

# HIGH SCHOOLS

## ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY GIRLS BASKETBALL OUTLOOKS

### ANNAPOLIS

**NICKNAME:** Panthers  
**COACH:** DeWayne Wallace, first year  
**LEAGUE:** Class 3A East  
**LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 12-12, fell to Fallston in region quarterfinals.

**TOP RETURNERS:** Jessica Reagans (Sr., G), Leah Pinkney (Sr., F), Erin Townley (Sr., F), Kamyiah Surgeon (So., G), Katie Sears (Sr., G), Nia Lateef (Sr., F).

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Michelle Neal SO., Anne Russell JR, Keva Smith JR, Lauren Kelly JR.

**OUTLOOK:** Reagans and Townley are four-year varsity players and, along with Pinkney, make up the tri-captains for what should be a deep squad.

Reagans (11.6 points per game, 3.0 assists) didn't play volleyball this fall so she could focus on basketball and should be one of the best point guards in the county. Pinkney (9.6 rebounds) is a rebounding machine and first-year coach Wallace expects her to be more aggressive and score more points. Townley provides a solid foundation down low.

"Each of those girls played AAU together this summer and I hope that continuity will carry over to this team," Wallace said.

Surgeon (8.3 rpg) may be one of the most exciting young players in the county. Will make the transition from post to wing this season so she can use her speed on the perimeter, drive the lane and draw fouls. Wallace said her jump shot has also improved since last year.

Neal, a newcomer, was a standout player on last year's JV team and will provide a spark off the bench.

### ANNAPOLIS AREA CS

**NICKNAME:** Eagles  
**COACH:** Gary Young, 3rd year  
**LEAGUE:** IAAM C Conference  
**LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 22-4, Won IAAM C Conference Championship

**TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** Danni Mink (Sr., G); Amy Topp (Jr., F); Theresa Dark (Jr., G)

**OUTLOOK:** Already losing three starters from last winter's IAAM C Conference championship team, the Eagles were dealt another blow this fall when second-team All County center Alex Steifox transferred to Elizabeth Seton in Prince George's County.

"We have a lot of inexperience, so its tough to tell who our key players are going to be," coach Gary Young said.

Danni Mink is the leading returning scorer, having put down eight a game last year as a junior. Amy Topp (5.4) and Theresa Dark (4.4) also have experience on the floor for the Eagles.

"We have good team speed and should get better as the season goes along," Young said. "We plan to play an up tempo game and substitute a lot."

### ARCHBISHOP SPALDING

**NICKNAME:** Cavaliers  
**COACH:** Deb Taylor, 12th year  
**LEAGUE:** IAAM A Conference  
**LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 15-12, fell to Seton Keough in IAAM A Conference quarterfinal.

**TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** Janay Brinkley (So., G); Jordan Clinton (Jr., F); Christine Nairn (Sr., G); Emily Griffith (Sr., G); Katie Kirk (Sr., G).

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Sherae Swinson (Fr., F); Maggie Morrison (Fr., G); Shaquilla Curtis (Fr., F); Brya Freeland (Fr., G); Taylor Jansen (So., F); Katie Vautier (Jr.,G); Caitlin Yackus (So., F).

**OUTLOOK:** A deep lineup and solid nucleus of experienced returners should keep the Cavaliers competitive in the tough IAAM A Conference.

"We've got a lot of speed and athleticism, which will help us run the floor and press effectively with our depth," coach Deb Taylor said. "The key for us is going to be how quickly we can mesh the newcomers with the team and get through the youthful mistakes we're going to make."

Brinkley is the only double-digit scorer returning for Spalding, which lost a pair of All-County performers (Allyssa Mann and Whitney Snoops) to graduation. The sophomore also averaged a pair of assists per game. Clinton (eight points, five rebounds), Nairn (five points, three assists) and Griffith (four points) all logged significant time last winter.

"We should be able to compete very well in a very tough conference," Taylor said.

### ARUNDEL

**NICKNAME:** Wildcats  
**COACH:** Lee Rogers  
**LEAGUE:** Class 4A East  
**LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 21-5; lost to Old Mill in region finals

**TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** Ayanna Randolph (Sr., G), Kiersten Jauschney (Sr., G), Danielle McFadden (Sr., G), Sheronne Vails (So., F.), Ashley Davis (Jr., G), Ebone' Jones (Jr., G), Naimah Kimmbre (Jr., F), Simone Egwu (Jr., F), Palen Watson (So., G)

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Yolanda Reid (Jr., F, 6), Courtney Jones (Jr., F, 6-1), Danielle Fabia (Jr., G), Briana Tubaya (Jr., G), Dedra Moore (So., G)

**OUTLOOK:** The loss to Old Mill in last year's region finals still lingers in the minds of Rogers' charges, who have won 10 of the last 11 county championships.

