

Another List of America's National Champion High School Basketball Teams, Year by Year (and Era by Era)

The Eras of High School Basketball

1. The Pioneering Era 1900-1919
2. The Dead Ball 1920-1939
3. The Low Post Era, Part One 1940-1969
4. The Low Post Era, Part Two 1970-1989
5. The Three-Point Era 1990-2023

National Champions Descriptions

1. The Pioneering Era 1900-1919

American boys and young men had embraced a series of sporting “crazes” throughout the final third of the 19th century, thanks to industrialization, the specialization of labor and the emergence of leisure time. These sporting “crazes” included baseball, cricket, bicycling, tennis, roller skating, polo, racing, field sports, canoeing, gymnastics, curling, boxing, hunting and archery, according to historian Frederick Paxson. Somehow, he managed to miss football, golf, wrestling and basketball; and, to clarify, by “racing,” he means foot-racing, or running or track. By 1876 and continuing through 1893, “In nearly every game we play today,” Paxson wrote (in 1917), “there is evidence that playing expanded on a widening scale.”

America also saw the growth of another phenomenon during this same period of time, and it was targeted toward the same cohort of boys and young men who embraced sports and games most fervently, and this was the phenomenon of education for the masses—secondary education, high schools. Well, who knew—who could have predicted—that when these boys and young men made their way to these new schools, they would bring their sports and games with them. Soon, they were creating sports teams—football teams, basketball teams, baseball teams and track teams, mostly—at school, and challenging neighboring schools to a game or two. The adults had no choice but to intervene. The boys were going to play with or without the support of their teachers and parents, and the adults saw that the boys needed guidance in order to learn how to play in a safe, sportsmanlike and ethical manner. Sports were quickly embraced by the schools because, like the educational experience itself, sports were meant to build character. Youth sports quickly evolved from a period of chaos to one of established organization.

In some places, school teams were common by the turn of the 20th century. In other places, it took a little longer. Heck, ten of the 48 contiguous states only achieved statehood after 1890, and three of those only in the 20th century. But, by about 1920 high school basketball was commonplace in almost all of the 48 states.

1900 Minneapolis Central

There were no high school basketball champions in 1900. No state champions, no city champions, no national champions, mythical or otherwise. The only relevant data we've seen is this: The Minnesota Gophers went 10-2 and beat future Big 10 opponents Iowa and Wisconsin by a total of 48-19. They defeated **Minneapolis Central** high school 8-7. Central was led by George Tuck, who became a Gopher in 1902 and led the Gophers to 1902 and 1903 national championships. In 1905, he became the Gophers' 1st all-American. We're not sure whether Bobby Marshall was also a member of this team, but he became a prominent baseball and football player after attending Central in 1900 and 1901. He was the 1st prominent Black athlete in mostly-white Minnesota, and played both (baseball and football) at the University of Minnesota, earning football all-American honors. He even played hockey at Minnesota. Later, he helped the St. Paul Colored Gophers to the 1909 “world

colored championship” in a 7-game series win over the Chicago Leland Giants; and, later still, he played football for the Minneapolis Marines and then the Rock Island Independents in the American Professional Football ASSociation (APFA), the precursor to the NFL.

But, honestly, Central was George Tuck’s basketball team, and he also played for the Minneapolis YMCA at the same time. When he and his friends played against a school opponent, they played as Minneapolis Central. When they played against non-school opponents, they played as the Minneapolis YMCA. As the YMCA, Tuck and his friends gave the city of Red Wing’s best senior men’s team its only home loss among 50 or more wins from 1900 to 1907. The YMCA was where they played their home games either way. In fact, that’s where they had learned to play the game in the 1st place. Central was the 1st high school in Minneapolis, founded in 1860, and its only high school until 1888. It was closed in 1982

Player of the Year George Tuck, Minneapolis Central

1901 Chicago Hyde Park

Chicago was the 1st place in America where an official, school-sponsored sporting administration was put in place, and it was the 1st place where a bona fide high school champion was crowned. The Cook County High School League was formed way back in 1889, and split into a Chicago Public League and a Suburban League in 1912. The reason for the League(s), unofficially, was/were because the boys, after they had formed their teams and challenged neighboring schools, were wont to recruit boys, often older boys, who were not enrolled in their school at all, to play on their teams. This was most commonplace in basketball, and the basket or hoop was commonly referred to at the time as a “ring.” So, these illicit recruits came to be called “ringers.”

It is not known whether the boys at the **Chicago Hyde Park** high school had recruited ringers or not, but in 1901 they won the 1st Chicago boys basketball championship and the 1st meaningful high school championship anywhere in America, beating Chicago Northern Division 23-22 in OT. Walter Eckersall, future all-American in basketball and football at the University of Chicago, was Hyde Park’s player-coach. He stuck around to lead Hyde Park to a mythical national football title in 1902. Brooklyn Polytechnic came all the way out to Chicago to contest for the title, and went home a 105-0 loser. Eckersall then led the U. of Chicago to an even more mythical national college title in 1905. Hyde Park was, then, the 1st high school to gain national championships in both basketball and football. Hyde Park high school still exists today, while Northern Division later became Lincoln Park high in 1979.

Eckersall was idolized by his legendary coach, Amos Alonzo Stagg, because of his “complete dedication” to victory. Eckersall worked hard, to be sure. And he lived hard and played hard. He became a successful newspaper columnist, but Stagg eventually distanced himself from Eckersall because of his boozing and carousing. Eckersall died of cirrhosis of the liver at the age of 43.

Philadelphia Central is reported to have won the 1st Philadelphia city title in this year, but not much is known about that. The 1st official Philadelphia title appears to have been awarded in 1912.

1901	1. Chicago Hyde Park 2. Philadelphia Central Player of the Year Walter Eckersall, Chicago Hyde Park
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1902 Chicago Medill

Chicago remained the only place with an official high school basketball championship in 1902. So, **Chicago Medill** was the only official high school champion in America, winning the Chicago (or, officially, the Cook County) title 16-15 over Lake high school. Medill high school, located on West 14th Place on the Lower West Side, was closed in 1948. It was a charter member of the Cook County league in 1901, and this was its 1st and only basketball championship. Later, they helped to form the Chicago public league in 1913. Lake high school was created in Lake Township, Cook County, in 1881. In 1889 Lake Township was annexed to Chicago and the school became part of the Chicago system. It was renamed Tilden high school in 1915.

1903 Chicago Northern Division

Chicago Northern Division (now Lincoln Park) won the Cook County title easily, clobbering the defending champion Medill 41-14.

1904 Chicago Northern Division (2)

Chicago Northern Division repeated as Chicagoland champion, beating Austin high school 26-19. Austin, located on Chicago's West Side, soon (in the early 1920s) became better known for the Austin High School Gang, who became internationally well-known jazz musicians. Most prominent were cornet player Jimmy McPartland and alto saxophonist Frank Teschemacher. Meanwhile, **Flushing** was the 1st champion of the New York PSAL, with Boys high school 2nd and Commerce high school 3rd. The New York Public School Athletic League (PSAL) was founded in 1903 and claims to be the oldest and largest such league in America. It may be the largest, but Chicago appears to have precedence as to the oldest.

1903	1. Chicago Northern Division (2) 2. Flushing, New York
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1905 Chicago Austin

Chicago Austin high school won its 1st Chicagoland championship, clobbering Lake by the outlandish score of 66-22.

New York DeWitt Clinton won the 2nd PSAL title, its 1st of 12 from 1905 to 1947. Its star was Barney Sedran, who was initially denied a place on the Clinton team because he was considered too small at 5-4 and 115 pounds. Eventually he became their player-coach and, while in high school, also led the Lower East Side Settlement House to 2 AAU city titles. He went on to star at CCNY and in 13 years of professional ball. He helped Utica win a world pro title in 1914, scoring 34 points in one game without a backboard.

Watertown was unbeaten, though we don't know how many games they played. **Detroit Eastern** won the 2nd-ever Detroit championship with a 10-0 regular season record. 4 of Eastern's 5 players won all-city honors, led by Charles Roxborough who, in 1930, became the 1st Black elected to the Michigan legislature. St. Lawrence college launched a statewide championship in Wisconsin, and it was America's 1st statewide championship. **Fond du Lac** won the 1st such championship 32-24 over Sheboygan. Fond du Lac's "little forward, Dana" was the star of the tournament. No 1st names, please.

1905	1. Chicago Austin 2 (tie). New York DeWitt Clinton 2 (tie). Watertown, New York 3. Detroit Eastern 4. Fond du Lac, Wisconsin Player of the Year Barney Sedran, New York DeWitt Clinton
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1906 Oak Park, Illinois

Oak Park high school, now Oak Park and River Forest High School, won the 1906 Cook County championship over defending champion Austin high school, 21-14. Oak Park was an autonomous village and so they became part of the Suburban League in 1912. This, then, was their only Chicago championship. Soon, however, they would gain greater fame as mythical national football champions from 1910 through 1913 under coach Bob Zuppke, who would later gain even greater fame as coach of the national champion Illinois football team with Red Grange. Oak Park, in other words, was the 2nd high school to win mythical national championships in basketball and football. **New York Boys** high school won the 3rd PSAL title.

1906	1. Oak Park, Illinois 2. New York Boys
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1907 Chicago Lake View

The Austin high school gang lost the city championship for the 3rd time, this time to **Chicago Lake View**, 24-21. Lake View high was founded in 1874, but both the city and the school, located just north of downtown Chicago on Lake Michigan, became part of the city of Chicago in 1889. Lake View high school continues to operate today. **Queens Townsend Harris** won the 4th New York PSAL title, while **Detroit Central** won the unofficial Detroit title. **Crawfordsville**, Indiana, was unbeaten and declared itself

to be the high school champions of Indiana, but only 4 of its opponents were high schools. Among its players was Ward "Piggy" Lambert who later found fame as the Purdue coach and the designer of the fast break.

1907	1. Chicago Lake View 2. Queens Townsend Harris, New York 3. Detroit Central 4. Crawfordsville, Indiana
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1908 Peoria, Illinois (17-1)

Illinois became the 2nd state to crown a high school basketball champion, drawing upon the experience of the Cook County League. **Peoria** won the 1st Illinois title in 1908, beating Rock Island 48-29 in the state final to finish 17-1. Their only loss was to Peoria Spalding 21-10. How hard was it to win on the road in those days? Peoria had beaten Spalding 43-23 earlier in the year. They also defeated Bradley University, and Streator by a score of 105-23 as Bill Forrest scored 22 field goals. In the state final, Frank Trefzger made 20 free throws. For whatever reason, 2 of the other favorites going into the tournament, Rockford and Washington, pulled out of the tournament the day before it began.

Someone at that time knew whether Peoria was better than the Chicago champion, **Chicago Lake** high school (not to be confused with Lake View, they were 2 different schools), who gave Austin their 3rd straight championship game defeat and their 4th in 5 years, 25-21. We prefer Peoria if only to call attention to the 1st statewide championship. Over time, the Peoria school district has splintered into 18 different school districts as the population has grown.

Well, honestly, we must report that Kansas and Utah share with Illinois the honor of sponsoring the 2nd state basketball tournaments in 1908. Those tournaments were won by **Halstead**, Kansas, and **Lehi**, Utah. Kansas would quickly emerge as a national power, but Halstead (7-2) probably was not one of them. Meanwhile, **New York Townsend Harris** repeated as champion of the of the PSAL and New York basketball was undoubtedly good enough that they are deserving of a mention.

1908	1. Peoria, Illinois (17-1) 2. Chicago Lake 3. Queens Townsend Harris, New York (2) Player of the Year Bill Forrest, Peoria, Illinois
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1909 Chicago Lake View (2)

Chicago Lake View clobbered Calumet 40-17 to win the Cook County title. Calumet opened as a township high school in 1889, was annexed into the city of Chicago in 1900, and closed in 2006. Meanwhile, **Detroit Central** won the Detroit city championship in 1906, 1907 and 1909, then claimed a mythical Michigan title in 1909. No competing claims appear to have emerged. **Halstead**, Kansas, repeated as state champion and this time they were unbeaten in 11 games. Eudora also made their way to the final, but was disqualified for using ineligible players, and semi-finalist Chanute was elevated to 2nd place. Halstead has since won another 6 Kansas titles for a total of 8. Lebanon, Indiana, finished its season at 22-2, but both losses were to **Crawfordsville**, and even the Lebanon newspaper conceded the mythical state title to Crawfordsville. By now, all but 2 of Crawfordsville's opponents were high schools.

As of 1909, the list of jurisdictions with official high school champions had expanded to include Arkansas (Texarkana), Louisiana (Baton Rouge) and Ohio (Mansfield).

1909	1. Chicago Lake View (2) 2. Detroit Central (2) 3. Halstead, Kansas (11-0) 4. Crawfordsville, Indiana (2)
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1900-1909		All-Stars
1. Chicago Austin 1905 2. Peoria, Illinois 1908 (17-1) 3. Chicago Lake View 1909	6. Halstead, Kansas 1909 7. Chicago Northern Division 1903 8. Crawfordsville, Indiana 1909	C- George Tuck, Minneapolis Central 1900 F- Bill Forrest, Peoria, IL 1908

4. New York DeWitt Clinton 1905 5. Detroit Central 1909	9. Minneapolis Central 1900 10. Chicago Hyde Park 1901	F- Walter Eckersall, Chicago Hyde Park 1901 G- Barney Sedran, New York DeWitt Clinton 1905 G- Piggy Lambert, Crawfordsville, IN 1907
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1910 Chicago Englewood

Chicago Englewood, located on the city's south side, defeated Calumet 30-18 to win the Cook County championship. Englewood long was noted for its rivalry with Hyde Park located just to the east on the lake, though it (Englewood) is also thought to have played the 1st interscholastic game in Illinois, beating Elgin 16-12. By 1910, they had won 3 state track titles, 8 Cook County football titles and 3 baseball titles. Englewood closed in 2008. Also by 1910, Chicago basketball was still the best in the nation, though there can be no doubt that basketball in the states of California, Illinois, Kansas and New York and the cities of Detroit and New York were getting better.

There were no new additions this year, so the candidates represented the same jurisdictions as last year: Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, New York, Ohio and Utah, plus the cities of Chicago, Detroit, and New York. Among all of these, Bloomington, Illinois; Stuyvesant, New York; Stockton, California; and Clay County, Kansas, would seem to have been the best. **Bloomington** defeated Rock Island 32-25 to win the 3rd Illinois title. They were led by Adlai Rust, who played college ball at Illinois Wesleyan. **New York Stuyvesant** won its 2nd straight New York PSAL title. Finally, after beating Newton 32-20 for the Kansas title, **Clay County** claimed the championship of the Missouri Valley and why not? They defeated Topeka, who had defeated Kansas City Westport, Missouri, who had beaten St. Joseph's, Missouri, who had beaten Omaha, Nebraska. Finally, **Stockton** (10-2) defeated Fresno for "bragging rights," not an official championship, in northern California. MaxPreps prefers Stockton as its choice for national champion, noting that it was a basketball hotbed. This is true. When a team from Red Wing, Minnesota, toured the western U.S. in 1906, winning 36 games and losing 6, they described Stockton as "champions of California" and as the game they had most eagerly awaited. Red Wing won.

The Crawfordsville-Lebanon rivalry heated up in Indiana. Lebanon was 20-2, Crawfordsville 13-1, and the 2 teams split a pair of games. Lebanon claimed the title based on 7 more wins than Crawfordsville. Crawfordsville claimed the title based on a better winning percentage, and it also declined to play a 3rd game against Lebanon at a neutral site. This rivalry was instrumental in bringing about the Indiana state tournament the following year.

1910	1. Chicago Englewood 2. Bloomington, Illinois (14-2) 3. <i>Stockton, California (10-2)</i> 4. New York Stuyvesant 5 (tie). Crawfordsville (13-1) and Lebanon, Indiana (20-2) 6. Clay County, Kansas (14-0) Player of the Year Adlai Rust, Bloomington, Illinois
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1911 Rockford, Illinois (19-1)

Rockford won the Illinois state championship in 1911 with a record of 19-1 by demolishing Mt. Carroll 60-15 in the state final. Their one loss was at Belvidere, 32-27. 4 starters made the all-tournament team led by high scorers Frank Johnson and "Bealy" Thomas. Rockford, later Rockford Central, was the 1st high school opened in Rockford in 1885. It was closed in 1940.

Lodi won the 1st official California state title, according to MaxPreps, though there is no record anywhere on the Internet that confirms this. Other records suggest that California northern and southern sectional titles were 1st awarded around 1914, and a state championship meeting between the 2 began in 1916. In any event, Lodi, according to MaxPreps, lost 7 times playing against teams of every different stripe, including colleges and other teams of older men. But, they clobbered Oakland Poly 59-23. This doesn't sound like a California state title game, however, as the C.I.F. always matched a northern champion against a southern champion. Lodi and Oakland are both considered to be located in the northern section. Still, Lodi sounds like a good team.

A new **Crawfordsville** high school was built and opened in 1910, and Crawfordsville quite famously won the very 1st Indiana state high school basketball championship that very school year. They finished 16-2 with a 24-17 win over Lebanon in the state final. In its 1st tournament, one that was motivated in large part by the vigorous rivalry of Crawfordsville and Lebanon, the

tournament organizers invited 12 teams and began the playoffs without any 1st or 2nd round byes. As a result, after 2 rounds of play, there were 3 teams remaining in contention—Bluffton, Crawfordsville and Lebanon. Well, anything other than a Crawfordsville-Lebanon final would have been a disappointment so, sure enough, Lebanon got the bye. The old Crawfordsville high school remained in service until 1993, when a new high school building was built. **Lane Tech** won the Chicago title, beating Hyde Park 34-29.

Montana and Nebraska joined Illinois and Indiana in awarding their 1st state championships this year.

1911	1. Rockford, Illinois (19-1) 2. <i>Lodi, California (40-7)</i> 3. Crawfordsville, Indiana (16-2) (3) 4. Chicago Lane Tech Player of the Year Frank Johnson, Rockford, Illinois
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1912 Batavia, Illinois (27-2)

East Batavia high school and West Batavia high school were merged in 1911, and immediate advantage was taken as **Batavia** won the Illinois championship over Galesburg 28-25 to finish with a record of 27-2. So, what do you know, MaxPreps agrees with us on this one. Batavia was led by Ray “Irish” McDermott and Walter “Dutch” Trantow. Meanwhile, **New York Stuyvesant** won its 3rd PSAL title in 4 years.

Iowa and South Dakota were the only states to launch a state tournament in 1912.

1912	1. Batavia, Illinois (27-2) 2. New York Stuyvesant (2) Player of the Year Ray “Irish” McDermott, Batavia, Illinois
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1913 Galesburg, Illinois (17-1)

Galesburg won the Illinois state title, beating Peoria Manual 37-36 to finish 17-1. Newspapers called Galesberg’s Herb Pihl “the big smoke” of the game, as he scored 21 of the winner’s 37 points, while Lester DeTrempe scored 16 for Peoria.

Nickerson Reno County won both the University invitational and the KSHSAA tournament, the latter for the 2nd time. They beat 2-time champion Halstead 30-23 in the former, and Emporia Normal College high school 49-27 in the latter to finish 26-1. From 1912 to 1914, Reno County won 3 state titles and finished 2nd 3 times. Phog Allen was an official at the Kansas University Invitational, while Dr. James A. Naismith was among the spectators and spoke at length about his creation of the game which was not yet even a quarter-century in the past. MaxPreps likes Reno for the national title.

The 1st-ever national high school tournament was held in Chicago in 1913, sponsored by the University of Chicago and their intrepid athletic director Amos Alonzo Stagg, but held at Evanston high school on Chicago’s north side. It’s never an upset when the home team wins and Evanston indeed won the championship. But they did not win the Chicago championship. That was won for the 3rd time (previously 1901 and 1912) by **Chicago Hyde Park** over Lyons 11-9.

Minnesota was the only state to launch a new state championship in 1913.

1913	1. Galesburg, Illinois (17-1) 2. <i>Nickerson Reno County, Kansas (26-1)</i> 3. Chicago Hyde Park (2) 4. Whittier, California Player of the Year Homer Stonebraker, Wingate, Indiana
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1914 (tie) San Mateo (16-0) and Whittier, California

The vast state of California couldn’t quite yet get it together for a statewide championship, but champions of northern and southern California were crowned. **San Mateo**, whom MaxPreps chose as their national champion, went 16-0 and won the northern section. Captain Sheldon Perham was their star. **Whittier** won the southern section for the 4th straight year.

Chicago Frank W. Parker high school was founded in 1901 as an independent school serving K through 12, but not under the administration of the Chicago Public Schools. It competed in athletics in the Cook County League and later the Chicago Public League, however. Parker won the city title in 1914, defeating Lane 18-16 in the final. **New York DeWitt Clinton** won its 3rd title in the on-again, off-again New York playoffs.

Meanwhile, the Illinois and Indiana champions combined for 10 losses, but won their respective finals by a total of more than 50 points. The Indiana tournament was an “open” tournament initially, until 77 teams entered in 1914, forcing the authorities to use 4 courts and play 76 games in 2 days. **Wingate, Indiana**, played 2 games on Friday and 4 on Saturday. They had defeated South Bend 15-14 in 5 OT the previous year to finish 22-3. This year they were just 19-5 but demolished Anderson 36-8 in the final to repeat as state champion. They had suffered 4 straight losses at mid-season, as they played 80 percent of their games on the road because, well, they didn’t have a gymnasium in Wingate. Homer Stonebraker was their star both years. He once scored 80 points in a game in 1913. He went on to play at Wabash, where Abe Saperstein saw him and said he was the best center he ever saw. **Lawrence, Kansas**, swept both the U. of Kansas Invitational and the KHSAA tournament, beating Reno County 35-25 and 25-23 in the respective finals.

North Dakota and West Virginia joined the list of states with statewide basketball tournaments in 1914.

1914	1 (tie). San Mateo, California (16-0) 1 (tie). Whittier, California 2. Chicago Frank W. Parker 3. New York DeWitt Clinton (2) 4. Wingate, Indiana (19-5) 5. Lawrence, Kansas (20-1) Player of the Year Homer Stonebraker, Wingate, Indiana
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1915 Iola, Kansas (26-1)

Iola, Kansas, led by Forrest “Red” DiBernardi, was regarded as the best team in Kansas. DiBernardi went on to win all-America honors at Westminster (Missouri), and was later a 5-time AAU all-American. They won the Kansas University Open, beating Newton, 30-17. They lost to Wichita 41-31 at the KHSAA tournament, however. Wichita previously had lost twice to Newton and their won-loss record was not recorded. They were led by Roy Wynne, who went on to a 6-year career coaching college football and basketball.

Freeport avenged its defeat in last year’s Illinois final, easily defeating Springfield 27-11 for a 2-year record of 35-3. Their best player was Torrey Foy, their nickname is still the Pretzels. **San Mateo** and **Whittier** repeated as the champions of California’s northern and southern sections, but still did not play off for a statewide title. **Thorntown, Indiana**, hammered Montmorenci 33-10 in the Indiana final.

Chicago Lane Tech was founded as a technical high school in 1908 with carpentry, cabinet making, foundry, welding, molding, machine shop and electrical as core subjects. It remains today as one of 11 selective enrollment schools in Chicago. Over the years, Lane has won 16 state athletic championships. In 1915, they won the city basketball title easily, 23-7 over Calumet. On the other hand, it is said that they played an exhibition against the state champions from Freeport, and lost 70-6. We don’t know if we believe this.

Meanwhile, **Lincoln, Nebraska**, won the 2nd of what would become 5 state titles in 7 years. MaxPreps prefers them as the 1915 national champion, noting that Lincoln won more games this year than in any of its other state title seasons at 21-1. They beat Omaha Central as they did in 4 of their 5 state finals. In this case, it was 17-10. Sorry, we don’t regard them as one of the top 5 teams nationally.

North Carolina and Virginia joined the list of 18 states now sponsoring state basketball championship tournaments.

1915	1. Iola, Kansas (26-1) 2 (tie). San Mateo, California (2) 2 (tie). Whittier, California (2) 3. Freeport, Illinois (18-2) 4. Thorntown, Indiana (22-5) 5. Chicago Lane Tech (2) Player of the Year Forrest “Red” DiBernardi, Iola, Kansas
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1916 Whittier, California (21-1) (2)

Whittier beat Berkeley 31-20 to win the 1st statewide California title, after winning their 6th straight southern California title, with a 21-1 record. Whittier is now served by 5 school districts and 14 high schools of which Whittier high is still one. MaxPreps likes Whittier as its national champion and they are, of course, a reasonable choice. “Julius Klawans, southern California’s leading basketball expert” chose Whittier forward Lester as the state’s best player.

Fond du Lac won the very 1st official Wisconsin state title, beating Grand Rapids 22-7 to finish with a record of 19-1. In fact, Lawrence college hosted an invitational tournament from 1905 through 1915, and those winners are now recognized as state champions. Fond du Lac won the 1st Lawrence tournament in 1905 and the last one in 1915 as well as the first official title in 1916.

In Kansas, **Newton** (18-2) upset **Iola** (25-2) in the now consolidated Kansas tournament. The official score was 51-48 in OT, but that was highly controversial. At the end of regulation, the scoreboard showed Iola ahead 47-46 but Newton protested and, after 40 minutes of discussion, the score was declared a tie at 47-all. Newton won in OT. DeBernardi had been injured early in the game and scored just 4 points in the 2nd half and OT. He moved to Kansas City, Missouri, Northeast high school for his senior season of 1917. Newton was known for its tough defense—its tough **zone** defense, that is. Coach Frank Lindley was considered by some to be among the inventors of the zone defense. It also should be noted that Newton was a member of the Arkansas Valley Conference (AVC) located in north central Kansas, and that the legacy of Kansas basketball in the beginning was very largely the legacy of the Arkansas Valley. Through 1940, AVC teams won 67 of 140 slots in the Kansas tournament(s) semi-finals and 18 of 37 state championships. Along with Newton, AVC teams included Arkansas City, Halstead, Reno County, Wichita and Winfield.

Hyde Park won a then-record 4th Chicago title 24-20 over Marshall high school. Along with Wisconsin, Arizona also launched its state tournament in 1916.

1916	1. Whittier, California (21-1) (3) 2. Fond du Lac, Wisconsin (19-1) (2) 3 (tie). Iola, Kansas (25-2) (2) 3 (tie). Newton, Kansas (18-2) 4. Hyde Park, Illinois (3) Player of the Year Forrest “Red” DiBernardi, Iola, Kansas
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1917 Oakland Fremont

Undefeated **Oakland Fremont** (we don’t know how many games they played) won the northern California title and then the state championship, beating Fresno 36-12. MaxPreps likes Fremont as its 1917 national champion.

Chicago Wendell Phillips won the Chicago championship, beating Lane Tech 22-11. Bob Koehler was their star, and he went on to letter in baseball and basketball at Northwestern and to play football for the Chicago Bears. Phillips was located on Chicago’s South Side, and the South Division high school, formed in 1875, changed its name to honor the abolitionist Wendell Phillips in 1900. During the Great Migration of the 1920s, Phillips became the 1st primarily African-American high school in Chicago. Its name was briefly changed to DuSable, but it remains Phillips high school to this day. In the late 1920s, several members of the Phillips basketball team formed the nucleus of the Harlem Globetrotters.

Newton repeated as Kansas champion and this year there was no controversy. Newton finished just 15-3, but in a conference, the Arkansas Valley, that may have exceeded Chicago as America’s toughest. And, this time, they hammered conference rival Wichita 58-27 in the final. **Lebanon** won its 2nd Indiana title (and it would repeat in 1918), beating Gary 34-26 to finish 26-2. The Lebanon coach from 1912 to 1916 was Piggy Lambert. He left in 1916, however, to become the Purdue coach, where he went on to greater fame (some may disagree) by winning a mythical national collegiate championship in 1932 with center “Stretch” Murphy and guard John Wooden to run his famous (or infamous) “firewagon fast break.” But, Lebanon took the lessons he had taught and used them to win the 1916 and 1918 titles. Lebanon high school was founded in 1876. Purdue all-American Rick Mount came from there. **Springfield** finished just 10-3 but hammered Belvidere 32-11 to win the Illinois title.

Idaho was the only state and the 21st overall to launch a state basketball championship in 1917.

1917	1. Oakland Fremont 2. Chicago Wendell Phillips 3. Newton, Kansas (15-3) (2) 4. Lebanon, Indiana (26-2) 5. Springfield, Illinois (10-3) Player of the Year Don White, Lebanon, Indiana
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1918 Lebanon, Indiana (28-2) (2)

Lebanon repeated as Indiana champion, beating Anderson 24-20 in OT to finish 28-2. Don White was their star in 1917 and 1918. He went on to play at Purdue, where he led the Boilermakers to 2 Big 10 titles, leading the conference in scoring once. **Chicago Englewood** defeated McKinley 21-6 for the Chicago championship. **Madison Central** won the Wisconsin championship with ease, winning 3 games by an average score of 33-14 and beating Watertown 37-17 in the final to finish 16-1.

Little Rock Central won their 5th Arkansas state title in 9 years, going 25-0 with an average margin of 64-18. MaxPreps prefers Little Rock as its national champion for 1918. We're not convinced Arkansas basketball was that good.

Kentucky, Oklahoma and Wyoming all joined the list of states with basketball championship tournaments in 1918, for a total of 23.

1918	1. Lebanon, Indiana (28-2) (2) 2. Chicago Englewood (2) 3. Madison Central, Wisconsin (16-1) 4. Little Rock Central, Arkansas (25-0) Player of the Year Don White, Lebanon, Indiana
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1919 Rockford, Illinois (23-1) (2)

Rockford won the Illinois state title for the 2nd time, beating Springfield 39-20 to finish 23-1. Rockford was led by Harry Englund, who later played with the Staley's Bears, the precursors of the Chicago Bears football team.

Winfield won the 1st of 2 straight Kansas titles at 23-0, scoring more than 50 points per game. They outscored their state tournament opponents by an average of 30-9. MaxPreps prefers Winfield as its 1919 national champion, and they're a reasonable choice. **Fond du Lac** won its 3rd Wisconsin title since 1905, though just its 2nd official title since 1916. This time they were unbeaten and knocked off Eau Claire 28-19 for the title. **New York DeWitt Clinton** won its 4th PSAL title and its 2nd straight.

Oregon launched its state tournament in 1919, for a total nationally now of 24.

1919	1. Rockford, Illinois (23-1) (2) 2. Winfield, Kansas (23-0) 3. Fond du Lac, Wisconsin (16-0) (3) 4. New York DeWitt Clinton (3) Player of the Year Harry Englund, Rockford, Illinois
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1910-1919		All-Stars
1. Iola, Kansas 1915 (26-1) 2 (tie). Rockford, Illinois 1911 (19-1) 2 (tie). Rockford, Illinois 1919 (23-1) 3. Whittier, California 1916 (21-1) 4. Winfield, Kansas 1919 (23-0) 5. Oakland Fremont 1917	6. Batavia, Illinois 1912 (27-2) 7 (tie). San Mateo, California 1914 (16-0) 7 (tie). Whittier, California 1914 8 (tie). Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 1916 (19-1) 8 (tie). Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 1919 (16-0) 9. Lebanon, Indiana 1918 (28-2) 10. Chicago Wendell Phillips 1917	C- Homer Stonebraker, Wingate, IN 1914 F- Forrest DiBernardi, Iola, KS 1916 F- Harry Englund, Rockford, IL 1919 G- Adlai Rust, Bloomington, IL 1910 G- Don White, Lebanon, IN 1918

2. The Dead Ball 1920- 1939

By 1920, most states had a basketball tournament of some kind, and some of America's largest cities, such as Chicago and Detroit and New York, had separate tournaments. A few states had already begun to split their school into classes based on enrollment.

We refer to this as "the Dead Ball Era" because, in most places, coaches emphasized a slow-paced, ball-control style of play. There was a center jump after every basket, like the face-off in hockey, to determine possession. A team that could routinely win those jump balls could aspire almost to shut out their opponents. Before 1920, higher-scoring games were not uncommon because many teams did not have a coach and, left to their own devices, the boys came down on the side of running and jumping and shooting the ball. After 1920, most high schools had coaches, and scoring plummeted. It is also true that 20 percent was considered throughout most of the 1920s and 1930s to be a decent shooting percentage.

This was also the era of segregated education and of national tournaments. An "open" national championship was held in Chicago from 1920 to 1930, though Black players were barred from playing in this inaccurately described "open" tournament. A national Catholic tournament was held, also in Chicago, from 1924 to 1941. National tournaments for Blacks-only segregated schools were held from 1929 to 1967.

1920 Franklin, Indiana (29-1)

Franklin won the Indiana championship, beating Lafayette 31-13 to finish 29-1. They would go on to repeat as Indiana champions in 1921 (29-4) and 1922 (31-4), and would come to be known as the Wonder 5. They went 104-10 over 4 years. Ernest "Griz" Wagner was their coach and "Fuzzy" Vandivier their star. John Wooden said Fuzzy was the best high school player he ever saw. Franklin did not play in the national tournament, and ironically it was won by Indiana rival **Wingate** (over yet another Indiana team, Crawfordsville, in the final, 22-16). After 1922, Wagner and his 5 starters all moved together to Franklin College, where they were unbeaten in their 1st season (1922-1923) and won 50 straight games, including wins over Illinois, Notre Dame, Purdue and Wisconsin. Franklin high school was established in 1871, and operates to this day. But Wingate's national champions fail to make our top five.

But, returning to 1920, Crawfordsville had been favored to win the state title, as they returned several players from last year's 30-4 team. Crawfordsville was now coached by John Blacker, who had been a member of Wingate's state champions in 1913 and 1914, and now Blacker tried to purloin a player or two from nearby Wingate. Well, Crawfordsville accused Wingate and Wingate accused Crawfordsville and, in fact, both were playing ineligible players, and so both were suspended by the IHSAA. Crawfordsville finished the regular season 28-2 with losses to Indianapolis Em-Roe, the city independent school champion, and to Wingate. Crawfordsville and Wingate then split 2 post-season games, the former winning a tournament in Cincinnati, and the latter winning the national championship in Chicago. So, who was the best team in Indiana? Well, the best that one can say is that Franklin was the best team that was not regarded as an outlaw by the IHSAA.

Lexington won the Kentucky title for the 3rd straight year, hammering Ashland 56-13 in the final. **Passaic**, in the midst of a 9-year, 159 game winning streak, won the 1st of 4 straight Jersey titles. MaxPreps prefers Passaic as its national champion in 1920, 1921 and 1922. Like Franklin, Passaic was often referred to as the Wonder 5.

Winfield repeated as Kansas champions in 1920 with an average scoring margin of 38-13. They went to a midwestern tournament in Madison, Wisconsin, rather than the national tournament in Chicago, and won 3 games before losing to Cedar Rapids Washington in the final. Cedar Rapids was later charged, very credibly, with using ineligible players, but no change was made to the result. The game ended Winfield's 49 game winning streak. **Orange** won the California title, beating Stockton 45-29. **Superior** won the Wisconsin title, beating 3 opponents by an average of 28-10.

Pennsylvania was the 25th state to launch a state tournament in 1920.

1920	1. Franklin, Indiana (29-1) 2. Lexington, Kentucky 3. <i>Passaic, New Jersey</i> 4. Winfield, Kansas (26-1) (2) 5. Orange, California 6. Superior, Wisconsin (12-0) Player of the Year Fuzzy Vandivier, Franklin, Indiana
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1921 Passaic, New Jersey

Passaic and coach Ernest Blood went 200-1 from 1915 to 1924, and won 159 straight games, believed to be the national record for any sport. They won the New Jersey title 4 straight times, beating Trenton Central in 1920, 1921 and 1922, Asbury Park in 1923, and finally Union Hill 32-25 in 1925. They won again in 1929, beating Atlantic City 34-25. Johnny Roosma was their leading scorer in 1919, 1920 and 1921, then led Army to a 73-13 record over 4 years, becoming the 1st collegiate player ever to score 1,000 points. But, back in Passaic, it was teammate Bobby Thompson who was known as "Thousand Points" Thompson. Passaic high school's 1st graduating class was in 1873, and it continues to operate to this day.

