

GIRLS BASKETBALL

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY GIRLS BASKETBALL OUTLOOKS

ANNAPOLIS

NICKNAME: Panthers
COACH: DeWayne Wallace, second year
LEAGUE: 3A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 12-12
RETURNING PLAYERS: Kamyah Surgeon (Jr., G/F); Anne Russell (Sr., G); Michelle Neal (Jr., G/F); Keba Smith (Sr., F); Katie Sears (Sr., G); Lauren Kelly (Sr., F); Kandace Greene (Jr., F); Kristina Stylianou (Jr., F).

NEWCOMERS: Melanie Green (Sr., G); Tyaria Jackson (Jr., G); Liz Simson (Jr., G); Monie Day (Jr., F); Kelly Rinard (Sr., G/F); Malyka Demby (Sr., F).

OUTLOOK: The Panthers will be to replace the focal points of last year's squad, as Jessica Reagans and Leah Pinkney graduated, but coach DeWayne Wallace has a another star in the making in junior Kamyah Surgeon.

"That's a lot that I've got to replace, but I think this collection of girls has what it takes," Wallace said.

Surgeon, the team's top returning scorer and rebounder, averaged 12.9 points and more than seven rebounds a game last year.

"I look for her to have a breakout year," Wallace said. "She's worked on her game. She has a pretty decent mid-range jumper, which I felt she was lacking last year."

A quick cast surrounds Surgeon, and the Panthers plan to press for 32 minutes each game.

"We've got good team speed," Wallace said. "We're going to pressure teams all night long. We're going to look to get out and run."

Transfers Tyaria Jackson (Dunbar, D.C.) and Malyka Demby (Delaware) each add a different component to the team. Jackson is a quick, strong defender, and Demby will contribute down low.

Freshman Kelly Inard will also contribute immediately in the Panthers' 1-4 offensive set.

ANNAPOLIS AREA C S

NICKNAME: Eagles
COACH: Jim Domoracki, first year
LEAGUE: IAAM C Conference
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 11-12
RETURNING PLAYERS: Theresa Dark (Sr., G); Amy Topp (Sr., G); Marissa Minor (Jr., G); Christy Curro (Jr., G).

NEWCOMERS: Cassie Scantlin (Fr., G); Sam Domoracki (Fr., G); Tobu Adewale (Jr., F); Liz Ferguson (Jr., F); Megan Beylo (Jr., G); Christina Piccioni (So., G); Lisa Fetter (Fr., G); Grace Mercer (Sr., G); Charlotte Hendrick (Jr., F).

OUTLOOK: Veteran coach Jim Domoracki brings his 24 years of coaching experience at both the high school and college levels to try to help the Eagles compete for a league title despite returning just four players.

Domoracki inherits a young group of players and just four starters from an Eagles crew that won nine games in the Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland C Conference. Returners Theresa Dark, Amy Topp and Christy Curro will lead early, while Marissa Minor should provide a spark once she returns from an injury in late December.

"They're our most athletic kids and they're the most skilled and experienced," Domoracki said. "Everyone else, it's their first year playing varsity."

Domoracki will have to be patient in his first year with a roster that includes three freshmen and a sophomore to go along with four juniors, who are all playing for the first time at the varsity level.

"I want to be competitive when it comes playoff time," Domoracki said. "We've got the athletes. It's just a matter of getting them to play together and getting some confidence and experience."

ARCHBISHOP SPALDING

NICKNAME: Cavaliers
COACH: Bill "Bookie" Rosemond, first year
LEAGUE: IAAM A Conference
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 20-7
RETURNING PLAYERS: Janay Brinkley (Jr., G), Maggie Morrison (So., G), Sherae Swinson (So., F), Brya Freeland (So., G), Shaquilla Curtis (So., F).

NEWCOMERS: Imani Bailey (Fr., G), Raven Makins (Fr., G), Jonelle Britt (Fr., F).
OUTLOOK: Junior guard Janay Brinkley is poised to have a monster season for the Cavaliers, who have a roster heavy on youth and light on experience. The Cavaliers will have to fill the void left by graduates Christine Nairn and Emily Griffith.