"The girls know, coming off that, we have to play a little better and a little harder than that," Rogers said. "We're setting the bar high because right now, Old Mill has that region championship, so they're the better team and we want to get that back."

Juniors Ashley Davis and Simone Egwu return as first-team All County selections, headlining the dynamic inside-outside game the Wildcats are looking to play.

Davis, a guard, led Arundel with 15 points a game last season while Egwu, a 6-foot-3 center, averaged double-double on the year with 14.7 points and 10.4 rebounds.

Another all county selection, senior Ayanna

### TOP 5

Top 5 Capital-Gazette Newspapers' girls basketball teams with last year's record:

**1. SOUTH RIVER (13-8)**

Six seniors back for Seahawks, including player of the year Nucci

**2. ARUNDEL (21-5)**

Egwu, Davis lead loaded squad looking for 11th county title in 12 years

**3. SEVERNA PARK (15-10)**

Lilley a do-everything guard for Falcons in their first 4A season

**4. SOUTHERN (18-6)**

Move to loaded 2A South makes state playoff road tougher for Bulldogs

**5. OLD MILL (22-5)**

Region champs have big holes to fill, but plenty of skilled players remain.

Randolph, is expected to miss the season after tearing her ACL in the off season. With an eye toward the post-season, the Wildcats have scheduled a tough non-conference schedule, playing IAAM titans St. Frances and Seton Keough early in the season as well as traveling to Prince George's County for the IABO tournament over the holidays.

"Playing teams and games like that gives us the attitude we're looking for," Rogers said. "We have to set the bar high if we want to get where we're hoping to get."

"The county is very tough this year. You have to come to play every night. It's not about winning, but it's about getting where you want to in the post-season."

### BROADNECK

**NICKNAME:** Bruins  
**COACH:** Diane Casey,  
**LEAGUE:** Class 4A East  
**LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 7-17, lost to Arundel in region semifinals.

**TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** Chelsea Shrader (Sr., 5-5, G); Taylor George (Soph., 5-7, G); Nina Herron (Soph., 5-5, G); Ivanna Melendez (Sr., 5-6, G); Courtney King (Sr., 5-7, G/F); Alexa Kyle (Sr., 5-7, F/G); Megan Lynch (Sr., 5-11, F); Danielle Webber (Sr., 5-11, F); Jackie Webber (Jr., 6-0, F)

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Kari-Ellen Johnson (Sr., 5-6, G); Lauren Snyder (Jr., 5-4, G); Jessica Rose (Jr., 5-7, F); Elizabeth Watt (Jr., 6-2, F)

**OUTLOOK:** After a tough regular season, the Bruins played their best basketball down the stretch last winter before falling to Arundel in the region semifinals.

In that stretch, Broadneck topped eventual region champ Old Mill in its regular season finale and No. 3 seed Thomas Stone in the region playoffs.

For this fall, co-captains Chelsea Shrader and Danielle Webber have brought the team together with the goal of finishing in the top four of the region.

Post play should be an increased strength for the Bruins, as the addition of Watt from the JV and Webber gives them a pair of 6-footers.

### CHESAPEAKE

**NICKNAME:** Cougars  
**COACH:** John Spinnenweber, 7th year  
**LEAGUE:** Class 4A East  
**LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 5-14, lost to South River in region quarterfinals

**TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** Taylor Petrisko (Jr., F/G); Courtney Lupinek (Jr., G); Lacey Phillips (Sr., G); Erika Stasch (Sr., G).

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Ashley Reid (Fr., G); Camille Koroma (Jr., F)

**OUTLOOK:** The Cougars have some good athletes that play three sports and expect to be better than last year's five-win squad.

Petrisko could be one of the better players in the league this season, after averaging nine points and five rebounds a game last year. Lupinek (four assists and three steals per game) and Phillips are very athletic and were recently recognized for their soccer accomplishments.

Stasch is another gifted athlete who recently signed to play softball at Towson.

### GLEN BURNIE

**NICKNAME:** Gophers  
**COACH:** Dan Mangum, 10th season  
**LAST SEASON:** 13-11, lost to Old Mill in region quarterfinals.

**TOP RETURNERS:** Jessica Taylor (Sr., G, 5-7), Chasity Dailey (Sr., G, 5-5), Jasmine Mitchell (Sr., F, 5-8), Xiomara Fowler (Jr., PG, 5-3), La'Bree Williams (Jr., F, 5-7).