Franklin beat Anderson 35-22 to win its 2nd straight Indiana title. **Poughkeepsie** won the 1st New York state title, beating Sherrill 29-18. **Long Beach Poly** won the southern California and state title. Both Poughkeepsie and Long Beach finished with perfect records. **Cedar Rapids Washington** won the national championship, beating West Lafayette, Indiana, 43-19, despite the fact that they did not win the Iowa title. They had been embarrassed, as had the midwestern tournament in Madison, Wisconsin, the previous year for using ineligible players. (They also won a mythical national high school football championship the following fall [1921]). West Lafayette was not one of the top 2 teams in Indiana and, once again, the national champion does not make our top 5 (but they do finish at #6). We prefer **Chicago Crane Tech**, who won the Chicago title over Hyde Park, 21-8. **Newton** won the Kansas title again at 27-1 but had one and 2-point wins in the state tournament.

Alabama, New Mexico, Tennessee and Texas all launched state basketball tournaments in 1921, bring the total to 29 states with such championships.

1921	1. Passaic, New Jersey (2) 2. Franklin, Indiana (29-4) (2) 3. Poughkeepsie, New York (25-0) 4. Long Beach Poly, California (16-0) 5. Chicago Crane Tech 6. Cedar Rapids Washington, Iowa Co-Player of the Year Johnny Roosma and Bobby Thompson, Passaic, New Jersey
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1922 Lexington, Kentucky

Passaic kept its unbeaten string alive and won its 3rd straight state title, beating Trenton Central for the 3rd time. Passaic scored an average of 69 points per game in 33 games, all wins. One observer said that the key to their 159-game winning streak was that they won 95 percent of jump balls.

But **Lexington** won its 3rd straight Kentucky championship, beating Frankfort 52-27. They then went on to become the 1st actual state champion to win the national tournament, beating Mount Vernon, Ohio, 46-28 in the final. We like Lexington as the national champion in 1922. The city is now served by 6 high schools, none of which is called Lexington high school. **Franklin's Wonder Five** also won its 3rd straight title, beating Terre Haute Garfield 26-15. **Grand Rapids Union** repeated as Michigan champion, beating Kalamazoo Central 27-9. Grand Rapids was led by Royal Cherry and Kalamazoo by Richard Doyle. Both played at Michigan, where Doyle was Michigan's 1st all-American. **Chicago Austin** finally won a 2nd Chicago title after 4 championship game losses, beating Lane 27-9. **Buckhannon, West Virginia**, repeated as state champion and ran its winning streak to 63 games. They beat Clendenin 26-12 in the state final.

Florida and Georgia in the south, and Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and Rhode Island in New England all launched their state tournaments, bringing the number of states to do so to 35.

1922	1. Lexington, Kentucky (2) 2. Passaic, New Jersey (33-0) (3) 3. Franklin, Indiana (31-4) (3) 4. Grand Rapids Union, Michigan 5. Chicago Austin (2) 6. Buckhannon, West Virginia Player of the Year Fuzzy Vandivier, Franklin, Indiana
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1923 Passaic, New Jersey (3)

Passaic defeated Asbury Park to win its 4th straight New Jersey championship, and to extend its unbeaten streak which would end at 159 games on February 6, 1925, against Hackensack.

Kansas City won the Kansas title, edging Hutchinson 32-31, and then the national title, beating Rockford, Illinois, 43-21. They won 5 games by an average of 39-26 to finish at 31-0. KC high later became known as Kansas City Wyandotte. MaxPreps prefers Kansas City as its national champion. **Vincennes**, Indiana, defeated Muncie 27-18 to win its 1st Indiana title, and finish 34-1. **Stockton**, California, won California's northern section title for the 3rd time in 4 years, then edged Fresno 18-17 to win the California championship. **Muskegon**, Michigan, won their state title, beating Detroit Northwestern 36-24, then made it to the semi-finals of the national tournament before losing to the champions from Kansas City 30-26.

Washington became the 36th state with a high school basketball tournament in 1923.

1923	1. Passaic, New Jersey (4) 2. <i>Kansas City, Kansas (31-0)</i> 3. Vincennes, Indiana (34-1) 4. Stockton, California (2) 5. Muskegon, Michigan
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1924 Windsor, Colorado

Windsor won the Colorado championship (founded in 1918) in 1923 and 1924. In 1924 Windsor went on to win the national tournament in Chicago, beating Yankton, South Dakota, in the final 25-6, becoming the 3rd state champion to do so. They were dubbed "the Wizards" for their exploits. What made them so extraordinary was, well, there were 3 stories here. 1) they say that the Windsor gym had low ceilings and warped floors, so long shots and dribbling didn't work. They resorted to short, quick passes, which translated to any gym. 2) just a year earlier, the team had been threatened with expulsion from their conference because of subpar facilities and performance. And, 3) teammate George Middleton had fallen through the ice the previous winter while teaching Cub Scouts how to skate, and died of a heart attack due to the shock of the cold water. Maxpreps went with Windsor as their national champions.

Emporia won the Kansas title 32-25 over the 1923 national champion, Kansas City, with an average margin of 42-15. They then appeared to be the class of the national tournament, winning 2 games 30-15 and 39-9, but they then were surprised by Yankton 13-11. **New York Commerce** won the PSAL title for the 4th time in 5 years. **Lane Tech** won the Chicago title almost as easily, beating Phillips 18-4. **Dallas Oak Cliff** defeated El Paso 29-18 to win the Texas championship. The Golden Bears, now South Oak Cliff high school, would go on to win the state football title in the fall, beating Waco 31-0.

Detroit Northwestern won the city title, thrashing Southeastern 32-5. **Elgin** won the 1st of 2 straight Illinois titles, beating previously undefeated Athens 28-17 in the state final. **Birmingham Simpson** won the 2nd of 3 straight Alabama titles, beating Lee County 31-13.

The era of the expansion of high school basketball tournaments was just about over. As noted, 36 states now had such tournaments. Only two more—Michigan in 1925 and Missouri in 1927—would launch such a tournament in the rest of the 1920s. Those states that did not initiate such a tournament by 1925 had their reasons, and so additional state tournaments would now just trickle in over the next several decades.

1924	1. Windsor, Colorado 2. Emporia, Kansas (28-1) 3. New York Commerce 4. Chicago Lane Tech (3) 5. Dallas Oak Cliff, Texas 6. Detroit Northwestern 7. Elgin, Illinois (25-3) 8. Birmingham Simpson, Alabama
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1925 Louisville duPont Manual

Louisville duPont Manual won the Kentucky title in 1921, 1923, 1925 and 1931. In 1925, they clobbered Winchester 40-11 in the final, and they were also named national champions in football. Starring in both sports, as well as baseball, was Irv Jeffries, who went on to play several years of major league baseball. duPont Manual opened in 1892, and in 1984 it became a magnet school in the Louisville system. For many years, Manual and Male high schools were the major rivals for athletic supremacy in the city.

Wichita won the Kansas title, beating **Newton** 21-16 in the final. Newton, the 1916-1917 and 1921 state champion, had beaten Wichita 4 times during the season, but Wichita then went on to win the national title as well. They overwhelmed Detroit

Southeastern 39-24, Yankton's defending national runners-up 37-12, then Uniontown, Pennsylvania, 42-21, and finally El Reno, Oklahoma, 27-6.

Buffalo Lafayette won its 2nd straight New York title, beating Patchogue 22-16 to finish 21-0. MaxPreps likes them as national champions and they are indeed a reasonable choice. Buffalo had a strong background in the game of basketball. The Buffalo Germans are regarded as America's 1st great basketball team, winning a national AAU tournament in 1904 and 111 straight games from 1908 to 1911. They dissolved just this year, 1925, with a record of 792-86. But, unfortunately, very little is known about this 1925 Buffalo squad. **Detroit Southeastern** clobbered Jackson 44-22 to win the Michigan title before losing to the eventual national champions from Wichita. Southeastern opened in 1917, located far from the central city, "out in the jungle," they said, and so their athletic teams are the Jungaleers. They won back-to-back state titles in 1925 and 1926, and 4 more titles through 2011. **Stockton**, California, won its 4th northern California title in 5 years and its 3rd California title in 4 years, beating Porterville 21-12 in the state final.

Michigan launched a statewide tournament in 1925.

1925	1. Louisville duPont Manual, Kentucky 2 (tie). Newton, Kansas (22-1) (3) 2 (tie). Wichita, Kansas (21-6) 3. <i>Buffalo Lafayette</i> (21-0) 4. Detroit Southeastern 5. Stockton, California (3) 6. New York DeWitt Clinton (4) Player of the Year Irv Jeffries, Louisville duPont Manual, Kentucky
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1926 Marion, Indiana (27-2)

Marion defeated Martinsville 30-23 to win the Indiana title at 27-2. A Marion newspaper reporter picked Kokomo to win the state title in 1926. Marion was not impressed, beating Kokomo 24-8 and riding into the state tournament on a 15-game winning streak. They were led by 6-7 "Stretch" Murphy and 6-3 Bob Chapman, this at a time when 6-feet even was considered tall. They were dubbed "the Marion Giants," and the name stuck. Murphy went on to team with John Wooden to lead Purdue to a national championship in 1930, and to win all-America honors 3 times. Chapman played at Michigan. Murphy led the Big 10 in scoring in 1929, Chapman in 1930. Coach Gene Thomas is the only coach to win state titles in Indiana and Michigan (Kalamazoo Central in 1932 and 1939). **Freeport** won the Illinois title 24-13 over Canton to finish 19-2, and **Chicago Lane Tech** beat Englewood 31-17 to win the Chicago title.

Fitchburg won the national title, beating Fargo, ND, 25-14 in the final despite failing to win the Massachusetts title, having lost to Brockton. They nevertheless were invited to the national tournament where they beat a less-than stellar slate of opponents—Billings, Montana; Roswell, New Mexico; Nanticoke, Pennsylvania; Salem, South Dakota; and finally Fargo. The Fitchburg school has existed continuously since it was opened in 1830 as a one-room schoolhouse. **Newton** won its 4th Kansas title, beating Augusta 25-17, and finally got to play in the national tournament. Their reputation preceded them as the team that had beaten the 1925 national champion no less than 4 times, and they won 3 games 26-15, 56-19 and 31-21 to establish themselves as the favorites. But, they lost their next game to Pueblo, Colorado, and a spectacular effort by future football hall of famer Dutch Clark, 13-11. Coach Lindley later allowed that he should have come out of his zone defense to pressure the ball, and in fact he abandoned his famous zone after this game. Fargo then beat Pueblo in the other semi-final.

Detroit Southeastern repeated as Michigan champion, beating Muskegon 26-20. Detroit won 4 of the 1st 6 Michigan titles, then withdrew from statewide competition for 30 years.

1926	1. Marion, Indiana (27-2) 2. Freeport, Illinois (19-2) (2) 3. <i>Fitchburg, Massachusetts</i> 4. Chicago Lane Tech (4) 5. Newton, Kansas (28-1) (4) 6. Detroit Southeastern (2) Player of the Year "Stretch" Murphy, Marion, Indiana
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1927 Joliet DeLaSalle, Illinois (25-0)

Joliet DeLaSalle, later known as Joliet Catholic, moved into a brand-new building in 1927, and promptly won the Illinois Catholic title and then the national Catholic championship. The national title was the 1st of 3 that they would win from 1927 to 1934. Now known as Joliet Catholic, the "Irish" repeated as national champion in 1928 with a more modest record of 21-6. MaxPreps prefers Joliet DeLaSalle as the 1927 national champions. As far as we are aware, Joliet DeLaSalle is not only the 1st private school to win a national championship, but the 1st to be ranked anywhere in these listings. We know through various data that the private schools could and did compete against their brothers in the public schools, but no private school happened to pile up the evidence of their superiority to the extent that it was done by DeLaSalle in 1927.

Cicero Morton, Illinois, struck another blow for Illinois basketball as once again, a team that did not win a state title won the national tournament in Chicago. Morton beat Batesville, MD, 18-16 in the final. Morton high school was opened in 1892. In 1924, the school's gym burned down, causing almost \$1 million in damage. Al Capone was widely reported to be a fan of the Morton football team in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

Mt. Carmel won the actual Illinois state title, beating previously undefeated Peoria 24-18 to finish 31-2. **Yonkers** won the New York public school title, beating defending champion Elmira Free Academy 30-16. **Martinsville** won the Indiana state title, beating Muncie 26-23 to finish 26-3. **Muskegon** won the Michigan title, beating Battle Creek Central 32-24 after losing in last year's final. **Grand Forks Central** won the 1st of 2 straight North Dakota titles, beating Minot 37-14 in the final.

1927	1. Joliet DeLaSalle (25-0) 2. Mt. Carmel, Indiana (31-2) 3. Cicero Morton, Illinois 3. Yonkers, New York 5. Martinsville, Illinois (26-3) 6. Muskegon, Michigan 7. Grand Forks Central, North Dakota
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1928 Ashland, Kentucky 27-0

Ashland was a perennial power in Kentucky athletics in the early days, winning 4 state basketball titles including 1928 and 1933-1934. Their 1931 football team also won a mythical national championship. But, in 1928, their national basketball title was anything but mythical. They defeated Carr Creek in a much-celebrated state final, 13-11 in 4 OT. Ashland then went on to defeat Canton, IL, 15-10 to win the national championship, becoming just the 3rd team to win a state title and the national title. Ellis Johnson and Darrell Darby won all-tournament honors, and Johnson was given a sportsmanship trophy after being whistled for 2 fouls in 37 games. And, the Ashland girls won their third straight state title this same year, and would make it four in 1929. The school later became known as Ashland Blazer for Paul G. Blazer, founder and CEO of Ashland Oil. The Juds attended Blazer high.

Stockton, California, won its 5th northern California title in 9 years, then won its 4th state title, beating Santa Monica 26-12. **Purdy** defeated Nashville Cathedral 19-14 to win the Tennessee title at 32-0. **Newtown** won the New York PSAL title behind the exploits of "Red" Pugh, who later played 8 years of pro ball, while **Syracuse Central** beat Buffalo Fosdick 30-16 to win the NYSPHSAA state title. **Muncie** won its 1st Indiana title, edging the defending state champions from Martinsville 13-12 to finish 28-2.

1928	1. Ashland, Kentucky (27-0) 2. Stockton, California (3) 3. Purdy, Tennessee (32-0) 4 (tie). Newtown, New York 4 (tie). Syracuse Central, New York 5. Muncie, Indiana (28-2) Player of the Year "Red" Pugh, Newtown, New York
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1929 Athens, Texas (38-1)

Athens won the Texas championship in 1927, 1929, 1931, 1933 and 1934. In 1927, they had finished 6th at the national tournament. In 1929, they defeated Denton 22-11 in the final, and in both 1929 and 1930, they won the national tournament in Chicago, beating Oklahoma City Classen 25-21 in 1929 and Jena, Louisiana, 22-16 in 1930. Athens center Freddie Tompkins made the Hornets go. "They grow 'em big in Athens," said one newspaper report, and "they perfected an overhead game." Tompkins went on to play college ball at South Carolina, where he is a member of their hall of fame. He played for 2 years; the Gamecocks went 35-3 as Freddie scored 13.4 ppg.

College Grove won the Tennessee title fairly easily, 32-14 over Halls to "finish" 45-0 (Tennessee credits them as 45-0), though they went on to win 2 games before losing at the national tournament. It was their 2nd straight state tournament appearance, and they won 7 games out of 8. College Grove high school no longer exists. **Frankfort** won their 2nd of 4 Indiana state titles under legendary coach Everett Case, beating Indianapolis Tech 29-23 to finish 25-2. **Passaic's** 159-game winning streak was a thing of the past, but they knocked off Atlantic City 34-25 to win one more state title. **Wheeling**, West Virginia, won its 2nd straight state title, beating Elkins 41-12 to finish 24-0. **Wilmington New Hanover** repeated as North Carolina champion, beating Winston-Salem 21-7 in the final.

1929	1. Athens, Texas (38-1) 2. College Grove, Tennessee (45-0) 3. Passaic, New Jersey (5) 4. Frankfort, Indiana (25-2) 5. Wheeling, West Virginia (24-0) 6. Wilmington New Hanover, North Carolina Player of the Year Freddie Tompkins, Athens, Texas
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1920-1929	All-Stars
1 (tie). Passaic, New Jersey 1921	6. Marion, Indiana 1926 (27-2) C- Stretch Murphy, Marion, IN 1926

1 (tie). Passaic, New Jersey 1922 1 (tie). Passaic, New Jersey 1923 2. Athens, Texas 1929 (38-1) 3. Franklin, Indiana 1920 (29-1) 4. Lexington, Kentucky 1922 5. Louisville du Pont Manual, Kentucky 1925	7. Kansas City, Kansas 1923 (31-0) 8 (tie). Franklin, Indiana 1922 (29-4) 8 (tie). Franklin, Indiana 1923 (31-4) 9. Joliet DeLaSalle, Illinois 1927 (25-0) 10. Stockton, California 1928	F- Red Pugh, Newtown, NY 1928 F- Johnny Roosma, Passaic, NJ 1921 G- Fuzzy Vandivier, Franklin, IN 1922 G- Dutch Clark, Pueblo, CO 1926
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1930 Washington, Indiana (31-1)

Washington (the Hatchets) defeated Muncie 32-21 to win the Indiana title and finish 31-1. They then defeated national champion **Athens**, Texas, in a challenge game 28-26. Washington was led by Big Dave DeJernette, 6-3, and thought to be the 1st African-American to lead any team at any level to a major championship. Muncie was integrated, too, with 6-6 Jack Mann. But, though Mann was 3 inches taller, DeJernette consistently out-jumped him on jump balls, to which Washington's win was generally attributed.

Washington coach Burl Friddle, once one of the Franklin Wonder Five, accepted a challenge from Athens to play the Hornets in a match game. Washington had been excluded from the national tournament, which accepted only white players. DeJernette and the Hornets' center Freddie Tompkins each scored 11 points, and the Hatchets won 28-26. Athens won 5 state titles in 8 years, and 2 national titles, but this year they lost to **Denton** 24-19 in the Texas semi-final. Denton then defeated Estelline 30-11 for the Texas title, but declined to play in Chicago. Athens went in their place and repeated as national champion, beating Jena, Louisiana, 22-16 in the final.

The following year, DeJernette received death threats from "the Committee of 14" of the KKK. DeJernette shrugged off the threats, but Washington lost to Muncie in the state semis as DeJernette scored 14 points. Knute Rockne spoke at a banquet honoring Washington, and ostentatiously shook DeJernette's hand. 2 days later, he was killed in a plane crash.

Dayton Stivers won its 3rd straight Ohio championship, beating Lancaster St. Mary's in the final to finish at 30-0. From 1926 to 1930, Stivers went 101-9 with a 46-game winning streak. They were led by Bob McConnell, who went on to play at Dennison college. MaxPreps likes Dayton Stivers as its 1930 national champion.

Chicago DeLaSalle repeated as the Chicago Catholic champion behind Ed "Moose" Krause, who later starred at Notre Dame and later yet became the Irish athletic director. **Neenah** hammered Racine Horlick 28-5 to win the Wisconsin title at 16-1.

1930	1. Washington, Indiana (31-1) 2. <i>Dayton Stivers (30-0)</i> 3. Athens, Texas (2) 4. Chicago DeLaSalle 5. Neenah, Wisconsin (16-1) Co-Player of the Year Dave DeJernette, Washington, Indiana; and Freddie Tompkins, Athens, Texas
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1931 Tulsa Central 25-0

Tulsa Central repeated as Oklahoma state champion, beating Loyal 49-17 to finish 25-0. It was not only their 2nd straight title, it was also their 2nd straight unbeaten season. In 1930, they beat El Reno 23-14 for the title. El Reno would exact its revenge in the 1932 final, hammering Tulsa 35-5. MaxPreps prefers Tulsa Central as its national champion for 1931.

Crane Tech won the Chicago city title for the 3rd time in 4 years (and it would repeat in 1932), beating the defending city champion **Wendell Phillips** high school 30-22. Crane was founded in 1890, located on the Near West Side, straight west of the loop. Crane won 5 of 12 titles from 1921 to 1932, and today has won 11 titles. Phillips was by now almost entirely populated by African-American students, and was invited to play in the new (2nd year) tournament for Black high schools. They won the championship easily 39-14 over Bluefield, West Virginia, Genoa in the finals.

For the record, MaxPreps, in choosing its national champions over the years, states that they did not consider Black teams because so little is known about them. Well, little is known about the white teams and especially private school teams before World War II, and they consider them. So, we consider them all—Black, white, private, public. It's all guesswork anyway, and maybe you noticed that as soon as the Black schools started playing against the white schools, the Black schools started

winning. It is more logical to assume that they could compete than that they could not, and Chicago Wendell Phillips is Exhibit A. They won the city title in 1930 and finished 2nd in 1931. They could and did compete in one of the toughest conferences in the country. Of course, even Chicago's Black schools soon were segregated from the white schools and ineligible to compete for the citywide title.

Louisville duPont Manual won its 3rd state title in 9 years, beating Tolu 34-23 in the final. **Nebraska Deaf** defeated Crete 17-11 to win the Nebraska title at 29-0. **Whittier**, California, is described here and there as the national champions of 1931, but no data has been found to substantiate the claim.

1931	1. Tulsa Central (25-0) 2. Chicago Crane Tech (2) 3. Chicago Wendell Phillips (2) 4. Louisville duPont Manual, Kentucky (2) 5. Nebraska School for the Deaf (29-0) 6. Whittier, California (5) Player of the Year Dave DeJernette, Washington, Indiana
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1932 Yonkers, New York

Yonkers won the New York state title in 1927 and 1928 and again in 1932, winning 32 consecutive games, including 12 post-season games in 1932. They defeated Johnson City 34-18 in 1932. They became known as "the Merriwell 5," after the fictional sports hero Frank Merriwell. Their Frank Merriwell was "the invincible captain, Melvin Nelson." Yonkers is now served by 6 high schools, and the old Yonkers high houses both a middle and a senior high school.

New Castle defeated Winamac 24-17 to win the Indiana state title and finish at 28-3. Their stars were Vern Huffman and Randy Lawson, both of whom played basketball and football at Indiana U. (Huffman's brother Marv was their leading scorer 3 times and helped the Hoosiers to the 1940 NCAA basketball title.) New Castle Academy was founded in 1870, and became New Castle high school in 1895. The 1895 building was long known as "The Castle." **Trenton Central** won the New Jersey title at 29-1, thanks to the exploits of Meyer "Mike" Bloom, who starred for Temple as it won the 1st NIT tournament in 1938 and was twice named all-America. It was Trenton's 1st of 4 straight New Jersey titles. MaxPreps selected Trenton Central as its national champion for 1932.

Apparently, Georgia had 2 competing athletic authorities—the GHSAA and the GIAA. **Savannah** won them both, beating Vienna 45-26 in the former, and Georgia's top powerhouse Lanier 55-36 in the latter. They won a total of 6 tournament games by an average of 42-26. **Chicago Crane Tech** repeated as Chicago champion, beating Calumet 25-21 in the final. **Berwyn-Cicero-Morton** won its 1st Illinois championship, beating Canton 30-16 in the final to finish 25-4. Then known as Cicero Morton, they won the 1927 national title without winning the Illinois title.

1932	1. Yonkers, New York (2) 2. New Castle, Indiana (28-3) 3. <i>Trenton Central, New Jersey (29-1)</i> 4. Savannah, Georgia 5 (tie). Chicago Crane Tech (3) 5 (tie). Berwyn-Cicero Morton (25-4) (2) Player of the Year Melvin Nelson, Yonkers, New York
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1933 Kansas City Wyandotte (25-0)

Kansas City Wyandotte won the Kansas state title with a perfect record of 25-0 by defeating Arkansas City 25-16 in the state final. MaxPreps prefers Wyandotte as its national champion for 1933. This is the same high school that competed previously as Kansas City high school.

Athens won its 4th Texas title in 7 years, beating Houston Jefferson Davis 36-20 in the final. Mike Bloom returned to **Trenton Central**, and the Tornados won their 2nd of 4 straight New Jersey titles, beating Newark South Side, now Newark Malcolm X Shabazz high school, 31-17. **El Reno** won its 2nd straight Oklahoma title and its 5th in 13 years to go along with its national runner-up finish back in 1924. This was one of 2 unbeaten state champions, the other coming in 1949. For coach J.E. "Jenks" Simmons, it was his 2nd title and he would win 3 more by 1953 and retire with a record of 436-114. The star in 1933 was Eryvl Bross, who went on to earn all-Big 6 honors at Oklahoma.

Bristol won the Connecticut and then the 3rd New England title. In the latter, they defeated 2 state champions, Millinocket Stearns, Maine, 63-23, and Fitchburg, Massachusetts, 48-20, in the final. They had beaten New Haven Hillhouse just 23-21 in the Connecticut final. The New England championship would give Connecticut a platform to demonstrate its basketball prowess. Connecticut teams would be by far the most successful in the tournament that ran through 1974. Bristol high school was divided into Central and Eastern high schools in 1959. **Gary Roosevelt** won the Black national championship, beating Henderson Institute, North Carolina, 37-6 in the final. Roosevelt was founded in 1906 as a one-room schoolhouse for Gary's Black residents. It became a high school in 1925. Gary was the foremost northern city in establishing segregated schools and a "separate but equal" system of Black schools. This came to be known nationwide as "the Gary system."

1933	1. Kansas City Wyandotte (25-0) (2) 2. Athens, Texas (3) 3. Trenton Central, New Jersey (2) 4. El Reno, Oklahoma 5. Bristol, Connecticut 6. Gary Roosevelt, Indiana Player of the Year Meyer "Mike" Bloom, Trenton Central, New Jersey
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1934 Trenton Central, New Jersey

Trenton Central, New Jersey, won their 3rd straight state title as Mike Bloom continued to prowl the court for the Tornados. MaxPreps chose Trenton as its national champion for the 2nd time in 3 years, making them the 3rd team selected more than once after Passaic, New Jersey, and Kansas City Wyandotte, Kansas. They reported Trenton to be undefeated and 71-2 over 3 years, but did not report how many wins they had in 1934.

Quincy won its 1st of only 2 Illinois state titles, beating defending state champion Harvey Thornton (and its star player, Lou Boudreau) 39-27 to finish 31-2. They also finished with a 25-game winning streak. Perry Barclift scored 22 points in the final, a 4th-winningest high school basketball program in the country with 1,873 wins. They held as of 2010 Illinois records for state tournament appearances (32), regional titles (59), sectional titles (32), state tournament game won (52) and state trophies won (14). **Ashland** won its 2nd straight and 3rd Kentucky state title overall, beating Danville 26-13 in the final.

Beloit defeated Wisconsin Rapids 32-18 to win the Wisconsin title and finish 17-1. 5-11 Johnny Watts was the 1st prominent Black player in the Wisconsin state tournament, leading Beloit to 3 straight titles in 1932, 1933 and 1934. In 1933, he broke his wrist in the state quarterfinals, sat out the semis, then came back in the 4th quarter of the finals to score the winning basket in a 15-14 win over Wausau. He then scored a game-high 14 points against Wisconsin Rapids this year. He and coach "Doc" Meanwell both wanted him to play at the University of Wisconsin but, according to one report, the Big 10 did not allow Black players at the time. So, he played at LaCrosse State Teachers College and later for the Harlem Globetrotters and Harlem Aces.

Pittsburgh South became the 1st Pittsburgh team ever to win a Pennsylvania state title. Generally, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia teams have their own separate championships. South won city titles in 1916, 1933 and 1934, and in 1934 clobbered Reading 42-17 for the state title. South high served the people of Pittsburgh from 1897 to 2004.

1934	1. Trenton Central, New Jersey (3) 2. Quincy, Illinois (31-2) 3. Ashland Blazer, Kentucky (2) 4. Beloit, Wisconsin (17-1) 5. Pittsburgh South, Pennsylvania Player of the Year Johnny Watts, Beloit, Wisconsin
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1935 Akron North, Ohio

Akron North won the Ohio title, beating Akron West 35-22, Columbus Central 46-21 and Coshocton 47-15. They were led by 6-5 center Ed Sadowski, who scored 51 points in the 3 games and went on to win all-America honors for Seton Hall's unbeaten (19-0) team in 1939.

Schenectady Mont Pleasant, New York, won 44 straight games from 1931 to 1933, then 36 more from 1933 to 1935, for a total of 80 wins in 81 games under coach Sigmund "Siggy" Makofski. **Lansing Central** won the Michigan title, beating Flint Northern 25-24 to finish at 19-0. MaxPreps selected Lansing Central as their national champion for 1935. **Superior Central** beat defending champion Beloit 35-26 (and 3 games by an average of 36-18) to win the Wisconsin title at 19-1. Superior Central (and East) high schools were closed in 1965, and replaced by one single school, Superior Senior, or now simply Superior high school.

Meridan won the Connecticut title, then demolished various other state champions and runners-up in the New England tournament. They beat the Vermont champion, Montpelier, 54-31, the Massachusetts runner-up, Chelsea, 38-22, and the Connecticut runner-up, Bridgeport Warren Hardy, for the 2nd time, 40-22. Meriden had beaten Hardy 29-23 in their state final. In the 1950s, Meriden high school was split into 2 schools, Maloney and Platt.

1935	1. Akron North, Ohio 2. Schenectady Mont Pleasant, New York 3. <i>Lansing Central, Michigan (19-0)</i> 4. Superior Central, Wisconsin (19-1) 5. Meriden, Connecticut Player of the Year Ed Sadowski, Akron North, Ohio
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1936 Frankfort, Indiana (29-1-1)

Frankfort clobbered Fort Wayne Central 50-24 in the Indiana championship to finish at 29-1-1. It was the 3rd of 4 championships that Frankfort would win from 1925 to 1939 under coach Everett Case. He remains one of just 5 coaches to win at least 4 Indiana state titles. Case moved to North Carolina State in 1946 and coached there through 1964, winning 6 regular season and 4 post-season ACC titles and 6 conference coach of the year awards.

Detroit Northwestern repeated as the Detroit public champion, beating Southeastern 33-20. **Flint Northern** won the Michigan title, beating Kalamazoo Central 28-27 in OT to finish 19-0. (Detroit did not play in the Michigan tournament from 1931 to 1961. MaxPreps prefers Flint Northern as its national champion for 1936.

Gary Roosevelt won the Black national tournament for the 4th straight time, beating Clarksburg Kelley, West Virginia, 37-17. They would win a 5th and a 6th straight title in 1939 and 1940, as there was no tournament in 1937 and 1938. Roosevelt was built in 1908 as the 1st high school in Gary meant to serve Black students. In 1927, Black students were allowed to attend previously white schools, but white students at Emerson high staged a widespread walkout in protest, and the policy was withdrawn. Thereafter, Black students were restricted to Roosevelt high for many years. The idea of “separate but equal” education came to be known as the Gary System.

Raleigh won its 2nd straight (and 2nd overall) state title, beating High Point for the 2nd straight year 33-21. Raleigh is thought to be the 1st high school in America to win a “triple crown,” that is a state baseball, basketball and football title in the same school year. **Hickman** won the Missouri title, beating Joplin 28-24 to finish 24-0.

1936	1. Frankfort, Indiana (29-1-1) (2) 2 (tie). Detroit Northwestern 2 (tie). <i>Flint Northern, Michigan (19-0)</i> 3. Gary Roosevelt, Indiana 4. Raleigh, North Carolina 5. Hickman, Missouri
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1937 Maryville, Missouri (32-0)

Maryville hammered Springfield Central 51-27 to win the Missouri championship and finish 32-0. The school started as a log building in 1847. It is the only institution known to have the Spoofhound, originally a plaster of paris toy in the 1920s, as its mascot. In 2013, the Spoofhounds finished 2nd in a vote for the most unique mascot in Missouri, behind the Bolivar Liberators and ahead of the Midgets, the Zizzers and the Kewpies.

Hamilton won the Ohio title, beating Massillon to finish 24-0. Massillon was then coached by future hall of fame football coach Paul Brown, who coached at Ohio State and then founded the Cleveland Browns. MaxPreps chose Hamilton as their national champion for 1937. **Bellfountain**, Oregon, with a student population of about 75, won their 3rd straight class B title, which won them a place in the class A semis. They beat Portland Franklin, who had 3 times as many teachers as Bellfountain had students, by 26 points, then beat Portland Lincoln 39-25 in the final. In Oregon, they’re known as “the original Hoosiers” and as “the giant killers.”

Joliet defeated Decatur 40-20 to win the Illinois title at 27-4. **Detroit St. Theresa** won its 2nd straight Detroit Catholic title, then won the state class B title, beating Marshall 45-25. It was even better known as a football powerhouse, winning many league

championships in the 1930s and 1940s. But, in fact, it won 7 Catholic league basketball titles from 1929 to 1944. It was just the 2nd private school ever to make these rankings after Joliet DeLaSalle in 1927.

1937	1. Maryville, Missouri (32-0) 2. <i>Hamilton, Ohio (24-0)</i> 3. Bellfountain, Oregon 4. Joliet Township, Illinois (27-4) 5. Detroit St. Theresa of Avila Player of the Year "Pops" Gates, New York Benjamin Franklin
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1938 New York Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin won the New York public school title, beating Newtown 29-27 behind the exploits of "Pops" Gates, who joined the New York Renaissance immediately upon completing his high school career. Ben Franklin then went on to win 42 straight games from 1939 to 1942. Benjamin Franklin, located in the Harlem neighborhood of Manhattan, was reported to be the largest high school east of the Mississippi with 500 rooms.

Dundee defeated Braidwood Reed-Custer 36-29 to win the Illinois championship and finish 34-1. **Dallas Woodrow Wilson** beat Abilene 41-27 to win the Texas title at 27-0. MaxPreps prefers Wilson high as its national champion for 1938. **Wheeling** defeated Grafton 68-41 for the West Virginia title. That 68-point explosion was virtually unprecedented at this time. Wheeling high school was merged with Triadelphia, Warwood and West Liberty high schools in 1976. **Fort Wayne South Side** defeated Hammond 34-32 to win the Indiana title at 29-3. Fort Wayne was coached by Burl Friddle, formerly of the Wonder Five and later coach of Washington's 1931 Indiana title. (The very next year, 1939, saw Franklin itself reach the state final with coach Fuzzy Vandiver, another of the Wonder Five, but Franklin lost to Everett Case and Frankfort 36-22.) South Side high remains in service today, one of 5 high schools in the largest school district in Indiana with more than 30,000 students.

1938	1. New York Benjamin Franklin 2. Dundee, Illinois (34-1) 3. <i>Dallas Woodrow Wilson (27-0)</i> 4. Wheeling, West Virginia (24-0) 5. Fort Wayne South Side, Indiana (29-3) Player of the Year "Pops" Gates, New York Benjamin Franklin
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1939 Brooklyn James Madison (23-0)

Brooklyn James Madison won the PSAL title en route to a 37-game winning streak. They also defeated Benjamin Franklin, breaking Franklin's 23-game winning streak. Madison's star was 6-2 Andrew "Fuzzy" Levane, who would go on to play at St. John's and for 3 seasons in the NBA. In fact, all of Madison's top 6 players went on to play professionally. MaxPreps likes Madison as its 1939 national champion and we agree.

Rhineland won the Wisconsin title easily, winning 3 games by an average of 45-24, and the final 46-29 over the defending state champions from Wausau. John Kotz led the way with a record 28 points and a record 64 points in 3 games. Kotz led the Wisconsin Badgers to the 1941 NCAA title and was named the MVP of the Final Four, earning all-America honors in 1942 and 1943. Rhineland was originally called Pelican Rapids. Rhineland high remains the only public high school in town to this day. Meanwhile, **Jamestown** and **Schenectady Mont Pleasant**, New York, also went undefeated. **Rockford** won its 3rd Illinois title, beating Paris 53-44 in the final to finish 23-2. Finally, **Long Beach Poly** won its 1st of 2 straight southern California titles.