The Cavaliers also face a tough schedule of IAAM A opponents, and in order to be successful, their younger players will have to mature fast.

"Despite being very young, our expectations are very high," first year coach Bill Rosemond said.

The Cavaliers will need major contributions from returning sophomores Brya Freeland and Sherae Swinson to help Brinkley up and down the court.

Freeland and Maggie Morrison make up a potentially dangerous backcourt. They aren't afraid to play, and each has an eye for the open spot on the court.

"Our goal is to be playing in the IAAM championship game and solidify our program as a top ten in the state," Rosemond said. "We hope to improve every game to the point where we are peaking in February."

ARUNDEL

NICKNAME: Wildcats
COACH: Lee Rogers, 19th season
LEAGUE: 4A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 22-6
RETURNING PLAYERS: Simone Egwu (Sr., C); Ashley Davis (Sr., G); Ebone' Jones (Sr., G); Sherrone Vails (Sr., F); Naimah Kimbrough (Sr., F); Dedra Moore (Jr., G); Danielle Fabia (Sr., G); Talen Watson (Jr., G); Courtney Jones (Sr., F).

NEWCOMERS: Aleisha Henderson (Jr., G); Briana McKellery (Jr., F); Ariel Ross (Jr., G); Tiffany Grant (So., G); Kayla Martinez (Jr., G).

OUTLOOK: It won't take Lee Rogers very long to get used to his team. Arundel returns its starting lineup and most of its core players

TOP 5

- 1. ARUNDEL (x-x)**
Three Division I signees look to guide Wildcats to elusive state title
- 2. OLD MILL (19-6)**
Fast, physical team can give opposition fits
- 3. SPALDING (20-7)**
Young but experienced Cavaliers look to make noise in A Conference
- 4. SEVERN (23-3)**
B Conference champs must replace void left by Taylor Wiczorek
- 5. MEADE (14-9)**
Mustangs return a bunch of talent, look to join county's upper echelon

to the floor for what Rogers hopes to me a season full of redemption.

After falling in the state finals to Eleanor Roosevelt, the four-time Division 4A champions, the Wildcats return three Class I recruits and a rising junior to the floor.

Simone Egwu (Virginia), last year's Player of the Year, and Ebone' Jones (LaSalle), Ashley Davis (Drexel) and 6-foot-5 junior Sherrone Vails antagonized opposing defenses all last year, and they'll look to do it once more this season.

"It's going to depend on how hard they work whether they're going to be better than last year's team," Rogers said. "They certainly could be."

Arundel was 22-6 last season and didn't lose a game in the county. Led by 25 points from Davis, a proficient 3-point threat, the Wildcats coasted past Dulaney with a 67-29 win, but ran into a tough Raiders team in the finals to miss out on their fourth state title in 12 seasons.

Arundel, paced by Egwu's 15.2 points and 10.3 rebounds a game, swept its county schedule to claim the title and, with only three seniors graduated, are in good position to do it again.

The new class of Wildcats have been playing together since their freshmen season and have never lost a game.

"We have to work twice as hard as we did last year. Our jobs as coaches are to make sure they don't become complacent," Rogers said. "It's going to be harder this year because everybody is trying to knock them off."

BROADNECK

NICKNAME: Bruins
COACH: Bruce Springer, first season
LEAGUE: 4A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 3-19
RETURNING PLAYERS: Jackie Webber (Sr., C), Lauren Snyder (Sr., G), Jessica Rose (Sr., F), Liz Wyatt (Sr., C), Jessica Llewellyn (Sr., G), Taylor George (Jr., G), Nina Herron (Jr., G).

NEWCOMERS: McKenzie Seeley (Jr., C), Kaila Kelly (So., G), Taylor Ward (So., F), Paige Luzzio (So., G), Katie Hall (Jr., G), Kelsey Dizzio (Jr., F); Catherine Dyson (So., F), Julia Banks (Jr., F).

