressure. He’s our hype guy. When we’re on a run, you’re going to know he’s on the floor.”

Another key front court presence is 6-4 sophomore post Asher Noe, a returning contributor with size and mobility.

“He’s a lefty, physical and he can score at all three levels,” Evers said. “He’s super coachable and a real competitor. He hates losing more than he loves winning, and that mentality is huge for our program.”

The Lions also welcome seniors Ian Young and Patrick Rhea. Young, at 5-8, is a college-bound volleyball player who joined basketball only last year. He has impressed the staff with elite athletic ability and quick improvement.

“He has a 37.5-inch vertical,” Evers said. “He’s extremely athletic and a great leader. I believe we’re going to get a game dunk out of him this year.”

With a blend of veteran leadership, young energy and newfound depth, Williams believes the Lady Warriors have the tools to make noise this winter — and they’re ready to run.

CAK opened its season with a pair of early road tests before

leadership is guard Cole Piers, a team captain who Johnson trusts to steady the backcourt.

“He handles the ball well, shoots the three well,” Johnson said. “Really knows what we’re trying to do on both ends.”

With a promising freshman class, a proven point guard and a senior group ready to shoulder more responsibility,

“She’s someone who can give us depth in the post.”

Bearden will rely on its mix of veteran leadership, high-level guard play and improving young talent as it chases another deep postseason run. With Hodge leading the charge,

Rhea brings shooting, defensive effort and a team-first mindset.

“If he plays 25 minutes or two minutes, he’s all in,” Evers said. “He’s the kind of guy every locker room needs.”

Senior Cooper Sloan, a 6-6 post, is expected to expand his role after limited minutes last season.

“He’s versatile and can shoot it,” Evers said. “When he’s aggressive, I don’t think many teams can hang with him. He can rebound, block shots and finish at the rim. I’m excited to see his growth.”

The backcourt features several underclassmen poised for breakout seasons.

Sophomore guard Hudson Willis has made what Evers calls “tremendous strides” since last year.

“He grew 3 or 4 inches, shoots the three extremely well and plays with a high standard for himself,” Evers said.

Sophomores Simon Boy and Isaiah Thomas will compete for expanded roles while freshman Kohbe Ward, a standout freshman quarterback this fall, is expected to contribute immediately as a point guard.

“Kohbe sees the floor unbelievably well,” Evers said. “He’s a true competitor with a fantastic motor. You’ll see him on the floor a lot.”

Junior Nolen Miller, new to the program, will be a starter throughout the year.

“He has great touch, shoots it well and fits our system,” Evers said. “We think he can help take us to the next level in our district.”

The excitement extends beyond basketball. Concord athletics has surged across multiple sports this fall — something Evers believes will carry into winter.

“Our community has been

the farragutpress Hoops section went to press, traveling to Emerald Academy on Monday, Nov. 17 and visiting Webb School of Knoxville on Tuesday, Nov. 18. Scores were not available at time of publishing. The Lady Warriors’ first home

Johnson believes the Warriors are positioned to do well this season.

The Warriors open at home on Thursday at 7 p.m. against Silverdale Academy, and then take on Elizabethton and Jefferson County at Grainger County High School over the Thanksgiving break.

the Lady Bulldogs again expect to be in the conversation statewide.

The Lady Bulldogs will open play in the Hall of Champions games against Greeneville High School at home on Thursday night, Nov. 20, at 6 p.m.

ROSTER

Simon Boy	.....	So.
Jake Johnson	.....	Sr.
Nolen Miller	.....	Jr.
Asher Noe	.....	So.
Patrick Rhea	.....	Sr.
Cooper Sloan	.....	Sr.
Isaiah Thomas	.....	So.
Kohbe Ward	.....	Fr.
Hudson Willis	.....	So.
Ian Young	.....	Sr.
Elijah House	.....	
Brady Martin	.....	
Isaiah Swain	.....	

Head coach – Mike Evers

LIONS • VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2025-26

11/21	.....	Cumberland County (HOC)	.....	Away
11/22	.....	Union County	.....	Home
11/25	.....	Greenback School	.....	Away
12/1	.....	Apostolic Christian Academy* (Boys On-ly)	.....	Away
12/5	.....	First Baptist Academy of Powell*	.....	Home
12/8	.....	Clayton Bradley Academy* (Boys Only)	.....	Away
12/9	.....	Grace Christian Academy*	.....	Away
12/12	.....	The King’s Academy*	.....	Away
12/15	.....	Stone Memorial / KACHEA (Boys)	.....	Home
12/16	.....	Annoor Academy (Boys Only)	.....	Home
12/16	.....	J. Frank White Academy*	.....	Home
12/22	.....	Knoxville Ambassadors	.....	Home
12/29	.....	Christmas Tournament	.....	Away
12/30	.....	Christmas Tournament	.....	Away
12/31	.....	Christmas Tournament	.....	Away
1/6	.....	Christian Academy of Knoxville*	.....	Home
1/8	.....	Eagleton College & Career Academy	.....	Away
1/9	.....	Providence Academy*	.....	Home
1/13	.....	Lakeway Christian Academy*	.....	Away
1/16	.....	Grace Christian Academy*	.....	Home
1/20	.....	The King’s Academy*	.....	Home
1/22	.....	Greenback School	.....	Home
1/23	.....	Christian Academy of Knoxville*	.....	Away
1/26	.....	Berean Christian School*	.....	Away
1/27	.....	Providence Academy*	.....	Away
1/30	.....	Lakeway Christian Academy*	.....	Home
2/3	.....	Farragut	.....	Away

* - denotes region/district game

so supportive,” he said. “These young men have worked hard for nine months. We want to show that Concord athletics is on the rise, and we’re ready to do our part.”