1939	1. Brooklyn James Madison (23-0) 2. Rhineland, Wisconsin (20-0) 3 (tie). Jamestown, New York (17-0) 3 (tie). Mont Pleasant, New York (15-0) (2) 4. Rockford, Illinois (23-2) (3) 5. Long Beach Poly, California (2) Player of the Year John Kotz, Rhineland, Wisconsin
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1930-1939	All-Stars
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1. Trenton Central 1934 2. Washington, Indiana 1930 (30-1) 3. Yonkers, New York 1932 4 (tie). New York Benjamin Franklin 1938 4 (tie). Brooklyn James Madison 1939	5. Dayton Stivers, Ohio 1930 (30-0) 6. Tulsa Central, Oklahoma 1931 (25-0) 7. Akron North, Ohio 1935 8. Athens, Texas 1930 9. Kansas City Wyandotte, Kansas 1933 (25-0) 10. Schenectady Mont Pleasant, New York 1935	C- Meyer Bloom, Trenton Central 1937 F- Ed Sadowski, Akron Central 1935 F- Dave DeJernette, Washington, IN 1930 F- John Kotz, Rhinelander, WI 1939 G- Pop Gates, New York Franklin 1938
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3. The Low Post Era, Part One 1940-1969

The center jump after every basket was abolished in 1937 in favor of the principle of alternating possessions. Now, teams could no longer dominate the center jump, keep the ball out of their opponents' hands, and aspire almost to shut out their opponents. Now, you would have to be able to score some points in order to win. So, within the next decade, the 3 cornerstones of the modern offensive game—the jump shot, the low post and the fast break—all became commonplace. Oh, the techniques were still fairly primitive, and none of the 3 was without precedent in earlier decades. Still, the new, modern, offensively-oriented game clearly was something new and different, and it was trending.

The jump shot was popularized by Hank Luisetti of Stanford. In fact, he created a sensation by scoring 50 points in a game at Duquesne in 1938. But, his jumper was often referred to as a "one-hander." It was more what you might today call a floater. Still, he shot with his feet off the floor. That was new and it was different and, soon, everybody was doing it.

The low post game was facilitated by the sudden appearance of tall boys and young men. 6-feet or 6-2 was once considered tall. Now, tall players were 6-6, 6-7, 6-8, 6-10 (George Mikan, Joliet, IL, Catholic), even 7 feet (Bob Kurland, Jennings, MO).

Finally, the fast break goes back at least to 1932, when Purdue coach Piggy Lambert had Stretch Murphy to dominate the boards and John Wooden to get the ball downcourt in a hurry. The fast break was used, if only by Piggy Lambert, after a defensive rebound, after a turnover and even off the center jump. Even more than the jump shot and the low post, however, the fast break was a direct challenge to the orthodoxy of the slow-paced, dead ball, walking game of the 1920s and 1930s, and most coaches eschewed the fast break for another 20 years.

Among the 3 new offensive schemes, the jump shot was the most ubiquitous. But, the low post was the surest way to success—if you had a big man to pass the ball to. In any event, scoring escalated. The average state championship game of the 1920s (referenced on these pages) was 31-16. In the 1930s it was 41-24 and in the 1940s 45-28. Then, in the 1950s, all hell would break loose. No longer were there jump shooting teams and low post teams and fast break teams. Now, many teams did all 3. Any self-respecting coach taught all 3, if only because they might have to stop their opponents from beating them with any of the 3 strategies. The average score of state championship games more than doubled in the 1950s to 72-52. In the 1960s, it increased again to 77-58.

The modern era also saw the landmark Supreme Court decision, *Brown vs. Board of Education*, that declared that "separate" schools for Black Americans were inherently "unequal" and, therefore, unconstitutional. The Black national tournament continued through 1967 but most separate Black state tournaments were abandoned prior to that, and Black teams and integrated teams and white teams all contested for the same state titles. Some of America's best teams were elite mixed race teams such as Compton, CA, in 1952, Philadelphia Overbrook in 1955 and 1956, and Washington, D.C., Archbishop John Carroll in 1959. Others

were all-Black teams such as Oscar Robertson’s Indianapolis Crispus Attucks high school in 1955 and 1956 and Chicago Marshall in 1958 and 1960.

In southern California, Ventura (1949) was the 1st integrated state champion. Compton’s 1952 roster was half Black. Their 1958 champions had 5 Black and 10 white players. By 1963, all 10 of their players were Black; in 1968, 16 of 16 were Black, and in 1969, 11 of 11 were Black. Long Beach Poly was mostly mixed—half Black, half white in 1956; 9 Black and 4 white in 1965; still mixed in 1976; but 100 percent Black in 1984.

Finally, the modern era saw a 2nd attempt to identify an annual national champion. This 1st was of course Amos Alonzo Stagg’s national tournament at the University of Chicago. The 2nd was the so-called National Sports News Service, the obsession of Minnesotan Art Johlfs, who named national champions beginning in 1952.

1940 New York Benjamin Franklin (19-0) (2)

New York Benjamin Franklin won the PSAL title unbeaten at 19-0 en route to a 37-game winning streak. With Pops Gates now playing professionally for the New York Rens, Franklin now had 2 stellar guards in Eddie “The Eel” Younger and Bobby Wanzer. The 5-5, 140-pound Eel, described as “a ball-handling wizard,” made the winning shot in OT to beat James Madison 32-30 for the PSAL title, and went on to play with Gates and the Rens. Wanzer went on to lead Seton Hall to a 2-year record of 40-5 and then to play professionally with the Rochester Royals of the NBA.

Meanwhile, **San Marcos**, Texas, ran up a 48-0 record, though they had to squeak by El Paso 22-21 in the Texas final to finish undefeated. MaxPreps likes them as their 1940 national champion and, hey, it’s hard not to like 48-0. **Gary Roosevelt**, Indiana, won the Black national championship for the 6th straight time (there was no tournament in 1937 and 1938), beating Gary Colored High School, West Virginia, 37-24 in the final. **Crane Tech** won its 6th Chicago title, beating Hirsch 35-23. Finally, **Durham** won its 3rd North Carolina title among what would become 5 straight, beating High Point 55-35 in the final. **Macon Lanier** won the 2nd of 3 straight state titles, and one of 17 in 31 years.

1940	1. New York Benjamin Franklin (19-0) (2) 2. <i>San Marcos, Texas (48-0)</i> 3. Gary Roosevelt, Indiana (2) 4. Chicago Crane Tech (4) 5. Durham, North Carolina 6. Macon Lanier, Georgia Player of the Year Eddie “The Eel” Younger, New York Benjamin Franklin
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1941 New York Benjamin Franklin (18-0) (3)

New York Benjamin Franklin won its 3rd PSAL title in 4 years, unbeaten each time, 18-0 in 1941 to run its winning streak up to 37 games. In fact, Franklin high won the city title in no less than 5 sports—track, tennis, soccer, basketball and horseshoes. And the JV basketball team was also unbeaten. Meanwhile, **Rockville Center South Side** won the Long Island, New York championship at 18-0.

Chicago St. Leo won the Chicago Catholic title and the national Catholic tournament title. The following fall, they were named mythical national football champions, and not just among the Catholics. They were the third private school to make these rankings after Joliet DeLaSalle in 1927 and Detroit St. Theresa of Avila in 1937. **Two Rivers** won the Wisconsin title, beating defending champion Shawano 35-28 to finish 21-0. They set a state tournament record with 161 points in 4 games. Two soon-to-be famous players also led their teams to championships. Lou Groza, later one of the NFL’s most famous kickers, led **Martins Ferry** to the Ohio title, beating Lakeview 37-30 to finish at 27-2. Marques Haynes, later the dribbling wizard of the Harlem Globetrotters, led **Sand Spring Booker T. Washington, Oklahoma**, to the national Black championship over Seminole Booker T. Washington, also of Oklahoma, 38-24.

1941	1. New York Benjamin Franklin (18-0) (3) 2. Rockville Center South Side, New York (18-0) 3. Chicago St. Leo 4. Two Rivers, Wisconsin 5 (tie). Martins Ferry, Ohio (27-2) 5 (tie). Sand Springs Booker T. Washington, Oklahoma
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	Player of the Year Marques Haynes, Sand Spring Booker T. Washington, Oklahoma
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1942 Washington, Indiana (32-1) (2)

Washington won its 2nd state title and for the 2nd time a DeJernette was its star. “Big Dave” starred in 1930. Now it was little brother John DeJernette. You may recall that Dave was thought to be the 1st Black man to lead an integrated basketball team to a championship at any level. Well, John was of course Black, too, and he may have been the 2nd, at least in Indiana. Washington beat Muncie Burris 24-18 to finish 32-1. They did something Big Dave was unable to do, and that we to repeat as state champions in 1943. MaxPreps selected Washington as its 1942 national champion.

Xenia Central won the Ohio title, beating Toledo Central Catholic 51-33 to finish 26-1. Paul Huston and Bob Winter went on to play basketball, and Ken Boxwell and Jack Wilson football, all at Ohio State. **Newton** won its 8th Kansas championship, all under coach Frank Lindley. This time they had to beat both of their historically toughest opponents in the final 4—Kansas City Wyandotte 38-28, and Winfield 29-24—to finish 22-1. It was coach Lindley’s final title. He retired in 1945 with a 594-118 record. Along with the zone defense and 8 state titles, his legacy was that Black students need not apply. None ever played for Lindley, just as he always said that they would not. **West Philadelphia** won the city championship, 38-25 over LaSalle, thanks mostly, it was reported, to the passing of Francis “Bud” Williams. West Philadelphia is one of 12 Philadelphia neighborhoods. Its high school was one of the most diverse schools in the state when it opened in 1911, serving the children of middle class Blacks, Irish, Jews and Poles. Today, West Philadelphia is served by more than 18 high schools. West Philadelphia would repeat as the city champion in 1943. **Lexington Lafayette** won the Kentucky title, beating Harlan 44-32 in the final.

1942	1. Washington, Indiana (32-1) (2) 2. Xenia Central, Ohio (26-1) 3. Newton, Kansas (26-1) (5) 4. West Philadelphia 5. Lexington Lafayette, Kentucky Player of the Year Dike Eddelman, Centralia, IL
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1943 Ardmore Lower Merion, Pennsylvania (24-0)

Ardmore Lower Merion won its 3rd straight Pennsylvania title, beating Farrell 29-28 in the final to finish 24-0. Greer Heindel started on all 3 state champions, and is the only Pennsylvania basketball player to ever do so. In 1943, he led the Aces with 9 points. He went on to play basketball and football at the University of Pennsylvania. Lower Merion remains a township to this day though it is one of the inner-ring suburbs of Philadelphia. Lower Merion is now one of two high schools serving the area. Kobe Bryant famously led Lower Merion to another state title in 1996. MaxPrep likes Merion as its 1943 national champion, and we agree.

Chattanooga Central won its 1st and only Tennessee state title, beating Friendsville 48-30, to finish unbeaten in 33 games. Frank Trundle was the captain and the star, scoring 15 points in the final. He turned down offers to play professional baseball to become a dentist, and he was team dentist for the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga for 52 years. The Chattanooga schools merged with the Hamilton County schools in 1997, but Chattanooga Central operates to this day. **Mason City** won the Iowa championship, beating Webster City 39-21 in the final to finish 30-0. **Paris** won the Illinois title to erase the bad memories from the 1942 tournament. Paris led Centralia and its star player, Dike Eddelman, by 13 points with 6 minutes to play, but lost 35-33 to finish at 39-1. Ironically, the same thing had happened to Centralia the previous year (1941) as the lost to underdog Berwyn-Cicero Morton by one point in the semi-finals, and Morton went on to win the title. In 1943, the favorites from Paris did not lose, instead beating Moline 46-37 to finish 38-2. Paris would return to win a 2nd title in 1947. **Fort Wayne Central** won the Indiana title, beating Lebanon 45-40 to finish 27-1. **West Philadelphia** repeated as the Philly champion, beating Roman 29-28 in OT after tying the game at the end of regulation on a set shot from half court.

1943	1. Ardmore Lower Merion, Pennsylvania (24-0) 2. Chattanooga Central, Tennessee (33-0) 3. Mason City, Iowa (30-0) 4. Paris, Illinois (38-2) 5. Fort Wayne Central, Indiana (27-1) 6. West Philadelphia Player of the Year Greer Heindel, Ardmore Lower Merion, Pennsylvania
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1944 Taylorville, Illinois (45-0)

Taylorville won the Illinois title with a 45-0 record, still the state record, and as the 1st Illinois champion ever to finish the season undefeated. They won easily, beating Elgin 56-33 in the final. Its stars were Ron Bontemps and Johnny Orr. Both played at Beloit College where their high school coach, Dolph Stanley, was now the coach. Bontemps was captain of the 1952 gold-medal winning U.S. Olympic team. Orr later coached UMass, Michigan and Iowa State. MaxPreps picked Taylorville as its national champion for 1944, and who could disagree.

New Orleans Jesuit also finished unbeaten with an easy state title win, 55-20 over St. Aloysius. Jesuit was founded in 1847 and is in service today, despite extensive damage due to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and the admission by the Jesuits of 14 credible claims of sexual abuse of students as recently as the 1990s. They were the 4th private school to make these rankings over their 1st 45 years. **Waterville** was the only Maine champion to go on to win the New England title, beating the blue-bloods of Somerville, MA, 47-34 in that final. They were described as “the children of immigrants” and “hecklers yelled ethnic slurs” at them. Teddy Shiro, a Jew, starred, and went on to score 1,212 points at Colby College. Waterville high remains the only high school in town to this day. **South Shore** high won the Chicago title, beating Harper 51-37. **Kingston**, New York, was unbeaten in 17 games.

1944	1. Taylorville, Illinois (45-0) 2. New Orleans Jesuit (15-0) 3. Waterville, Maine (27-0) 4. Chicago South Shore 5. Kingston, New York Co-Players of the Year Ron Bontemps and Johnny Orr, Taylorville, Illinois
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1945 Astoria St. John's Prep, New York (26-0)

Astoria St. John's Prep won the championship of New York's Catholic league and finished 26-0. Al McGuire was their star. MaxPreps likes St. John's as its national champion. It was a good year for the Catholics as **Chicago St. Philip** won the Chicago Catholic title, then beat the public school champion, Senn, in the Mayor's Cup game. St. John's and St. Philip were the 5th and 6th private schools to make these rankings, and this was the 1st time that 2 private schools were ranked in the same year.

Evansville Bosse won its 2nd straight Indiana title, beating South Bend Riley 46-36 in the state final to finish 25-2. Bryan “Broc” Jerrell was the captain and star. After a stint in the military, he played for TCU where he was #2 on the team in scoring and assists and made all-SWC in 1948. Benjamin Bosse high school opened in 1924 to serve the east side of Evansville. The Evansville schools merged with the Vanderburgh County schools, which now are served by 9 high schools of which Bosse is the 3rd smallest. **Decatur** defeated Champaign 62-54 in the Illinois final to finish 29-2. “Chick” Doster was their star, scoring 96 points in 4 state tournament games. He led the University of Illinois in scoring as a freshman, but a liver disease derailed his career there. Decatur is now served by 2 high schools—Eisenhower and MacArthur. **Louisville Male** defeated Central City 54-42 to win the Kentucky title after Central City had surprised defending champion Harlan in the semi. This scuttled the dream matchup of future UK teammates and national champions (NIT 1946, NCAA 1948-1949) Ralph Beard (Male) and Wallace “Wah Wah” Jones (Harlan). Beard led all scorers in the final with 19 points. He and Jones would go 130-10 at Kentucky over the following 4 years. But, then Beard was caught up in the point shaving scandal of 1950 along with teammate Alex Groza, and his basketball career was over.

1945	1. Astoria St. John's Prep, Queens, New York (26-0) 2. Evansville Bosse, Indiana (25-2) 3. Chicago St. Philip 4. Decatur, Illinois (29-2) 5. Louisville Male, Kentucky (24-5) Player of the Year Dick McGuire, Astoria St. John's, Queens, New York
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1946 Champaign, Illinois (38-1)

Champaign defeated Centralia to win the Illinois state title at 38-1. Champaign was led by sophomore Ted Beach who averaged 18 ppg and made all-tournament. Beach and teammate Jim Cottrell both then played at Illinois, and for their high school and now UI coach, Harry Combes. Beach was all-Big 10 as a senior. Champaign is of course host to the main campus of the University of Illinois. Like Decatur, it is now served by 2 high schools—Central and Centennial. Champaign and Decatur both played in the Big 12 Conference until 2014 when Decatur downsized to the Central 8.

Middletown won the Ohio title, beating Akron North 42-37 to finish 26-0. MaxPreps likes them as their national champion for 1946. Photos of that team show that Middletown had an integrated basketball team in 1946 and 1947. **Breckinridge Training** (now high school) won the Kentucky championship, hammering Dawson Springs 68-36. **LaSalle** won the city title 33-23 over Philadelphia Southern. NBA star and Hall of Famer Paul Arizin graduated from LaSalle in 1946, but he didn't play basketball; he had failed to make the team even as a senior. **Schenectady Mont Pleasant** (15-0) and **Port Washington** (17-0), both from New York state, were in the midst of winning streaks that would stretch to 79 games, combined. Mack "Soup" Supronowicz starred, scoring 20 points in a 53-29 win over Manlius Military, then playing at Michigan. The high school at Port Washington is now Paul D. Schreiber high.

1946	Champaign, Illinois (38-1) 2. <i>Middletown, Ohio (26-0)</i> 3. Breckinridge Training, Kentucky 4. Philadelphia LaSalle 5 (tie). Port Washington, New York (17-0) 5 (tie). Schenectady Mont Pleasant, New York (15-0) (3) Player of the Year Mack "Soup" Supronowicz, Schenectady Mount Pleasant, New York
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1947 Detroit Miller

Detroit Miller won the 1st of 4 straight city titles with a 52-21 rout of Detroit Northern. A newspaper preview of the game shows that all ten starters on the 2 teams were Black. Miller was led by Sammy Gee, who was invariably referred to as "the great Sammy Gee" and who went on to play with the Harlem Globetrotters and also minor league baseball.

Binghampton Central, New York, went 22-0 behind Fred Daiute, who went on to play at St. Bonaventure and then in the NBA. Meanwhile, **New York DeWitt Clinton** won the PSAL title behind Ed Warner, who went on fame and infamy at CCNY. He led the Beavers to both the NCAA and NIT titles in 1950, the only team to ever achieve this double. A year later, he was implicated as a key participant in point shaving of college basketball games, for which he was paid by the gamblers who stood to gain from fixed point spreads. He was banned from the NBA for life. But, he was a hell of a basketball player. **Paris** won its 2nd Illinois title in 5 years, beating Champaign 58-37 to finish 40-2. Paris high school was founded in 1909 and remains the only high school in the area. **Soddy-Daisy** won the Tennessee title with a 43-2 record, thrashing Nashville West 52-26 in the state final. In 1947, Soddy-Daisy served students from the towns of Soddy and Daisy. The towns followed the schools in 1969, merging to also become Soddy-Daisy.

Grand Island, Nebraska (23-0) was MaxPreps choice for national champion but 1) they got the wrong year and 2) Nebraska basketball wasn't that good.

1947	1. Detroit Miller 2. Binghampton Central, New York (22-0) 3. Paris, Illinois (40-2) (2) 4. Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee 43-2 5. New York DeWitt Clinton (4) Player of the Year Sammy Gee, Detroit Miller
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1948 Brewers, Kentucky (36-0)

Brewers was (and is) only the 2nd undefeated Kentucky champion after Ashland (27-0 in 1927). Brewers defeated Maysville 55-48 in the final, avenging a 54-50 loss to Maysville in the 1947 final. Frank Fraley's 28 points was a record for a Kentucky final, but it would stand for just one year. They finished at 36-0. Coy Creason starred, making all-tournament and all-state in both 1947 and 1948. He went on to star at Memphis State. MaxPreps prefers them as their 1948 national champion, and who can argue with 36-0. In Kentucky, no less.

Pinckneyville won the Illinois title, thrashing Rockford 65-39 to finish 33-1. Pinckneyville has won more than 1,900 games, played in 11 state tournaments, and won in 1948, 1994 and 2001. **New York Regis** won the NYC Catholic title and then the Eastern States Catholic invitational title, beating Philadelphia LaSalle 32-19 in the final to finish at 27-1. **Grand Island, Nebraska**, won the state basketball title in 1947 and repeated in 1948, and did the same in football. They beat defending state champion Lincoln high 40-36 to win the 1947 basketball title and finish 23-0. MaxPreps likes Grand Island as its 1947 national champion, but Nebraska basketball was not that good. Not only that, but Grand Island was better in 1948. Yeah, they lost a game to finish 22-1, but they hammered Lincoln 50-24 in the state final. **Kingston**, New York, went 20-0 in 1948 and won the 2nd of 3 straight section IX championships. **Lafayette Jefferson** won the Indiana title, beating Evansville Central 54-42 in the final.

1948	1. Brewers, Kentucky (36-0) 2. Pinckneyville, Illinois (33-1) 3. New York Regis (27-1) 4. Grand Island, Nebraska (22-1) 5. Kingston, New York (20-0) (2) 6. Lafayette Jefferson, Indiana (27-3) Player of the Year Coy Creason, Brewers, Kentucky
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1949 Humboldt, Tennessee (44-0)

Humboldt won the Tennessee champions with a perfect 44-0 record and a 46-38 win over Nashville duPont in the state final. Their star was Doug Atkins, who went on to play in the NFL and make his way to the pro football Hall of Fame. **Miami** won the Florida title, also with an unbeaten record of 26-0. They defeated Tampa Jefferson 54-45 in the state final. MaxPreps prefers Miami as its national champion. **Tucson** was the 3rd undefeated state champion that we know of; they won their 2nd straight Arizona title and their 5th of the 1940s, beating Amphitheater 49-26 to finish 23-0.

Hamilton won their 2nd Ohio state title, beating Toledo Central 70-52 to finish 25-1. Finally, **Chicago St. Elizabeth** won the 1st of 3 Black national championships, beating Tulsa Booker T. Washington, Oklahoma, 57-36. Once Chicago high school basketball was desegregated (which means that Black segregated schools could compete against white segregated schools), St. Elizabeth won the city Catholic title in 1956, 1957 and 1961. And, **Detroit Miller**, where Black schools did already compete against white schools, was Detroit champion for the 2nd time in 3 years, beating Detroit Northern 42-29 in the city final.

Only 2 private schools made these rankings from 1900 to 1941. In the 1940s, 7 private schools made the rankings.

1949	1. Humboldt, Tennessee (44-0) 2. <i>Miami, Florida (26-0)</i> 3. Tucson, Arizona (23-0) 4. Hamilton, Ohio (25-1) (2) 5 (tie). Chicago St. Elizabeth 5 (tie). Detroit Miller (2) Player of the Year Doug Atkins, Humboldt, Tennessee
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1940-1949		All-Stars
1. New York Benjamin Franklin 1940 (19-0) 2. Taylorville, Illinois 1944 (45-0) 3. Astoria St. John's Prep, Queens, New York 1945 (26-0) 4. Brewers, Kentucky 1948 (36-0) 5. Humboldt, Tennessee 1949 (44-0)	6 (tie). Champaign, Illinois 1946 (38-1) 6 (tie). Pinckneyville, Illinois 1948 (33-1) 7. Detroit Miller 1947 8. New York Benjamin Franklin 1941 (18-0) 9. New Orleans Jesuit 1944 (15-0) 10. Middletown, Ohio 1946 (26-0)	C- Doug Atkins, Humboldt, TN 1949 F-Dike Eddelman, Centralia, IL 1942 F- Ron Bontemps, Taylorville, IN 1944 G- Sammy Gee, Detroit Miller 1947 G- Marques Haynes, Sand Spring Washington, OK 1941

1950 Mount Vernon, Illinois (33-0)

Mt. Vernon won its 2nd straight Illinois title, beating Danville 85-61 to finish 33-0 and 63-3 over 2 years and with a 46-game winning streak. 3 of their players went on to play in the NCAA final 4—6-5 Max Hooper at Illinois, and Eddie King and John Riley at Bradley. And, Walt Moore was the 1st Black athlete to play at Illinois. He soon left, however, but then helped Western Illinois to a 2-year record of 55-6. **New York Commerce** won the PSAL title with a record of 21-0, and had a 30-game winning streak. **Davenport** won the Iowa championship with remarkable ease—70-28, 78-15, 71-22 and 67-28. Yes, these were their state tournament scores. 4 of their 5 starting players made all-state. Ken Buckles went on to play one year at Iowa, scoring 11 ppg. This was Davenport's 7th state title, and they would get #8 and #9 in 1951 and 1952. Davenport has since split into 4 high schools—Central, Mid-City, North and West.

Fenwick high of Oak Park, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, and Philadelphia LaSalle, were both Catholic high schools who defeated the public school champions to win their overall city titles. Fenwick, led by future Notre Dame quarterback and Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Lattner, beat Chicago Tilden and their star, future NBA all-star Johnny Kerr, 54-41. **LaSalle** won its 3rd Philadelphia title in 5 years, beating Overbrook high 55-31 as another future all-American and all-pro, Tom Gola, scored 20 points. **Ithaca** and **Schenectady Mont Pleasant** each won a sectional championship with an undefeated record. Ithaca was in

the midst of a 37-game winning streak, while Mont Pleasant was in the midst of their 4th winning streak of 36 games or more. They won 44 straight from 1931 to 1933, 36 from 1933 to 1935, 44 again from 1945 to 1948, and finally 41 from 1949 to 1951.

1950	<p>1. Mount Vernon, Illinois (33-0) 2. New York Commerce (21-0) 3. Davenport, Iowa 4 (tie). Oak Park Fenwick, Illinois 4 (tie). Philadelphia LaSalle (2) 5 (tie). Ithaca, New York (21-0)</p> <p>5. Schenectady Mont Pleasant, New York (17-0) (4)</p> <p>Player of the Year Max Hooper, Mount Vernon, Illinois</p>
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1951 Los Angeles Jefferson (27-0)

Los Angeles Jefferson won the 1st of 3 L.A. titles in the 1950s behind the exploits of J.C. Gipson and Algin Sutton. Gipson went on to play with the Harlem Globetrotters for 18 years. Jefferson finished 27-0. Algin Sutton scored 14 ppg over 3 years at Cal Poly. MaxPreps picked Jefferson as their 1951 national champions.

Brooklyn James Madison won a sectional title (there was no statewide championship at the time) and finished 19-0. **New London Bulkeley** high won its 1st Connecticut championship, beating Bridgeport Central 50-40. Then it won the New England championship, winning 3 games by an average of 61-56 including Bridgeport again, though just 56-55 in the semis. They beat Quincy, Massachusetts 62-51 in the final. Bulkeley was led by Art Quimby, who went on to become the all-time leading rebounder at Uconn. **Freeport** won the Illinois title, beating Moline 71-51 to finish 31-2. McKinley "Deacon" Davis was their star. He went on to Iowa where he once finished 8th in scoring in the Big 10. Carl Cain, who later yet became an all-American at Iowa, was a junior at Freeport that year, and he couldn't crack the rotation. **New Orleans St. Aloysius** won its 3rd of 4 state titles in 6 years to finish 30-0. They lost just 3 games over 3 years.

1951	<p>1. Los Angeles Jefferson (27-0) 2. Brooklyn James Madison (19-0) (2)</p> <p>3. New London Bulkeley, Connecticut 4. Freeport, Illinois (31-2) (3) 5. New Orleans St. Aloysius (30-0)</p> <p>Player of the Year J.C. Gipson, Los Angeles Jefferson</p>
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1952 Compton, California (32-0)

Compton repeated as the southern California champions at 32-0. They won in 1951 with a record of 27-8, and they had gotten a good head start on a winning streak, which reached 53 games before ending in 1953. Woody Sauldsberry would go on to a 10-year career in the NBA, and an appearance in the 1959 NBA all-star game. But, the team's star was George Selleck, despite a broken leg and the loss of a knee cap in 1951. He went on to become the 3rd player to score 1,000 points at Stanford and to become a 3-time all-American. Art Johlfs and the National Sports News Service (NSNS) likes Compton as the 1952 national champion and MaxPreps endorses that choice, as it does almost without fail until the present day.

Middletown won its 4th Ohio title in 9 years, beating Steubenville 63-53 to finish 29-1. **Alden-Hebron** high school, located in Hebron, won the Illinois title, edging Quincy 64-59 in OT to finish 35-1. **South Milwaukee** was the 1st Milwaukee team to win a Wisconsin state title, beating Stevens Point 61-54 to finish 27-1. **Selmer** won 4 games by an average of 67-51 to win the Tennessee state title. They defeated Jackson 63-47 in the final to finish at 34-2.

1952	<p>1. Compton, California (32-0) 2. Middletown, Ohio (29-1) (2) 3. Alden-Hebron, Illinois (35-1)</p> <p>4. South Milwaukee (27-1) 5. Selmer, Tennessee (34-2)</p> <p>Player of the Year George Selleck, Compton, California</p>
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1953 Lexington Lafayette, Kentucky

Lexington Lafayette won 10 post-season games by an average of 87-56, and clobbered Paducah Tilghman 84-53 in the Kentucky state final. Their star, Vern Hatton, went on to star and to win an NCAA title and all-America honors at Kentucky.

Pampa won the 1st of 2 straight Texas championships as well as 2 national championships, according to Johlfs and his National Sports News Service, in 1953. They finished 26-0 with a 61-47 win over Austin high school in the state final. They outscored Austin 25-4 in the 4th quarter after trailing 43-36 after 3 periods. **LaGrange**, located on the southwest edge of Chicago in the township of Lyons, won the Illinois title, winning 4 tournament games by an average of 77-59, and beating Peoria 72-60 in the state final. Photos of the championship appear to show that 6 of the 10 players on the team were Black, while a YouTube video of the final against Peoria shows that 3 of the 5 starters for LaGrange were Black. The star, however, was a very large white player named Ted Caiazza, and several of LaGrange's 1st period buckets were scored on Caiazza's tip-ins of missed shots. LaGrange finished with an unbeaten record of 29-0. Today, the roles have been somewhat reversed as it relates to the school's identity. LaGrange high is now called Lyons Township high school, and it is now described as being located not in Lyons Township but in the village of LaGrange. **Brooklyn New Utrecht** won the PSAL championship in New York, beating Flushing 54-52 in sudden death OT to finish 20-0. They were led by 6-8 center Mike Parenti, who once scored 51 points in a game. **Paris Western**, Kentucky, won the Black national championship, easily defeating Montgomery, Alabama, Booker T. Washington 70-41, to finish 29-3.

1953	1. Lexington Lafayette, Kentucky (2) 2. <i>Pampa, Texas (26-0)</i> 3. LaGrange, Illinois (29-0) 4. Brooklyn New Utrecht (20-0) 5. Paris Western, Kentucky (29-3) Player of the Year Vern Hatton, Lexington Lafayette, Kentucky
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1954 Philadelphia Overbrook (20-0)

Wilt Chamberlain tied the city record with 32 points in the Philadelphia finals, and **Overbrook** defeated South Catholic 74-50. They were the 1st public school to win the Philly championship since 1944, and finished 20-0. Chamberlain averaged 38 ppg in the conference.

Pampa again was declared to be America's #1 team. Pampa won 28 games to run its winning streak to 72 games behind 6-5 Jim Bond, beating undefeated Dallas Crozier Tech 47-44 in OT in the state final. Granting Bond was a great basketball player. He was an alternate for the U.S. Olympic basketball team in 1960. He was drafted by the L.A. Lakers but turned down the opportunity to play in the NBA in favor of becoming a minister, which is what he did. We don't agree that Pampa was America's best high school basketball team in 1954. We think that the basketball was better in some of America's big cities—Chicago, Los Angeles, New York—where Black players were being integrated into the high school game. Pampa high school continues to operate today though, as of 2011, it was rated as academically unacceptable by the Texas Education Agency.

It's not clear that **Milan** was that good. They were short. They were slow. They won mostly by playing what they called "cat and mouse," or what North Carolina coach Dean Smith later would call "the 4 corners." But, they beat Oscar Robertson and Indianapolis Crispus Attucks 65-52 in the state quarter-finals and scored an average of 53 points in 9 post-season games. Then, in the final against Muncie Central, they held the ball for 4 minutes in the 4th quarter before Bobby Plump hit a 14-footer at the buzzer for a 32-30 win. They were the quintessential Cinderella. 30 years later they became the "Hoosiers" in a movie of that name. Whatever else they lacked, they did not lack for charisma. They were thought to be the smallest town ever to win a state title anywhere in America.

Miami won their 8th Florida title, and the 1st of 3 more consecutive titles, clobbering Tampa Hillsborough 89-61 in the final. Los Angeles **Mt. Carmel** high school won the southern section of California, beating Long Beach Poly 46-36.

1954	1. Philadelphia Overbrook (20-0) 2. <i>Pampa, Texas (28-0) (2)</i> 3. Milan, Indiana (28-2) 4. Miami, Florida (2) 5. Los Angeles Mt. Carmel Player of the Year Wilt Chamberlain, Philadelphia Overbrook
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1955 Indianapolis Crispus Attucks (30-1)

Indianapolis Crispus Attucks won the Indiana state title and was widely recognized as the 1st all-Black team to win an "open" state championship. The key to Crispus Attucks success was of course "the Big O," Oscar Robertson, generally regarded as one of the greatest basketball players of all-time. Led by Robertson, Crispus Attucks defeated Gary Roosevelt, long a power among segregated Black schools nationally, 97-74 to finish 30-1. Willie Meriweather was a heck of a player, too. He went on to Purdue

where he scored 20 ppg as a senior. NSNS picked Crispus Attucks as its national champion for 1955, and MaxPreps agrees. Crispus Attucks was founded in 1927 when Indianapolis decided to segregate its schools. It was the high school for Indy's Black students. It was ineligible for the IHSAA until the mid-1940s

Philadelphia Overbrook and Wilt Chamberlain repeated as Philadelphia champions, hammering West Catholic 83-42 as Chamberlain scored 35 points and 6-5 teammate Vince Miller added 31. They had beaten West Philly 78-60 for the public title as Chamberlain scored 33 and 5-6 teammate Marty Hughes scored 25. Overbrook finished 18-1 with a 59-58 loss to Farrell, Pennsylvania, a 3-time state champion during the 1950s (including 1954 and 1956, but not 1955), in a holiday tournament. Chamberlain scored 47 ppg in the Philly conference. You probably know about him. Miller played college ball with Al Attles at North Carolina A&T. **Rockford West** won the city's 3rd state title, beating Elgin 61-59 to finish 28-1. **Hazard** won its 2nd Kentucky title, beating Adair County 74-66 as Johnny Cox scored 32 points. It was Kentucky's best all-white team. Meanwhile, **Louisville Central** was Kentucky's best all-Black team. They won their 2nd Black national title in 4 years, beating Clarksville Burt, Tennessee, 85-61 to finish 32-2. Finally, **Minneapolis DeLaSalle** was undefeated and was named the mythical Catholic national champion by the *Chicago Tribune*. The following year, in 1956, Minneapolis Roosevelt won the Minnesota public school title in a historic 101-54 blowout of Blue Earth. Roosevelt lost twice to DeLaSalle that year, and the 1955 team, led by Robert Kammerer, was better.