OUTLOOK: The Bruins graduated six seniors from last season's roster and will face another rebuilding year in 2008. What the Bruins lack in experience, they compensate for with size, featuring three players standing at 6-foot or above. Center Jackie Webber is the team's biggest offensive weapon and top rebounder and will have some help controlling the glass from senior Liz Watt.

First-year coach Bruce Springer has installed a new offensive game plan for his team this season, trying to thrust the Bruins back into the thick of competition in the 4A East.

Sophomore guards Kaila Kelly and Paige Duncan could make an immediate impact for the Bruins this year and are two reasons why Springer should feel hopeful toward his team's future.

"We're going to have to play smart out on the court," Springer said. "And adjust to our opponents' each game. If we do that, then we'll win some games."

CHESAPEAKE

NICKNAME: Cougars
COACH: Meghan Klug, first season
LEAGUE: 4A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 8-14, lost to Old Mill in region quarterfinals
RETURNING PLAYERS: Kelly Hickman (Sr., F); Courtney Lupinek (Sr., G); Taylor Petrisko (Sr., F); Autumn Reid (So., G); Kara Catania (Sr., F); Camille Koroma (Sr., F); Amanda Montgomery (Sr., G/F).

NEWCOMERS: Erin Tenneson (So., G); Valerie Everett (So., G/F); Rose Smith (So., F); Nicole Manthey (Jr., F); Karissa Kelly (Jr., G); Alaina Doyle (Jr., G); Ashley Reid (So., G).

OUTLOOK: Meghan Klug, a former Cougar and Salisbury University letter-winner, takes over the program after a year as a volunteer assistant and inherits a talented, veteran group.

Petrisko, Catania and Koroma balance the front court and will allow for perimeter opportunities for Courtney Lupinek and Ashley Reid, who work well together on fast breaks. Erin Tenneson and Autumn Reid will see plenty of minutes off the bench as Klug expects to go 9-10 deep comfortably.

Rose Smith has performed well at the defensive end and Nikki Manthey is back to contribute after a year away from the team.

"I have a good connection with the team and I can still physically get out there and do what I am asking of them, so it is easier to get them to respond positively," Klug said.

GLEN BURNIE

NICKNAME: Gophers
COACH: Dan Mangum, 11th season
LEAGUE: 4A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 14-10
RETURNING PLAYERS: La-Bree Williams (Sr., F), Azure Johnson (Sr., G); Heather Smith (Jr., PG); Bria Bryant (So., PG); Jasmine Floyed (Sr., C).

NEWCOMERS: Denver Clyde (So., F/C); Samantha Harthman (Jr., G/F); Brittany Kincer (Jr., F); Mia Carr (Fr., G/F)

OUTLOOK: Depth will be one of the keys

PLAYERS TO WATCH



EGWU



SURGEON

Simone Egwu, Arundel, Sr., C
UVA-bound dominant post player, also anchors Arundel 'D'

Kamyah Surgeon, Annapolis, Jr., G/F

Physical player can score from anywhere; averaged 12.9 points as sophomore.

Ciarra Lucas, Old Mill, Sr. G
Averaged 13.4 points, five rebounds per game, made second team All-County as a junior.

Janay Brinkley, Spalding, Jr., G
Do-it-all guard plays with confidence and moxy of a senior.

Ashley Davis, Arundel, Sr., G
Drexel-bound shooter cannot be left open. Broke school record for 3s as a junior.

Amanda Lawrence, South River, Sr., G
Seahawks leader lethal from 3-point range.

Sherrone Vails, Arundel, Jr., F
Blossomed as a sophomore; is county's next big star.

Nicole Dixon, Meade, Jr., F
Averaged 11 points, eight rebounds as a super soph.

Ebonee Jones, Arundel, Sr. G
LaSalle signee makes high-powered Wildcats go.

Katie McGahagan, Northeast, Sr., G
Was among tops in county last year averaging 16.2 points per game.

to a successful season for the Gophers, as coach Dan Mangum plans to play nine or 10 different players on any given night.