Evers also praised collaboration with girls coach Brad Cochran, saying both programs are positioned for strong seasons.

CAK Girls

From page 6C

should be a spark plug.”

Among upperclassmen, junior guard Marley Phillips is another key contributor poised to take on more responsibility.

CAK Boys

From page 6C

dgren, whose combination of size and shooting range could make him a matchup problem.

“He can shoot inside and out and is a good shot blocker,” Johnson said. “I think he’s going to be an offensive threat.”

Rounding out the senior

BHS Girls

From page 4C

Senior post Katie Foster, at 6-foot-2, adds valuable depth and size in the paint.

“She gives us another post with size,” Underwood said.

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Concord Christian School *Lady Lions*

Concord Christian School girls basketball coach Brad Cochran has seen plenty of change since he took over the Lady Lions program. Now entering his third season, he believes this year's team — one built around speed, physicality and a wave of promising sophomores — has the potential to take a significant step forward.

The Lady Lions finished with 18 wins last season before an early exit in the district tournament, a loss Cochran said motivated the team throughout the offseason.

"That one left a bitter taste in our mouth," Cochran said. "So this whole offseason's been really productive. We've put in a lot of work. I'm excited to get this season kicked off."

Although Cochran enters year three with stability at the top, he faces a unique situation: His program may be talented, but it also is much younger.

"It's funny," Cochran said. "I'm in year three, and we're younger than when we first started."

The Lady Lions have only one junior on the roster and will lean heavily on a large sophomore class — nine players in all. Yet, Cochran doesn't view youth as a limitation. In fact, he said this year's sophomore group is among the most athletic and competitive he has coached.

Leading the way is point guard Emory Thomas, an all-district performer who led in double-doubles last season. Her aggressiveness, Cochran said, sets the tone.

"She's a limitless player," he said. "She gets into trouble sometimes because she's so aggressive, but we go as her energy goes."

Forward Brooklynn Brown, another returning starter, gives Concord Christian a strong interior presence who is expanding her shooting range.

"We're working on her three ball right now, and she brings a lot of juice and energy," Cochran said. "She plays the game the right way."

The sophomore class continues with players Cochran believes can contribute immediately. Gracie Harrill is returning from an ACL injury and is expected to be a knock-down shooter. Presley Horst adds backcourt depth. Keira Cooper, another young guard and all-district player, was a starter last season and provides steady ball-handling and defensive toughness. Sophomore Jalyn Sherritze also returns after starting multiple games last year, bringing what Cochran calls "energizer-bunny" intensity.

"They all bring something unique," Cochran said. "Every sophomore has a chance to start. That competition is a good thing for us."

Despite the youth movement, Cochran is quick to highlight the importance of his seniors, especially in setting standards for accountability and work ethic.

Katie Phillips, a three-year varsity player, has been a con-

stant throughout Cochran's tenure.

"She's been our workhorse," he said. "Always dependable, always accountable. She's helped build this thing from the ground up."

Fellow senior Delaney Jane Walker, known across campus as a standout soccer player, brings athleticism and leadership Cochran said will be valuable on a young roster.

"She does everything right, on the court and off," he said.

Junior Kiran Keeton, an all-district player, enters the year after averaging a double-double over the team's final stretch last season. Cochran expects her to take another major step.

"We're looking for big things from her again," he said.

With so much talent and so many players capable of contributing, Cochran acknowledges setting a starting lineup in November may be more fluid than in past seasons.

"That's the fun part about coaching," he said. "You're always trying to find that ingredient that clicks."

Cochran emphasizes a "next game up" mentality, reminding players value comes from impact — not necessarily from hearing their name in the starting five.

"It's not how you start, but how you finish," he said. "If you're ready in the moment, and you're ready when your number's called, you're going to help us win."

Cochran said the program's biggest concern is youth—specifically handling high-pressure moments and the mental side of competing against established programs, such as

ROSTER

30	Katie Phillips	Sr.
10	Delaney Jane Walker	Sr.
21	Kiran Keeton	Jr.
5	Emory Thomas	So.
12	Avery Orlando	So.
25	Brooklynn Brown	So.
22	Gracie Harrill	So.
1	Jalyn Sherritze	So.
4	Presley Horst	So.
2	Keira Cooper	So.
14	Adalyn Noe	So.
20	Addie Franklin	So.
35	Elizabeth Queen	Fr.
Head coach —Brad Cochran		

LIONS • VARSITY GIRLS SCHEDULE 2025-26

11/20	Cumberland Co. High School	Away
11/25	Greenback High School	Away
12/8	Clayton-Bradley Academy *	Away
12/9	Grace Christian Academy - Knoxville *	Away
12/12	The King's Academy *	Away
1/6	Christian Academy of Knoxville *	Home
1/13	Lakeway Christian Academy *	Away
1/16	Grace Christian Academy - Knoxville *	Home
1/20	The King's Academy *	Home
1/22	Greenback High School	Home
1/23	Christian Academy of Knoxville *	Away
1/30	Lakeway Christian Academy	Home
2/3	Farragut High School	Away
* - denotes region/district game		

Grace Christian, CAK, The Kings Academy, Providence Academy and others.