1955	<p>Indianapolis Crispus Attucks (30-1) 2. Philadelphia Overbrook (18-1) (2) 3. Rockford West, Illinois (28-1) 4 (tie). Hazard, Kentucky 4 (tie). Louisville Central, Kentucky (32-2) 5. Minneapolis DeLaSalle Player of the Year Wilt Chamberlain, Philadelphia Overbrook</p>
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1956 Indianapolis Crispus Attucks (31-0) (2)

Indianapolis Crispus Attucks and “the Big O,” Oscar Robertson, repeated as Indiana state champion with a 79-57 win over Lafayette Jefferson and a 31-0 record. They were the 1st undefeated Indiana state champion in a tournament dating all the way back to 1911. Crispus Attucks was opened in 1927 near Indiana Avenue, the cultural and business hub of the city's Black population and, at that time, the 1st and only high school designated for the city's Blacks. It remained segregated until 1971, despite state and federal desegregation laws. It became a junior high school in 1986. Crispus Attucks was the NSNS pick for national champion in 1956, and who could argue? Not MaxPreps, who doubled down on the Big O and his teammates.

Meanwhile, another star of equal brightness to the Big O, Jerry Lucas, brought **Middletown**, Ohio, to new prominence. Middletown had won 5 state titles in 10 years from 1944 to 1953. Now, Lucas and Middletown scored 102, 98, 99 and 91 points in their 4 state tournament wins, beating Canton McKinley 91-69 in the final. Lucas scored 53 and 44 points in the Final 4 after scoring 28 ppg during the regular season. The 53 points came in a 99-78 win over previously unbeaten Cleveland East Tech. Middletown was the 1st Ohio team to be rated #1 in the pre-season AP poll (which began in 1950) to go on to win the state title. In his senior year of 1958, Lucas and Middletown lost one game 63-62 to Columbus North in a state semi-final game that broke a 76-game winning streak and gave them a 76-1 record over Lucas' final 3 high school seasons.

The NSNS split the baby and MaxPreps agreed—that is, Indianapolis Crispus Attucks and Middletown are considered to be co-champions for 1956.

Legendary **Carr Creek**, losers to Ashland's national champions in 4 OT in 1928, finally won a Kentucky state title, beating Henderson 72-68 in the final. But, the big news came in the semis where they surprised Wayland and “King” Kelly Coleman. Coleman had scored a record 68 points in the 1st round, and scored a record 185 points in 4 games, but Carr Creek held on to win 68-67. Coleman still holds the Kentucky career record of 4,337 points, good for 47 ppg. After a highly publicized recruiting battle between Kentucky and West Virginia, Coleman decided to go to West Virginia. He was soon barred from doing so, however, because he had received cars, clothes and cash from various schools. He eventually went to Kentucky Wesleyan where he scored more than 2,000 points and a record 28 ppg, while leading the Panthers to 2 NCAA College Division final 4s.

Meanwhile, as the Big O and Indianapolis Crispus Attucks was demonstrated to American basketball fans that Black students could play at a very high level, **Louisville Central** won its 2nd straight Black national title. In 1955, they won the national final 85-61 to finish 32-2, now they defeated Lexington Douglas, Kentucky, 81-61 to finish 39-0. What would have happened if all-Black Louisville Central had played all-white Carr Creek? No one knows, nor ever will.

Meanwhile, **Rockford West** repeated as Illinois champion, edging Edwardsville 67-65 to match last year's 28-1 record. Finally, **Long Beach Poly** won the southern California title behind 6-7 Jim Hanna, who went on to score 10 ppg in 3 years at USC.

1956	1. Indianapolis Crispus Attucks (31-0) (2) 2. Middletown, Ohio (25-0) (3) 3 (tie). Carr Creek, Kentucky 3 (tie). Louisville Central, Kentucky (39-0) (2) 4. Rockford West, Illinois (28-1) 5. Long Beach Poly, California (3) Player of the Year Oscar Robertson, Indianapolis Crispus Attucks
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1957 Middletown, Ohio (27-0)

Middletown won its 6th Ohio title in 11 years though most fans only remember the Jerry Lucas years, meaning 52 straight wins in 1956 and 1957. In 1957, Middletown again was undefeated and Jerry Lucas was better than ever (31 ppg). But, Middletown games were also much closer than in 1956, so unbeaten Cleveland Latin was rated #1 in the state. But, Kent Roosevelt surprised Latin in OT in the state semis while Middletown beat Toledo Macomber 70-65, also in OT. Middletown pulled away from a 35-all half-time tie to defeat Macomber 64-54 in the final. Lucas, who had scored 97 points in his final 2 games of 1956, now scored "only" 74. He scored 196 points in 5 final 4 games in 1956, 1957 and 1958, or 39.2 ppg.

In Indiana, Crispus Attucks returned to the state final for the 3rd straight year, but this time there was no Big O and they were no match for unbeaten **South Bend Central**, losing 67-55 to finish 25-6, South Bend Central at 30-0. Central opened in 1872 as South Bend high. It became Central high in 1924. Central was integrated in the 1950s, and old-timers say that the students were mostly color-blind. John Wooden coached here, and when they closed in 1970, they had 28 sectional, 12 regional, 4 semi-state and 2 state titles.

Muskegon Heights won the Michigan title, finishing 20-0 behind M.C. Burton, who went on to star at Michigan State, then to play with the Harlem Globetrotters. They beat Detroit Austin and Dave DeBusschere 61-49 in the state final. **Elmira Free Academy** was the champion of New York's Section IV (there was no statewide tournament) with a 27-0 record and 52 straight wins. They were led by Ernie Davis, who went on to win the Heisman Trophy at Syracuse and then to die of leukemia at the age of 23. The school is now known as Ernie Davis Academy. **Chicago St. Elizabeth** had perhaps its best of 4 Black national champions (1949-1951 and 1957, though the 1951 title was vacated due to the use of an ineligible player). The 1957 team won a triple crown unique in Chicago basketball, winning the DePaul Christmas tournament, the Catholic league title and the city championship with a win over Crane. They then defeated Baton Rouge McKinley, Louisiana, 61-53 in the Black final. The Ironmen finished 48-3.

1957	1. Middletown, Ohio (27-0) (4) 2. South Bend Central (30-0) 3. Muskegon Heights, Michigan (20-0) 4. Elmira Free Academy, New York (27-0) 5. Chicago St. Elizabeth (48-3) (2) Player of the Year Jerry Lucas, Middletown, Ohio
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1958 Oakland McClymonds (21-0)

From 1958 to 1962, **Oakland McClymonds** won 110 games and lost only one. In 1958, 1959 and 1960, the Warriors won 68 straight games and were named national champions by the National Sports News Service each year. MaxPreps has endorsed all 3 of those championships. 6-10 Jim Hadnot was the star in 1958. He went on to score 17.5 ppg over 3 years at Providence. McClymonds was founded in 1915 and still serves the West Oakland neighborhood.

Chicago Marshall was the 1st Chicago team to win the Illinois state championship. Chicago did not play in the 1st 24 Illinois tournaments, then started playing at state in 1931 without winning a championship until now. Only DuSable ever got to the finals but lost to Mt. Vernon 76-70 in a controversial loss in 1954. No less than 5 DuSable baskets were waived off due to charging and traveling calls by referee John Fraser. A few years later was convicted of fixing games and was banned from officiating at the college level, though it is true that no one knows at this late date whether Fraser had any motivation (such as being paid off or simple racism) for victimizing DuSable. 4 years later, Marshall defeated Rock Falls 70-64 to finish 31-0. Marshall was led by George Wilson, then a sophomore, who won 2 NCAA championships at Cincinnati. Marshall high was founded in 1895, and still serves the Garfield Park neighborhood. Today, 98 percent of its students are Black.

6-8 Wayne Hightower took over after the graduation of Wilt Chamberlain, leading **Philadelphia Overbrook** to 2 more city titles. In 1968 they beat Germantown 52-44 for the public league title and Neumann 71-54 for the overall title. Hightower scored 51 points with 31 rebounds in the 2 games, and Overbrook finished 22-0. **St. Louis University High** beat St. Joseph Central 56-43 to win the Missouri title and finish 28-0. **Queens Archbishop Molloy** won the New York City Catholic title at 33-0 under coach Lou Carnesecca.

1958	<i>Oakland McClymonds (21-0)</i> 2. Chicago Marshall (31-0) 3. Philadelphia Overbrook (22-0) (3) 4. St. Louis University High (28-0) 5. Queens Archbishop Molloy, New York (33-0) Player of the Year Jerry Lucas, Middletown, Ohio
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1959 Oakland McClymonds (27-0) (2)

Oakland McClymonds was undefeated for the 2nd straight year and was again named national champion by the NSNS. Paul Silas starred in 1959 and 1960, then played college ball at Creighton. He then spent 17 years as an NBA player and 12 as a head coach.

But this time we prefer **Archbishop John Carroll** high school, who won the D.C. city title 79-52 over Cardozo. They then won 3 games in a national Catholic tournament sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, including a win over Austin Pacelli, Minnesota. Their coach was Marty Crowe, and Pacelli won the award for the best-coached team. Carroll finished 31-0 against high school opponents and went 2-2 against college freshman teams, though their record most often is reported as 33-0. The stars were 6-11 John Thompson and 6-10 Tom Hoover. (Yes, *that* John Thompson.) Carroll high school was opened in 1951 and operated by the Augustinian Friars for 40 years. In 1989, the archdiocese merged all 4 of its schools into one at the Carroll location.

Nashville Pearl won the Black national championship for the 2nd of 3 straight times (and 4 overall: 1958-1960 and 1963). Stars of the 1959 team were Les Hunter and Vic Rouse who 4 years later would lead Chicago Loyola to a stunning comeback, OT NCAA title upset of 2-time defending champion Cincinnati; and Ronnie Lawson, who set freshman scoring records at UCLA that were broken by Lew Alcindor. This time it was close, however—Pearl 76 North Little Rock Scipio Jones, Arkansas 72. Pearl won most of the last 20 Tennessee Black high school titles, and played in the national tournament many of those years. Nashville schools were officially integrated in 1965, but Pearl remained all-Black for several years. Pearl was closed in 1983, but reopened 3 years later as the MLK Magnet school. Its student body in 2016 was 42 percent Black, 42 percent white, 11 percent Asian and 5 percent Hispanic.

Boys High was unbeaten and won the New York PSAL titles in 1959 (18-0) and 1960 (22-0) with Connie Hawkins scoring 25 ppg and 60 points in one game. Hawkins went on to be implicated, but very tangentially, in the so-called 1961 college basketball gambling scandal. He was expelled from Iowa and blackballed by the NBA. Most people thought he got a raw deal. Hawkins played for 9 years in the ABL, ABA and with the Harlem Globetrotters, but also filed suit against the NBA. The NBA decided it could not prevail in court against Hawkins because of the very flimsy evidence against him, settled for \$1.3 million and allowed him into the league in 1969. With the prime of his career already behind him, Hawkins scored 25, 21 and 21 ppg in his 1st 3 years in the NBA. **Cleveland East Tech** won the Ohio title in 1958 and 1959, winning 51 straight games. In the 1959 state tournament, they defeated Toledo Scott 83-47 and Salem 71-51. They were known for the pre-game warmups, consisting of vicious dunks to the tune of “Sweet Georgia Brown.”

1959	<i>1. Oakland McClymonds (27-0) (2)</i> 2. Washington Archbishop John Carroll, D.C. (31-0) 3. Nashville Pearl, Tennessee 4. Brooklyn Boys High (18-0) 5. Cleveland East Tech (25-0) Player of the Year Tom Hoover, Washington Archbishop Carroll, D.C.
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1950-1959		All-Stars
1 (tie). Indianapolis Crispus Attucks 1955 (30-1)	5 (tie). Oakland McClymonds 1958 (21-0)	C- Wilt Chamberlain, Philadelphia Overbrook 1955

1 (tie). Indianapolis Crispus Attucks 1956 (31-0)	5 (tie). Oakland McClymonds 1959 (27-0)	F- Jerry Lucas, Middletown, OH 1958
2 (tie). Middletown, Ohio 1956 (25-0)	6. Washington, D.C., Archbishop Carroll 1959 (33-0)	F- Kelly Coleman, Wayland, KY 1956
2 (tie). Middletown, Ohio 1957 (27-0)	7. Los Angeles Jefferson 1951 (27-0)	G- Oscar Robertson, Indianapolis C. Attucks
3 (tie). Philadelphia Overbrook 1954 (20-0)	8. Compton, California 1952 (32-0)	G (tie)-Johnny Cox, Hazard, KY 1955
3 (tie). Philadelphia Overbrook 1955 (18-1)	9. Louisville Central, Kentucky 1956 (39-0)	G (tie)- Vern Hatton, Lexington Lafayette, KY 1953
4. Mount Vernon, Illinois 1950 (33-0)	10 (tie). Pampa, Texas 1953 (26-0)	
	10 (tie). Pampa, Texas 1954 (28-0)	

1960 Oakland McClymonds 22-0 (3)

Oakland McClymonds three-peated as northern California and national champions, running their winning streak to 68 games. By the end of 1962 they would have a 5-year record of 110-1 and by 1963 they had won 6 straight NorCal titles. Paul Silas starred in 1959 and 1960, as did Fritz Pointer. He was brother to the Pointer Sisters and he played college ball at USF. Jimmy Ellis was the star in 1962 and he went on to play 8 years in the NBA, all with the Golden State Warriors.

Brooklyn Boys High repeated as champions of New York's PSAL, now 22-0 to run their winning streak to 40 games. Connie Hawkins starred for Boys. Too bad they didn't play McClymonds. Paul Silas vs. Connie Hawkins would have been a classic, but it would have been a very long trip in those days. **Chicago Marshall** won its 2nd Illinois state title in 3 years, beating Bridgeport 79-55 in the final to finish 31-2. George Wilson was still at the center of things for Marshall. **Nashville Pearl**, Tennessee, won the Black national championship for the 3rd straight time, and they would make it 4 in 1963. This time they beat West Palm Beach Roosevelt, Florida, 74-50 in the final. **Wilmington New Hanover** leads all North Carolina high schools with 14 state titles, and its 1960 team was regarded as the best to that time. They also won in 1956, 1957 and 1958, and 1961 and 1962. In 1960, they clobbered Raleigh in the final 80-46. Wilmington is now served by 5 high schools. New Hanover is the oldest, opening in 1922, and it is the most diverse with 50 percent white students, 43 percent black, 5 percent Hispanic and 2 percent other. **Phoenix Union** used a big size advantage to bully its opponents by an average of 74-43. They beat Tucson 74-50 for their 5th state title in 6 years, and their 13th overall. The school was opened in 1895, then segregated in 1919 when George Washington Carver was opened up to Phoenix Black students. Carver closed in 1954, so Union was once again integrated, but it closed in 1982.

1960	1. Oakland McClymonds (22-0) (3) 2. Brooklyn Boys High (22-0) 3. Chicago Marshall (31-2) (2) 4. Nashville Pearl, Tennessee (2) 5. Wilmington New Hanover, North Carolina 6. Phoenix Union (23-0) Player of the Year Connie Hawkins, Brooklyn Boys
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1961 Collinsville, Illinois (32-0)

Collinsville is remembered as one of the greatest Illinois teams of their era, though it's true that there is plenty of competition. They outscored their opponents by an average of 77-55, and were known for great shooting and a trapping, ball-hawking defense. They clobbered Harvey Thornton 84-50 in the 1961 final. Located in southwestern Illinois, near St. Louis, Collinsville remains the only high school in town.

Brooklyn Erasmus Hall won the New York PSAL title and finished 21-0. They were led by Billy Cunningham, who went on to find fame at the University of North Carolina and in the NBA. **Ashland**, Kentucky, won 7 post-season games by an average of 93-58 to finish 36-1, and to win their 4th state title. The Tomcats shot 46 percent in 4 state tournament games and beat Lexington Dunbar 69-50 in the final. All 5 Ashland starters went on to play D1 college ball.

Milwaukee Lincoln was the 2nd Milwaukee school ever to win a Wisconsin state title, after themselves back in 1959, when they defeated Milwaukee North in the final. They repeated in 1961, 1962, 1966 and 1967. They were 22-4 in 1959, but in the last 4 championship seasons they were a combined 101-3. In 1961, they edged Rice Lake 77-75 in OT to win the title. **Detroit Central Catholic** won the Michigan large school title, beating Muskegon Heights 72-53. They defeated Grosse Pointe St. Paul 61-41 to win the Catholic title, but lost to Detroit Eastern 56-53 for the overall city title. Detroit Eastern had won its 3rd straight public league title behind Reggie Harding, who played high school basketball even after committing several rapes and dozens of robberies, some of them armed. He couldn't play college ball. They said he couldn't read. He was passed on in school because

he was a great basketball player. He played 4 years in the NBA but was let go after threatening to kill teammates and even his team's general manager. He was shot to death on the Detroit streets at the age of 30.

1961	1. Collinsville, Illinois (32-0) 2. Brooklyn Erasmus Hall, New York (21-0) 3. Ashland, Kentucky (36-1) (3) 4. Milwaukee Lincoln (25-1) 5. Detroit Central Catholic Player of the Year Bill Bradley, Crystal City, Missouri
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1962 Milwaukee Lincoln (26-0)

Milwaukee schools did not play in the Wisconsin state tournament until the 1950s, but in 1959 **Milwaukee Lincoln** and Milwaukee North, both nearly all Black, played for the state title. Lincoln won 64-56 to finish 22-4. Lincoln repeated in 1961 and 1962 with a combined 51-1 record, beating Eau Claire 93-80 in the 1962 final behind Max Walker, who played 3 years at Indiana and led the Hoosiers with 16 ppg as a senior. Lincoln was closed in 1979.

St. Petersburg Dixie Hollins, open just 2 years, won the Florida championship in 1961 and 1962. Jamie King, the coach's son, scored the final 14 points to beat Pensacola Escambia 59-52 in 1961 and he returned to lead the way in 1962. 6-10 Gary Keller, who went on to play at Florida, also starred in 1962, as Hollins clobbered Jacksonville Landon 66-39 in the final. Hollins is now one of 17 high schools serving Pinellas County.

DeMatha, located in Hyattsville, Maryland, but playing in the D.C. Catholic league, emerged as a D.C., metro and national power in the 1960s, winning 6 straight metro titles from 1961 to 1966 and 18 in 25 years. The 1962 team was led by Johnny "Sleepy" Austin who went on to become the 1st Black player at Boston College, then scored 8 ppg in NBA. DeMatha was founded in 1946. The DeMatha mystique is strong, yes, and MaxPreps and NSNS both overlooked their 3 losses, which would disqualify most teams from consideration, and named them national champions. We're not quite on board. Lincoln's Max Walker was approximately the same player as Johnny Austin, as was Hollins' Jamie King, and Hollins also had 6-10 center Keller. So, it would seem to be an open question and just as MaxPreps usually does, we'll go with the better won-lost record.

Oakland McClymonds had its 4th unbeaten season in 5 years for a 5-year record of 107-1. Joe Ellis was now the star. He would go on to play at the U. of San Francisco and then 9 years with the San Francisco/Golden State Warriors. **Uniontown** won the Pennsylvania state title. They beat Norristown 70-57 to finish 29-2. Ron Sepic went on to score about 15 ppg for Ohio State, and Don Yates 12 ppg for Minnesota.

1962	1. Milwaukee Lincoln (26-0) (2) 2. St. Petersburg Dixie Hollins, Florida 3. Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland (D.C. Metro) (29-3) 4. Oakland McClymonds (22-0) (4) 5. Uniontown, Pennsylvania (29-2) Player of the Year Johnny "Sleepy" Austin, Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland
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1963 New York Power Memorial (27-0)

7-footer Lew Alcindor (later known as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar) led **Power Memorial** to 27 straight wins and city Catholic title in his sophomore year. Power was unanimously regarded as the nation's #1 team and Alcindor as the greatest high school player ever. Power Memorial operated from 1931 to 1984, when the building was found to have deteriorated to the point that the Christian Brothers could not afford to repair it.

DeWitt Clinton high school, located in Bronx, New York, was the public school champion parallel to Power's Catholic champion and, like Power, undefeated at 20-0. Clinton was led by Willie Worsley, who went on to play for the famous NCAA championship team at Texas Western, the 1st all-Black team to win the NCAA title and who of course defeated the all-white, segregationist team from Kentucky to do so. Obviously, they did not play Power Memorial.

Louisville Seneca won the 1st of 2 straight Kentucky titles. Wes Unseld starred both years—and especially in 1964—but the bigger star in 1963 was Michael Redd, who scored 26 ppg. Seneca defeated Dunbar 72-66 in the final to finish 31-1. They lost only to #5 Carr Creek in a January invitational tournament, but Carr Creek's best player, Lewis Couch, suffered a broken wrist

against Seneca and was lost for the season. **Darby-Colwyn** and **Plymouth Whitemarsh** won the Pennsylvania class AA and class AAA titles, respectively, both with unbeaten records. Darby-Colwyn defeated Mercer 66-45 and was led by *Parade* all-American Charles Coleman. Whitemarsh defeated Norwin 74-54 to finish 24-0. Somebody knows which of them was better, but that would not be us. **Nashville Pearl** won their 4th Black national championship, beating Jackson Jim Hill, Mississippi, 64-55, and Henry Watkins became the 1st player from a Black, segregated school ever to be named a high school all-American.

1963	1. New York Power Memorial (27-0) 2. Bronx DeWitt Clinton, New York (20-0) (5) 3. Louisville Seneca, Kentucky (31-1) 4 (tie). Darby-Colwyn, Pennsylvania (25-0) 4 (tie). Plymouth Whitemarsh, Pennsylvania (24-0) 5. Nashville Pearl, Tennessee (3) Player of the Year Lew Alcindor, New York Power Memorial
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1964 New York Power Memorial (30-0) (2)

Power Memorial and Lew Alcindor put together their 2nd straight undefeated season and city Catholic title. They set a New York Catholic league record with their 49th straight win, 94-59 over St. Xavier. Alcindor scored 28 points before retiring for the night with 3 minutes remaining in the 3rd quarter. Power also defeated DeMatha Catholic 65-52 at the University of Maryland on February 1. They were again named America's #1 team by acclamation and rightfully so.

Louisville Seneca won their only Kentucky state titles in 1963 and 1964. They defeated Lexington Dunbar 72-66 in 1963 (and won 4 games by an average of 66-52) and defeated Breckinridge County 66-56 in 1964 (and won 4 games by an average of 61-51). Seneca's Michael Redd (1963) and Wes Unseld (1964) were the 1st two Blacks to be named Kentucky Mr. Basketball. Unseld averaged 24 points and 21 rebounds per game and scored 105 points with 88 rebounds in 4 tournament games in 1964. Seneca was only founded in 1957, and today it is one of 23 high schools in Louisville. The 1963 and 1964 Seneca teams are regarded as among Kentucky's best high school teams ever.

So, too, **Birmingham Parker** is regarded by many as Alabama's greatest high school basketball team ever and, remember, this was a segregated, all-Black school with an all-Black team. They won the Alabama Black high school title, then won the Black national title, beating perennial power Nashville Pearl in the semis and Richmond, Virginia, Armstrong 81-79 in the final. They finished with a record of 43-1. Parker opened in 1900 with the name Negro high school. A.H. Parker was its 1st principle and upon his retirement in 1939, the school was renamed in his honor. By 1946 it was the largest all-Black school in the world with more than 3,700 students. Today it is one of 7 high schools in Birmingham. The student body is 98 percent Black; citywide the number is 95 percent.

Uniontown won the large-school title in Pennsylvania, beating the defending champions from Plymouth Whitemarsh 62-51 to finish at 28-0. **Long Beach Poly** edged Downey Pius X 60-58 in OT to win the southern California title and finish 32-1. Dayton Belmont won the state title at 26-1 with Bill Hosket, who went on to star at Ohio State, and Don May, who took Dayton to the 1968 NCAA final against UCLA.

1964	1. New York Power Memorial (27-0) (2) 2. Louisville Seneca, Kentucky (2) 3. Birmingham Parker, Alabama (43-1) 4. Uniontown, Pennsylvania (28-0) (2) 5. Long Beach Poly, California (32-1) (4) 6. Dayton Belmont (26-1) Player of the Year Lew Alcindor, New York Power Memorial
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1965 Brooklyn Erasmus Hall (22-0)

Power Memorial and Lew Alcindor were still all the rage in high school basketball, until they lost to **Hyattsville DeMatha**, Maryland, 46-43, breaking a 71-game winning streak. DeMatha was now the best, and they've been awarded the mythical 1965 national championship 100 times since then. They were good; of course they were good. Hey, Power was still good, though everybody promptly forgot all about them. But, the best team in New York that year was **Erasmus Hall** in Brooklyn who won the public league title at 22-0 while Power repeated as Catholic league champion. Erasmus Hall had George Thompson, who went on to play at Marquette and score 20 ppg in 5 ABA/NBA seasons, and Ollie Shannon, who scored 20 ppg at Minnesota. DeMatha finished 28-1. All 5 starters made all-city in D.C. Sid Catlett, the son of jazz drummer "Big Sid" Catlett, was regarded as

the best player on the team though it was Bernard Williams who was named all-American. Catlett played college ball at Notre Dame.

Midland won the Pennsylvania title, demolishing Steelton 90-61 to finish 28-0. They were led by Norm Van Lier, who later scored 12 ppg in 11 NBA seasons, but it was Simmie Hill who was named all-American. He scored 10 ppg in 4 ABA seasons. **Benton Harbor** clobbered Southfield 94-68 to win the Michigan title and finish 23-0 behind L.C. Bowen, who went on to Michigan State. **City Wyandotte** won the Kansas title at 24-0, with Lucius Allen, soon to be an all-American at UCLA, leading the way. **Los Angeles Jefferson** won the L.A. title at 17-1, beating Hamilton high 80-59 in the final. And, **Breckinridge County** won the Kentucky title, beating Louisville Holy Cross 95-73 in the final behind Butch Beard's 30 points. You may recall that Louisville Seneca and Wes Unseld beat Breckinridge in 1964 state final. Beard was the 1st African-American that the University of Kentucky ever recruited, but he ended up rooming with Unseld at Louisville.

New Orleans Jesuit won the Louisiana championship for white teams, while **New Orleans St. Augustine** won the Louisiana championship for Black teams. What most people didn't know was that the 2 teams played one another in February, in a match game set up by the 2 schools in order to show that white and Black players could play one another without any trouble. St. Augustine star Harold Sylvester said many years later that Augustine won by 22 points, but teammate Glenn Goodier responded that he didn't know what the score was, that there was no scoreboard and no scorebook. Sylvester went on to play for Tulane, then became a successful actor and made a movie about "the secret game." Jesuit demolished East Jefferson 103-73 for the state title to finish at 28-1. And, we will never know if **Jackson Lanier**, Mississippi, winners of the Black national title with a 58-55 win over Suffolk Booker T. Washington, Virginia, in the final, was really the best Black team that year, despite their 43-0 record and an average game score of 102-62. They were so good that Cornell Warner, who went on to play in the NBA, came off the bench, the 8th man, no less. But, no, they did not beat St. Augustine en route to the championship. Louisiana did not sanction a team in the Black tournament this time around.

1965 featured a ridiculous strong field of candidates, as you can see, and so for the 1st time we expand our view to the top 10 (and, in reality, 10 and ties, or 11). 4 of the 11 are private schools; more than one private school was rated only once (2 in 1945) prior to this.

1965	1. Brooklyn Erasmus Hall (22-0) (2) 2. <i>Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland (28-1) (2)</i> 3. Midland, Pennsylvania (28-0) 4. New York Power Memorial (3) 5. Benton Harbor, Michigan (23-0) 6. Kansas City Wyandotte, Kansas (24-0) (3) 7. Jackson Lanier, Mississippi (43-0) 8 (tie). New Orleans Jesuit (28-1) 8 (tie). New Orleans St. Augustine 9. Los Angeles Jefferson (17-1) (2) 10. Breckinridge County, Kentucky Player of the Year Lew Alcindor, New York Power Memorial
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1966 New York DeWitt Clinton (21-0)

New York DeWitt Clinton was ranked #1 nationally, having won their 15th New York public school title behind guards Tiny Archibald and Walter Robertson, who later played with the Harlem Globetrotters, and forward Mike Switzer, who played beside Archibald at UTEP. They defeated defending city and national champion Erasmus 72-58 for the city title at 21-0. Clinton opened in Manhattan in 1897 as Boys high school. It moved to the Bronx in 1929 but remained boys-only until 1983.

Nashville Pearl repeated as Tennessee champion, winning the state title in the 1st 2 integrated tournaments. Pearl itself, its basketball team and Nashville schools remained segregated, however. They won 4 games by an average of 68-52 and beat Treadwell 63-54 in the final. Perry Wallace was their star and became the 1st Black to play in the SEC, at Vanderbilt, where his number was retired. Teammate Ted McClain played at Tennessee State, where he was the MVP of the NCAA D2 tournament in 1970. He played 9 years in the ABA. James Douglas played at Memphis. In 1965, Pearl won their 1st integrated state title, but they lost the 1st integrated basketball game ever to Father Ryan high school 52-51.

Denver Manual is regarded as Colorado's best team ever with a 20-0 record, winning all 20 games by double digit margins. 3 players made the all-state tournament team—Carl Ashley, who went on to score 20 ppg at Wyoming; Horace Kearney, who scored 17 ppg at Denver; and Don Edwards, who scored 11 ppg at Seattle. Manual high was founded in 1892 as an all-Black school. It became diverse in the 1970s and 1980s due to desegregation bussing but the bussing ended in 1995. The school fell prey to gang violence and it was closed in 2006, but reopened as a charter school a year later.

Milwaukee Lincoln won its 3rd state title in 6 years, beating Wisconsin Rapids 75-62 in the final to finish 25-1. They were led by “Downtown” Freddie Brown and Clarence Sherrod, who went on to stellar careers at Iowa and Wisconsin, respectively. Brown scored 23 ppg for Iowa, then 15 ppg in 14 NBA seasons. Sherrod scored 20 ppg as a collegian and was drafted by the Chicago Bulls, but never played in the NBA.

1966	1. New York DeWitt Clinton (21-0) (6) 2. Nashville Pearl, Tennessee (31-0) (4) 3. Denver Manual (20-0) 4. Milwaukee Lincoln (25-1) (3) Player of the Year Rick Mount, Lebanon, Indiana
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1967 (tie) Sarasota Booker (33-1) and St. Petersburg Gibbs, both Florida

Ambridge shared the #1 ranking with **Newark Weequahic**. Ambridge won the Pennsylvania title easily, beating Chester 93-61 to finish 27-0. Ambridge was led by coach Chuck DeVenzio; his son and point guard Dick DeVenzio, who played at Duke; Frank Kaufman, who played at Purdue; and Dennis Wuycik, who played at North Carolina. Weequahic finished 26-0, and was led by Ray Hupp, who won an NCAA decathlon title at Ohio State; Charlie Snow, who played at Cincinnati; and Mike Foote, who played at Kent State.

Neither Ambridge nor Weequahic are rated among the best teams in Pennsylvania or New Jersey history, however, while 3 other teams are regarded as the greatest team ever in their respective states, though each lost one game—**Sarasota Booker** (33-1), **Detroit Pershing** and **Milwaukee Lincoln** (25-1).

Pershing is regarded as one of, if not the best Michigan high school team ever, but Detroit basketball was so good that they didn’t even win their conference, the Detroit city. They lost one game and, thus, the Detroit city title, to Northeastern, 63-61. They bounced back to beat Northeastern in the regional playoffs 77-71, then won the state title easily, clobbering Flint Central 90-66. Ralph Simpson scored 43 points in the final and he was not even the best player on the team. That would be Spencer Haywood, who won the state’s Mr. Basketball award in 1967. Haywood would be the leading scorer for the U.S. gold medal Olympic team in 1968, then score 20 ppg in 13 NBA seasons. Simpson won Mr. Basketball in 1968 and went on to score 29 ppg at Michigan State.

Milwaukee Lincoln averaged 99.8 ppg, and defeated Wausau 61-56 for the state title. Their best player was forward John Rushing, who graduated at mid-year, but they won the state title without him. Clarence Sherrod returned from the 1966 state champions, then played at Wisconsin.

Booker featured Howard Porter, who scored 35 ppg and was considered Florida’s greatest player ever. They outscored their opponents by an average of 102-62 and won the state’s Black championship with an average margin of 49 points. They lost in the semi-finals of the national Black tournament, however, and their school was closed the following year as Sarasota integrated. But, was Booker even the best Black team in Florida in 1967? **St. Petersburg Gibbs** might have had something to say about that, but while Booker remained loyal to the Black FIAA, Gibbs moved over to the previously all-white FHSAA. As the defending champion of the FIAA, Gibbs was rated #1 in the FHSAA entering the 1966-1967 season. Their 1st game was against #3, all-white Clearwater. Gibbs won 70-66. Later, they beat Jacksonville Terry Parker 69-55 to win the FHSAA title in the 1st year that Black schools could compete. Over the next 2 years, most FIAA teams joined the FHSAA and the FIAA was dissolved. In 1968, not one but 2 former FIAA schools played for the title. West Palm Beach Roosevelt beat Eatonville Wymore Tech for the 2nd title that Black schools were allowed to compete for.

Belleville, New York, also needs a mention. They won a sectional title (there was no state tournament) at 22-0. By 1971, they had amassed a 104-game winning streak, still the national record.

Considering the immense success of Black segregated high schools in these very early days of “integrated” play, we choose the Florida pioneers—Booker and Gibbs—as our co-national champions.

1967	1 (tie). Sarasota Booker, Florida (33-1) 1 (tie). St. Petersburg Gibbs 2. Ambridge, Pennsylvania (27-0) 3. Detroit Pershing 4. Milwaukee Lincoln (25-1) (4) 5. Newark Weequahic, New Jersey (26-0) 6. Belleville, New York (22-0) Player of the Year Spencer Haywood, Detroit Pershing
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1968 Compton, California (32-0) (2)

Compton was named national champion by the NSNS, and MaxPreps concurred for the 2nd time (that is, as in 1952), and they would do so for the 3rd time the following year, in 1969. Compton finished 32-0 in 1968, 30-0 in 1969, and by then they would have a 66-game winning streak. Forward Larry Hollyfield and guard Lewis “Louie” Nelson both starred in 1968 and 1969, and in college—Nelson at Washington, Hollyfield at UCLA. Nelson started 2 years in the NBA. NSNS and MaxPreps like them as national champions for 1968.

Still, it’s hardly obvious that Compton would have beaten **Houston Phyllis Wheatley** in 1968. Wheatley was of course a Black, segregated school. From 1940 to 1966, they won 12 PVIL titles and were runners-up on 4 other occasions. 3 times they went to the Black national championship tournament, finishing 2nd to Louisville Central in 1952. Texas high schools were nominally integrated in 1967 but Black schools could and did choose to stay in the all-Black PVIL until 1970. Not Wheatley. They jumped to the previously all-white UIL as soon as possible in 1968. And, wouldn’t you know it, they stormed all the way to the class AAAA final against the 1962 champion and 1965 runners-up from Dallas Jefferson. Wheatley outran Jefferson 85-80 (in OT) to win the very 1st “integrated” state tournament with its all-Black squad. Jefferson outshot Wheatley 45 percent to 41 and had 2 fewer turnovers, but Wheatley led the rebounding 56-38. They finished 36-0. Jerry Bonney went from Wheatley to Houston U., scoring 9 ppg in 3 years.

New Haven Wilbur Cross and New Haven Hillhouse are the Celtics and the Lakers, the Dodgers and the Yankees, of Connecticut high school ball. By the time Wilbur Cross ever got to a state final, however, Hillhouse was already 10-5 in state finals, including 4 straight titles in 1945 through 1948. But, Wilbur Cross came on strong, winning 4 straight from 1958 to 1961 and 2 more in 1966 and 1967. Today (2022) Hillhouse is 19-7 and Wilbur Cross 14-5 in Connecticut state finals, and Hillhouse has won 4 of 5 head-to-head state final matchups. But, Wilbur Cross can take solace in knowing that the greatest team in Connecticut history was its 1968 champions. They won their 3rd straight state title, and in 1968 it came by the ridiculous margin of 123-82 over Bridgeport Central. Alex Scott and Clint Davis were the stars of those teams, but in 1968 there also came along a sophomore named John Williamson. In the 1968 final, Davis scored 40 points, Scott 24 and Williamson 17 points. All 3 went on to play at New Mexico State where Williamson scored 27 ppg over 2 seasons. He then played 8 years in the NBA, averaging 17.5 ppg, but his career ended at the age of 28 due to a lack of conditioning. He died of kidney failure related to diabetes at the age of 45.