Despite losing two All-County players from last season, Mangum is confident the Gophers will improve on last year's 14-10 record.

"We're going to be playing more kids this year, and they complement each other," Mangum said. "We can play nine or 10 and keep the pressure on teams."

Mangum is already impressed with the chemistry the team has shown in practices and scrimmages, and he believes that will be one of the keys this year.

"I think our chemistry is good," Mangum said. "We're not real big, but we're pretty quick. We're going to win games with speed, quickness and defense."

The Gophers will look to La-Bree Williams, who averaged 13.3 points last year. The Gophers will also rely on Azure Johnson, Heather Smith and Jasmine Floyed as well as several newcomers, including Denver Carr, who Mangum said can help a lot this year.

INDIAN CREEK

NICKNAME: Eagles
COACH: Jamie Cook, fourth season
LEAGUE: Chesapeake Athletic Conference
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 8-9, CAC champions

RETURNING PLAYERS: Ashley Wilson (Sr., G); Anna Smith (Jr., C); Maddie Breaux (Jr., C); Cara Smith (Jr., G); Sienna Roccogrondi (Jr., F); Becky Kinder (So., F); Brittany Blonder (So., G); Liz Grindrod (So., G).

NEWCOMERS: Brooke Sulerzyski (Fr., G); Rhian Sellers (Fr., G); Lexi McCormick (Fr., G); Laura Sisen (Fr., G); Kathleen Flanagan (Fr., F/C); Krystin Major (Fr., F).

OUTLOOK: Indian Creek, the defending Chesapeake Athletic Conference champions, expect to defend its title — and much more.

"I've told our girls that we can go undefeated," Eagles coach Jamie Cook said. "When we play our best, we have a very good basketball team."

Ashley Wilson is the team's leading returning scorer — and its only senior — and she'll attempt to fill the void left by Brea Fuller, who transferred to Meade in the offseason.

Brooke Sulerzyski and Rhian Sellers will do most of the ball-handling for the young Eagles, who dress six freshmen.

"Our front-court play is very novice, but our backcourt is very strong," Cook said.

Indian Creek, which defeated Rockbridge Academy in the CAC title game last year, finds itself outside the IAAM C Conference due to a league-wide moratorium on bringing in new members. Indian Creek's boys' programs, meanwhile, compete in the Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association C Conference.

"It's a scheduling nightmare," said Cook, the school's athletic director. "The schools are small like we were when we entered four years ago, and we've outgrown them. So we're always going to be in the driver's seat."

MEADE

NICKNAME: Mustangs
COACH: Bobby Freedenburg, fourth year
LEAGUE: 3A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 14-9, lost in quarterfinals of region playoffs

RETURNING PLAYERS: Alissa Chambliss (Jr., G); Joi Carter (Jr., G); Rayshell Parker (Sr., F); Nicole Dixon (Jr., F); Veronica Young (So., F).

NEWCOMERS: Crystal Thomas (Sr., G); Katara Pressley (So., F); Laura Lewis (Jr., C); Lauren Lewis (Jr., C); Brea Fuller (Sr., F).

OUTLOOK: The Mustangs seem poised to make a run toward the top of the county despite losing four seniors.

"We're going to be pretty good," coach

Bobby Freedenburg said. "We lost four players from last year's team, but the five players we've got coming back played a lot minutes."

Honorable mention All-County performer Nicole Dixon will lead the Mustangs. The junior forward averaged 11 points and eight rebounds per game last season.

She'll be joined on the wing by senior Rayshell Parker. Sisters Laura and Lauren Lewis will battle for the center spot and junior guards Allissa Chambliss, and Joi Carter will be in charge of running Meade's motion offense.

"The key for our team is to play with intensity every single game," Freedenburg said. "If we do that, we should be better than last year."

NORTH COUNTY

NICKNAME: Knights
COACH: Althea Kinlock, fourth year
LEAGUE: 4A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 3-16
RETURNING PLAYERS: Hailie Hopla (Sr., F), Dania Taylor (Sr., G), Macy Murray (Jr., G), Chrissy Shizes (So., G), Brielle Bradford (So., G).