"We know how to win," he said. "We just don't know how to win at a high level yet, but that's what the growing pains are for."

To accelerate that growth, the Lady Lions will face an intentionally difficult schedule featuring opponents, such as Cumberland County and Knoxville Catholic.

Where the Lady Lions shine, Cochran said, is in athleticism, speed and physicality.

"If we can use our speed and physical play, we can make it really hard on other teams to get into their sets," he said. "We want to set the intensity,

not match it."

Cochran also hopes this season strengthens a developing rivalry with Farragut, noting Concord Christian will face the Admirals late in the year.

"It's going to be a big game," he said. "I'd love for that to become a tradition. I think it would be great for the community."

As his third season begins, Cochran believes the Lady Lions are poised for meaningful growth — and maybe even a breakthrough.

"Our girls are super athletic. They're hungry. We're excited for the future," he said. "We just have to grow up fast, but I think we're ready."



Concord Christian School is looking forward to a great season with Varsity Girls Head Coach, Brad Cochran, and Varsity Boys Head Coach, Mike Evers.

Knoxville Catholic High School IRISH

Knoxville Catholic High School’s boys basketball team enters the 2025-26 season with a new look and elevated expectations.

The Irish have a new head coach, as Travis Mains takes over after five years leading the Lady Irish, a run that included two Division II-AA state championships. Catholic also brings in several new players.



Mains

“We got some guys from the transfer portal,” Mains said. “We have a lot of versatility and we have a lot of talent. We have a talented roster, and if they can play without ego and play together, we can go a long way.”

Catholic went 21-8 last season and reached the Division II-AA state quarterfinals. The Irish return one of the area’s top guards in senior Cade Murphy, who has committed to Eastern Kentucky. Murphy averaged 22 points and eight rebounds per game last year.

“He’s someone who could be considered for Mr. Basketball,” Mains said. “He’s a tireless worker, very motivated and a very good kid. He’s the hardest-working kid I’ve ever coached. He’ll be able to play

his natural position more this year.”

Other key returners include versatile juniors Brady Renfree and Finn Kerschbaum. Renfree can play shooting guard, small forward and power forward. Kerschbaum can play small forward, power forward and center.

“Brady is a versatile player,” Mains said. “Finn can play small forward, power forward and center, and we pretty much play positionless basketball.”

Catholic’s greatest strength is its versatility, with many players capable of handling multiple positions.

One of the most notable additions is senior transfer Malachi Brown, who transferred from Kingston and has committed to the University of Michigan. He is one of several transfers expected to play major roles.

Other transfers include juniors Landon Lee and Jovis Erwan, sophomore Travis Martin and junior Warren Brown, Malachi’s brother.

“We have several transfers, and they’re all long,” Mains said. “Malachi can play anywhere 1-5, and he gives us an elite defender.”

Lee, at 6-foot-7, can play center and either forward position. Erwan comes from The King’s Academy in Seymour and will contribute at shooting guard, along with both forward spots.



KCHS photos submitted

ROSTER

0	Zane Garza	W	Jr.	15	Cade Murphy	SG, G	Sr.
1	Warren Brown	W, PG	Jr.	22	Finn Kerschbaum	C, PF, SF	Sr.
2	Brady Renfree	SF, W	Jr.	23	Travis Martin	PG, SG	So.
3	Luke Mishu	SG, PG	Sr.	24	Mack Bartholomew	PF, W	Jr.
4	Landon Lee	PF, C, SF	Jr.	33	Malachi Brown	PF, SF	Jr.
5	Luke Sompayrac	PG, G	Jr.				
14	Jovis Erwan	SF, SG	Jr.				

Head coach –Travis Mains

Martin will start at point guard.

“He has a strong IQ for the game of basketball,” Mains said. “And he gets downhill.”

Warren Brown is Malachi’s brother. He’ll play shooting guard and small forward.

Junior Mack Bartholomew returns and will join the team after Catholic’s football play-off run. He plays both guard

See KCHS BOYS on Page 12C

IRISH • VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2025-26

12/2	Sevier Co. High School	Home
12/5	Cookeville High School	Away
12/13	Ensworth High School	Away
1/6	Cookeville High School	Away
1/9	McCallie School *	Home
1/13	Baylor School *	Home
1/17	Notre Dame High School	Away
2/3	McCallie School *	Away
2/6	Webb School of Knoxville	Away
2/10	Baylor School *	Away

* - denotes region/district game

Lady Irish

Knoxville Catholic’s girls basketball program has enjoyed a long run of success, and first-year head coach Micah Scheetz knows she is stepping into a tradition built on winning, discipline and expectation. But she also sees something new emerging — a hungry, tough, guard-driven team ready to carve out its own identity.