Charleston won the West Virginia title with a 78-64 win over Woodrow Wilson high school of Beckley, West Virginia, a reversal of the 1967 title won by Wilson 75-69. Charleston was led by Curtis Price, Levi Phillips and Larry Harris, all of whom went on to play at West Virginia University. Phillips scored 12 points, Harris 11 and Price 8 at West Virginia, though Harris was killed in a car crash after his junior college season.

San Francisco Woodrow Wilson high school won the Bay Area Tournament of Champions, beating Berkeley 68-62 to finish 27-0. 6-9½ Ansley Truitt went on to score 17 ppg over 3 years at California, and 5 ppg with the New York Knicks for 3 years.

1968	1. Compton, California (32-0) (2) 2. Houston Phyllis Wheatley, Texas (36-0) 3. New Haven Wilbur Cross, Connecticut 4. Charleston, West Virginia (25-0) 5. San Francisco Wilson (27-0) Player of the Year Ralph Simpson, Detroit Pershing
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1969 Compton, California (30-0) (3)

Compton repeated as southern California and national champion in 1969 with a 30-0 record and, now, a 66-game winning streak. NSNS and MaxPreps again picked Compton as the national champion.

Louisville Central was a segregated, Blacks-only school from 1892 through 1957. In 1957, the U.S. Information Agency produced a propaganda film showing peaceful integration at Central high. But, by 1969, the year after Martin Luther King was killed, Louisville was feeling the same racial tensions as every other American community. With “the Martin Luther King thing, the riot and all that,” remembered center Tommy Starnes 50 years later, “our backs were against the wall.” But Central also had a secret weapon in Ron King, who scored a record 44 points in the final as Central clobbered Ohio County 101-72 to become the 1st all-Black team to win the title. King went on to score 20 ppg over 3 years and to lead Florida State to the 1972 NCAA final. Central finished 35-1.

Indianapolis Washington (not to be confused with Washington or East Chicago Washington) won its 2nd state title in 5 years, beating Gary Tolleston 79-76 in the final to finish 31-0. Washington was led by George McGinnis and Steve Downing, both of whom went on to play at Indiana U. They scored 55 points with 43 rebounds between them this year. McGinnis scored 35 in the state final, then 53 in the Indiana-Kentucky all-star game. He scored 30 ppg at IU his 1st year, then turned pro and score 20 ppg over 11 NBA seasons. Downing averaged 16 points and 12 boards in 3 years at IU.

Columbus East won its 2nd straight Ohio title, its 3rd in 7 years and its 4th overall. They beat Canton McKinley 71-56 in the final to finish 25-0 and 70-1 over 3 years. (In addition to winning the title in 1968 and 1969, they were runnersup in 1967.) East was led by 6-5 Ed Rattleff who scored 96 points in 4 final 4 games in the latter 2 seasons. He went on to score 21 ppg in 3 years at Long Beach State and 8 ppg in 5 NBA seasons. And, Dwight "Bo" Lamar emerged as a star in 1969. He went on to score 34 ppg at Southwestern Louisiana, and 16 ppg in 4 NBA seasons.

Houston Phyllis Wheatley repeated in 1969 and 1970 with a 102-2 record over those 3 years, and made it to the finals before losing in 1971. In 1969, they lost a regular season matchup with Houston Memorial, then beat Memorial in a rematch in the state finals, 52-47. Dwight Jones who, by the time he was a senior (in 1970) anyway, was a 6-10 power forward, was the star of the latter 2 champions, scoring 121 points in 6 final 4 games, and averaging 28 points and 24 rebounds as a senior. He averaged 18 points and 14 boards in 3 years at the University of Houston, then 8 points and 6 boards in 10 NBA seasons.

1969	<p>1. Compton, California (32-0) (3) 2. Louisville Central, Kentucky (35-1) (2)</p> <p>3. Indianapolis Washington (31-0) 4. Columbus East (25-0)</p> <p>5. Houston Phyllis Wheatley, Texas (27-2) (2)</p> <p>Player of the Year George McGinnis, Indianapolis Washington</p>
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1960-1969		All-Stars
1 (tie). New York Power Memorial 1963 (27-0)	6. New York DeWitt Clinton 1966 (21-0)	C- Lew Alcindor, New York Power Memorial 1965
1 (tie). New York Power Memorial 1964 (30-0)	7. Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland 1965 (28-1)	F- Connie Hawkins, Brooklyn Boys 1960
2. Oakland McClymonds 1960 (22-0)	8 (tie). Nashville Pearl, Tennessee 1960	F (tie)- George McGinnis, Indianapolis Washington 1969
3 (tie). Compton, California 1968 (32-0)	8 (tie). Birmingham A.W. Parker, Alabama 1964 (43-1)	F (tie)- Spencer Haywood, Detroit Pershing 1967
3 (tie). Compton, California 1969 (30-0)	8 (tie). St. Petersburg Gibbs, Florida 1966	G- Bill Bradley, Crystal City, MO 1961
4. Brooklyn Boys 1960 (22-0)	8 (tie). St. Petersburg Gibbs, Florida 1967	G- Butch Beard, Breckinridge County, KY 1965
5 (tie). Nashville Pearl, Tennessee 1966 (31-0)	8 (tie). Sarasota Booker, Florida 1967	
5 (tie). Houston Phyllis Wheatley 1968 (36-0)	9. Brooklyn Erasmus Hall 1965 (22-0)	
5 (tie). Louisville Central, Kentucky 1969 (35-1)	10. Louisville Seneca, Kentucky 1963 (31-1)	

4. The Low Post Era, Part Two 1970-1989

In the 1970s and 1980s, most basketball teams from the high schools to the pros continued to organize their offensive schemes around the low post. But, now there was pushback. Defenses decided that they would challenge the big guy. They would double and triple team him. They would push him around. They would challenge his shots. No longer would the defense roll over and play dead against a good big man. Not only that, but officials at every level allowed the defense to play more aggressively. As a result, scoring declined for the first time since the 1920s. In the NBA, playoff scoring had averaged 115-103 in 1960. It peaked at 119-104 in 1970. By 1980 it had

declined to 110-98 and in 1990 to 110-97, a decline of about 6 percent from the peak. It was the “dead ball” revisited. Fans kind of liked the offensive fireworks. It got so bad that, in 1986, the NCAA adopted the 3-point shot and most state high school associations followed suit. (The ABA had adopted the 3-pointer in 1967, the NBA in 1979.) The 3-pointer was meant to stretch the defense, to create more space for the good old-fashioned low post.

But some teams had taken matters into their own hands, even before and without the 3-pointer. They did that with the fast break and the dunk. The University of Houston under coach Guy Lewis was known as Phi Slamma Jamma and also as “the future of basketball.” 1970 high school national champion Houston Phyllis Wheatley and 1971 champion East Chicago Washington, Indiana, were reasonable facsimiles of Phi Slamma Jamma with scoring averages nearing 100 points per game.

Meanwhile, high school basketball stars gained a new level of notoriety. Moses Malone (1974) and Darryl Dawkins (1975) went directly from high school into the NBA. College recruiting battles for high school stars like Sam Bowie, Patrick Ewing, Ralph Sampson, et al, became big news.

1970 Houston Phyllis Wheatley (39-0)

1970 was a great year for big men—Bill Walton, Marvin Barnes, Len Elmore, Dwight Jones, not necessarily in that order. Parade magazine had Walton on the 1st team, Jones on the 2nd, while Barnes and Elmore were not among the 20 players named. Others bigs like Tom McMillan and Tom Burleson were, but their teams didn’t win state titles.

NSNS and MaxPreps both prefer **Houston Phyllis Wheatley** as their national champions. Hey, they were 39-0, and they had Dwight Jones who, as noted above, averaged 28 points and 24 rebounds per game as a senior. They won the Texas title in 1967, 1968 and 1969, going 102-2 over 3 years. They won the 1970 title beating Carrollton Turner 108-80. Along with Jones, guard Lawrence Johnson started on all 3 state champions. It was their 15th state title, including 12 in the old PVIL, the association for Black schools and Black sports teams. They were good.

But so was **LaMesa Helix**, where Bill Walton roamed the paint and led the Hilltoppers to a 33-0 record and a 70-56 win over Chula Vista in the southern California final. Walton scored 29 ppg with 24 rebounds. After one game, Denny Crum gushed to John Wooden, “I’ve just seen the greatest high school player ever.” Wooden asked, “Better than Alcindor?” Crum said, Yup.” On the other hand, only one of Walton’s teammates played any college ball and that for just one season, though all of them were known to score 20 points from time to time against high school competition.

Speaking of Alcindor, his alma mater, **New York Power Memorial**, finished unbeaten at 22-0 with big guy Len Elmore now in charge. Not only that, but teammates Ed Searcy (St. John’s) and Jap Trimble (Maryland) played big-time college ball, too, scoring 30 points among them in their best seasons.

And, lest we forget, Helix was champion only of half of California, the southern half. In the north, **Berkeley** was a beast, 32-0 with a 70-64 win over 1968 top 5 San Francisco Wilson in the final. Marvin Buckley went on to score 20 ppg at Nevada, while John Lambert scored 10 at USC, then played 7 years in the NBA. Glenn Burke went into major league baseball, and if his name sounds familiar it’s because he was one of the 1st, if not the 1st major league professional athlete to come out of the closet.

Finally, who can choose between 2 Chicagoland schools—**LaGrange Lyons**, the Illinois champion at 31-0, and **East Chicago Roosevelt**, the Indiana champion at 28-0. Not us, though Marcus Washington of LaGrange went on to score 10 ppg and play in a national championship game at Marquette.

1970	1. Houston Phyllis Wheatley, Texas (39-0) 2. LaMesa Helix, California (33-0) 3. New York Power Memorial (22-0) 4. Berkeley, California (32-0) 5 (tie). East Chicago Roosevelt, Indiana (28-0) 5 (tie). LaGrange Lyons, Illinois (31-0) Player of the Year Bill Walton, LaMesa Helix, California
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1971 East Chicago Washington, Indiana (29-0)

Something was happening in the extreme northwestern corner of Indiana around this time. Well, yeah, basketball was happening. East Chicago Washington won its 1st state title in 1960, Michigan City Elston won in 1966, Gary Roosevelt in 1968, then East Chicago Roosevelt in 1970 and East Chicago Washington again in 1971. In between, Gary Tolleston lost the final to Indy Washington in 1969. This was a proper hotbed, but out of all of these teams, most observers of Indiana basketball thought that **East Chicago Washington**, circa 1971, was the best of the best. They finished 29-0, of course, though their championship game win over Elkhart, with a score of 70-60, doesn't sound like anything special. But, they scored 95 points per game for the season and a record 344 points in their final 4 games (86 ppg). And, when it came time to name the Indiana all-state team (not all-tournament, but all-state), well, Pete Trgovich made the 1st team, Tim Stoddard the 2nd, and Ulysses Bridgeman, Darnell Adell and Ruben Bailey all made honorable mention. Trgovich went on to play at UCLA (7 ppg over 3 years); Stoddard at NC State (6 ppg in 3 years); Bridgeman, better known as "Junior," at Louisville (15.5 ppg in 3 years); and Adell at Murray State (6 ppg over 3 years).

Now, on paper, head to head, **Pittsburgh Schenley** could match up with the Senators, with Maurice Lucas inside and Rickey Coleman out, but the lost 3 times. Lucas of course played at Marquette and then 14 years in the NBA, while Coleman scored 14 ppg over 3 years at Jacksonville. Robert "Jeep" Kelley may have been the best of the 3, but he played only briefly at UNLV and Hawaii. He later served jail time for drugs and died of cardiac arrest at the age of 54.

Los Angeles Verbum Dei also had some incredible talent. They won 3 CIF southern section titles from 1969 to 1971 with an 84-4 record. Randy Echols went on to score 9 ppg at Florida Tech. Lewis Brown played at UNLV, scoring 11 ppg over 4 years but, when he died in 2011, he had been living on the streets of Hollywood for 10 years. Raymond Lewis and Adrian Chivers went to Cal State-L.A., where Lewis, the superstar of the group and perhaps of the entire class of 1971, scored 39 ppg one year and 73 points in one game. He turned down UCLA and USC because Cal State got him a red Corvette. He never agreed to an NBA contract, walking out on the Philadelphia 76ers every year for 3 years. He became a street ball legend in L.A., but battled alcoholism and depression. He died in 2001 due to complications from the amputation of an infected leg and a stroke. He and Chivers and 5 other athletes had sued Cal State-L.A., claiming that their promised scholarships had never materialized, only loans, and that when they tried to transfer, their transcripts were withheld because they hadn't repaid the loans. They also charged that they had been pushed into non-existent majors and classes. The players sought \$14 million in damages but settled for \$10,000 per player plus forgiveness of loans and other fees that amounted to \$3,000 to \$7,000 per player.

Albany Philip Schuyler went 22-0 behind the exploits of Luther "Ticky" Burden and Nate Bland. Bland went on to score 15 ppg at Centenary college in Louisiana. But, Burden was the star. He went on to play at Utah, where he scored 22 ppg over 3 seasons. From there, he played 3 more seasons in the ABA and NBA, scoring 13 ppg. Finally, the New York Knicks released him due to a lack of defensive effort. 2 years later, Burden and 3 other men attempted to rob a bank on Long Island. His accomplices cut deals and testified against Burden, who was sentenced to 18 years. A court threw out the conviction 2 years later, and he was released for time served. He lived the rest of his life near his daughter in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, but died in 2015 due to complications from cataract surgery.

Nashville Cameron went 32-0 and defeated Lexington 56-50 to win the Tennessee state championship. David Vaughan, Jr., was their star. He initially committed to Memphis State, then decided to move on to Oral Roberts, but married the sister of Memphis State star Larry Finch. He averaged 19 points and 14 rebounds in one year at ORU, and set a still-standing NCAA record with 34 rebounds in one game. But, he became depressed and moved on to the ABA where he scored 11 ppg in 2 seasons. He then moved to Europe, but he broke both legs in a car accident. His son David Vaughn III later played 2 seasons in the NBA.

1971	1. East Chicago Washington (29-0) 2. Pittsburgh Schenley (25-3) 3. Los Angeles Verbum Dei 4. Albany Philip Schuyler, New York (22-0) 5. Nashville Cameron, Tennessee (32-0) Player of the Year Raymond Lewis, Los Angeles Verbum Dei
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1972 Dolton Thornridge, Indiana (33-0)

Dolton Thornridge clobbered Quincy 104-69 to win the Illinois state championship and to finish 33-0. They won 54 straight games. Dolton is a village in the southeastern area of Cook County, near the Indiana line, in that hotbed of basketball that extended to the east to include East Chicago and Gary and Michigan City, Indiana, and also Harvey, Illinois. Thornridge's leader was Quinn Buckner, who went on to win an NCAA championship at Indiana in 1976. He averaged 10 ppg in 4 years at Indiana,

and 8 ppg in 10 NBA seasons. Co-captain Boyd Batts played 3 seasons at Hawaii and UNLV, and scored 11 ppg. Dolton Thornridge has pretty unanimously been regarded as the best team and the national champion of 1972.

Flint Northern won the Michigan championship, not without some stress, 86-81 over Pontiac Central, to finish 25-0. Coach Bill Frieder was the star of that team. He became a U. of Michigan assistant and its head coach in 1980. But, in 1972, he had some players. Wayman Britt went on to score 10 ppg in 4 seasons at Michigan, and he was the captain of the 1976 NCAA runners-up who lost to Quinn Buckner's Indiana team in the final. Terry Furlow went on to score 29 ppg for Michigan State one year, still the Spartans' record, with games of 48 and 50.

Brooklyn Canarsie was only opened in 1966, but quickly became a basketball powerhouse. And, why not? Basketball was now known as "the city game" and Canarsie, located on Jamaica Bay in southeastern Brooklyn, long had been an African-American neighborhood. So, the 1972 team won the PSAL title beating Jamaica in the final after edging DeWitt Clinton 73-70 in the semi-finals. Canarsie's star was Lloyd Free (later World B. Free), who went on to score 20 ppg in 13 NBA seasons with a high of 30 ppg in 1980.

Then, what can you say about **Los Angeles Crenshaw**? They won the L.A. title in 1971, 1973 and 1974, but not 1972, yet some say the 1972 team was the best of them all. They had Marques Johnson, who played 4 years at UCLA, scoring 14 ppg and 21 ppg as a senior, then scored 20 ppg in 10 NBA seasons. And they had Robert Smith, who scored 10 ppg in 3 years at UNLV and 2 ppg in the NBA. But, they started 14-0, then forfeited the rest of their games for unknown reasons.

Meanwhile, **Charlotte South Mecklenburg** won their 3rd straight North Carolina title, beating Burlington Walter Williams 59-57 to finish 26-0. Walter Davis was their star. He went on to score 16 ppg in 4 years at North Carolina, then 19 ppg in 15 years in the NBA. Birmingham West End won the Alabama title at 34-1, beating Birmingham Hayes 53-52. T.R. Dunn led the way, then scored 11 ppg in 4 years at Alabama, then 5 ppg in 14 NBA seasons.

1972	<p>1. Dolton Thornridge, Illinois (33-0) 2. Flint Northern, Michigan (25-0) (2) 3. Brooklyn Canarsie (24-0) 4. Los Angeles Crenshaw 5. Charlotte South Mecklenburg, North Carolina (26-0) 6. Birmingham West End, Alabama (34-1) Player of the Year Quinn Buckner, Dolton Thornridge, Illinois</p>
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1973 Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland (30-1) (2)

Hyattsville DeMatha, located in Maryland as you'll recall, lost to Baltimore Dunbar in what they say was the greatest game in Baltimore high school basketball history. It was like DeMatha and Power all over again, but this time the big shoes were on the other feet. Skip Wise scored 22 of his 39 points in the 4th quarter and Dunbar's Larry Gibson held DeMatha's Adrian Dantley to 2 baskets. Dunbar won 85-71. We might note that DeMatha was without Kenny Carr, who was injured. Dantley, of course, went on to play at Notre Dame and to score 29 ppg in 2 years, then 24 ppg in 15 NBA seasons. Carr scored 21 ppg in 3 years at North Carolina State, and 12 ppg in 10 NBA seasons. 5 other players played at high D1. None lost again at DeMatha in 1973, as the Stags finished 30-1. Dantley was 57-2 overall with a 36-game winning streak.

Still, DeMatha was denied the #1 ranking at the time. **Houston Phyllis Wheatley** (43-1) and **Los Angeles Verbum Dei** (29-2) shared #1, then. Today? Today, everybody says this was DeMatha's best team and the best team of 1973. Wheatley won the Texas title 84-78 over Midland. They scored a reported 118 points per game. Eddie Owens was a *Parade* all-American, played at UNLV and scored 3 ppg in the NBA. Steve Jones played at Texas A&M, Michael Long and Robert Jammer at UT-Arlington, Willie Davis at North Texas. Verbum Dei was led by sophomores David Greenwood and Roy Hamilton. Both played at UCLA where Greenwood scored 20 ppg and Hamilton 17 as a senior at UCLA. They then scored 10 ppg and 5 ppg, respectively, in the NBA.

Baltimore Dunbar didn't lose in 1973 and, hey, they beat DeMatha but, somehow, they never got into the conversation about the national championship. Skip Wise played one year at Clemson, where he was the 1st freshman to win all-conference honors. He then turned pro, but appeared in only 5 games after being caught using heroin in the Golden State Warriors locker room. He served prison time for drug offenses in 1975 and again in 1983.

1973	<p>1. Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland (30-1) 2. <i>Houston Phyllis Wheatley (43-1)</i></p>
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	3. <i>Los Angeles Verbum Dei</i> (29-2) 4. Baltimore Dunbar (19-0) Player of the Year Adrian Dantley, Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland
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1974 Los Angeles Verbum Dei (30-2)

Los Angeles Verbum Dei is the almost-but-not-quite unanimous pick for national champion in 1974. They were still led by David Greenwood and Roy Hamilton, whose stellar UCLA careers still lay ahead of them. They lost twice but beat Long Beach Millikan 70-60 for the southern California title.

Still, the *Washington Post* endorsed undefeated *New Haven Wilbur Cross* as its choice for national champions. They were 24-0 and of course come from a long line of basketball champions including 14 Connecticut state titles. They clobbered Trumbull 98-65 for the state title. They beat DeWitt Clinton. They were led by Bruce "Soup" Campbell, who went on to score 15 ppg in 4 years at Providence. They check the boxes. But, better than Verbum Dei? No.

In fact, **Memphis Melrose** might have been better than Wilbur Cross. They finished 33-0 with a 66-30 thrashing of Haywood. James Bradley, John Gunn and Alvin Wright all went on to Memphis State, and all averaged in double figures. Gunn scored 11 ppg over 3 years, but died after his junior year due to a rare disease called Stevens-Johnson Syndrome.

But, speaking of DeWitt Clinton, **Taft** high school in the Bronx, beat Clinton, too, 56-55, to win the New York City title, then went on to win the PSAL title as well. Taft was led by guard Alex Eldridge, who died a few years later at age 24 of a heart ailment. But, in his prime, he went head to head with Clinton star Butch Lee and played him to pretty much of a draw. And, while we're lurking around greater metropolitan New York, let's note that even as defending state champion and, now, 30-0, **Jersey City St. Anthony** largely escaped notice in 1974. But, hey, they were 30-0, the 1st of legendary coach Bob Hurley's 5 unbeaten teams, the 2nd of 26 state champions.

Finally, **Provo** 3-peated as the Utah state champion with a 54-game winning streak, led by 7-foot Brett Vroman, who went on to play for UCLA and UNLV.

1974	1. <i>Los Angeles Verbum Dei</i> (29-2) 2. Memphis Melrose (33-0) 3. <i>New Haven Wilbur Cross, Connecticut</i> (24-0) 4 (tie). Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey (30-0) 4 (tie). Bronx Taft, New York 5. Provo, Utah Player of the Year Moses Malone, Petersburg, Virginia
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1975 Houston Kashmere (46-0)

Basketball Weekly joined NSNS in selecting a national champion in 1975, and promptly bollixed up the whole deal. Dave Krider made the picks for *BW*, and it turned out that *BW* refused to pay him for one more week of work, and so a final pick was never made. The regular season pick was *Los Angeles Verbum Dei*, then 28-0, and still (seemingly forever) led by David Greenwood and Roy Hamilton. And, that's where things remained. Unfortunately (for Verbum and for *BW*) Verbum Dei promptly lost to Palos Verdes and their star Bill Laimbeer 61-58 in the CIF southern semis. Krider said that he would have picked Houston Kashmere but, again, that pick was never published, so Verbum Dei remains the accidental champion of 1975.

Well, except NSNS picked **Houston Kashmere**, and their 46-0 record looks better than Verbum's 28-1, so surely people recognize that Kashmere was the best team that year. Surely. Of course, Kashmere, riding a 77-game winning streak, just got past Fort Worth Paschal 60-58 in the final. For coach Weldon Drew, it ended a 15-year wait that had begun in 1960 when the PVIL final between Kashmere and Dallas Madison was called off because of an overcrowded arena. Now, at least 4 of Kashmere's starters would play college ball, led by Karl Godine, who played at Texas A&M and was drafted by the NBA.

Chicago Phillips won the Illinois title with ease, beating Chicago Heights 76-48 to finish 32-1. At least 3 of their players played D1 college ball at places like Louisville, Marquette and Western Michigan. Meanwhile, **Marion**, with its entire starting 5 back from 1974, won the 1st of 2 straight Indiana titles, beating Loogootee 58-46 to finish 28-1.

1975	1. <i>Houston Kashmere</i> (46-0) 2. <i>Los Angeles Verbum Dei</i> (28-1)
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	3. Chicago Phillips (32-1) 4. Marion, Indiana (28-1) Co-Player of the Year David Greenwood and Roy Hamilton, Los Angeles Verbum Dei
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1976 Washington Dunbar (29-0)

Washington Dunbar and **Brooklyn Canarsie** shared the national championship. Dunbar was selected by the time-tested NSNS, while Canarsie was chosen by *Basketball Weekly* who, you'll recall, botched the job the previous year. Well, Canarsie is not a bad choice, but Dunbar was better. Dunbar defeated DeMatha, and they were led by John Duren, who went on to start for Georgetown for 4 years at the height of John Thompson's dynasty there. 3 other Dunbar starters played at Georgetown, North Carolina State and West Virginia. They finished 29-0.

Canarsie won the city title and the PSAL, defeating Brooklyn Lafayette 74-63 in the latter to finish 24-0. They were led by Tyrone Ladson, who was a *Parade* all-American (nobody from Dunbar made its top 40) but only scored 4 ppg in 4 years at Texas A&M. Curtis Redding had a better college career, scoring 15 ppg in 3 years at Kansas State and St. John's. Still, Dunbar had a little better talent.

The other teams with that kind of depth were **Long Beach Poly**, California, and **West Philadelphia**. But, West Philly's year was 1977. They won their final 13 games in 1976 to win the city title, but they would go 30-0 in 1978 and extend their winning streak to 68 games in 1979. Poly was led by Michael Wiley, who scored 16 ppg at Long Beach State, and James Hughes, who scored 9 ppg in 4 years at Northern Illinois. Then there was this guy named Tony Gwynn. Bet you didn't know that he scored 9 ppg over 4 years of basketball at San Diego State.

1976	1. Washington Dunbar (29-0) 2. <i>Brooklyn Canarsie (24-0)</i> 3. West Philadelphia 4. Long Beach Poly Player of the Year Darrell Griffith, Louisville Male, Kentucky
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1977 West Philadelphia (30-0)

West Philadelphia was pretty much of a unanimous choice for national champion in 1977. The Speedboys returned 3 starters from 1976—Gene Banks scored 25 ppg and was generally regarded as the #2 player in the nation behind Albert King...and ahead of Magic Johnson. He went on to score 17 ppg in 4 years at Duke. Darryl Warwick scored 16 ppg, Clarence "Eggy" Tillman 15. He went on to score 12 ppg in 3 years at Rutgers. Joe Garrett joined the starting lineup, and later played at UTEP. West Philly beat Philadelphia Judge 72-52 to win the city title, then beat Overbrook 61-51 in the playoffs to finish 33-0.

Wichita Heights is generally regarded as #2 in 1977. They were led by Antoine Carr and Darnell Valentine. Valentine was 1st team all-Parade, and went on to score 15 ppg in 4 years at Kansas and 9 ppg in 9 NBA seasons. Carr scored 17 ppg in 4 years at Wichita State and 9 in 16 NBA seasons. They won the state title game 92-52 to finish 23-0.

Lansing Everett was of course Magic Johnson's team. They beat Birmingham Brother Rice 62-56 to win the Michigan title and finish 27-1. Magic averaged 29 points and 17 rebounds per game. **Eugene North** was Danny Ainge's team. They beat Grant 56-45 to win their 2nd straight Oregon title and their 38th straight game. **Oakland Fremont** beat St. Joseph 61-38 to win the Bay Area tournament of champions at 25-1. They were led by Phil Barner who went on to score 8 ppg at Oregon.

1977	1. West Philadelphia (30-0) 2. Wichita Heights, Kansas (23-0) 3. Lansing Everett, Michigan (27-1) 4. Eugene North, Oregon (26-0) 5. Oakland Fremont (25-1) Player of the Year Albert King, Brooklyn Fort Hamilton
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1978 Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland (28-0) (3)

A March 1978 newspaper article said that, well, **DeMatha** didn't have the best "personnel," but that they were the nation's best team by virtue of "teamwork." DeMatha went 12 deep and it was their younger 2nd stringers, like Sidney Lowe and Derek Whittenburg, who one day made a bigger name for themselves. They scored 86 ppg and shot 50 percent from the field. Verbum

Dei had better 8-deep personnel, the article said, but not the teamwork. Oh, yeah, the article extensively quoted Dave Krider of *Basketball Weekly*, who along with NSNS picks the national champion. They finished 28-0 (Verbum lost twice) and beat D.C. Dunbar 63-55 for the city title.

Gene Banks was gone, but “Eggy” Tillman remained along with enough of a supporting cast for **West Philadelphia** to win its 3rd straight Philly title, beating Roman Catholic 67-64 in the final. They extended their winning streak to 68 games before losing to Overbrook, but bounced back to finish 33-1.

Mount Vernon, New York, won New York’s Section I, beating Buffalo Kenmore West 82-52 to finish 26-0. They would extend their winning streak to 41 games in 1979. Scooter McCray led the way, and they hammered Kenmore even with Scooter’s brother Rodney McCray out with an injury. **Lockport Central** won the Illinois title, beating Westchester St. Joseph 64-47. The real test had come in the semis, a 55-53 win over Collinsville. Lockport finished 33-0. **Memphis Melrose** returned to the top of the heap in Tennessee, beating Hayward 62-49 for the state title with a record of 38-1. James Campbell was their top scorer, and played 4 years of college ball at Marshall and Oklahoma City, scoring 14 ppg. Michael Brooks had 26 assists in the state tournament, and played at Tennessee for 4 years, scoring 13 ppg.

1978	1. Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland (28-0) 2. West Philadelphia (33-1) 3. Mount Vernon, New York (26-0) 4. Lockport Central, Illinois (33-0) 5. Memphis Melrose (38-1) Player of the Year Clarence “Eggy” Tillman, West Philadelphia
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1979 Southwest Macon, Georgia (28-0)

The last 2 out in 1978 were the 1st 2 in in 1979. They were **Southwest Macon**, Georgia, and **Los Angeles Verbum Dei**. Macon was led by Terry Fair, who went on to score 12 ppg in 4 years at Georgia; Michael Hunt, who scored 10 ppg in 4 years at Furman; and Jeff Malone, who scored 19.5 ppg in 4 years at Mississippi State. After going 26-2 in 1978, they ran the table (28-0) in 1979, and beat crosstown rival Northeast Macon 69-60 to win their 2nd straight Georgia title. Northeast finished 24-5 with 4 losses to Southwest. Southwest was pretty unanimously named national champions.

Verbum improved from 27-2 in 1978 to 28-1 in 1979, beating Long Beach Poly 57-54 for the California southern section title. They were led by Ken Austin, who went on to score 10 ppg in 4 years at Rice, and Kenny Fields, a junior in 1979, who scored 15 ppg in 4 years at UCLA and 8 ppg in 5 NBA seasons.

Washington finished undefeated with a 2nd straight North Carolina title and a 29-0 record behind Dominique Wilkins, who would go on to score 22 ppg in 3 years at Georgia and 25 ppg in a 15 year NBA career. **Philadelphia Overbrook** had its best team since Wilt Chamberlain, beating Roman Catholic 61-49 for the Philly title and finishing 34-1. Tony Costner went on to score 14 ppg in 4 years at St. Joe’s. **Memphis Northside** clobbered Hamilton 97-59 to win the Tennessee title and finish 32-1.

1979	1. Southwest Macon, Georgia (28-0) 2. Los Angeles Verbum Dei (28-1) 3. Washington, North Carolina (29-0) 4. Philadelphia Overbrook (34-1) 5. Memphis Northside (32-1) Player of the Year Clark Kellogg, Cleveland St. Joseph’s
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1970-1979		All-Stars
1 (tie). Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland 1973 (30-1)	6 (tie). Houston Phyllis Wheatley 1970 (39-0)	C- Moses Malone, Petersburg, VA 1974
1 (tie). Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland 1978 (28-0)	6 (tie). Houston Phyllis Wheatley 1973 (43-1)	F- Bill Walton, LaMesa Helix 1972
2. East Chicago Washington, Indiana 1971 (29-0)	7. Houston Kashmere 1975 (46-0)	F- Adrian Dantley, Hyattsville De Matha, DC 1973
3. Dolton Thornbridge, Indiana 1972 (33-0)	8. Wichita Heights, Kansas 1977 (23-0)	G- Quinn Buckner, Dolton Thornbridge, IN 1972
		G- Darrell Griffith, Louisville Male 1987

4. Southwest Macon, Georgia 1979 (28-0)	9. LaMesa Helix, California 1970 (33-0)	
5. West Philadelphia 1977 (30-0)	10. Lansing Everett, Michigan 1977 (27-1)	

1980 Inglewood, California (29-0)

Basketball Weekly, MaxPreps and NSNS (and we) all agree on **Inglewood** as the national champion in 1980. They defeated Long Beach Poly for the southern California title in the final year before the statewide championship was reinstated in 1981 (after having been discontinued after 1928). They finished 29-0 as Ralph Jackson and Jay Humphries starred. Jackson scored 8 points with 5 assists per game in 4 years at UCLA. Humphries scored 12 ppg in 4 years at Colorado, and 11 points in 11 years in the NBA.

Philadelphia Overbrook extended its 2-year record to 68-1 in the final Philly title game for 28 years, which it won for the 2nd straight year and giving Roman Catholic its 3rd straight loss in the title game 65-56 in OT. Tony Costner went on to score 14 ppg in 4 years at St. Joe's. **West Memphis** continued the ascendance of Memphis-area teams, going 30-0, and winning both the Class AA title and the overall Arkansas title, all for the 1st of 2 straight years. **Chicago Manly** defeated Collins 67-55 to win the Chicago title, then beat Effingham 69-61 to win the Illinois title. They were led by Russell Cross, who scored 16 ppg in 3 years at Purdue, then played one season in the NBA. **Indianapolis Broad Ripple** defeated Marion 71-69 in the Indiana state semis on a 57-foot buzzer-beater by Stacy Toran. They then beat New Albany 73-66 in the final. Toran then played football at Notre Dame, but was killed in a car crash in 1989 while playing for the Oakland Raiders.

Oak Hill Academy, located at Mouth of Wilson, Virginia, made its 1st waves with an undefeated 36-0 season, raising the question of how one should regard the new wave of "independent" "academies." Of course, there are 2 kinds of academies. There are those "academies" such as Flint Hill that belong to statewide "independent school associations," which means they agree to abide by mutually accepted rules on eligibility and recruiting. Now, this is not to say that there isn't some funny business going on. Stu Vetter coached at Flint Hill from 1975 to 1990 with an average won-lost record of 34-3, a national championship in 1987, and about 40 NCAA D1 players from all over the world. Of course he was recruiting. That was his stock in trade. But, of course, by this time or, at least, very soon, recruiting would be happening throughout high school basketball. Flint Hill at least gave lip service to mutually accepted rules on eligibility and recruiting.

And, then there are academies that did not and do not belong to statewide associations, that did not and do not abide by or promise to abide by mutually accepted rules on eligibility and recruiting. After leaving Flint Hill, Stu Vetter never again coached at a school that made such a promise or accepted such a membership. Now, what Oak Hill's practices in regard to eligibility and recruiting are and have been is in the eye of the beholder, but they have never belonged to a statewide association, at least not in the past 50 years. Oak Hill does not participate in the Virginia state association or its state tournament, presumably because it plays by its own rules relating to recruiting and eligibility

Oak Hill Academy was founded in 1873 by the New River Baptist Association of Virginia. It operated for more than 100 years before becoming a "basketball academy." It is accredited by the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (not by its athletic association) and is certified to enroll international students. Oak Hill was mentioned in a 2006 report in which the NCAA announced that it would not honor the transcripts of 22 high schools due to various forms of academic fraud. Oak Hill was not one of those 22 schools, but it had clearly been among the schools that were investigated. Oak Hill announced that it was terribly embarrassed and unjustifiably so. Nothing more was ever heard of the matter. Today Oak Hill has just 140 students in grades 8 to 12, and is 100 percent boarding. It advertises itself as "a home away from home," and appeals to students "who are seeking a change." Beyond that, "Oak Hill is **the** boarding school for basketball." Wikipedia has a list of famous Oak Hill alumni that consists of some 40 or more basketball players. Oak Hill clearly is a school that has a basketball team rather than the reverse, which became popular, oh, another 20 years into the future. But, Oak Hill's emergence forces us to take a stand.