NEWCOMERS: Kayla Henard (So., F), Corynne Avey (Jr., G), Mandley Ueber (Jr., C), Cayenne Groves (Jr., F), Devyn Glidden (Fr., F).

OUTLOOK: The Knights will return six seniors to this season's roster and will rely on the experience of guards Danie Taylor and Macy Murray to lead the backcourt and revitalize their program. Senior forward Hailie Hopla should be a formidable post presence. Sophomores Chrissy Shizes and Brielle Bradford add depth behind their senior mentors, but will also have to mature fast and adjust to the varsity stage.

Coach Althea Kinlock is looking to turn around a team that has five combined wins the past two seasons and has been working hard in the offseason to reshape her squad's identity.

Mandley Ueber adds size down low, and should compliment the efforts of the frontcourt. "We're well-rounded in regards to experience and height," Kinlock said. "I think everyone is hungry. Everyone wants to contribute."

NORTHEAST

NICKNAME: Eagles
COACH: Kristi Ellenberger, second season
LEAGUE: 3A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 1-19
RETURNING PLAYERS: Katie McGahagan (Sr., G); Nikki Heffner (Sr., F); Lindsey Saunders (Sr., G); Leah Warner (Jr., G); Iesha Butler (Jr., F).

NEWCOMERS: Doniqua Keith (Jr., G); Tori Shifflett (Jr., G); Megan Green (Jr., F); Amber Graybill (Jr., G); Latifah Butler (Fr., F); Brooke Miller (So., G).

OUTLOOK: The Eagles look to bounce back after a tough campaign, but coach Kristi Ellenberger thinks she has just the players to get the job done.

"Last year was a big developmental year for us, so I am looking for my seniors to step up and take charge," Ellenberger said.

One of those seniors, Katie McGahagan, was one of the top scorers in the county a year ago, and should be near the top of the statistical leaders this year as well. She scored 16.2 points a game in 2007.

Nikki Heffner and Iesha Butler add the low-post dimension to the team.

"With Katie McGahagan's ball-handling and Nikki and Iesha down low, I really think we will turn some heads this year," Ellenberger said.

OLD MILL

NICKNAME: Patriots
COACH: Craig White, 12th year
LEAGUE: 4A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 19-6
RETURNING PLAYERS: Ciarra Lucas (Sr., G); Kourtney Salisbury (Jr., G); Jasmine Smith (Jr., F); Shaunte' Atkinson (Sr., G); Shantel Sharps (Sr., F); Eunice Rijos (Sr., G); Carly Conley (So., F); Breonna Pinkcett (So., F).

NEWCOMERS: Chelsea Hauswirth (Sr., G); Lindsey Atkinson (Jr., G); Nachel Martin (Jr., G); Airrika Brown (So., F); Denisha Hawkins (So., F).

OUTLOOK: The Patriots return eight players, including two starters, from last year's 19-win team that finished as runner-up in the county championship.

The offensive attack is centered around 5-foot-8 guard Ciarra Lucas, a well-rounded playmaker and second-team All-County performer a year ago.

Lucas, paired with Shaunte' Atkinson and Kourtney Salisbury on the outside, comprise a formidable backcourt trio.

Speed and experience are the Patriots' forte, while the frontcourt players will develop over the course of the season.

"(We) are hoping to capitalize on new, young post players to complement the experience at the guard positions," coach Craig White said.

ST. MARY'S

NICKNAME: Saints
COACH: Terri Daniels, first year
LEAGUE: IAAM B Conference
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 6-19
RETURNING PLAYERS: Melissa Perkins (Sr., G); Emily Slear (Sr., G); Katie Bollhorst (Sr., G/F); Megan Bollhorst (Jr., F/C); Trisha Bigelow (Jr., G); Gretchen Mayer (Jr., G/F); Megan Toomey (Jr., G); Melanie Mocniak (So., G/F); Kelly Broussard (So., G)

NEWCOMERS: Casey Schilling (So., G); Meghan McCarthy (So., G)

OUTLOOK: A new coach and a new season have given the Saints a new attitude, as they enter the new season looking to improve from last year's 6-19 record.