Scheetz

“This is my first year as head coach with this group, but the foundation was already in place,” Scheetz said. “They’ve had great coaches before me. I’m not rebuilding the culture — I’m just expanding on it. What we are rebuilding is experience.”

Catholic graduated six seniors last season. This year’s Lady Irish has four seniors, and just one who logged significant minutes in recent seasons. That dynamic makes the roster both veteran and inexperienced at the same time.

“I’d say we’re young in terms of game experience,” Scheetz said. “Only one of our seniors has been on the floor in big

moments before, but they understand now that they are the seniors. They are the ones in the spotlight, and they’ve embraced that responsibility.”

Two of those seniors, Nadalie Bellinhausen and Ari Swain, have been to the state championship and know what it takes to get there. Their leadership — vocal, steady and team-centered — will be central to Scheetz’s plan on and off the floor.

“They’ve seen the pinnacle,” Scheetz said. “We’re leaning heavily on them to lead, to show everyone what championship standards look like.”

The Lady Irish also welcomes three newcomers who bring talent, energy and immediate help.

Junior Euleesha Mitchell, a transfer from Oak Ridge and one of the area’s most dynamic scorers, gives Catholic a high-level playmaker. Scheetz believes Mitchell has the potential to become one of the region’s most dangerous players.

“She’s incredibly hard to guard,” Scheetz said. “When she’s in rhythm and going 100 percent, she can score on anyone. She shoots it well, she’s quick off the dribble and she’s unselfish. She draws defenders, moves the ball and makes

See KCHS GIRLS on Page 12C



ROSTER

00	Euleesha Mitchell	Jr.
22	Mary Strevel	Fr.
12	Nadalie Bellinhausen	Sr.
4	Emery Haws	Fr.
1	Ari Swain	Sr.
3	Jaylen Drazkowski	Jr.
21	Sarah Belland	Sr.
14	Khloe Cook	So.
23	Izzy Holleman	Jr.
11	Jaida Newman	Sr.
10	Molly Tipton	Fr.

Head coach: Micah Scheetz

IRISH • VARSITY GIRLS SCHEDULE 2025-26

11/17	Oakdale High School HOF	Away
11/22	Gibbs High School HOC	Away
11/24	McMinn Co. Thanksgiving Tournament	Away
12/2	Sevier Co. High School	Home
12/5	Cookeville High School	Away
12/9	Tri-Cities	Away
12/13	Ensworth High School	Away
12/18	5 Star Preps	Away
12/29	Music City Tournament (Nashville)	Away
1/6	Cookeville High School	Away
1/9	Girls Preparatory School *	Home
1/13	Baylor School *	Home
1/17	Notre Dame High School	Away
1/20	Chattanooga Christian School	Away
1/22	Webb	Home
1/27	Tri-Cities	Home
1/31	The King’s Academy	Home
2/2	Christian Academy of Knoxville	Home
2/3	Girls Preparatory School *	Away
2/6	Webb School of Knoxville	Away
2/10	Baylor School *	Away
2/13	Chattanooga Christian School	Home

* - denotes region/district game • HOC denotes Hall of Champions game • HOF denotes Hall of Fame game





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Knoxville Catholic

Lady Irish

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Webb School of Knoxville SPARTANS

With a Division II-AA state championship trophy already in hand, Webb School's boys basketball team enters the new season with confidence and a roster stacked with experience. The Spartans return three starters and boast five seniors in their first five, giving head coach Ricky Norris a foundation that is increasingly rare in an era of constant r o s t e r turnover.



Norris

“T h e y understand how to play with other good players,” Norris said. “That’s really rare nowadays.”

The combination of veteran leadership, scoring options and positional versatility has Webb positioned as a strong contender to repeat. Still, the group has embraced the challenge of staying hungry.

One of the most significant additions is senior guard Brayden Hazelbaker, an All-State standout who transferred from Maryville. His arrival gives the Spartans another proven scorer — and someone capable of directing the offense.

“He went to Maryville the last two years, and he was

an All-State kid there,” Norris said. “He’ll be making the transition to point guard. He has all the skills needed. I think he’ll get so much better as the season goes along.”

Hazelbaker’s ability to create, finish and facilitate is expected to elevate Webb’s tempo and spacing, especially with the other scoring threats around him.

The Spartans also return their leading scorer from last season in senior wing Owen Lentz, a player Norris considers one of the area’s premier shooters.

“He’s an elite shooter,” Norris said. “He has range, can shoot it off the bounce. On offense, he stretches the defense and opens up space for the other guys.”

Opposite Lentz is 6-foot-4 senior Cam Swearingen, whose size, skill and aggression make him one of the most challenging matchups on Webb’s roster.

“He’s a matchup nightmare for other high schoolers,” Norris said. “He can score the ball inside, he’s a long-range shooter on the perimeter, and he’s really effective driving to the rim. He can handle contact and finish through contact.”