Long about 2013 and 2014, MaxPreps took a short-lived stand. It named "statewide association" national champions and it named "academy" national champions. (They abandoned this practice in 2015.) We like and we accept this distinction. Not only that, but we further declare that our list consists of high schools and our national champion represents the "statewide associations." So, like it or not, we won't be listing the academies here in these rankings, at least in a manner of speaking. They'll be listed separately. We will also provide some narrative about the leading academies in order to clarify the distinction between them and bona fide high schools. That they have an unfair advantage over real high schools is obvious from the fact that they have now (as of 2021) been named national champions in 13 of 22 21st century seasons, and 10 of the past 15

seasons, and 8 of the past 10. What we will do, however, is like MaxPreps, we will provide a notation as to who is our “academy” national champion, assuming they’re ranked in or near the top 5 nationwide.

Academy National Champion—Oak Hill, Mouth of Wilson, Virginia (36-0, would have ranked #4)

1980	<p>1. Inglewood, California (29-0) 2. Philadelphia Overbrook (34-0) 3. West Memphis, Arkansas (30-0) 4. Chicago Manly (31-1) 5. Indianapolis Broad Ripple (27-2) Player of the Year Russell Cross, Chicago Manly</p>
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1981 Quincy, Illinois (33-0)

Quincy won its 2nd Illinois state title, and its 1st in almost 50 years, clobbering Maywood Proviso East 68-39 in the final to finish at 33-0. The team was led by Bruce Douglas, who was Mr. Basketball Indiana in 1982 when Quincy extended its winning streak to 64 games, losing only in a state semi-final. Quincy went 123-5 in his 4 years on the varsity team. He started at Illinois for 4 years, scoring 10 ppg. He is the all-time leader in assists and steals with averages of 5 and 2.5 per game, respectively. His teammate Michael Payne played 4 years at Iowa, also scoring 10 ppg, while adding 7 rebounds.

Cambridge Rindge & Latin went 94-5 in Patrick Ewing’s 4 years on-board, including 26-0 in 1981. He scored 41 points in his final game. He went on to star for 4 years at Georgetown, where he averaged 15 ppg and 9 rebounds, then averaged 21 points and 10 rebounds in 17 NBA seasons. **West Memphis** extended its winning streak to 60 games as Michael Cage and Keith Lee continued to dominate. Cage went on to average 25 points and 13 rebounds at San Diego State, then 7 ppg in 15 NBA seasons. Lee averaged 19 points and 10 boards in 4 years at Memphis State, then 6 ppg in 3 NBA seasons.

Flint Central won the Michigan title 108-90 over Detroit Murray-Wright to finish 28-0. **Camden** was upset in the semi-finals of the New Jersey state tournament, a shocking 20-point beat-down. And, yet, many thought that the 1981 Camden team was their best ever, better even than their 1986 national champions. They scored 104 points per game behind Milt Wagner and Billy Thompson. Both went on to score 12 ppg in 4 years at Louisville. Calvin Walls also starred in 1981, then scored 44 ppg for Camden in 1984.

1981	<p>1. Quincy, Illinois (33-0) (2) 2 (tie). Cambridge Rindge & Latin, Massachusetts (26-0) 2 (tie). West Memphis, Arkansas (30-0) (2) 3. Flint Central, Michigan (28-0) 4. Camden, New Jersey (27-1) Player of the Year Patrick Ewing, Cambridge Rindge & Latin, Massachusetts</p>
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1982 Baltimore Dunbar (29-0)

Towson Calvert Hall and **Baltimore Dunbar**, located just a few miles apart in or near Baltimore, Maryland, both finished the 1982 season unbeaten. For some reason, everybody thought that Calvert Hall was better and deserved to be the national champion. Well, the fact is that they had played one another late in the 1981 season, and Calvert Hall won 94-91 in 3OT on a late basket by Duane Ferrell, who went on to play at Georgia Tech and then 11 seasons in the NBA. And, so, Calvert Hall went into the 1982 season rated #2, and they didn’t lose. And, they got a signature win, beating 1978 national champion DeMatha 82-76. Of course, Dunbar got two signature wins against 1986 national champion and pre-season #1 Camden, twice, 67-62 and 84-59. Some say that Dunbar was better in 1982 than in 1983, when they did win the national title. Of course, the 2 teams had many of the same players, and in 1982 they were juniors. In 1983, they were seniors. In any event, they didn’t play one another in 1982, and Dunbar never caught up. They probably had some common opponents, but not that one can identify online now, some 40 years later. Call it a tie.

East St. Louis Lincoln won the 1st of 4 Illinois state titles in the 1980s, beating Chicago Mendel 56-50 to finish 29-1. Todd Porter, Mark Dale and Tyrone Jackson went on to play at Arizona, Wake Forest and Kansas State, respectively. Otherwise, all of the best teams—or what people thought were the best teams—had to sweat out a series of white-knucklers to make this list. **New York Benjamin Franklin** won its 1st PSAL title since 1946, then promptly closed its doors. It beat Andrew Jackson 52-48 for the city title, then Spring Valley 56-55 to win the state title. Walter Berry, soon to win all-America honors at St. John’s, had 52 points and 35 rebounds in those 2 games. Franklin finished 27-2. **Los Angeles Carson** beat San Francisco Washington 54-53 to

win the 2nd of the rejuvenated California titles, and to finish at 26-2. Eldridge Hudson led the way, then went off to play for UNLV. And, **Plymouth** defeated Gary Roosevelt 75-74 in 2OT to win the Indiana title. Scott Skiles, soon of Michigan State, scored 69 points in his last 2 games, which gave Plymouth a 28-1 record.

1982	<p>1 (tie). Baltimore Dunbar (29-0) 1 (tie). Towson Calvert Hall, Maryland (34-0) 3. East St. Louis Lincoln, Illinois (29-1) 4. New York Benjamin Franklin (27-2) 5. Los Angeles Carson (26-2) 6. Plymouth, Indiana (28-1) Player of the Year Billy Thompson, Camden, New Jersey</p>
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1983 Baltimore Dunbar (31-0) (2)

Baltimore Dunbar is unanimously regarded as the national champion of 1983 (as *USA Today* took over from *Basketball Weekly* as co-arbiter with NSNS of such thing), and on 2 lists of the greatest high school teams of all-time, the Poets come in at #1 and #2. They finished 31-0 with signature wins over DeMatha, 67-55, and Oakton Flint Hill, Virginia, 87-59. They were led by Reggie Williams, Reggie Lewis and Muggsy Bogues. Williams averaged 25 points and 4 assists in 1983, then scored 15 ppg in 4 years at Georgetown, earning all-America honors and the MVP award in the 1984 NCAA final 4. Lewis scored 22 ppg in 4 years at Northeastern, then 18 ppg in 6 NBA seasons. He died of cardiac arrest in 1993 at the age of 27 and at the top of his game. Bogues, just 5-foot-5, scored 7 points with 7 assists in 4 years at Wake Forest, then scored 8 points with 8 assists in 11 NBA seasons, and famously won the 1986 NBA dunk contest.

Los Angeles Crenshaw won the California state championship, beating Oakland Bishop O'Dowd 62-55 in OT, but it was **Los Angeles Banning** that won the L.A. city title, beating Crenshaw 62-61. Crenshaw was led by John Williams, who went on to score 15 ppg in 2 years at LSU, then 10 ppg in 8 NBA seasons. After 1983, Banning would not lose in the city conference until 1991.

Flint Central won its 3rd straight Michigan title, beating Detroit Southwestern for the 2nd straight year, 84-80, despite Antoine Joubert's 47 points. They were led by Ervin Leavy, who went on to score 18 ppg in 2 years at Central Michigan. Their 3-year record was 79-5. **Jersey City St. Anthony** 1983 is considered middle of the pack among St. Anthony's 28 state Catholic champions at 27-2. This was the 1st of 9 straight state titles. They were led by David Rivers, who went on to score 17 ppg in 4 years at Notre Dame, then 3 ppg in 3 NBA seasons. **Connorsville** won the Indiana title, beating Anderson 63-62 to finish at 26-2. Mike Heineman scored the winning bucket, then went on to score 7 ppg in 4 years at Wisconsin. **Brooklyn Bishop Loughlin** won the New York state title, beating Buffalo Bennett 90-68 in Class B, then North Babylon 102-89 in A vs. B. Loughlin was led by Mark Jackson, who scored 10 ppg in 4 years at St. John's and about 10 ppg in 17 NBA seasons.

1983	<p>1. Baltimore Dunbar (31-0) 2 (tie). Los Angeles Banning 2 (tie). Los Angeles Crenshaw 3. Flint Central, Michigan 4. Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey (27-2) 5. Connorsville, Indiana (26-2) 6. Brooklyn Bishop Loughlin (26-3) Player of the Year Reggie Williams, Baltimore Dunbar</p>
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1984 Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland (39-2) (4) and Long Beach Poly, California (31-2)

If the mark of a great team is that they blow people out, well, maybe there wasn't a great team in 1984. Bronx Harry Truman, New York, edged Amherst Sweet Home 67-65 to win the New York state title. Canton McKinley edged Dayton Dunbar 79-75 in OT to win the Ohio title. Chicago Simeon edged Chicago Robeson 44-42. Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland, squeaked by Baltimore Dunbar 76-73. Logan County, Kentucky, won 3 nail-biters in the state's sweet 16 finals. Long Beach Poly, California, edged Santa Ana Mater Dei, California 45-44. Warsaw defeated Vincennes Lincoln 59-56 in the Indiana final.

Or, maybe it's an unbeaten record. Well, funny, nobody ever suggested Camden, New Jersey (31-0) or Logan County (32-0) as national champions. Or, of course, it could be great players! Well, among the 8 aforementioned contenders for the 1984 national title were only 4 *Parade* all-Americans—Danny Ferry of DeMatha, Gary Grant of Canton McKinley, Chris Sandle of Long Beach Poly, and Kevin Walls of Camden. And, among those 4, only Grant had much of an NBA career. Walls scored 44 ppg in his senior year at Camden, but just 3 ppg at Louisville. Rod Strickland had the best post-high school career at DePaul (17 ppg) and in the NBA 13 ppg in 17 seasons, but he only made the *Parade* all-America team in 1985 after transferring to Oak Hill.

One can of course assume that the folks back in 1984 knew what they were talking about. NSNS took **Long Beach Poly** (31-2) while *USA Today* took **Hyattsville DeMatha** (39-2). MaxPreps declined to break the tie. So do we. Along with 2-time high school all-American Danny Ferry, DeMatha had Quentin Jackson, who scored 9 ppg at Texas A&M, and Carlton Valentine, who scored 8 at Michigan State. Long Beach had Chris Sandle, who scored 14 ppg at Arizona State and UTEP.

One can make a good case for **Camden, New Jersey**, who finished 31-0 with the aforementioned Walls and his 44 ppg, and also Louis Banks, who went on to score 14 ppg at Cincinnati; and for **Chicago Simeon**, who went 30-1 with Tim Bankston, who went on to score 6 ppg at Bradley and Chicago Loyola. Simeon also had junior Ben Wilson, expected to be one of America's best the following year, but he was shot to death on November 21, 1984. And, one could make, well, a lesser case for **Bronx Harry Truman**, New York, who won the New York state title at 27-3 behind Strickland; and **Logan County**, who won the Kentucky title at 32-0; and **Warsaw**, who won the Indiana title by just those 3 points mentioned above, and finished 26-2. So. No great teams, but lots of good ones.

1984	<p>1 (tie). Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland (39-2) 1 (tie). Long Beach Poly, California (31-2) 3. Camden, New Jersey (31-0) 4. Chicago Simeon (30-1) 5. Bronx Harry Truman, New York (27-3) 6. Logan County, Kentucky (32-0) Player of the Year Danny Manning, Lawrence, Kansas</p>
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1985 Flint Northwestern, Michigan (28-0)

1985 marks the 2nd time that we could not resist naming 10 outstanding teams. The previous year was 1965, the year of Lucius Allen, Butch Beard and George Thompson. Now you've got Glen Rice, Sherman Douglas, Jay Edwards, Stevie Thompson, Danny Ferry and more. Again, as in 1965, we're also going against the grain. The powers-that-be anointed DeMatha as the 1965 national champion. We liked Erasmus Hall. Now, the powers-that-be liked Washington Springarn (NSNS) and Baltimore Dunbar (*USA Today*). We like **Flint Northwestern**, the champions of Michigan with a 69-55 win over Detroit Southwestern. It was the 4th of 5 straight Michigan titles for Flint—Central in 1982, 1983 and 1984, Northwestern in 1985 and 1986. And, it was the 3rd straight title game loss for Southwestern, and they would lose 7 of 8 through 1989, before they would finally win a pair in 1990 and 1991. But, for now, in Michigan, it was the year of Glen Rice and Jeff Grayer and of Andre Rison, who would play 12 years as an NFL wide receiver. All Rice would do would be to lead the Michigan Wolverines to their only NCAA basketball title in 1989, then score 18 ppg in 15 NBA seasons. Grayer scored 20 ppg at Iowa State and 7 in 9 NBA seasons. They had the best talent.

Washington Springarn was good. Sherman Douglas scored 26 ppg in his senior season, then 15 ppg at Syracuse and 11 in 11 NBA seasons. They finished 31-0. The other national championship choice at the time was **Baltimore Dunbar**, the 1982 national champion, at 28-1. But, on 2 different lists of the top 75 high school teams ever, Flint rates ahead of Springarn and Dunbar at #20 on both lists. Springarn is #21 on one list, but neither Springarn nor Dunbar is in the top 50 otherwise. We agree. We like Flint. They had the best talent.

Marion had Jay Edwards and Lyndon Jones, both of whom went on to play for Indiana, and beat Richmond 73-67 in the Indiana final to finish 29-0. Marion went on to become only the 2nd team to win 3 straight Indiana titles. They beat Richmond in 2 of those finals, and 3 other times during the regular season. **Los Angeles Crenshaw** finished 24-0 behind Stevie Thompson, who scored 14 ppg at Syracuse. **Memphis Whitehaven** won the Tennessee title at 34-1 as Marvin Alexander and Ron Huery led the way. Alexander scored 9 ppg at Memphis State and Huery scored 12 ppg at Arkansas. **Santa Ana Mater Dei** finished 29-0 and won the CIF southern section behind Tom Lewis, who went on to score 18 ppg for USC and Pepperdine. **Houston Madison** finished an imposing 40-0 and beat Course 86-69 for the Texas title. Sean Gay, who scored 14 ppg at Texas Tech, led the way. **Charleston Stonewall Jackson** won the West Virginia title at 26-0 behind Wayne Casey, Stewart Mitchell and Robert Lee Sanders. Casey and Sanders starred in basketball at West Virginia State and Jacksonville State, while Mitchell starred in football at West Virginia. Casey is a cousin to the actor Bernie Casey, and he claimed to have been the 1st Black quarterback at a West Virginia high school. While at West Virginia State, Casey also was involved in a head-on collision and was charged with negligent homicide. We have no information as to the disposition of that case but, later, Casey became an investigator for the public defender's office in Charleston and also coach of the Charleston Gunners of the CBA.

1985	<p>1. Flint Northwestern, Michigan (28-0) 2. Washington Springarn, D.C. (31-0) 3. Marion, Indiana (29-0) 4. Los Angeles Crenshaw (24-0) 5. Memphis Whitehaven, Tennessee (34-1) 6. Santa Ana Mater Dei, California (29-0)</p>
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	7. Baltimore Dunbar (28-1) 8. Houston Madison (40-0) 9. Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland (31-3) 10. Charleston Stonewall Jackson, West Virginia (26-0) Player of the Year Danny Ferry, Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland
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1986 Camden, New Jersey (30-0)

Camden, New Jersey, was rated #1 at the time, and the more recent lists of the greatest teams ever do not elevate anybody else from 1986 ahead of the Bulldogs. On the other hand, they're only rated #65 on one list. They were led by Louis Banks, who went on to score 14 ppg at Cincinnati, and Vic Carstarphen, who scored 7.5 at Temple.

Chicago Martin Luther King defeated Chicago Simeon 49-46 to win the Chicago title and Olympia Fields Rich Central 47-40 for the Illinois title, and to finish at 32-1. They were led by Marcus Liberty, who went on to score 13 ppg at Illinois and 7 ppg in 4 NBA seasons. **Binghampton** won the New York championship, beating Brooklyn Abraham Lincoln 79-61 to finish at 25-1. They were led by King Rice, who went on to score 6 ppg with 4.5 assists over 4 years at North Carolina. **St. Louis Vashon** won the Missouri title at 31-1, clobbering Kansas City Rockhurst 72-43. Anthony Bonner led the way, and went on to score 15 ppg at St. Louis U. and 7 ppg in 6 NBA seasons. **Los Angeles Crenshaw** won its 3rd California state title in 4 years, edging Oakland Bishop O'Dowd 70-69. Stephen Thompson was still in charge in L.A. **Oak Hill Academy** went 25-1 and sent another 7 players to D1 and 5 more in the class of 1987.

Academy National Champion—Oak Hill, Mouth of Wilson, Virginia (25-1, would have ranked #6)

1986	1. Camden, New Jersey (30-0) 2. Chicago Martin Luther King (32-1) 3. Binghampton, New York (25-1) 4. St. Louis Vashon (31-1) 5. Los Angeles Crenshaw Player of the Year Steven Thompson, Los Angeles Crenshaw
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1987 Flint Hill Academy, Virginia (23-0)

Flint Hill Academy, located in Oakton, Virginia, was founded in 1956, and here's another way in which it's different from Oak Hill, which was founded in 1873 for religious reasons. Flint Hill was quite conspicuously founded in 1956 for racial reasons. After *Brown v. Board*, Virginia and other states enacted laws designed to 1) maintain segregated public schools, and 2) to make it easy to open up new private schools that would be all-white. It was part of what its proponents called "Massive Resistance," yes, with initial capital letters. It is ironic that 19 years later, Flint Hill committed itself to becoming a national basketball power because of the obvious necessity of recruiting Black ballplayers to do so, though only 2 of the 5 biggest stars touted on coach Vetter's Web site from his Flint Hill days are Black—Dennis Scott and George Lynch. In 1990, the school came into financial difficulties and new owners, and coach Vetter left as the school deemphasized basketball.

In any event, for 5 years, anyway coach Stew Vetter's basketball program was integral to the school's positioning as a refuge from declining public schools. Of course, it was just one of thousands of similar schools, but it did the basketball thing better than most, until it didn't. In short, it was one of the 1st to raise the question: Is this a high school that has a basketball team, or a basketball team that has a high school? Well, it would seem that Flint Hill was a high school with a really good basketball team, albeit one that pushed hard against the putative rules on eligibility and recruiting. It really put itself on the map in January 1987 with a win over Santa Ana Mater Dei. By the spring of 1987 it had a 51-game winning streak going. Scott, born in Hagerstown, Maryland, was their star, and went on to score 21 ppg in 3 years at Georgia Tech and 13 in 10 NBA seasons. Lynch scored 12.5 ppg in 4 years at North Carolina and 7 ppg in 12 NBA seasons. Arron Bain, who was white, scored 8 ppg in 4 years at Villanova.

Marion became just the 2nd team to win 3 straight Indiana titles and the 1st in 64 years, beating Richmond for the 2nd of those 3 finals, this time 69-56. Jay Edwards and Lyndon Jones continued to lead the way. One might note that while Flint Hill was a unanimous choice as national champion at the time, a recent list of the best high school basketball teams ever had Marion rated as the #8 team from the 1980s and Flint Hill #10.

Santa Ana Mater Dei was the pre-season #1 but of course lost to Flint Hill in the King Cotton tournament at Pine Bluff, Arkansas. That was their only loss in a 31-1 season, thanks to LeRon Ellis. Ellis was born in L.A., but started high school in Portland, Oregon. He transferred to Mater Dei where he was one of America's top recruits. He scored 10 ppg in 2 years at Kentucky, then transferred to Syracuse where he scored 9 ppg in 2 more years. He scored 3 ppg in 3 NBA seasons. **East St. Louis Lincoln** won the Illinois state title, ripping Chicago King 79-62 despite Marcus Liberty's 41 points. His 143 points in 4 tournament

games remains the Illinois record to this day. The Tigers finished 28-1. **Oak Hill Academy** was again 25-1 and sent 6 more players to D1. **Bronx Our Savior Lutheran** surprised Queens Archbishop Molloy 71-61 to win the New York state title and finish 25-1. Arnold Bernard scored 12 ppg at Missouri State, then performed for the Harlem Globetrotters and Harlem Wizards for several years.

Academy National Champion—Mouth of Wilson Oak Hill, Virginia (25-1, would have been #5)

1987	1. Oakton Flint Hill Academy, Virginia (23-0) 2. Marion, Indiana (29-1) 3. Santa Ana Mater Dei, California (31-1) 4. East St. Louis Lincoln, Illinois (28-1) 5. Bronx Our Savior Lutheran, New York (25-1) Player of the Year Marcus Liberty, Chicago Martin Luther King
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1988 Bronx St. Nicholas of Tolentine, New York (30-1) and Carlisle, Pennsylvania (30-0)

St. Nicholas of Tolentine, located in Bronx, New York—popularly known as Bronx Tolentine—was the unanimous choice as national champion in 1988, meaning that it was the choice of the time-tested NSNS, the fairly recent player *USA Today*, and now the brand new player, the National Prep Poll. All 3 agreed that Tolentine was the best high school team in America. But, based on more recent listings, **Carlisle**, Pennsylvania, was a strong contender. Recent lists have Tolentine listed as the #9 team of the 1980s and Carlisle as #11. The comparisons are as follows. Tolentine had Malik Sealy, who averaged 21 points and 10 rebounds as a senior, then scored 19 ppg in 4 seasons at St. John’s and 10 ppg in 8 NBA seasons. Meanwhile, Carlisle had Billy Owens, who scored 34 ppg as a senior, then scored 18 ppg in 4 seasons at Syracuse and 12 ppg in 10 NBA seasons. Carlisle was of course undefeated, while Tolentine was not. Tolentine certainly played a tougher schedule, beating Archbishop Molloy 70-69 and Jersey City St. Anthony 62-58. And, they hammered Our Savior Lutheran 95-69 in the New York state final. They lost in a holiday tournament in Jersey and finished 30-1, while Carlisle was 30-0.

Jersey City St. Anthony was still emerging as a power. They won the non-public class B in 1986, then went 19-1 in 1987. Now, it was 30-1, and they ended up ranked #2 in the nation behind Tolentine. Today, of course, Carlisle seems to be regarded as #2, but not to worry.

Louisville Ballard defeated Clay County in the Kentucky state finals for the 2nd straight year. This time Ballard won 88-79 despite 51 points by Clay’s Richie Farmer. Allan Houston led the way, then scored 22 ppg at Tennessee and 17 ppg in 12 NBA seasons. Mark Bell scored 14 ppg at Western Kentucky. **Los Angeles Manual Arts** shocked California’s #1 team, **Los Angeles Crenshaw** 89-82 in the state semi-final (in fact, Crenshaw was unbeaten and ranked #1 nationally after beating Manual Arts 83-67 in the city final), then edged Oakland Bishop O’Dowd 54-53 in the state final to finish 27-3. **Muncie Central** won its 3rd Indiana title in 11 years, beating previously unbeaten Concord 76-53 to finish 28-1. Sam Long scored 29 for Muncie while Concord’s Shawn Kemp finished with 23 points and 13 boards. Long went on to score 8 ppg for Iowa State. Kemp went on to score 15 ppg in 14 NBA seasons. **Gulfport**, Mississippi, went 40-3 behind Chris Jackson, soon to be a superstar at LSU.

1988	1 (tie). Bronx St. Nicholas of Tolentine, New York (30-1) 1 (tie). Carlisle, Pennsylvania (30-0) 3. Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey (30-1) 4. Louisville Ballard 5 (tie). Los Angeles Crenshaw 5 (tie). Los Angeles Manual Arts (27-3) 6. Muncie Central, Indiana (28-1) 7. Gulfport, Mississippi (40-3) Player of the Year Billy Owens, Carlisle, Pennsylvania
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1989 Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey (32-0)

New Jersey launched its Tournament of Champions (TOC) just in time to flaunt **Jersey City St. Anthony’s** best team, or what is pretty unanimously regarded as such. An article on NJ.com says so. Not only that, but 2 of the 3 lists of the greatest teams of all-time rank this team—Jersey City St. Anthony, 1989—as the greatest team of all-time. The other one has them rated #5. (Returning to that ranking of St. Anthony teams, 1996 is #2, 2011 [33-0] is #3 and 2008 [30-0] is #4. All 4 were selected as national champions by somebody.) For the 2nd straight year, there were 3 electors—NPP, NSNS and USA Today—and all 4 liked St. Anthony, who defeated Elizabeth 62-55 in the 1st TOC and finished 32-0. They were led by coach Bob Hurley, of course; and by his kid, point guard Bobby Hurley, who scored 12 ppg with 8 assists in 4 years at Duke, and 4 ppg in 5 NBA seasons; Terry

Dehere, who scored 19 ppg in 4 years at Seton Hall and 8 in 6 NBA seasons; and Rodrick Rhodes, who scored 13 ppg in 4 years at Kentucky and USC, and 5 in 3 NBA seasons.

The fact is, there just wasn't another real contender this year. **Queens Christ the King** won the New York class A title, beating Bronx Adlai Stevenson 80-57 to finish 28-1. Jamal Faulkner was their star, and went on to score 13 ppg in 4 years at Arizona State and Alabama. **Los Angeles Crenshaw** won yet another California state title, its 4th in 7 years, beating Oakland Skyline 70-63 without so much as a highly sought recruit. Well, OK, Terry Cannon went on to score 12 ppg in 4 years at San Jose State.

Chester won their 2nd Pennsylvania title of the decade, beating Pittsburgh Brashear 72-57 in the final to finish 30-2. **Frankford** defeated Philadelphia Simon Gratz 75-66 to win the Philly public title at 25-1. **Detroit Cooley** won its 3rd straight Michigan title, beating Detroit Southwestern 85-73 behind Michael Talley and Daniel Lyton. Talley went on to score 5 ppg in 4 years at Michigan. For Southwestern, it was their 7th state final loss in 8 years, but they would bounce back to win in 1990 and 1991. **Toledo Macomber** was the 1st Toledo public school ever to win a state title. Led by Jim Jackson, who went on to win all-America honors at Ohio State, they defeated Columbus Brookhaven 65-62 to finish 19-1.

1989	1. Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey (32-0) 2. Queens Christ the King, New York (28-1) 3. Los Angeles Crenshaw 4 (tie). Chester, Pennsylvania (30-2) 4 (tie). Frankford, Pennsylvania (25-1) 5. Detroit Cooley 6. Toledo Macomber, Ohio (19-1) Player of the Year Bobby Hurley, Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey
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1980-1989		All-Stars
1 (tie). Baltimore Dunbar 1982 (29-0)	6. Towson Calvert Hall, New Jersey 1982 (34-0)	C- Patrick Ewing, Cambridge Rindge & Latin 1981
1 (tie). Baltimore Dunbar 1983 (31-0)	7. Oakton Flint Hill Academy, Virginia 1987 (23-0)	F- Danny Manning, Lawrence, KS 1984
2. Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey 1989 (32-0)	8 (tie). Cambridge Rindge & Latin, Massachusetts 1981 (26-0)	F- Reggie Williams, Baltimore Dunbar 1983
3. Flint Northwestern, Michigan 1985 (28-0)	8 (tie). West Memphis, Arkansas 1981 (30-0)	G- Bobby Hurley, Jersey City St. Anthony 1989
4. Quincy, Illinois 1981 (33-0)	9. Marion, Indiana 1987 (29-1)	G- Bruce Douglas, Quincy, IL 1981
5. Washington Springarn, D.C. 1985 (31-0)	10. Camden, New Jersey 1986 (30-0)	

5. The Three-Point Era 1990-2023

The years around 1990 saw as dramatic changes in high school basketball as had been seen since the 1937-1945 era, when the center jump after each basket finally was abandoned and such modern strategies as the jump shot, the low post and the fast break became customary. Now, the obvious innovation was the 3-point shot, which was meant to stretch the defense and open up the lane for more of the good old low post. It didn't quite work out that way.

Coaches and players initially were reluctant to embrace the 3-pointer, so it took a decade or more for the 3-pointer to really catch on.

But over the years, officials had allowed defenses to play more aggressively, and the fact is that they were able to defend the somewhat static low post offense. And, the fact is that 3-point shooting percentages also never really increased very much, though the number of 3-pointers doubled over the years from 1990 to 2020. But, what the defenses couldn't defend was both the 3-pointer and all of the other 4 players cutting through the lane, and so, despite the relative decline of the low post, 2-point shooting percentages increased dramatically. This was the real legacy of the 3-point shot.

But, there were other changes occurring that had more impact even than the 3-pointer. One was the rise of summer ball, club ball, AAU ball. Long outlawed by the statewide high school associations, club ball came finally to gain the approval in the 1980s and 1990s. Now high school students could play outside of their schools, outside of their school season, outside of the school year. And, so, of course they did. Now, they played basketball 12 months a year instead of 3 or 4. A hundred games in a year instead of 20 or 25. Skills exploded. The best players and the best teams were objectively vastly better than ever before.

At the same time, Americans were losing confidence in their public schools. Poll after poll after poll confirmed it. It was also confirmed by the proliferation of new private schools and a whole new category of schools, called charter schools. Soon, in many communities all over the country, basketball teams representing the private schools and charter schools surpassed the public schools as the best teams in town. Then came the “academies,” which refused even to join the statewide associations and to commit to customary academic standards. Now, elite players could prepare themselves for a career in the NBA without the annoying distraction of education. Not only that, but most jurisdictions passed “open enrollment” rules. Students were not longer required to attend their neighborhood or community school. Anyone could go to school wherever they wanted. The best players—and thanks to summer ball, everybody knew who they were—clustered at specific schools. All-star teams no longer simply aspired to scoring 100 points in a game, they often beat their opponents by 100-point margins. The players and the teams got better, to be sure, but lots and lots of games got a lot worse.

1990 Chicago Martin Luther King (32-0)

Oak Hill was rated #1 in the nation at mid-season. They never lost, but finished #2 behind the unanimous #1 **Chicago Martin Luther King**. In fact, they were behind **Detroit Southwestern** for awhile. And, now, Southwestern is rated #7 all-time and MLK #35. So, throw it all away and start over. But, in any event, we have declared that Oak Hill is not a high school, but an “academy” and, so, for different reasons, we agree with the pick of Chicago Martin Luther King as the national champion. MLK was led by Jamie Brandon, who went on to score 13 ppg in 3 years at LSU. MLK was 32-0 and beat Chicago Gordon Tech 65-55 for the Illinois state title.

Finally, among the big, big 3, Detroit Southwestern had Jalen Rose and Voshon Leonard. Rose of course became part of Michigan’s Fab 5, scoring 17.5 ppg over 3 years, then 14 ppg in 13 NBA seasons. Leonard became Minnesota’s all-time #1 scorer with 17 ppg over 4 years. The top 2 talent was better than anybody. The top 3 or 4 talent was not. And, they lost a game. #2.

Santa Ana Mater Dei somehow escaped notice. They finished 34-1 and won the California title 62-60 over San Francisco Archbishop Riordan. Point guard Jason Quinn remains the all-time assist leader. **Raytown South** is rated #51 all-time, ahead of Mater Dei. They beat St. Louis DeSmet Jesuit 66-47 to win the Missouri title and finish 32-0. Jevon Crudup went on to score 14 ppg in 4 years at Missouri. **Johnson City Science Hill** won the Tennessee state title, beating nationally-ranked Nashville Whites Creek 74-66 in the semis and Chattanooga Tyner 69-52 in the final to finish 37-1. Derrick Bristol went on to score 10 ppg at Troy. **Bedford North Lawrence** won the Indiana title, edging Concord 63-60 to finish 29-2. Damon Bailey was perhaps the most highly regarded player in the country. He was the all-time top scorer in Indiana with 3,134 points, and went on to score 13 ppg in 4 years at Indiana. **Brooklyn William Grady** won the New York championship, beating 2-time defending champion Hempstead 78-67 to finish 27-1.

Academy National Champion—Mouth of Wilson Oak Hill Academy, Virginia (29-0, would have been #1)

1990	<p>1. Chicago King (32-0) 2. Detroit Southwestern (30-1) 3. Santa Ana Mater Dei, California (34-1) 4. Raytown South, Missouri (32-0) 5. Johnson City Science Hill, Tennessee (37-1) 6. Bedford North Lawrence, Indiana (29-2) 7. Brooklyn William Grady (27-1) Player of the Year Damon Bailey, Bedford North Lawrence, Indiana</p>
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1991 Detroit Southwestern (26-1)

Detroit Southwestern and Philadelphia Simon Gratz were the obvious #1 and #2 in 1991, but in what order? NSNS and *USA Today* liked Southwestern for #1, while the new kid on the block, the National Prep Poll, liked Simon Gratz. Today, Oak Hill's 1993 team is rated #2 all-time, Southwestern's 1990 team is rated #7, and Simon Gratz' 1993 team is rated #20. And, oh yeah, the lists of the greatest teams of all-time are pretty much limited to one team per school, so Southwestern in 1990 and Simon Gratz in 1993 are surrogates for 1991. Here are the vital statistics.

Detroit Southwestern finished 26-1 with a 77-63 win over Detroit Northern in the Michigan final. Their stars were Jalen Rose and Voshon Leonard, who are described above under 1990. **Philadelphia Simon Gratz** finished 29-1 with a loss to Oak Hill. They now had a 29-game winning streak in the Philly public league, and it is a streak that would mushroom to 107 straight wins through 1998. Rasheed Wallace went on to score 13 ppg at North Carolina, and 14 in 16 NBA seasons. Andre Griffin scored 11 ppg at Delaware State. Levan Alston scored 8 at Temple.

But, wait! What about **Maywood Proviso East**, the Illinois champion at 32-1 with a 68-61 win over Peoria Manual in the final. Their talent was as good as anybody's. Donnie Boyce at Colorado and Michael Finley at Wisconsin both finished as their school's all-time leading scorer, and Sherrell Ford scored 23 ppg at Illinois-Chicago. Then there's **Jersey City St. Anthony**. They finished 31-1 but their loss was something of a sensation, like Oak Hill's, 63-39 to Baltimore Dunbar. Rodrick Rhodes went on to score 13 ppg at Kentucky and USC, while Dan Hurley scored 9 ppg in 5 years at Seton Hall. **Gary Roosevelt** won the Indiana title 51-32 over Brebeuf to finish 30-1 behind the play of Glenn Robinson, who scored 27.5 ppg at Purdue, and 21 ppg in 10 NBA seasons.

The 1991 national champion was not undefeated because none of these, the best teams was unbeaten. **Mt. Vernon**, New York, was unbeaten at 29-0 and won the New York state title 59-49 over Brooklyn Lincoln. Their best player was Rasul Salahuddin, who went on to score 11 ppg at Long Beach State. They were not the best team in the country. A Philadelphia basketball blog ranked Philadelphia Simon Gratz and Philadelphia Roman Catholic (28-3) #8 and #9 all-time in the city.