Daniels, a 1999 graduate of St. Mary's, said her team will have a completely different outlook from last year's team and is ready to build up the program.

Melissa Perkins, Emily Slear and Katie Bollhorst are expect lead the team both on and off the court, and Daniels said the girls have verbally and physically shown their leadership in the team's practices and scrimmages.

"I think the girls already have moved out from the past and are ready to move forward and have an exciting, fun year," Daniels said. "I think it's going to be a really good year for us."

Mocniak and Broussard are also expected to make significant contributions this season, and Daniels said they have the potential to be Division I players in college.

SEVERN

NICKNAME: Admirals
COACH: Chuck Miller, ninth year
LEAGUE: IAAM B Conference
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 23-3, IAAM B Conference champions

RETURNING PLAYERS: Leanne Hug (Sr., F); Caitlin Sheehan (Sr., C); Aura Payne (Jr., PG); Katie Dickerson (Sr., G); Leah Cranmer (Jr., G); Raven Owens (Jr., G/F); Liz Harbeson (Jr., G); Rachia Davis (Sr., F)

NEWCOMERS: Cassandra Quigley (So., C); Jahaira Ryan (So., G); Alexa Kunowsky (Fr., G).

OUTLOOK: Versatile, deep and experienced, the Admirals will look to defend their conference title despite losing All-County center Taylor Wiczorek to graduation. The Admirals are returning four starters, including All-Conference performer Leah Cranmer, and its top two players off the bench.

"From top to bottom this is one of the deepest teams I've had," said coach Chuck Miller, whose team has claimed three conference championships in the last five years.

Cranmer and Katie Dickerson each averaged more than 10 points per game last season and will be expected to carry a lot of the scoring burden again in the Admirals' three-guard attack. Seniors LeAnne Hug and Caitlin Sheehan will be responsible for controlling the boards.

"It will be good year," Miller said. "If they all pick up their stats a little we should have no problem making up (for Wiczorek)."

SEVERN PARK

NICKNAME: Falcons
COACH: Carrie Weimer, third year
LEAGUE: 4A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 15-9
RETURNING PLAYERS: Anna Patterson (Sr., F); Kathleen Barranco (Sr., G); Emily vonHollen (Sr., G); Christina Choi (Jr., G).

NEWCOMERS: Sarah Freeman (So., G); Katie Douma (Jr., F).

OUTLOOK: The Falcons will have an entirely different look this year, following the loss of four seniors from last season. Filling the void will be Kathleen Barranco and Anna Patterson, both four-year varsity players.

One of the keys to the season will be the ability to play more as a team. Last season, the team relied heavily on Brittany Lilley, who graduated, and the Severna Park coach Carrie Weimer expects the Falcons to coach more of an all-around time this year.

Weimer is hoping the team will do well in counties and make a strong run in the state playoffs.

"We're just looking forward to a fun, successful season," Weimer said.

SOUTH RIVER

NICKNAME: Seahawks
COACH: Mike Zivic, second season
LEAGUE: 4A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 15-6
RETURNING PLAYERS: Amanda Lawrence (Sr., G); Lauren Spadaro (Sr., G); Amanda Scott (Sr., C); Amanda Norman (Sr., G).

NEWCOMERS: Mary Milligan (Jr., G); Kailee Knight (So., F); Jaren Carlo (Jr., C); Katelynn Thompson (Jr., F); Domonique Hagins (Fr., G); Aleeyah Hopkins (Fr., G).

OUTLOOK: The Seahawks only have four players with varsity experience on the roster and will rely on a number of young players to contribute this season.

Jaclyn Nucci led the way last year for the Seahawks, but the 1,000-point scorer graduated, leaving a big void.

"We have a lot of big shoes to fill,"