Together, Lentz and Swearingen give Webb a formidable pair capable of scoring from anywhere on the floor.

Webb’s interior presence is



Webb photos submitted

ROSTER

0	Owen Lentz	Sr	W	11	Ethan Woolard	So	W
1	Sky Huck	So	PG	12	Andrew Perkinson	So	For
2	Tahj Bowers	Jr	For	14	Collin Taylor	So	W
3	Cam Swearingen	Sr	W	15	Huston Torres	Jr	PG/W
4	Brayden Hazelbaker	Sr	PG	24	Daran Taylor	So	For
5	Alex Leeth	Sr	For	33	Noah Jenkins	Fr	W
10	Wilson Luton	Sr	W	Head coach —Ricky Norris			

anchored by two experienced forwards: Wilson Luton and Alex Leeth.

Luton, a 6-foot-4 senior, is “one of our better shooters,” Norris said, giving the Spartans a stretch-forward option who forces defenses to honor the perimeter.

Leeth, at 6-7, gives Webb size, toughness and rare defensive versatility.

“He’s our most versatile de-

See WEBB BOYS on Page 12C

SPARTANS • VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2025-26

11/18	Chattanooga Preparatory School	Home
11/20	Sevier Co. High School	Home
12/8	Austin-East High School	Home
12/8	Austin-East High School	Home
1/6	Tri Cities Christian	Home
1/9	Tennessee Heat	Neutral
1/15	Chattanooga Christian School	Home
1/20	Baylor School *	Away
1/27	McCallie School	Home
2/3	Baylor School	Home
2/6	Knoxville Catholic High School	Home
2/10	McCallie School *	Away
* - denotes region/district game • HOC denotes Hall of Champions game		
• HOF denotes Hall of Fame game		

Lady Spartans

Though Webb School’s girls’ basketball team returns nearly its entire roster from last year’s Division II-AA state championship squad, head coach Greg Hernandez insisted the Lady Spartans aren’t carrying any extra weight on their shoulders.



Hernandez

“Our focus is just what’s in front of us right now,” Hernandez said. “Not looking too far ahead.”

Instead of leaning into the pressure coming with defending a crown, Webb is choosing to embrace continuity, chemistry and the improved depth that emerged over the offseason.

The centerpiece of that returning group is senior wing Meeyah Green, a Clemson commit and one of the most dynamic scorers in East Tennessee. Green’s athleticism and versatility fueled last year’s title run, and Hernandez said she again “sets the tone for us.”

Fellow senior wing Avery

Green is expected to be one of the team’s most reliable perimeter threats.

“She’s one of our best shooters,” Hernandez said. “She spaces the floor for everybody.”

A promising sophomore class brings both experience and upside to this year’s roster. Post player Kyndall Mays returns after a standout freshman season and is expected to take another leap forward.

“She had a fantastic first year and she’s looking to be even better,” Hernandez said.

Point guard Zahnyah Rockett again will steer the offense. Her development over the past several months, Hernandez noted, has been impossible to miss.

“She had a really good fall,” he said. “She really improved over the summer.”

Junior Harper Ladd brings a utility-player mentality that has become invaluable for Webb. Hernandez calls her a “Swiss Army knife”—the type of player who can fill gaps at multiple positions.

“She can play down low, she can play the wing,” he said. “She had a tremendous summer and fall.”

Freshman Ivy Napier also enters the mix and already



ROSTER

2	Lorelei Lee	13	Paisley Headrick	Head coach:
3	Gideon Bradford	14	Caroline MacDonald	Greg Hernandez
4	Harper Ladd	15	Alex King	
5	Zahnyah Rockett	20	Caroline Copenhaver	Assistant Coaches:
10	Corisa Lowery	23	Avery Green	Kelley Cain, Nick Eng
11	Mary Mac Emery	24	Meeyah Green	
12	Ivy Napier	33	Kyndall Mays	Manager: Jessica Daiagi

is pushing for meaningful minutes. Her size, poise and defensive instincts quickly have impressed the coaching staff.

“She’s looking bigger and taking on more of a role this year,” Hernandez said. “Her shooting and ball-handling continue to get better.”

With proven seniors, explosive sophomores and an

See WEBB GIRLS on Page 12C

SPARTANS • VARSITY GIRLS SCHEDULE 2025-26

11/18	Grace Christian Academy - Knoxville	Home
11/20	Sevier Co. High School	Home
12/5	Science Hill High School	Away
12/6	Dobyns Bennett High School	Neutral
12/13	The Webb School	Home
1/6	Hebron Christian	Home
1/9	Hamilton Heights	Home
1/15	Chattanooga Christian School	Home
1/20	Baylor School *	Away
1/27	Girls Preparatory School *	Away
2/3	Baylor School	Home
2/6	Knoxville Catholic High School	Home
2/9	Girls Preparatory School	Home
* - denotes region/district game		