Academy National Champion—Oak Hill, Mouth of Wilson, Virginia (27-1, would have been #3)

1991	<p>1. Detroit Southwestern (26-1) 2. Maywood Proviso East, Illinois (32-1) 3. Philadelphia Simon Gratz (29-1) 4. Gary Roosevelt, Indiana (30-1) 5. Mount Vernon, New York (29-0) 6. Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey (31-1) 7. Philadelphia Roman Catholic (28-3) Player of the Year Chris Webber, Detroit Country Day</p>
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1992 Baltimore Dunbar (29-0) (3)

Baltimore Dunbar, 9 years after its all-time best team of 1983, was again unanimously recognized as the national champions. They were unbeaten again at 29-0 with a signature win over #2 Oak Hill. This time the stars were Keith Booth, Donta Bright and Michael Lloyd, who went on to play at Maryland, UMass and Syracuse, respectively, all scoring in double figures in their best years.

Brooklyn Bishop Loughlin beat Manhattan Rice 63-44 to win the city title and Rochester Greece Athena 68-57 to win the New York state big-school title. Charles Jones played at Rutgers and Long Island, scoring 22 ppg at the latter. **Alameda St. Joseph Notre Dame** finished 32-3 but clobbered Santa Ana Mater Dei 59-37 for the California title. Jason Kidd led the way. **Maywood Proviso East** repeated as Illinois champion, beating Peoria Richwoods 42-31 to finish 33-0. They did so despite losing their big guns from 1991. **Chippewa Township Blackhawk** lost only to #1 Dunbar, and beat Wallingford Strath Haven 71-55 for the Pennsylvania title. They were led by Dante Calabria, who scored 8 ppg in 4 years at North Carolina, and finished 32-1. **Medford Shawnee** won the New jersey TOC, beating Marist 46-42 to also finish 32-1. They were led by Dan Earl, who scored 11 ppg in 5 years at Penn State. **Jackson Murrah** won the Mississippi title behind Othella Harrington (Georgetown), Ronnie Henderson (LSU) and Jesse Pate (Arkansas).

Academy National Champion—Oak Hill, Mouth of Wilson, Virginia (34-2, would have been #2)

1992	<p>1. Baltimore Dunbar (29-0) 2. Brooklyn Bishop Loughlin 3. Alameda St. Joseph Notre Dame, California (32-3) 4. Maywood Proviso East, Illinois (33-0) 5. Chippewa Township Blackhawk, Pennsylvania (32-1) 6. Medford Shawnee, New Jersey (32-1) 7. Jackson Murrah, Mississippi</p>
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	Player of the Year Jason Kidd, Alameda St. Joseph Notre Dame, California
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1993 Philadelphia Simon Gratz (31-0)

Philadelphia Simon Gratz shared the 1993 national title with **Oak Hill Academy**, who is of course ineligible here. NSNS and NPP liked Oak Hill while USA Today liked Simon Gratz. Both were undefeated. MaxPreps did not exactly break the tie, but it noted that Oak Hill’s 1993 team is generally regarded as one of the greatest ever. On 2 of those infamous lists of the top teams, Oak Hill ranks #2 and #6, Gratz #17 and #20. Oak Hill’s Jerry Stackhouse and Jeff McInnis and Gratz’ Rasheed Wallace all went on to become teammates at North Carolina, Stackhouse scoring 16 ppg, McInnis 11 and Wallace 13 in their best seasons. Stackhouse scored 26 ppg with 7 rebounds and 4 assists in his final year at Oak Hill, while McInnis scored 17 ppg with 10 assists. If Oak Hill were eligible, they would have been #1.

Chicago Martin Luther King didn’t get much of a look as a contender in 1993, but there isn’t much more that they could have done. They had “the twin towers,” 6-11 Rashard Griffith, who scored 16 ppg at Wisconsin, and 6-10 Thomas Hamilton, who couldn’t cut it academically and never played in college. But, unlike Griffith, he actually played in the NBA, scoring 3 ppg in 2 partial seasons. But, in high school, they dominated. King was 32-0 and beat Rockford 79-42 to win the Illinois title.

Marion County was also undefeated, beating Lexington Dunbar 85-77 to win the Kentucky title at 23-0. Anthony Epps went on to score 7 ppg in 4 years at Kentucky, and Elton Scott 9 at West Virginia. **St. John’s at Prospect Hall**, located in Frederick, Maryland, lost twice, both times to #1 Oak Hill. **Los Angeles Crenshaw** won its 5th California state title since 1983, beating then-#5 rated Carmichael Jesuit 73-66 to finish 25-2. They also beat L.A. Dorsey 92-71 for the city title. Tremaine Fowlkes went on to score 13 ppg at Cal and Fresno State, and 3 in 4 NBA seasons.

Memphis Fairly won the Tennessee title, beating Columbia Central 91-71 to finish 37-1. **Wichita South** won the Kansas title for the 1st of 3 times, beating crosstown rival Wichita Northwest 50-45 to finish 25-0. B.J. Williams went on to score 4 ppg in 4 years at Kansas. **Norwich** beat Tonawanda St. Joseph’s Collegiate Institute 75-69 to win the New York class B title at 29-0. The 1993 edition of the **Jersey City St. Anthony** dynasty is not particularly highly regarded but, hey, it’s St. Anthony. They won the Jersey TOC 84-59 over Cape May Middle Township.

Academy National Champion—Oak Hill Academy, Mouth of Wilson, Virginia (36-0, would have been #1)

1993	<p>1. Philadelphia Simon Gratz (31-0) 2. Chicago Martin Luther King (32-0) 3. Marion County, Kentucky (23-0) 4. Frederick St. John’s at Prospect Hall, Maryland 5. Los Angeles Crenshaw (25-2) 6. Memphis Fairley, Tennessee (37-1) 7. Wichita South, Kansas (25-0) 8. Norwich, New York (29-0) 9. Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey Player of the Year Rasheed Wallace, Philadelphia Simon Gratz</p>
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1994 Philadelphia Simon Gratz (29-2) (2)

Mouth of Wilson Oak Hill Academy, Virginia, and **Philadelphia Simon Gratz** again were #1 and #2, but this time Oak Hill was unanimously preferred at #1. They are our “academy champion.” Simon Gratz was led by Shawn Smith, who scored 14 ppg in 4 years at Virginia Tech, and Terrell Stokes who scored 5 ppg at Maryland.

Los Angeles Crenshaw lost to Simon Gratz, but shocked **Santa Ana Mater Dei** in the California southern section final 71-67. They then beat Carmichael Jesuit 89-79 for the California title. Tremaine Fowlkes still led the way for Crenshaw, but he was joined by Kris Johnson, who went on to score 12 ppg in 4 years at UCLA. The loss to Crenshaw was Mater Dei’s only loss. They were led by Miles Simon, who went on to score 15 ppg in 4 years at Arizona, and by Schea Cotton. Cotton was at one time the most highly recruited player in the class of 1984. He had transferred to Mater Dei mid-year in his freshman year, stating that he wanted to play with his summer teammates. He scored 20 ppg as a freshman in one of the most competitive high school leagues in the country. As a sophomore, he scored 24 ppg and led Mater Dei to a 36-1 record. After that, he returned to St. John Bosco high school in Bellflower, California, because he was tired of the spotlight. 2 years later, he was ruled ineligible for college ball by the NCAA due to low ACT test scores. His family sued, while he played junior college ball, scoring 26 ppg. He won his lawsuit, and scored 16 ppg in one year at Alabama. He declared for the NBA draft, but went undrafted and never played in

the NBA, while players he had outplayed in high school enjoyed productive NBA careers. Some said he was too small to play inside, too slow to play outside. Others thought he'd been victimized, but by whom? Some thought that if the NCAA and NBA had ignored his inability to read like his high school mentors had always done, things would have been just fine. Who knows?

Baltimore Southern displaced Dunbar in that city, then defeated Silver Spring Springbrook 68-58 to win the Maryland title. They were led by Kevin Simpson, who went on to score 6 ppg at Morehead State. They finished 23-1 and rated #4 in the nation. Manhattan Rice, New York, was rated #1 at one time during the season but slipped to 25-4. They were led by Felipe Lopez, who was regarded as the best player in his class. He scored 17.5 ppg in 4 years at St. John's, then 6 in 4 NBA seasons.

Academy National Champion—Oak Hill Academy, Mouth of Wilson, Virginia (33-1, would have been #1)

1994	1. Philadelphia Simon Gratz 2. Los Angeles Crenshaw (29-2) 3. Santa Ana Mater Dei 4. Baltimore Southern (23-1) Player of the Year Felipe Lopez, New York Rice
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1995 St. John's of Prospect Hall, Frederick, Maryland (22-1)

The 1995 field was either very strong or very weak. For one of those 2 reasons, picking a champion was not easy, and yet among all of the usual suspects, the 3 groups that pick national high school basketball champions all agreed on a most unusual suspect and the only team ever in the history of Louisiana to emerge as a winner. That was **New Orleans St. Augustine**. As recently as 1983, they finished 35-0 as Louisiana state champion and couldn't get within hailing distance of the national rankings. Now, they hammered Baton Rouge Catholic 57-33 to win the Louisiana title with a record of 37-1. Their star was Eugene Edgeron, who scored 4 ppg in 4 years at Arizona and later played for the Harlem Globetrotters.

But, were there better dark horses? For that matter, were there better teams among the usual suspects?

St. John's of Prospect Hall, located in Frederick, Maryland, was the pre-season #1, but they lost to Laurel Baptist, Maryland, in OT. They beat Oak Hill 73-57, however, and finished 22-1, but dropped to #2 in the final rankings. St. John's, bye the bye, belongs to the Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association, the private school association in the state, and so is eligible for these rankings. Not only that, but St. John's at Prospect Hall was never really their name. They were St. John's Literary Institute from 1756 to early in the 21st century. They moved in 1958 into a building that had been known as Prospect Hall, and that became part of their colloquial name. Today they are really St. John's Catholic Prep. **Oak Hill Academy**, located at Mouth of Wilson, Virginia, was the pre-season #2. They lost 4 times but beat **Santa Ana Mater Dei** and finished 33-4, dropping to #4 in the final rankings (but of course they are not eligible for our main rankings). Mater Dei beat Oakland Fremont 71-67 in OT to win the California championship at 36-1. **Chicago Farragut**, led by Kevin Garnett, was ranked #3 late in the year, but lost to Harvey Thornton 46-43 in the Illinois state quarter-finals. Nate James of St. John's scored 8 ppg in 4 years at Duke. As noted above, Ron Mercer of Oak Hill scored 13 ppg at Kentucky. His teammates, Vernon Hamilton scored 10 ppg in 4 years at Clemson and Stephen Jackson scored 15 ppg in 14 NBA seasons. Schea Cotton was still in action for Mater Dei and scored 25 ppg.

Among others among the usual suspects, **Baltimore Dunbar**, so recently a power, was very much forgotten but finished 25-1 and upset Baltimore Southern for the city title. **Jersey City St. Anthony** upset Burlington County Shawnee 47-44 to win the New Jersey TOC, but was also not very highly regarded. And, out of that other stronghold of eastern basketball, New York City, you had **Brooklyn Abraham Lincoln**. They lost 3 times but beat Queens Christ the King 55-52 to win the New York state title behind Stephon Marbury, who went on to score 19 ppg at Georgia Tech.

Among the darker horses, there was **Indianapolis Ben Davis**, who won the Indiana title, beating Merrillville 58-57 to finish 32-1. Damon Frierson, Courtney James and James Patterson all went on to play major college ball. **Flint Northern** won the Michigan title easily over perennial power Detroit Pershing 86-64 behind Mateen Cleaves and Antonio Smith. Cleaves scored 12.5 ppg in 4 years at Michigan State, and led the Spartans to an NCAA title in 2000. **San Antonio East Central** won the Texas title at 35-0 behind Stan Bonewitz, who went on to score 10 ppg at Texas Tech. **Minneapolis North** won the Minnesota title at 30-0 behind Khalid El-Amin, who would lead UConn to a national championship 4 years hence. They were rated #66 all-time in a recent listing. Ohio and Illinois also produced strong champions—**Zanesville** (26-0) and **Peoria Manual** (32-2), respectively.

Academy National Champion—Oak Hill Academy, Mouth of Wilson, Virginia (33-4, would have been #3)

1995	1. St. John's at Prospect Hall, Frederick, Maryland (22-1)
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<p>2. Santa Ana Mater Dei, California (36-1) 3. Indianapolis Ben Davis (32-1) 4. Flint Northern, Michigan 5. <i>New Orleans St. Augustine</i> (37-1) 6. Brooklyn Abraham Lincoln (24-3) 7. Baltimore Dunbar (25-1) 8. Minneapolis North (30-0) 9. San Antonio East Central (35-0) 10. Peoria Manual, Illinois (32-2) Player of the Year Kevin Garnett, Chicago Farragut</p>

1996 Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey (31-0) (2)

Jersey City St. Anthony was the pre-season #1 and the unanimous national champion at the end. But, they didn't go wire to wire. **Christ the King**, located in Queens, New York, moved into the #1 spot in the middle of the season, but then lost a 64-63 shocker to Manhattan Rice in the PSAL final. Meanwhile, St. Anthony defeated Medford Shawnee, New Jersey, 65-57 in OT to win the New Jersey TOC. St. Anthony was led by Ajmal and Jamal Basit, Anthony Perry and Delvon Arrington, all of whom went on to play D1 ball in college. For Christ the King, the loss to Rice ended their season at 26-1. They were led by Speedy Claxton and Ira Miller, who played college ball at Hofstra, Louisiana Tech and McNeese State.

Meanwhile, **Manhattan Rice** went on to defeat **Niagara Falls LaSalle** 84-65 in the New York state final. They were led by Tarik Kirksay (Iona), Carey Williams (Alabama State), Bevon Robin (Fordham) and Chudney Gray (St. John's). Williams became a streetball legend known as "Homicide."

Peoria Manual featured Marcus Griffin, Sergio McClain and Frankie Williams, all of whom went on to play at Illinois. Manual beat Harvey Thornton 57-51 to win its 3rd straight Indiana title at 31-2. **Ardmore Lower Merion** featured Kobe Bryant, who scored 32 ppg that year with 12 boards and 5 assists. Merion defeated Eric Cathedral Prep 48-43 to win the Pennsylvania title at 31-3. **Los Angeles Crenshaw** was not favored in L.A. this year, until they were. They won the L.A. title, then moved on to beat Concord DeLaSalle 91-81 to win the California big-school title. But, **Compton Dominguez** was rated the #1 team in California at 34-2 after beating Walnut Creek Northgate 65-49 for its 2nd straight Division II title. It was led by Kenny Brunner and Tayshaun Prince, who went on to score 24 points between then at Georgetown and Kentucky, respectively. **Wichita South** repeated in Kansas, beating Olathe South 81-52 to finish 24-1. **Dallas Kimball** beat Eules Trinity 72-64 for the Texas title to finish 38-2. They were led by Jeryl Sasser, who went on to score 17 ppg at SMU.

<p>1996</p>	<p>1. Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey (31-0) 2 (tie). Manhattan Rice, New York (23-5) 2 (tie). Queens Christ the King, New York (26-1) 3. Peoria Manual, Illinois (31-2) 4. Ardmore Lower Merion, Pennsylvania (31-3) 5. Compton Dominguez, California (34-2) 6. Birmingham West End, Alabama (30-0) 7. Los Angeles Crenshaw (28-5) 8. Wichita South, Kansas (24-1) 9. Dallas Kimball (38-2) 10. Niagara Falls LaSalle, New York (25-3) Player of the Year Kobe Bryant, Ardmore Lower Merion, Pennsylvania</p>
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1997 Peoria Manual, Illinois (31-1)

Peoria Manual lost to Chicago Carver, but bounced back to beat Chicago Whitney Young 65-62 after trailing 18-4, then beat West Aurora 47-41 to win an unprecedented 4th straight Illinois title at 31-1. Marcus Griffin, Sergio McClain and Frankie Williams were all back from last year's state championship team. All of them went to Illinois, where they scored 32 ppg among them. The door was opened for Manual to become the unanimous pick as national champions when, first, Manhattan Rice defeated then-#1 Jersey City St. Anthony 82-80 in OT. Baltimore St. Francis then beat the new #1, **St. John's at Prospect Hall**, 75-74. That was St. John's, located at Frederick, Maryland, only loss as they finished 25-1. They were led by Jason Capel, who went on to score 12 ppg at North Carolina, and Jon Larranaga, who scored 9 at George Mason.

Also in the northeast, **Baltimore Southwest** defeated Dunbar and St. Francis, and won the city title at 27-0, but was never particularly highly regarded. Robert Gray went on to score 19 ppg at Houston. **Long Island Lutheran**, located at Glen Head, upset "heavily favored" Brooklyn Paul Robeson 53-50 in class A to finish 24-4. Robeson, led by Ron Artest (later known as Metta World Peace), finished 25-4, but they were rated #2 in the nation at the time of this loss. It's not clear that **Oyster Bay St. Dominic** wasn't better, however. They beat Syracuse Westhill 53-50 to win class B and finish 27-1. James Moran and Sean Kennedy went on to score 22 ppg between them at William & Mary and Marist, respectively. **Jersey City St. Anthony** won the New Jersey TOC, beating Seton Hall Prep 69-63, but this team is ranked only #22 out of St. Anthony's 28 state champions.

Out in California, **Los Angeles Crenshaw** on its 4th California title in 5 years. They defeated Mater Dei for the southern California title, then beat Alameda St. Joseph's Notre Dame 88-82 in the state final. Damian Willis was their star, and he went on to score 26 ppg at UC-Riverside. Meanwhile, another Los Angeles school, **Los Angeles Harvard-Westlake** won the Division III title, beating San Mateo Hillsdale 80-50 to finish 35-1. They were led by Jarron and Jason Collins, who went on to score 19 ppg between them in their best year at Stanford. For the 1st time, all 3 New York state champions—in class A, class B and class C—hail from Long Island.

Elsewhere, Miami, now called **Miami Senior**, won its 16th Florida title, clobbering Oviedo 83-50 to finish at 36-1. Its stars were Udonis Haslem, Brent Wright and Sylbrin Robinson, who combined to score 32 ppg in their best college seasons. **Bloomington** won the Indiana title, beating Delta 75-54 to finish at 28-1. Kueth Duany went on to score 8 ppg in 4 years at Syracuse. Finally, Cleveland Heights won the Ohio title, beating Zanesville 60-52 to finish 24-3. Theo Dixon and Ernie Brenner went on to combine for 28 ppg at Cleveland State and St. Bonaventure, respectively.

1997	<p>1. Peoria Manual, Illinois (31-1) 2. St. John's at Prospect Hall, Frederick, Maryland (25-1) 3. Miami Senior, Florida (36-1) 4. Baltimore Southwest (27-0) 5. Los Angeles Crenshaw (27-3) 6. Los Angeles Harvard-Westlake (35-1) 7. Long Island Lutheran, New York (24-4) 8. Bloomington, Indiana (28-1) 9. Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey 10. Cleveland Heights, Ohio (24-3) Player of the Year Marcus Griffin, Peoria Manual, Illinois</p>
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1998 St. John's at Prospect Hall, Frederick, Maryland (25-0) (2)

St. John's at Prospect Hall, located in Frederick, Maryland, won its 2nd national championship under coaching legend Stu Vetter, but its run of basketball success also began to unravel. St. John's beat perennial power Oak Hill in a 32-25 grinder at home on March 2. Midway through the 1st quarter, leading scorer Damien Wilkins returned to action after missing 6 games due to a suspension. It turns out that Wilkins and girlfriend Allison Mathis had been found "cuddling" in a hallway at school. An exchange of bodily fluids was alleged, and both were immediately expelled. Both parents being heavy hitters, however—Wilkins' father Gerald was a longtime NBA veteran while Mathis' mom was a White House correspondent for *USA Today*—and of course papers were filed, and their expensive lawyers got a court order that put Wilkins back in school and on the court. But, the whole, er, affair led to Wilkins' transfer and the firing of coach Vetter. Wilkins went on to score 11 points at North Carolina State and, after yet another escape to greener pastures, Georgia. Jason Capel and Jon Larranaga were not quite forgotten in all the controversy, and they went on to productive college careers, each of them at just one school. Years later, Mathis was back in the news for heckling LeBron James, for which she obtained voluminous media coverage that described her as Chris Bosh's girlfriend. Later still, she was back in court suing Bosh for child support.

Miami Senior had some ups and downs as well. They repeated as Florida state champions, beating Orlando Edgewater 89-56 to again finish 36-1. But, they were stripped of their titles in a scandal that also reached the school's baseball and soccer teams. It turned out that 5 basketball players lived with either a school coach, employee or booster, clear violations of FHSAA bylaws. One tip-off that there was some funny business is that Steve Blake today is listed on both the Oak Hill and Miami Senior rosters for 1998.

Chicago Whitney Young lost just one game, a holiday tournament match-up with a Lexington Catholic, Kentucky, that one opposing coach called the best Kentucky high school team he had ever seen. They bounced back to beat Galesburg 61-56 in the Illinois final to finish at 30-1. Their star was Quentin Richardson, who went on to score 18 ppg at DePaul and 10 ppg in a 13-year NBA career. In the northeast, **Elizabeth St. Patrick** won the New Jersey TOC, beating Seton Hall Prep 62-49 behind Al Harrington and Samuel Dalembert. Harrington scored 13 ppg in a long NBA career, while Dalembert scored 7 ppg at Seton Hall. **Manhattan Rice** won the New York class A title for the 3rd time in 5 years, beating defending state champions Long Island Lutheran 80-65. Rice was led by Anthony Glover and Kenny Satterfield, who went on to average in double figures over their college careers at St. John's and Cincinnati, respectively.

Elsewhere, **Los Angeles Westchester** won the 1st of what would become 6 California Division I titles, beating Alameda St. Joseph Notre Dame 52-40. They were led by David Blu (or Bluthenthal) and Brandon Granville, both of whom went on to score in double digits for USC. **Harrisburg** won the Pennsylvania title, beating New Castle 68-48 to finish 32-1. **Lexington Catholic** was rated as high as #2 nationally but lost 3 times, including an 85-82 shocker at the hands of Scott County, who went on to win the Kentucky state title. The Scott County coach said that if he played Lexington 20 times, he would win just once. That, of course, is just what he did, winning once in the state semi-finals. Another Lexington loss was at a tournament in Oregon that was won by

L.A. Crenshaw. **Lakewood St. Edward**, better known as the nation's top high school wrestling power, nevertheless won the Ohio basketball crown, beating Cleveland St. Ignatius 70-61 to finish 26-1. Jason Farris and Steve Logan each went on to score 15 ppg in their college careers, Farris at Cincinnati, Logan at USC.

Academy National Champion—Oak Hill Academy, Mouth of Wilson, Virginia (29-2, would have been #3)

1998	<p>1. Frederick St. John's at Prospect Hall, Maryland (25-0) 2. Chicago Whitney Young (30-1) 3. Elizabeth St. Patrick, New Jersey 4. Manhattan Rice, New York 5. Miami Senior, Florida (36-1) 6. Los Angeles Westchester 7. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania (32-1) 8. Lexington Catholic, Kentucky (33-3) 9. Lakewood St. Edward's, Ohio (26-1) Player of the Year Al Harrington, Elizabeth St. Patrick, New Jersey</p>
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1999 Manhattan Rice, New York (27-1)

Manhattan Rice still had Anthony Glover and Kenny Satterfield, and now they were joined by Antonio Barnett. Rice finished 27-1 with wins over Christ the King in the Catholic final, and 75-70 over Long Island Lutheran and 86-67 over Queens Cardozo in the New York big-school finals. **Compton Dominguez** won the California Division II title, beating Sacramento Grant 72-59 to finish 32-3. They had already beaten the Division I runner-up Santa Ana Mater Dei, and so they were generally regarded as the best team in California ahead of the Division champion Oakland Fremont. They had no less than 5 players go on to play D1 ball, scoring more than 50 ppg among them in their best seasons. **Duncanville** won the Texas big-school title at 33-3, beating Dallas Kimball 78-61 in the final.

Academy National Champion—Oak Hill Academy, Mouth of Wilson, Virginia (31-0, would have been #1)

1999	<p>1. Manhattan Rice, New York (27-1) 2. Compton Dominguez, California (32-3) 3. Duncanville, Texas (33-3) 4. Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland (28-4) Player of the Year Keith Bogans, Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland</p>
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1990-1999		All-Stars
<p>1. Detroit Southwestern 1991 (26-1) 2. Chicago Martin Luther King 1990 (32-0) 3. Philadelphia Simon Gratz 1993 (31-0) 4. Detroit Southwestern 1990 (26-1) 5. Chicago Martin Luther King 1993 (32-0)</p>	<p>6. Maywood Proviso East, Illinois 1991 (32-1) 7. St. John's at Prospect Hall, Frederick, Maryland 1998 (25-0) 8. Peoria Manual, Illinois 1997 (31-1) 9. Manhattan Rice, New York 1999 (27-1) 10. Baltimore Dunbar 1992 (29-0)</p>	<p>C- Rasheed Wallace, Philadelphia Simon Gratz 1993 F- Kevin Garnett. Chicago Farragut 1995 F- Chris Webber, Deroit Country Day 1991 G- Kobe Bryant, Ardmore Lower Merion, PA 1996 G- Jason Kidd, Alameda St. Joseph Notre Dame, CA 1992</p>

2000 Compton Dominguez (35-2)

Compton, California, is of course a suburb of Los Angeles and, along with L.A. Crenshaw and Verbum Dei and Santa Ana Mater Dei, Compton high school was one of the great powers in southern California basketball in the decades after World War II. Well, Compton continued to be a power in high school basketball, but somewhere along the way, Dominguez high school replaced Compton high as the place in Compton to go play basketball. You may have noticed **Compton Dominguez** placing 5th nationally back in 1996 and then 3rd in 1999 (on this list). Well, now, in 2000, they climbed all the way up that mountain to the national championship, as agreed to by all 3 of the arbiters of such things—that is, the NPP, NSNS and *USA Today*. Dominguez started

the year at #1 nationally, and finished that way despite a pair of losses along the way. But, more importantly, they beat #2-ranked Oak Hill 60-47, and that enabled them to hold the top spot despite the 2 losses. Dominguez also won their 4th California title in 5 years, beating Newark Memorial 53-41. They were led by Tyson Chandler, who never played college ball and played 19 NBA seasons, plus 3 other players who scored a combined 31 ppg in their best seasons at D1. They finished 35-2.

Sugar Land Willowriver won the Texas championship, beating Klein Forest 59-52 to finish 36-1. They were led by guard T.J. Ford, who went on to become an all-American at Texas. The school is located in Fort Bend County and is sometimes called Fort Bend Willowriver. **Marion** won their 7th Indiana title, beating Bloomington North 62-56 to finish 28-1. They were led by Zach Randolph, who scored 11 ppg in one year at Michigan State, then 17 ppg in 17 NBA seasons. **Mount Vernon** won the New York title, edging Bronx JFK 60-58 behind Ben Gordon and Greg Jenkins, who would score 29 ppg between them in their best college seasons, Gordon at UConn. **Portland Jefferson** won the Oregon title, beating Tualatin 58-44 to finish 28-0. They were led by Aaron Miles and Michael Lee, both of whom went on to play at Kansas. **Lansing Waverly** won the Michigan title, beating Detroit Pershing 75-63 to finish 25-2. They were led by Marcus Taylor, who went on to score 12 ppg at Michigan State. **Chester** won the Pennsylvania title, beating Uniontown 73-48 to finish 28-4. Jameer Nelson went on to be the college player of the year at St. Joseph's in 2004. **Memphis White Station** won the 1st of what would become 4 Tennessee titles in 5 years, beating Bradley Central 64-39 to finish at 34-4. They were led by Ernie Shelton and Kyle Buggs, who went on to score 20 ppg between them for their college careers.

Oak Hill Academy started at #2 nationally and that is where they finished, despite 2 losses. They are our academy champion. Like Dominguez, they too were protected from a drop in the rankings by a win against pre-season #3 **Montrose Christian** of Rockville, Maryland. Montrose went on to become a national power, as might have been predicted when coach Stu Vetter left St. John's at Prospect Hall and moved on to Montrose. Enrollment was reportedly dwindling, and so the school made a bet on basketball. They "became successful at recruiting players across the United States and around the world," a model that Vetter had already perfected at Flint Hill and St. John's. After Vetter left St. John's, 15 of his players transferred, several of them to Montrose. Montrose had 6 players who would go on to play D1 college ball. All of them having transferred to Montrose, 4 of the 6 also played for more than one college. They were as good at transferring as they were at basketball.

15 years later, the school deemphasized basketball. The *Washington Post* wrote, "Certain private schools around the country...choose to build their reputations around—and indeed may owe their very existence to—an elite boys' basketball program. What's left of the school," the *Post* asked, "if basketball goes away?" Well, at Montrose what was left was shaky finances and at least 16 liens against the property. At Montrose, what was left after basketball went away was, well, nothing. The school closed in 2013. Montrose is not eligible for our primary rankings.

Academy National Champion—Oak Hill Academy, Mouth of Wilson, Virginia (30-2, would have been #2)

2000	<p>1. Compton Dominguez, California (35-2) 2. Sugar Land Willowriver, Texas (36-1) 3. Marion, Indiana (28-1) 4. Mount Vernon, New York 5. Portland Jefferson (28-0) 6. Lansing Waverly, Michigan (25-2) 7. Chester, Pennsylvania (28-4) 8. Memphis White Station (34-4) Player of the Year Zach Randolph, Marion, Indiana</p>
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2001 Sugar Land Willowriver, Texas (39-0)

The trend was by now well-established. About one in 20 teams rated on this list through 1950 was a private school. In the 2nd half of the 20th century, it was more like one in 6. Increasingly in the coming years of the 21st century, more and more privates—and more and more of those privates "that choose to build their reputations around...basketball"—would come to occupy the top 5, 10, 20, 25 teams each year. In 2001, #2, #3 and #4 were private schools. **Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary's** also repeated as state champion, but of course in Ohio, beating Casstown Miami East 63-53 to finish 26-1. **Santa Ana Mater Dei** won the California championship, beating Modesto Christian 57-54 to finish 33-2. They were led by Cedric Bozeman, who scored 7 ppg in 4 years at UCLA, and Ricky Porter, who scored 9 ppg in 5 years at UC-Riverside. **Jersey City St. Anthony** won the New Jersey Catholic and Tournament of Champions titles at 22-3, beating Plainfield 61-49 in the latter. They lost just one game in New Jersey to Christian Brothers and avenged that defeat.

Sugar Land Willowridge and T.J. Ford repeated as Texas champions, unbeaten this time with a 65-58 win over Bryan in the state final. **Winston-Salem R.J. Reynolds** won its 2nd straight North Carolina title, beating Leesville 94-73 finish at 28-3. Mitchell Baldwin went on to score 5 ppg at Charlotte. **Midwest City** repeated as Oklahoma champion behind Sheldon Williams, who went on to become 2-time national defensive player of the year at Duke. Midwest went 100-11 over Williams' 4 years there.

Coatesville won the Pennsylvania title, beating Pittsburgh Schenley 70-57 to finish 31-1. John Allen went on to score 12 ppg in 4 years at Seton Hall. **Indianapolis Pike** won the Indiana title, beating Penn 56-42 to finish 23-3. David Teague and Parnell Smith went on to play D1 ball. **Milwaukee Vincent** repeated as Wisconsin champion; in fact, it was their 5th in 6 years. They beat Oshkosh West 66-60 to finish at 24-2. 3 of their players went on to play D1 ball.

Academy National Champion—Oak Hill Academy, Mouth of Wilson, Virginia (33-0, would have been #1)

2001	<p>1. Sugar Land Willowriver, Texas (39-0) 2. Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary, Ohio (26-1) 3. Santa Ana Mater Dei, California (33-2) 4. Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey (22-3) 5. Winston-Salem R.J. Reynolds, North Carolina (28-3) 6. Midwest City, Oklahoma 7. Coatesville, Pennsylvania (31-1) 8. Indianapolis Pike (26-3) 9. Milwaukee Vincent (24-2) Player of the Year T.J. Ford, Sugar Land Willowriver, Texas</p>
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2002 Dallas Lincoln (40-0)

Dallas Lincoln was unanimously regarded as the national champion in 2002. They won the Texas title with a perfect 40-0 record, beating Beaumont Ozen 71-51 in the final. Chris Bosh was their star, and he of course went on to play one year at Georgia Tech and then to score 19 ppg in 13 NBA seasons. Bryan Hopkins was his side-kick, and a good one. He scored 16 ppg at SMU. **Jersey City St. Anthony** was the 2nd perennial power to chase Lincoln to the finish line, but they too lost one game, in this case to Neptune high, located in Neptune Township, New Jersey. St. Anthony avenged the defeat not once, but twice, but it nevertheless cost them their shot at the national title. They sent 4 seniors on to D1 ball, where they combined to score 34 ppg over their careers.

Los Angeles Westchester (32-2) and **Manhattan Rice** (28-2) also chased the national title from the country's biggest cities. Westchester won the California big-school title 80-75 over Oakland Tech, while Rice beat Syracuse Hennings 61-53 for the New York big-school championship. Westchester was led by Hassan Adams, who scored 14 ppg at Arizona, and Brandon Bowman, who sent straight into the pros, where he mostly played G-league ball. Rice had Steve Burt, Jr., and Kee-Kee Clark, who combined to score 43 ppg in their college careers. Baltimore also had a national contender again, in Baltimore Douglas, who finished with a perfect 38-0. Their top guns were Gerald Brown, who scored 20 ppg at Baltimore Loyola, and Tyler Smith, who scored 8 ppg at DePaul.

Out in the Midwest, **Columbus Brookhaven** stood out. They beat Cincinnati Winton Woods 66-49 to win the Ohio title at 27-1. Ron Lewis went on to score 13 ppg at Ohio State. **Pontiac Northern** repeated in Michigan, beating Detroit Redford 66-58. Lester Abram again starred, preparatory to scoring 11 ppg at Michigan. **Baton Rouge Woodlawn** repeated as Louisiana champion at 39-0 and with a 54-game winning streak. Again, Ledell Eackles led the way. **Brooklyn Abraham Lincoln** won the New York title, beating Queens Christ the King 75-73 in OT. Some regarded And, **Lexington Catholic** won the Kentucky title, clobbering Paducah Tilghman 83-53 to finish 33-2.

Hockessin Sanford doesn't quite make our list, but they get an honorable mention because lots of people thought they were the best team in Delaware history at 25-2.

Academy National Champion—Oak Hill Academy, Mouth of Wilson, Virginia (32-1, would have been #2)

2002	<p>1. Dallas Lincoln (40-0) 2. Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey (29-1) 3. Los Angeles Westchester (32-2) 4. Manhattan Rice, New York (28-2) 5. Baltimore Douglas (28-0) 6. Columbus Brookhaven (27-1) 7. Pontiac Northern, Michigan 8. Baton Rouge Woodlawn, Louisiana 9. Lexington Catholic, Kentucky (33-2) Player of the Year Chris Bosh, Dallas Lincoln</p>
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2003 Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary's (25-1)

Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary's was the unanimous choice for national champion in 2003. This was LeBron James' team, it was his senior season, and it was his best team. They were now traveling the nation, playing the top teams, and he and they showed

that they belonged. They beat #3 Mater Dei, they beat #4 L.A. Westchester 78-52, they beat #8 Oak Hill 65-45, and finally they beat Kettering Alter 40-36 for their 3rd Ohio title in 4 years. LeBron went straight to the NBA, or maybe straight to heaven, but Dru Joyce and Romeo Travis also had productive college careers. They have been rated as highly as #3 all-time, and #5 of the 21st century, and #1 in Ohio for all-time. Oh, yeah. Some show their record as 26-0, some show it as 25-1. That one loss was a forfeit, but what's a little forfeit when you've got LeBron? Suffice it to say, they were the best in 2003.