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Jasmine Anderson (Jr., G, 5-4), Azure Johnson (Jr., G, 5-6), Samantha Harthman (So. G, 5-5), Heather Smith (So., G, 5-6), Tanique Williams (Jr., C, 5-11), Camille White (Jr., F, 5-9), Denver Clyde (Fr., C/F, 5-11).

**OUTLOOK:** The transfer of Tanique Williams from Charlottesville, Va., gives the Gophers a wealth of size in the paint as she joins La'Bree Williams, Mitchell and Clyde in anchoring the frontcourt.

"This is the first time in years we've had four good post players," Mangum said. "It's going to be interesting to see how it plays out, but I think if we can get our man-to-man defense working and rebound, we could go well beyond being just an average team."

Taylor is the leading returning scorer for Glen Burnie, averaging 8.4 points a game as a junior. La'Bree Williams (7.1), Mitchell (6.8) and Fowler (5.8) all averaged more than five points for the Gophers last season. Dailey, Mitchell and La'Bree Williams each averaged at least four rebounds last season, while Fowler averaged five assists.

"We're deep and quick and we hope that we can get up and down the court with some success," Mangum said. "We need to continue to work on our defense and rebounding if we want to truly be a contender."

### INDIAN CREEK

**NICKNAME:** Eagles  
**COACH:** Jamie Cook, 3rd year

### PLAYERS TO WATCH



**NUCCI** **EGWU**

Below are 10 girls basketball players to keep an eye on this season. Statistics are from the 2006-2007 season.

**JACLYN NUCCI**  
**Senior, G, South River**  
 Player of the year led county with 20.8 PPG as a junior

**SIMONE EGWU**  
**Junior, F, Arundel**  
 6-foot-3 center averaged double-double (14 points, 10 rebounds) for second straight year

**BRITTANY LILLEY**  
**Senior, G, Severna Park**  
 Athletic ball-handler a force for Falcons, with 13 points, 7.5 rebounds last year

**HEATHER SCHNECK**  
**Senior, G, Southern**  
 Even-keeled guard led Bulldogs in scoring (15) and rebounding (7)

**ASHLEY DAVIS**  
**Junior, Arundel**  
 Quick guard exploded onto scene with 15 points a game as a sophomore

**KIM SCHNECK**  
**Senior, F, Southern**  
 Senior stands 50 points shy of 1,000 going into senior season

**ASHLEY WAGNER**  
**Senior, G, South River**  
 Assists machine (5.9 per game) a key ballhandler for Seahawks

**JESSICA REAGANS**  
**Senior, G, Annapolis**  
 Averaged 11.6 points and three assists; increased focus should add to that

**LEAH PINKNEY**  
**Senior, F, Annapolis**  
 Pulled down nearly 10 rebounds a game for Panthers as junior

**JANAY BRINKLEY**  
**Sophomore, F, Spalding**  
 Scored double digits as freshman, expected to lead Cavaliers

**LEAGUE:** Chesapeake Athletic Conference

**LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 8-8  
**TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** Hannah Smith (Soph., C); Brea Fuller (Soph., F/C); Ashley Wilson (Jr., G); Siena Rocograndi (Soph., G/F); Cara Smith (Soph., G)

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Emma Bauchages (Fr.); Brittney Blonder (Fr.); Maddie Beudreau (Soph., F); Elizabeth Grindrod (Soph., G); Alexus Quille (Fr., F); Becky Kinder (Fr., G/F); Brianna Arredondo (Fr., F)

**OUTLOOK:** Fuller and Wilson return for the Eagles after last winter's 8-8 season. The pair, a sophomore and junior, respectively, were Indian Creek's leading scorers last year while Wilson also led the team in steals. Smith led the team in rebounding.

"I think we've got the things in place to make a run in the playoffs," coach Jamie Cook said. "With Kinder, Bauchages and Blonder, we have a great backcourt and a lot of strong tenacity to get things done."

### KEY SCHOOL

**NICKNAME:** Obezags  
**COACH:** Bill Hartman, 1st year  
**LEAGUE:** IAAM C Conference  
**LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 1-19

**TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** Rae Pietkiewicz (Sr., F), Katy Edwards (Sr., F), Katy Bildahl (Sr., G).

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Nikki Simmons (Sr., F), Ellie Smith (Sr., G), Jessie White (Sr., G), Anne Caverly (Jr., F), Cailleigh Feldman (So., G), Olivia Smith (Jr., G), Tori Douglas (Jr., F).

**OUTLOOK:** Hartman inherits a youthful squad in his first turn as head coach for the Obezags.

"We actually have a lot of upper-class players, but many of them have no experience," Hartman said. "If we can pull together and jell as a team, we could play deep into the playoffs."