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BULLDOGS • VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2025-26		
11/20	Greeneville High School HOC	Home
11/22	Grace Christian Academy - Knoxville HOC	Neutral
11/24	Cougar Classic	Neutral
11/25	Cougar Classic	Neutral
11/25	Independence High School	Neutral
11/25	Cane Ridge High School Thanksgiving Classic	Neutral
12/2	West High School	Home
12/5	Oak Ridge High School *	Home
12/9	Hardin Valley Academy *	Away
12/11	Rhea Co. High School *	Home
12/12	Fulton High School	Neutral
12/13	Austin-East High School	Neutral
12/19	Adidas Shootout	Neutral
12/19	Ravenwood High School	Neutral
12/20	Adidas Shootout	Neutral
12/26	The Classic	Neutral
1/6	Lenoir City High School *	Home
1/9	McMinn Co. High School *	Away
1/13	Greeneville High School	Away
1/16	Farragut High School *	Home
1/20	Oak Ridge High School *	Away
1/23	Hardin Valley Academy *	Home
1/27	Rhea Co. High School *	Away
1/30	Lenoir City High School *	Away
2/3	McMinn Co. High School *	Home
2/6	Farragut High School *	Away
2/10	Alcoa High School	Home
2/12	Cleveland High School	Away
* - denotes region/district game - N - denotes neutral site game		
- HOC denotes Hall of Champions game		

BULLDOGS • VARSITY GIRLS SCHEDULE 2025-26		
11/20	Greeneville High School HOC	Neutral
11/22	West Ridge High School HOC	Neutral
11/22	The King's Academy HOC	Neutral
11/25	Food City Thanksgiving Classic	Neutral
12/2	West High School	Home
12/5	Oak Ridge High School *	Home
12/9	Hardin Valley Academy *	Away
12/11	Rhea Co. High School *	Home
12/13	Tennessee Report Hoopfest	Neutral
12/19	Hoopfest Classic	Neutral
12/20	Tulahoma High School	Neutral
12/26	Land Air Classic	Neutral
1/3	She Got Game Classic	Neutral
1/6	Lenoir City High School *	Home
1/9	McMinn Co. High School *	Away
1/16	Farragut High School *	Home
1/20	Oak Ridge High School *	Away
1/23	Hardin Valley Academy *	Home
1/27	Rhea Co. High School *	Away
1/30	Lenoir City High School *	Away
2/3	McMinn Co. High School *	Home
2/6	Farragut High School *	Away
2/10	Alcoa High School	Home
2/12	Cleveland High School	Away
* - denotes region/district game - N - denotes neutral site game		
- HOC denotes Hall of Champions game		

HAWKS • VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2025-26		
11/20	Knoxville Central High School HOF	Away
11/22	Boyd Buchanan High School	Away
11/22	David Crockett High School HOF	Away
11/22	Fulton High School HOF	Away
11/24	Gibbs Thanksgiving Tournament	Neutral
12/2	Carter High School	Home
12/5	Farragut High School *	Away
12/9	Bearden High School *	Home
12/12	McMinn Co. High School *	Away
12/13	Kingston High School	Neutral
12/16	Karns High School	Home
12/19	5 Star Preps Classic 3 day tournament	Neutral
12/29	Harriman Christmas Classic 2 day tournament	Neutral
1/6	Jefferson Co. High School	Home
1/9	Lenoir City High School *	Away
1/13	Rhea Co. High School *	Home
1/16	Oak Ridge High School *	Home
1/20	Farragut High School *	Home
1/23	Bearden High School *	Away
1/27	McMinn Co. High School *	Home
1/30	Austin-East High School	Home
2/3	Lenoir City High School *	Home
2/6	Oak Ridge High School *	Away
2/10	Rhea Co. High School *	Away
2/13	West High School	Away
* - denotes region/district game - N - denotes neutral site game		
- HOC denotes Hall of Champions game		

HAWKS • VARSITY GIRLS SCHEDULE 2025-26		
11/20	Knoxville Central High School HOF	Away
11/22	Boyd Buchanan High School	Away
11/22	David Crockett High School HOF	Away
11/22	Fulton High School HOF	Away
11/24	Gibbs Thanksgiving Tournament	Neutral
12/2	Carter High School	Home
12/5	Farragut High School *	Away
12/9	Bearden High School *	Home
12/12	McMinn Co. High School *	Away
12/13	Kingston High School	Neutral
12/16	Karns High School	Home
12/19	5 Star Preps Classic 3 day tournament	Neutral
12/29	Harriman Christmas Classic 2 day tournament	Neutral
1/6	Jefferson Co. High School	Home
1/9	Lenoir City High School *	Away
1/13	Rhea Co. High School *	Home
1/16	Oak Ridge High School *	Home
1/20	Farragut High School *	Home
1/23	Bearden High School *	Away
1/27	McMinn Co. High School *	Home
1/30	Austin-East High School	Home
2/3	Lenoir City High School *	Home
2/6	Oak Ridge High School *	Away
2/10	Rhea Co. High School *	Away
2/13	West High School	Away
* - denotes region/district game - N - denotes neutral site game		
- HOC denotes Hall of Champions game		

Webb Girls
From page 11C

emerging freshman, the Lady Spartans appear well-positioned for another deep post-season run, but Hernandez wants their focus anchored in the daily grind — one practice, one game and one challenge at

a time.