### MEADE

**NICKNAME:** Mustangs  
**COACH:** Bobby Freedenburg, 3rd year  
**LEAGUE:** Class 3A East  
**LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 12 - 10, lost in 2nd round of Region playoffs to Arundel.

**TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** Meische Cox (Sr., F); Rayshell Parker (Jr., F); Alissa Chambliss (Soph., G); Nicole Dixon (Soph., G/F); Laneisha Taylor (Sr., G); Janelle Carter (Sr., G)

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Eris Mitchell (Sr., F); Joi Carter (Soph., G); Melony Green (Jr., G); Jamieka Brooks (Jr., F)

**OUTLOOK:** The addition of Green, an Annapolis transfer, should bring some needed depth to Meade's lineup this winter. Green was the leading scorer at the junior varsity level for the Panthers last fall.

"I think that we're going to be smaller than most teams we play, but we're very athletic and we have good leadership and a new attitude," Freedenburg said.

"We think we can be one of the top teams in the county, and look forward to challenging to make the county championship game."

### NORTH COUNTY

**NICKNAME:** Knights  
**COACH:** Alethea Kinlock, 3rd year  
**LEAGUE:** Class 4A East  
**LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 2-17, fell in

region quarterfinals to Meade  
**TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** Teresea Papsan (Sr., G); Shannon Simpkins (Sr., F); Dominique Taylor (Sr., F), Jade Hamilton (Sr., F), Haillie Hopla (Jr., F).

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Macy Murray (Jr., G); Dania Taylor (Jr., G), Raven Wilson (Fr., C), Kim Brooks (So., G).

**OUTLOOK:** The Knights remain in a rebuilding mode as Kinlock's third year at the school begins.

Guards Simpkins and Papsan will be leaders for North County, helping a group that doesn't have a lot of experience playing together mesh.

They will be the central players, running the two and-three guard spots in the Knights' zone offense. Defensively, Kinlock expects to try to structure defenses specific to what opponents are trying to do.

### NORTHEAST

**NICKNAME:** Eagles  
**COACH:** Christy Ellenberger, 1st season  
**LAST SEASON:** 0-18, lost in region first round to Bel Air

**TOP RETURNERS:** Kelly McGahagan (Sr., F, 5-9), Katie McGahagan (Jr., PG, 5-11), Kaitlyn Warf (Sr., G, 5-11), Rachel Pomycala (Sr., G, 5-7), Autum Herrin (Sr., G, 5-2)

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Ilesha Butler (So., F, 5-10), Nikki Heffner (Jr., C, 5-10), Lindsay Saunders (Jr., G, 5-8), Leah Warner (So., F, 5-8), Darlecia Upchurch (Jr., G, 5-8).

**OUTLOOK:** In her first year at the helm in Pasadena, Ellenberger has liked what she's seen from her girls as she overhauls their system.

"I've really been breaking everything down to fundamentals and trying to start everything from scratch," said Ellenberger, who attended rival Chesapeake before playing both softball and basketball at Limestone College in South Carolina.

With eight players standing 5-8 or better, height is a strength for the Eagles this fall. Guards Katie McGahagan and Kaitlyn Warf both stand 5-foot-11 and could cause matchup problems on the perimeter. Athleticism is also a big key for Northeast this winter.

"We've got a very fast-paced, athletic group here, so we're going to be moving the ball and running," she said. "There are a lot of soccer players in the group, so they've been ready for the conditioning since we started and have looked good in our scrimmages."

The increased pace puts pressure on McGahagan, starting her junior season as point guard after playing as a shooting guard last year.

### OLD MILL

**NICKNAME:** Patriots  
**COACH:** Craig White, 11th year  
**LEAGUE:** Class 4A East  
**LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 22-5; Class 4A East Region Champion; lost in State semifinals to Blake

**TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** Shante' Atkinson (Jr., 5-5, G); Ariana Guyton (Sr., 5-9, F); Aleah Queen (Sr., 5-6, G); Ciarra Lucas (Jr., 5-8, G); Patrice Jones (Sr., 5-10, F); Bethany Hart (Sr., 6-2, C)

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Kourtney Salisbury (Soph., 5-1, G); Jasmine Smith (Soph., 5-9, F); Breonna Pinkcett (Fr., 5-8, F); Carly Conley (Fr., 5-9, F); Shantel Sharps (Jr., 5-6, G); Eunice Rijos (Jr., 5-3, G); Crystal Kitchen (Sr., 5-5, G)

**OUTLOOK:** The region champions have big holes to fill after the departure of first-team All County selections Kiara Thomas and Anisha Queen, who combined for nearly 26 points a game last winter.