The Lady Spartans opened at home against Christian Academy of Knoxville on Tuesday night. Results were not available at presstime. The team will host Sevier County at 7 p.m. on Thursday night, Nov. 20.

BHS Boys
From page 4C

brings more size and versatility on the perimeter.

“He can play multiple positions on the floor,” Parrott said. “I look for him to contribute big to the varsity.”

Sophomore wing Porter Dickson is earning early praise from the coaching staff. Parrott labeled him the team’s “new-comer of the year” entering the season.

HVA Boys
From page 5C

drives it well; we’re excited about him.”

Arendt believes the Hawks’ greatest strengths will be their effort and their backcourt potential.

“How hard we play, our work ethic,” he said. “And Smith and Oliver — if not this year, next year — they have a chance to be special.”

But youth, inexperience and size remain concerns.

“We’re small and we’re young,” Arendt said. “We’ve got 14- and 15-year-olds going up against 18-year-olds. We’re

HVA Girls
From page 5C

get us organized and be a vocal leader.”

The Edwards sisters — junior Marley and sophomore Gracie — will factor heavily as well. Marley, a 5-6 guard, is “a shooter,” Galloway said. Gracie (5-5) will handle the ball and help initiate the offense.

“We’re going to look for Gracie for ball handling,” Galloway said. “She can shoot it and help us move the ball and get into our sets.”

Sophomore guard Emma Rhoden (5-6) will provide energy and defensive intensity.

Galloway expects the team’s strengths to include coachabil-

KCHS Boys
From page 10C

and forward.

Senior guard Luke Mishu, junior guard Luke Sompayrac and junior guard Zane Garza are expected to contribute as well. Sompayrac missed last season due to injury.

“We have a strong nine, and those guys all have a shot to

KCHS Girls
From page 10C

everyone around her better.”

Freshman point guard Emery Haws, who joined Catholic from Tri-Cities Christian, may be young on paper, but she has varsity experience after playing as an eighth grader. Scheetz expects her to be the engine that drives the offense.

“She’s a hard-nosed point guard,” Scheetz said. “She shoots it well, she finishes at the rim, she gets downhill, she frees up teammates. She’s crafty and confident. We’ll rely on her to do a little bit of everything.”

Freshman Molly Tipton, who transferred from Lenoir City, also brings depth and immediate potential.

Scheetz compares this group to a team of “eight impact players,” with the roster totaling 11. Sophomores Khloe Cook and junior shooter Jaylen Drazkowski stretch defenses with their perimeter accuracy.

With only one true post player — a 5-foot-11 interior presence — the Lady Irish will be guard-driven in every sense.

“We’re pretty guard heavy,”

Webb Boys
From page 11C

flect his impact.

“He’s our sixth starter,” Norris said. “He does everything well.”

Torres’ ability to defend, rebound, shoot and make smart reads allows Webb to maintain its pace and intensity across rotations.

With five seniors, multiple

“He’s a very good shooter,” the coach said. “He’s gonna get some key varsity time.”

Rounding out the expected 10-man rotation are senior wing Jack Ferraris, senior guard Harrison Lynn and junior wing Paxton Parrott, each projected to play meaningful minutes in supporting roles. Their presence gives the Bulldogs depth at every level of the floor — a luxury in a league known for its physicality and pace.

With returning star power,

going to have to be physical; gonna have to rebound. But I really like the group.”

With so many new pieces, the Hawks likely will mix and match early.

“It’s gonna be challenging to figure out who’s gonna bring it this game or that,” Arendt said. “Every practice they’re going to be competing with each other to see who’s starting the next game. We’ll play 10 to 12 players per game and try to use that depth to our advantage.”

Offensively, Hardin Valley plans to push the tempo.

“We’re gonna play really, really fast and pressure the

ity, rebounding and the inside game.

“The girls are eager to learn. They’re working very hard and doing everything we ask,” she said.

HVA also won’t shy away from shooting the 3.

“We’ll try to work inside out,” Galloway said. “We’ve got some girls who can really fill it up.”

The biggest concern is predictable: youth.

“We’re young but eager,” Galloway said. “We have a lot of experience playing basketball, but it’s a different ballgame when you’re really out there on the court.”

Even without the leadership that graduated last spring, she believes this group can develop

play some kind of college basketball,” Mains said. “And we have three players who are going to play certain roles for us.”

Expectations are high.

“Our goal is to win a state championship,” Mains said. “Anything less than that can still be a pretty good season, but that’s our goal. We have Webb School of Knoxville in our league, and they’re the de-

Scheetz said. “Most of our lineup is 5-6 to 5-7, active, quick guards. But basketball is a guard’s game. We’ll use that to our advantage.”

Catholic will run the Princeton offense, emphasizing constant motion, ball movement, downhill attacking and exploiting mismatches. With shooters spaced around Mitchell’s slashing ability and Halls’ playmaking instincts, Scheetz believes the offense can be dangerous early in the season.

Defensively, the game plan will be simple: toughness.

“We’re going to be a tough-nosed defensive team,” she said. “We’re going to pressure people, force turnovers and play fast off our defense.”