Guard play is expected to be the key for coach Craig White's Patriots, as Ciarra Lucas, Aleah Queen, Kourtney Salisbury and Shante' Atkinson form what White says may be the best backcourt in the county.

"With speed all over the court, especially at the guard position, our up-tempo style should give teams plenty of trouble," he said.

Queen is the top returning scorer, having put up 6.2 a game last fall. Lucas (5.7 points) and Patrice Jones (3.5 points, 4.9 rebounds) also have experience handling the ball for the Patriots.

Jones and Ariana Guyton are expected to headline a young group of post players for Old Mill.

"If we can rebound the basketball, we're confident that we can be one of the better teams in the area," White said.

### ST. MARY'S

**NICKNAME:** Saints  
**COACH:** Harry Dobson, 21st year  
**LEAGUE:** IAAM A Conference  
**LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 6-20, lost to Spalding in IAAM A Conference tournament first round

**TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** Melissa Perkins (Jr., 5-8, G); Gretchen Mayer (Soph., 5-8, F); Meghan Toomey (Soph., 5-8, G); Jackie Matera (Jr., 6-0, C); Patricia Bigelow (Soph., 5-6, G)

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Emily Slear (Jr., 5-6, G); Anne Ray (Fr., 5-7, G); Melanie Mocniak (Fr., 6-0, C); Katie Bollhorst (Jr., 5-9, F); Kelly Blorstad (Fr., 5-7, G)

**OUTLOOK:** Veteran coach Dodson will look to a youthful squad – there are no seniors – to do damage in the highly-competitive A Conference. Freshmen Blorstad and Mocniak are projected starters, which means that experience won't be needed to get on the court.

"We're going to get rebounding from Mayer and Bollhorst and expecting production from Mocniak, Blorstad and Perkins."

Perkins led the team in scoring last year and will anchor the offense this season.

A fresh new squad has Dodson optimistic for the upcoming season.

"We'll do better than last year," he said. "We're looking for at least a .500 season."

### SEVERNA PARK

**NICKNAME:** Falcons  
**COACH:** Carrie Weimer, 2nd year  
**LEAGUE:** Class 4A East  
**LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 15-10; lost to Fallston in region finals.

**TOP RETURNERS:** Brittany Lilley (Sr., G); Maggie Boquard (Sr., F); Shannon Kennedy (Sr., F); Anna Patterson (Jr., F); Kathleen Barranco (Jr., G); Lauren Mundell (Sr., G)

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Kelly Murphy (Soph., G); Katie Burns (Jr., F)

**OUTLOOK:** After a surprise run to last year's 3A East Region finals, the Falcons hope to build upon that success in coach Carrie Weimer's second year at the helm.

"We have a nice mix of experienced players and young talent this season," Weimer said. "We hope we can build on our experience last year and have another successful run."

Senior guard Brittany Lilley returns as the lone All-County selection for Severna Park, having averaged 13 points, 7.5 rebounds and 3.5 assists. Her experience as a ball handler should help the Falcons overcome the loss of all county selections Kim Acton and Meredith Newton from the backcourt.

### SEVERN

**NICKNAME:** Admirals  
**COACH:** Chuck Miller, 8th year  
**LEAGUE:** IAAM B Conference  
**LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 17-10; lost in B Conference championship game to Pallotti.

**TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** Taylor Wieczorek (Sr., 5-11, C); Leanne Hug (Jr., 6-0, F); Katie Dickerson (Jr., 5-7, G); Caitlin Sheehan (Jr., 6-0, F); Liz Harbeson (Soph., 5-6, G); Leah Cranmer (Soph., 5-6, G); Aura Payne (Soph., 5-2, G); Raven Owens (Soph., 5-7, G/F)

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Richa Davis (Jr., 5-9, F); Kayla Fu (Soph., 5-6, G); Keisha Miles (Soph., 5-8, G/F)

**OUTLOOK:** With coach Miller returning eight players from last season's B Conference runner-up campaign, the Admirals should remain competitive. Wieczorek, a second team All-County performer last year averaging 11 points and 11 rebounds, will be the focus of the Severn unit as the only senior.

"Taylor will get what she gets, but we're looking for a little more this year," Miller said. "If we can get one more girl to pick up the scoring, we should be right there again."

Miller believes that Pallotti will be the team to beat again, so he has beefed up his non-conference schedule to include seven public school contests in an effort to battle-test his squad.

The diminutive Payne can be a surprise to opponents with her speed, as Miller stated "she can fly and really get up and down the court." Hug and Sheehan should complement Wieczorek well from the forward positions.

### SOUTH RIVER

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