That toughness comes from the weight room just as much as the practice floor.

“They decided this offseason that strength would be a separator,” Scheetz said. “They’ve owned the weight room. They’re confident. They’re stronger. That matters.”

The Lady Irish will not ease their way into the season. Scheetz and her staff have built a challenging schedule designed to expose the team

perimeter length and a bench capable of sustaining pressure throughout games, Bearden aims to turn last year’s heart-break into fuel. Parrott believes this roster is built not just to compete, but to contend.

If the Bulldogs’ blend of experience and emerging talent clicks the way their coach expects, Bearden again will be a force in District 4-AAA—and perhaps punch its ticket back to Murfreesboro.

defense,” Arendt said. “We’ll shoot a lot of 3s.”

Dyrness shares his coach’s belief the Hawks can exceed expectations.

“I feel really confident about the season,” the senior said. “I think a lot of people don’t believe in us, and I think we’re gonna surprise a lot of people. We’re small, we’re undersized, but we’re gonna surprise everybody.”

Arendt said the team’s intangibles could help close the gap.

“They’re extremely coachable,” he said. “They hold each other accountable, and they want to be here.”

its own identity.

“They get along and they’re fun to be around,” she said. “We’ve lost a lot of leadership, but we’ve worked hard this off-season to develop some voice and different ways to lead.”

HVA reached the second round of the Region Tournament last season. With a clean slate and a new lineup, Galloway knows this year will bring challenges — but she also sees promise.

“It’s been fun since we started practice,” she said. “They’re getting their shot this year. They’re excited to see what they can do, and I think we might surprise some people.”

fending state champion, and we’ll have to play some tough teams. Our strength is our versatility.”

The biggest concern is staying healthy.

“You’re always an injury here or an injury there away from being a different team,” Mains said. “And some of our players are going to have to accept their roles.”

to elite competition early — a choice she believes will pay off in district and postseason play.

“We don’t have any cupcake games,” she said. “We’re playing some of the best teams in the state. That’s only going to help us. It’s how we’ll grow. It’s how we’ll get ready for our league opponents later on.”

Scheetz sees her first season not as a rebuilding year but as an energizing reset — a chance for new leaders to emerge, for young players to contribute immediately and for a program with championship history to take a bold step forward.

“They’ve got to be tough, and they are tough,” she said. “They’ve taken ownership of this season. They know what’s expected, and they’re working every day to get better.”

And with the Lady Irish leaning on guard play, grit and a rising sense of belief, Scheetz likes where her team stands.

“We’re not the biggest team, but we’re strong, quick and determined,” she said. “This group is ready to fight, compete and grow together. I’m excited for what’s ahead.”



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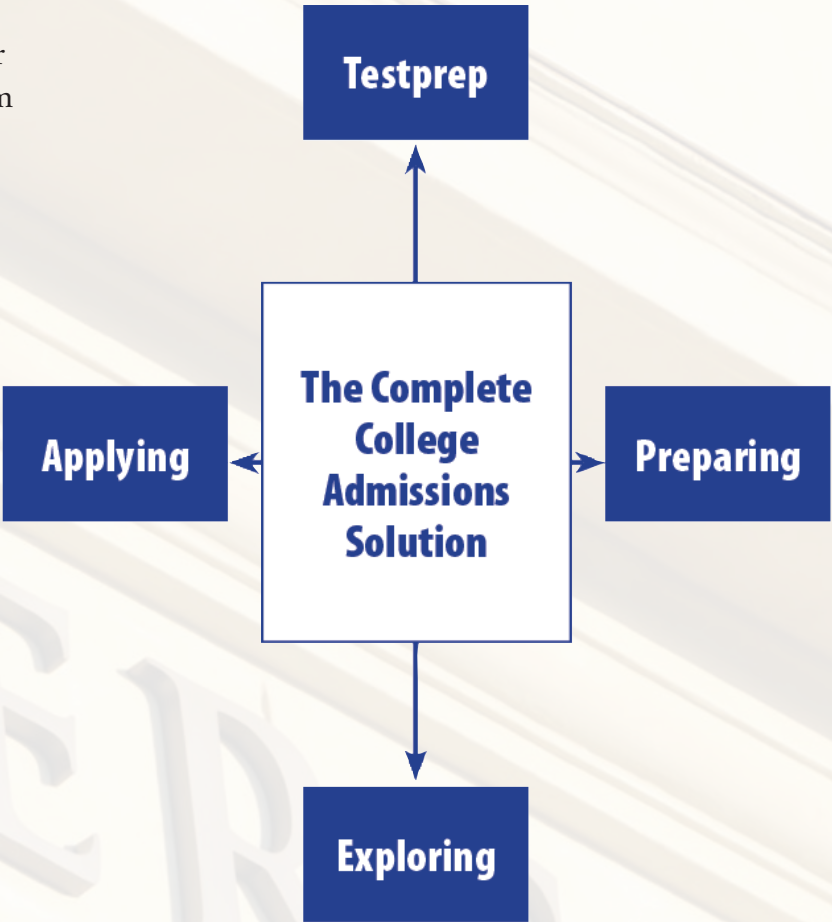
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