Indianapolis Pike was ranked #2 at 29-0 after beating DeKalb 65-52 for the Indiana title. Pike sent 5 players to D1, though to places like Ball State, Buffalo, Western Kentucky and Xavier, not high D1, though the folks at Xavier might argue that point. **Los Angeles Westchester** lost 3 times, but beat Oakland Tech 63-53 to repeat as the California big-school champion. They sent 6 players to D1, including Trevor Ariza who scored 12 ppg at UCLA and 10 in the NBA, and 4 others who scored in double figures at USC, San Diego State, Cal State Fullerton and Kent State. **Santa Ana Mater Dei** ended up as California's #1 team ahead of Westchester, winning the Division II title 70-49 over Woodcreek. On paper, their talent doesn't look as strong as Westchester's, but Marcel Jones and D.J. Strawberry each scored 10 ppg at Oregon State and Maryland, respectively.

Baton Rouge Woodlawn repeated as Louisiana champion at 39-0 and with a 54-game winning streak. Again, Ledell Eackles led the way. **Brooklyn Abraham Lincoln** won the New York title, beating Queens Christ the King 75-73 in OT. Some regarded Sebastien Telfair as the best player in the county, aside of course from LeBron James. The finished at 31-4 and inched past Bronx St. Raymond (29-4) as the best team in New York. **Montrose Christian Academy** began to make itself heard from its perch in Rockville, Maryland, going 20-1. **Milwaukee King** won the Wisconsin title, beating Appleton West 57-46 to finish unbeaten in 25 games. Troy Cotton and Leneal Harris were their go-to guys, and they followed up as go-to guys at Wisconsin-Green Bay and Wisconsin-Milwaukee, respectively. Finally, **Memphis White Station** repeated as Tennessee champion (and won for the 3rd time in 4 years), beating Bradley Central 55-39 to finish at 36-2.

Academy National Champion—Oak Hill Academy, Mouth of Wilson, Virginia (31-4, would have been #2)

2003	<p>1. Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary's (25-1) 2. Indianapolis Pike (29-0) 3. Los Angeles Westchester (32-3) 4. Santa Ana Mater Dei, California (34-2) 5. Baton Rouge Woodlawn, Louisiana (39-0) 6. Brooklyn Abraham Lincoln (31-4) 7. Milwaukee Rufus King (25-0) 8. Memphis White Station, Tennessee (36-2) Player of the Year LeBron James, Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary's, Ohio</p>
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2004 Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey (30-0) (3)

Jersey City St. Anthony featured one of its 4 undefeated teams, beating Bloomfield Tech for the New Jersey TOC title 67-55 and finish 30-0. Terrence Roberts went on to score 8 ppg in 4 years at Syracuse. There were 3 other "major unbeaten." **Detroit Renaissance** won the Michigan class B title, beating DeWitt 61-42 to finish 27-0. Joe Crawford (11 ppg, Kentucky), Malik Hairston (14 ppg, Oregon) and Marcus Stout (14 ppg, Fordham) all went on the play D1 ball. **Houston Milby** finished 39-0, beating Cedar Hill 72-67 for the Texas big-school title. They were led by Jawann McClellan and Larry Posey, each of whom scored 8 ppg in their D1 college career, albeit at quite different places—Arizona and UT Arlington, respectively. **Alexandria Peabody** won the Louisiana class 4A (smaller than 5A) title, beating Lake Charles Washington-Marion 55-42 to finish 41-0. 3 players went on to score 8 to 9 ppg at mid-major D1 colleges.

Indianapolis Lawrence North won the 1st of 3 straight Indiana titles, racing to a 19-2 1st quarter lead and coasting home 50-29 over Columbia City. Greg Oden starred on all 3 of North's champions, and was generally regarded as player of the year in his senior season of 2006. He went on to Ohio State, where he scored 16 ppg in one year. He played just 3 seasons in the NBA and scored 8 ppg due to nagging foot injuries. **Snellville South Gwinnett** won the Georgia big-school title, beating Tift County 75-49 to finish 31-2. Lou Williams would become the national player of the year in 2005. **Mt. Vernon** won the New York big-school title, beating Brooklyn Lincoln 66-52 to finish 28-3. 3 of its players went on to score 6 to 8 ppg each at places like St. John's, Pitt and Iona. **Orlando Edgewater** won the Florida title, easily beating South Miami 72-51 to finish 29-2. They were led by Darius Washington who went on to score 14 ppg at Memphis. Speaking of Memphis, **Memphis White Station** repeated as the Tennessee champion, beating Jackson North Side 82-71 to finish 39-2. They sent 4 players on to D1 careers, scoring 6 to 8 ppg each at places like Arizona, Tennessee, Holy Cross and Dartmouth.

Oak Hill Academy was the unanimous national championship pick, but as you know we regard them as ineligible for the "high school" title. Louis Vashon went 31-0 and was ranked #9 in the year-end USA Today poll, but they later forfeited their 2001, 2004 and 2006 state championships and every game that they won from 2001 to 2006 due to recurring recruiting violations.

Academy National Champion—Oak Hill Academy, Mouth of Wilson, Virginia (38-0, would have been #1)

2004	<p>1. Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey (30-0) 2. Detroit Renaissance (27-0) 3. Indianapolis Lawrence North (29-2) 4. Snellville South Gwinnett, Georgia (31-2) 5. Alexandria Peabody, Louisiana (41-0) 6. Mt. Vernon, New York (28-3) 7. Houston Milby (39-0) 8. Orlando Edgewater (29-2) 9. Memphis White Station, Tennessee (39-2) Player of the Year Sabastien Telfair, Brooklyn Abraham Lincoln</p>
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2005 Niagara Falls, New York (28-1)

The powers-that-be split their vote for national champion in 2005. The National Prep Poll, which started making its picks in 1988, and *Student Sports*, which took over for the NSNS in 2001, both picked **Niagara Falls**, New York. *USA Today*, which started making its picks in 1982, went with the defending champions from **Oak Hill Academy**, who are of course ineligible here. Niagara Falls did it the old-fashioned way, winning a state championship, the New York state championship as it happens, beating Brooklyn Xaverian 68-65 to finish 28-1. They were led by Johnny Flynn and Paul Harris, who went on to score 29 ppg between them at Syracuse. 3 other players also went on to play D1 ball.

Los Angeles Westchester won their 4th California title in 8 years, beating San Mateo Serra 66-45 to finish 25-3. They were led by Amir and Marcus Johnson. Amir jumped straight to the pros and scored 7 ppg in 14 NBA seasons, while Marcus scored 6 ppg at Connecticut and USC. **Jackson Lanier** won the Mississippi title at 35-2, and is rated as the #34 team of all-time, #11 in the 21st century and the #1 Mississippi high school team ever. Monta Ellis scored 41 ppg and was named player of the year by some analysts. **Marietta Wheeler** won the Georgia title to finish 31-1. Morris Curry and J.T. Tiller scored 20 ppg between them at Providence and Maryland, respectively. They're rated as Georgia's 3rd-best team of all-time.

Indianapolis Lawrence North repeated as Indiana champion, still thanks to Greg Oden and Michael Conley. They defeated Muncie Central 63-52 to finish 24-2. **Canton McKinley** won their 1st of 2 straight Ohio titles, beating Cincinnati St. Xavier 51-42 to finish 26-1. Raymar Morgan went on to score 12 ppg at Michigan State, Ricky Jackson 9 at Syracuse and Todd Brown 11 at Wright State. **North Mecklenburg** won the North Carolina title, beating Fayetteville Westover 68-65 to finish 31-1.

Academy National Champion—Oak Hill Academy, Virginia (34-2, would have been #2)

2005	<p>1. Niagara Falls, New York (28-1) 2. Los Angeles Westchester (25-3) 3. Jackson Lanier, Mississippi (35-2) (2) 4. Marietta Wheeler, Georgia (31-1) 5. Indianapolis Lawrence North (24-2) 6. Canton McKinley, Ohio (26-1) 7. North Mecklenburg, North Carolina (31-1) Co-Player of the Year Monta Ellis, Jackson Lanier, Mississippi; and Lou Williams, Snellville South Gwinnett, Georgia</p>
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2006 Indianapolis Lawrence North (29-0)

Indianapolis Lawrence North was the unanimous choice as national champion in 2006 with a 29-0 record and an easy 80-56 win over Muncie Central in the Indiana final. They became the 3rd team to win 3 straight Indiana titles after Franklin 1920-1922 and Muncie 1985-1987. Their 45 straight wins tied Indianapolis Crispus Attucks' state record. They were again led by Greg Oden and Mike Conley, Oden being named national player of the year. Both went to Ohio State, where Oden scored 16 ppg and Conley 11, each in one season. Both then turned pro. Conley scored 15 ppg in 15 NBA seasons, Oden just 8 ppg in 3 seasons while being nagged by foot injuries. North Lawrence is regarded as the best Indiana team ever though, being honest, there is a lot of great competition.

DeMatha high school of Hyattsville, Maryland, winner of 3 national titles, returned to the top 10 for the 1st time since 1989 at 34-1. They beat D.C. Cardozo 87-57 for the city title, then Baltimore Mt. St. Joseph 70-55 to win a prestigious Catholic post-season tournament. Jerai Grant and Austin Freeman went on to score 29 ppg between them at Notre Dame and Georgetown,

respectively. Out California way, **Concord DeLaSalle** won D1 and **Artesia Lakewood** won D3. They each had one loss and MaxPreps had them ranked #6 and #5, respectively. We'll just call it a tie and put them in alpha order. DeLaSalle beat Fresno Clovis West 43-40 nobody scored more than 7 ppg. Meanwhile, Artesia had James Harden, who went on to score 19 ppg at Arizona State and a million or 2 in the NBA. O.J. Mayo played for his 2nd high school, **Cincinnati North College Hill**, in 2005 and 2006. They lost to Oak Hill in the year's game of the century, but repeated as Ohio D3 champion, beating Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph 90-73 in Division III. Mayo scored 28 ppg this year, while childhood friend and fellow transferer Bill Walker scored 21.

In 2007, Mayo transferred back home to Huntington, West Virginia, where he led the home team to its 3rd straight state title, but not until being suspended for 3 games for assaulting a referee and being arrested for possession of marijuana. He then committed to play for USC, where he played one season, earning all-conference honors. An investigation showed that Mayo had received significant gifts, principally cash money, and was therefore ineligible to play. USC vacated all of its wins in which Mayo played. Mayo then turned pro, and the highlights of his rookie season included being benched for missing a shoot-around, getting into a fight with a teammate about a card-game debt, and being suspended for steroid use. The only surprise is that his NBA career lasted 8 years.

Elizabeth St. Patrick won the New Jersey TOC, beating Linden 61-54 to finish 29-4. Corey Fisher went on to score 12 ppg at Villanova. **Chicago Simeon** edged Peoria Richwoods 31-29 in OT to win the Illinois title and finish 33-4. Derrick Rose was their star, and he went on to score 15 ppg and to lead Memphis to the NCAA final, and then to win the NBA MVP award in 2011. **Canton McKinley** repeated as Ohio's D1 champion, beating Trotwood-Madison 63-33 to finish 25-2. Raymar Morgan went on to score 12 ppg at Michigan State and Ricky Jackson 9 at Syracuse. **Baltimore Mt. St. Joseph** was undefeated up to its final game, a 70-55 loss to DeMatha that ended a 38-game winning streak.

Academy National Champion—Oak Hill Academy, Mouth of Wilson, Virginia (40-1, would have been #2)

2006	<p>1. Indianapolis Lawrence North (29-0) 2. Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland (34-1) 3 (tie). Concord DeLaSalle, California (32-1) 3 (tie). Lakewood Artesia, California (33-1) 4. Cincinnati North College Hill, Ohio (26-1) 5. Elizabeth St. Patrick, New Jersey (29-4) 6. Chicago Simeon (33-4) 7. Canton McKinley, Ohio (25-2) 8. Baltimore Mt. St. Joseph (38-1) Player of the Year Greg Oden, Indianapolis Lawrence North</p>
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2007 Chicago Simeon (33-2)

Chicago Simeon was led by guard Derrick Rose, and they (and he) had 2 highly publicized match games. Simeon beat Oak Hill and Brandon Jennings in one, but lost to New York Rice and Kemba Walker 53-51 in the other. Rose averaged 25 ppg, 9 assists, 9 rebounds and 3 steals. In the state final, however, he scored just 2 points, but fed the ball to his big man, Tim Flowers, who scored 35 points, and Simeon easily dispatched O'Fallon high 77-54. Rose, as noted above, took Memphis to 2nd place in the NCAA tournament in 2008. Soon thereafter, it was revealed that Rose's high school transcripts had been doctored and that he had someone other than himself take his ACT test for him. Memphis' NCAA runner-up finish ultimately was vacated. Returning to Simeon in 2007, the Wolverines were rated #1 (by *Sports Illustrated*) and #3 and #4 in various national rankings, and were rated #13 in the 21st century and #41 all-time in other listings.

Elizabeth St. Patrick repeated as the New Jersey TOC champion, beating Bloomfield Tech 85-61 to finish 30-2. They were rated #2 and #6 in a pair of national polls, and were rated #12 in the 21st century and #72 all-time in other listings. Corey Fisher went on to score 12 ppg at Villanova while 3 other players made their way to D1. While we're in New Jersey, let's note that **Jersey City St. Anthony** lost for the 1st and only time in the TOC and dropped, precipitously, right out of some top 25 lists. That seems way severe. They finished 28-1 and sent 5 players to high D1 colleges, including 3 who averaged in double figures at Kansas, Rutgers and USC. **Newark St. Ben's** finished 26-2 and also sent 5 players to D1, though mostly to mid-majors. Corey Stokes averaged in double figures at Villanova, however, and Chris Smith did the same at Louisville. St. Ben's ranked #2 and St. Anthony #3 in the final Jersey poll.

Lakewood Artesia was rated as low as #17 and as high as #1 in a pair of polls. They defeated Oakland Bishop O'Dowd 91-64 to repeat as California D3 champion, and were rated #1 in the final statewide poll. James Harden was their star but was not yet James Harden. He was a 5th team all-American. Meanwhile, **Los Angeles Fairfax** and **Santa Ana Mater Dei** also won California titles, and were the only other teams to rank in all of the top 10s. Fairfax, led by Chace Stanback, defeated Oakland McClymonds 54-29 in D1. Mater Dei defeated San Jose Archbishop Mitty 69-64 in D2 to finish at 34-4. Their top gun was Taylor

King, who went on to play for 4 different colleges. The 4th California champion was North Hollywood Campbell Hall, which was also highly regarded though below the top 10. They beat Santa Rose Cardinal Newman 70-34 in D4 behind guard Jrue Holiday.

Saginaw won the 1st of 2 Michigan titles behind Draymond Green, beating Detroit Redford 79-57 to finish 25-1. Certain lists have **Huntington**, West Virginia, ranked as high as #13 in the 21st century and #41 all-time. This is due to the presence there of O.J. Mayo, now playing for his 3rd high school. They lost only to the New Jersey and Kentucky champions, Elizabeth St. Patrick and Scott County, Kentucky. **Duncanville** won the Texas big-school title, beating Kingwood 60-46 to finish 39-0. Kevin Butler and D'Walyn Roberts went on to play D1 ball at TCU and Texas Tech, respectively. Rarely a basketball powerhouse, Oregon in 2007 featured defending champion Lake Oswego and national player of the year Kevin Love and up-and-coming **South Medford** and Kyle Singler. When they met for the state title, it was the game of the century. Medford defeated Oswego 58-54 to finish 27-3 and to rate as highly as #8 in one of the rankings. Finally, **Winter Park Lake Howell** won the Florida D2 title, beating St. Petersburg Lakewood 85-42 to finish 27-3. They sent Nick Calathese and Chandler Parsons to the U. of Florida, where they combined to score 26 ppg in their best years.

Academy National Champion—Oak Hill Academy, Mouth of Wilson, Virginia (40-1, would have been #1)

2007	<p>1. Chicago Simeon (33-2) 2. Elizabeth St. Patrick, New Jersey (30-2) 3 (tie). Lakewood Artesia, California (33-2) 3 (tie). Los Angeles Fairfax 4. Saginaw, Michigan (25-1) 5. Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey (28-1) 6. Huntington, West Virginia (25-2) 7. Duncanville, Texas (39-0) 8. Santa Ana Mater Dei, California (34-4) 9. South Medford, Oregon (27-3) 10. Winter Park Lake Howell, Florida (27-3) Player of the Year Derrick Rose, Chicago Simeon</p>
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2008 Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey (32-0) (4)

Jersey City St. Anthony won its 10th New Jersey tournament of champions title and its 3rd national championship, both unanimously. They beat Newark Science Park 69-36 in the TOC to finish 32-0, winning those 32 games by an average of about 40 points. They sent 5 guards to high D1 colleges, led by Tyshawn Taylor, who scored 11 ppg at Kansas, while forward Mike Rosario went on to score 13 ppg at Rutgers and Florida. They have been ranked as high as #4 in the 21st century. Meanwhile, **Newark St. Benedict**, coached by St. Anthony coach Bob Hurley's son Dan, took the road less traveled as an independent, prep team outside the jurisdiction of the high school association. They lost just one game to the Academy of the New Church, but beat the known powerhouses, DeMatha, New York Rice and Chester, Pennsylvania to finish 24-1. No less than 4 players went on to average in double figures in D1, led by Samardo Samuels, who scored 13 ppg at Louisville. They are of course ineligible for our national championship, but this is the 1st time that an "academy" other than Oak Hill has won this particular honor.

Oakland McClymonds returned to these rankings for the 1st time since their awesome run from 1958 to 1962. They defeated Compton Dominguez 73-54 to win California's D1 title and finish 32-0. 3 of their players went D1 while Dana Powell went directly into the pros. **Saginaw** repeated as Michigan champion, beating Detroit Pershing 90-71 to finish 27-1. Draymond Green was their main ticket. **Chester** lost their 1st 7 state championship games, but they won their 7th title in 2008, beating Norristown 81-77 to finish 33-1. Rahlir Hollis, Russell Johnson and Nasir Robinson combined to average 26 ppg in their careers at Arizona, Robert Morris and Pitt, respectively. **Santa Ana Mater Dei** defeated San Jose Archbishop Mitty in the 2nd straight D2 final, 65-53, to finish 35-1. **Norcross** repeated as Georgia's big-school champion behind Al-Farouq Aminu to finish 29-2. **Oak Hill** was tough, as always, but lost 4 times. Lamont Jones and Keith "Tiny" Gallon led the way, then scored 14 and 10 ppg at Arizona and Oklahoma, respectively. **Brooklyn Abraham Lincoln** won the New York big-school title, beating Flushing Holy Cross 86-67 in the final to finish 28-4. Lance Stephenson went on to score 12 ppg at Cincinnati. Finally, **Gonzaga** won the Washington, D.C., Catholic title and finished at 34-1.

Academy National Champion—Newark St. Benedict's, New Jersey (24-1, would have been #3)

2008	<p>1. Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey (32-0) 2. Oakland McClymonds (32-0) 3. Saginaw, Michigan (27-1) 4. Chester, Pennsylvania (33-1) 5. Santa Ana Mater Dei, California (35-1) 6. Norcross, Georgia (29-2) 7. Brooklyn Abraham Lincoln (28-4) 8. Washington, D.C., Gonzaga (34-1) Player of the Year Samardo Samuels, Newark St. Benedict's, New Jersey</p>
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2009 Detroit Pershing (26-1)

Findlay Prep, located in Henderson, Nevada, was founded in 2006 by Cliff Findlay, a local car dealer in this suburb of Las Vegas. Was it a high school with a basketball team, or was it just a basketball team with a phony high school? Wikipedia describes it as “a basketball factory that gives students hope of a pro career instead of education.” In fact, the high school closed as early as February 2010. After that, there wasn’t even a phony high school. Instead, members of the Findlay Prep basketball team took classes at Henderson International School but continued to play basketball as Findlay Prep. They were ineligible to play for the Nevada title because they recruited players on a national basis. Of course, they should have been ineligible because of the phony and, later, non-existent high school. In any event, they competed in the new National High School Invitational, a tournament designed precisely for teams like them that didn’t play by the rules that had governed high school sports for almost 100 years. In 2009, the tournament’s 1st year and Findlay’s 3rd, the 2 made beautiful music together.

School officials justified their approach by arguing in 2010 that their students achieved a “100 percent qualification rate” with the NCAA. But, they were classified as “non-scholastic” by the NCAA in 2013. The whole operation shut down in 2019, but not before winning 3 “national championships.” Whether these should in fact be recognized as high school championships, or championships of some lawless netherworld between high school and college is in the eye of the beholder, and the same could be said of several of their competitors in their “national championship” tournament. In 2008, Findlay Prep won 32 games before finally losing one, and nobody considered them as being among the best high school teams, most logically because they didn’t think that Findlay Prep was a high school. Our approach is that Findlay’s 2009 team should probably be recognized because there was a high school, though whether their players were being educated is a different question. In any event, its “national championship” was recognized, unanimously, at the time. And, they beat some damn good basketball teams—Oak Hill 74-66 and Montrose 60-43 in their final 2 tournament games.

After February 2010, however, the team was no longer affiliated with a high school. So, we do not recognize Findlay Prep as a high school after 2009. But, in 2009, they looked somewhat like a high school. They went 30-0. They had Avery Bradley, who went on to score 12 ppg at Texas, and 11 in 11 NBA seasons. They had Tristan Thompson, who scored 13 ppg, also at Texas, and 9 in 11 NBA seasons. And Cory Joseph who scored 10 ppg at, er, Texas, 7 in the NBA. Good team? Yes. An actual high school? Maybe not. After 2009, surely not. And, quintessentially, a team that is not eligible for this championship.

Among our boring, old, traditional state champions, several teams stood out. **Detroit Pershing** won the Michigan title, beating Kalamazoo Central 90-73 to finish 26-1. They had Keith Appling and Derrick Nix, both of whom went on to play for Michigan State, and Juwan Howard, Jr., who went on to score 13 ppg at Detroit Mercy. **Houston Yates** won the Texas title, beating Dallas **Kimball** 94-78 to finish 34-1. They were led by Joe Young, who went on to score 17 ppg at Houston and Oregon. **Los Angeles Westchester** edged L.A. Fairfax 55-54, Riverside King 56-39 and Oakland McClymonds 49-31 to win the California big-school title at 35-2. **Hopkins** won the Minnesota title, beating Osseo 69-59 to finish 31-0. They were regarded as Minnesota’s best team ever and sent various players to Minnesota, Notre Dame, Arizona State, Marquette and Iowa State. **Elizabeth St. Patrick’s** won the New Jersey TOC, beating Newark Science Park 73-57 to finish 30-3. (Suddenly, however, they were no longer St. Patrick’s, this year they were the Patrick School at Hillside, New Jersey, a suburb or neighborhood of Elizabeth. We will call them St. Patrick’s for continuity’s sake.) **Ames** won the Iowa title, beating Linn-Marr 55-45 to finish 26-0. Harrison Barnes went on to score 16 ppg at North Carolina while Doug McDermott scored 22 at Creighton. **Baltimore Lake Clifton** won the Maryland title, beating Fort Washington Friendly 75-50 to finish unbeaten. They were led by Cleveland Melvin, who went on to score 16 ppg at DePaul. **Bloomington South** won the Indiana title, beating Fort Wayne Snider 69-62 to finish 26-0. Matt Carlino went on to score 13 ppg at Marquette, and Jordan Hulls 10 at Indiana.

Academy National Champion—Henderson Findlay Prep, Nevada (30-0, would have been #1)

2009	1. Detroit Pershing (26-1) 2. Houston Yates (34-1) 3. Los Angeles Westchester (35-2) 4. Hopkins, Minnesota (31-0) 5. Elizabeth St. Patrick’s, New Jersey (The Patrick School) (30-3) 6. Ames, Iowa (26-0) 7. Baltimore Lake Clifton (28-0) 8. Bloomington, Indiana (26-0) Co-Player of the Year —DeMarcus Cousins, Mobile John L. LeFlore Magnet, Alabama; and Derrick Favors, South Atlanta, GA 2009
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2000-2009		All-Stars
1. Indianapolis Lawrence North 2006 (29-0) 2. Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary, Ohio 2003 (25-1) 3. Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey 2008 (32-0) 4 (tie). Sugar Land Willowriver, Texas 2001 (39-0) 4 (tie). Dallas Lincoln 2002 (40-0) 5. Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey 2004 (30-0)	6. Compton Dominguez, California 2000 (35-2) 7. Chicago Simeon 2007 (33-2) 8. Niagara Falls, New York 2005 (28-1) 9. Elizabeth St. Patrick's, New Jersey 2007 (30-2) 10. Detroit Pershing 2009 (26-1)	C- Greg Oden, Indianapolis Lawrence North, IN 2006 F- Chris Bosh, Dallas Lincoln 2002 F- LeBron James, Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary's 2003 G- T.J. Ford, Sugar Land Willowriver, TX 2001 G- Derrick Rose, Chicago Simeon 2007

2010 Houston Yates (34-0)

Houston Yates was the unanimous choice as national champion in 2010, and why not? They won all 34 of their games, and set national records with a 116 ppg scoring average and 15 consecutive 100-point games. They finished the season with a 58-game winning streak. The team has been rated as high as #26 all-time and #12 in the 21st century. They defeated Lancaster 92-73 for their 2nd straight class 4A title. They were led by Joseph Young, who went on to score 17.5 ppg at Houston and Oregon, while 3 other players also went on to play D1 ball.

Los Angeles Westchester was the best team in California, beating Newark Memorial 65-56 in D1 to finish 32-2. They lost to Montverde Academy, Florida, Milton, Georgia, and Manhattan Rice on their transcontinental tour, but were undefeated in what had become America's greatest basketball hotbed (along with New Jersey) of southern California. They were led by Denzel Douglas, Kareem Jameer and Dwayne Polec, who went on to score 31 ppg in their D1 college careers. **Santa Ana Mater Dei** was California's #2 team, and lost to Westchester 71-63 in the southern section final, but defeated DeMatha; Gonzaga, D.C.; and Vegas Bishop Gorman, all top 20 teams.

Ames is generally regarded as Iowa's greatest team ever by virtue of 2 straight state titles and 54 straight wins, and also by virtue of featuring Harrison Barnes and Doug McDermott, who went on to score 16 and 22 ppg, respectively, for North Carolina and Creighton. **Shawnee Mission Bishop Miege** won the Kansas title, beating Topeka West 71-47 to finish 25-0. They were led by Trevor Releford, who went on to score 13 ppg at Alabama. **Indianapolis North Central** lost 3 games but clobbered Warsaw 94-75 to win the Indiana title. They were led by Terone and Ronnie Johnson and D'Vauntes Smith-Riversa, who went on to score in double figures for Purdue, Auburn and Georgetown, respectively. **Oak Hill** finished with a mediocre (for them) 29-4 record. Among the top 20, they lost to L.A. Westchester 52-47, and lost to Mountain State Academy 59-53 in the national tournament. They were led by Doron Lamb, who went on to score 13 ppg at Kentucky. **Philadelphia Neumann-Gorretti** won the Pennsylvania title, beating Bridgeville Chartiers Valley 65-63 to finish 30-1. Their lone loss was 97-96 to Houston Yates.

Elizabeth St. Patrick's lost to Newark St. Benedict's prep school, who was thereby established as the best team in New Jersey, though St. Patrick's in fact did not win the official New Jersey TOC. They finished 24-3, while the TOC champion, Trenton Catholic, finished 28-3. St. Pat's was led by Kyrie Erving, who went on to score 17 ppg at Duke and 23 ppg in his NBA career.

Academy National Champion—Henderson Findlay Prep, Nevada (32-2, would have been #2)

2010	1. Houston Yates (34-0) 2. Ames, Iowa (27-0) 3. Los Angeles Westchester (32-3) 4. Shawnee Mission Bishop Miege, Kansas (25-0) 5. Santa Ana Mater Dei, California (32-2) 6. Indianapolis North Central, Indiana (25-3) 7. Philadelphia Neumann-Gorretti (30-1) 8. Elizabeth St. Patrick's, New Jersey (The Patrick School) (24-3) Player of the Year Harrison Barnes, Ames, Iowa
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2011 Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey (33-0) (5)

A funny thing happened on the way to the 2011 high school rankings. As late as April 2, 2011, MaxPreps picked Flower Mound Marcus, located in the city of Flower Mound, Texas, as its national champion. Others seemed to agree on 1989, 1996 and 2008 national champion **Jersey City St. Anthony**. By 2022, MaxPreps had changed its mind and picked St. Anthony as its national champion for 2011, intimating further that it had picked St. Anthony in 2011 and all along. Oh, well. No biggie. Clearly, Jersey City St. Anthony deserved to be the 2011 national champion, despite having been ranked #6 by MaxPreps at the time. They finished 33-0 and beat Plainfield 61-49 to win the New Jersey TOC. They also beat Newark St. Benedict's 51-50 and beat Long Island Lutheran and Brooklyn Abraham Lincoln. Kyle Anderson, Jimmy Hall and Myles Mack all went on to score in double figures in their college careers at UCLA, Kent State and Rutgers, respectively. **Elizabeth St. Patrick's**, also known as the Patrick School, lost its opener to Mt. Vernon, New York, then won 26 straight games, but then lost to St. Anthony in the Jersey TOC semis 62-45. Their signature wins came on a western swing, where they beat Winter Park, Florida, 75-66, and Las Vegas Bishop Gorman 79-63.

Texas had a pair of powerhouses who met in the big-school final: **Flower Mound Marcus** beat **Garland Lakeview Centennial** 40-38 to finish at 38-1 (Lakeview Centennial finished at 37-2, with both losses to Marcus high). Marcus was led by Marcus Smart and Phil Forte who, between them, scored 30 ppg at Oklahoma State, while Smart then added 10 ppg in 8 NBA seasons. Centennial was led by Toddrich Gotcher, who went on to score 7 ppg at Texas Tech. California had a several powerhouses, too. We can only make room for 2. **Santa Ana Mater Dei** won its 7th California title 43-36 over Concord DeLaSalle to finish at 32-3. One of their losses came on a cross-country barnstorming tour, to the Patrick School 71-61. The other 2 losses came to perennial rivals in southern California, but they also beat Winter Park, Florida, and Long Beach Poly. They were led by Xavier Johnson and Keith Reinhardt, each of whom went on to score 12 ppg in their college careers, Johnson at Colorado, and Reinhardt at UNLV, USC and Marquette. Mater Dei defeated **Long Beach Poly** 72-55 in the southern section final. Poly finished 31-2 behind Ryan Anderson, who went on to score 14 ppg in his college career at Boston College and Arizona.

Hopkins won its 3rd straight Minnesota title, beating Eden Prairie 64-52 to finish 32-1. They were led by Siyani Chambers, who scored 11 ppg at Harvard. **Marion Linn-Mar** won the Iowa title, beating Des Moines Hoover 56-42 to finish 27-0. **Wichita Heights** won its 4th straight Kansas title, beating Overland Park Blue Valley Northwest 59-51 to finish 25-0. They were led by Perry Ellis, who scored 12 ppg at Kansas. **Chester** won its 8th Pennsylvania title, beating Mount Lebanon 72-60 to finish 33-1.

Academy National Champion—Palm Beach Gardens Dwyer, Florida (33-2, would have been #4)

2011	<p>1. Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey (33-0) 2 (tie). Flower Mound Marcus, Texas (38-1) 2 (tie). Garland Lakeview Central, Texas (37-2) 3. Hopkins, Minnesota (32-1) 4. Marion Linn-Mar, Iowa (27-0) 5. Elizabeth St. Patrick's (The Patrick School), New Jersey (26-1) 6. Santa Ana Mater Dei, California (32-3) 7. Long Beach Poly, California (31-2) 8. Wichita Heights, Kansas (25-0) 9. Chester, Pennsylvania (31-1) Player of the Year Anthony Davis, Chicago Perspectives Charter</p>
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2012 Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey (30-0) (6)

For the 1st time, MaxPreps split the baby, naming **Jersey City St. Anthony** as its "statewide association" national champion and Oak Hill as its "academy national champion." St. Anthony was undefeated for the 2nd straight year and on its way to an 83-game winning streak. Its signature win came against Newark St. Benedict 51-50, and it beat Plainfield for the New Jersey TOC championship 66-62. It was led by Kyle Anderson and Josh Brown, who scored 19 ppg between them at UCLA and Temple.

Chicago Simeon was disrespected by MaxPreps, who rated them #11. Seriously? They finished 32-1 and beat previously undefeated Maywood Proviso East 50-48 to win its 3rd straight Illinois title. Jabari Parker was a superstar who went on to score 19 ppg at Duke and 14 ppg in 8 NBA seasons, while 5 other players combined to score 47 ppg at D1 colleges. **Santa Ana Mater Dei** repeated as California big-school champions, beating Sacramento Sheldon 66-48 to finish 34-2. No less than 4 players—Elijah Brown, Xavier Johnson, James McGee and Katin Reinhart—went on to average in double figures for their college careers.

Flower Mound Marcus repeated as Texas big-school champion, beating Fort Bend Travis 56-52 to finish 34-2. Phil Forte and Marcus Smart both went to Oklahoma State where they scored 30 ppg between them. **Lansing Sexton** repeated as Michigan class B champions, beating Stevensville Lake Shire 67-32 to finish 27-1. Bryn Forbes and Denzel Valentine both went to Michigan State, where they combined to score 24 ppg. **Chester** repeated as the Pennsylvania big-school champion, beating Ardmore Lower Merion 59-33 to finish 32-0. **Highland Lone Peak** repeated as Utah champion, and won its 6th state title in 12

years, beating Salt Lake City Brighton 68-38 to finish 22-2. Nick Emery and Eric Mika both went to Brigham Young, where they combined to scored 29 ppg for their college careers. **Omaha Central** won the Nebraska title, beating Omaha East 55-38 to finish 30-0.

Academy National Champion—Oak Hill Academy, Mouth of Wilson, Virginia (43-0, would have been #1)

2012	<p>1. Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey (30-0) 2. Chicago Simeon (32-1) 3. Santa Ana Mater Dei, California (34-2) 4. Flower Mound Marcus, Texas (34-2) 5. Lansing Sexton, Michigan (27-1) 6. Chester, Pennsylvania (32-0) 7. Highland Lone Peak, Utah (22-2) 8. Omaha Central, Nebraska (30-0) Player of the Year Kyle Anderson, Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey</p>
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2013 Highland Lone Peak, Utah (27-1)

Once again, MaxPreps split the baby—naming **Highland Lone Peak** of Highland, Utah, as its state association champion and **Montverde Academy**, Montverde, Florida as its academy champion. At the time, one might note, Max had Lone Peak at #1 and Montverde at #3. But, every other outfit that named a national champion picked Montverde, winner of the 4th annual GEICO national championship tournament. At one level, this should be an easy choice. Montverde beat Lone Peak 66-45 head-to-head. But, Lone Peak went on to play a tough national schedule, and that was its only loss. They beat Proviso East, Illinois; Chester, Pennsylvania; and San Jose Archbishop Mitty, California; then beat Alta 72-39 for the Utah title. Lone Peak was led by Nick Emery, Eric Mika and T.J. Haws, all of who went to Brigham Young where they scored a total of 44 ppg in their college careers.

Montverde had an awesome display of talent led by DeAngelo Russell, who went to Ohio State and scored 19 ppg. There was also Jordan Caroine (15 ppg, Nevada), Justin Bibbs (11, Virginia Tech), Devin Williams (11, West Virginia) and Dakari Johnson (Kentucky, 6). They beat Lone Peak, of course, and Roselle Catholic, Chicago Simeon, LaLumiere, Oak Hill and St. Benedict's 67-65 for the GEICO title. Lone Peak was 27-1, Montverde 27-2 against a much tougher schedule. And, let's go ahead and point out that Montverde Academy existed for almost 100 years before deciding to become a basketball-first school. Still, they are ineligible for our national championship.

Santa Ana Mater Dei won its 3rd straight California big-school title, beating Archbishop Mitty 50-45 to finish 34-2. They lost to Etiwanda, then avenged that defeat in the state semis 60-37. They were led by Elijah Brown, who scored 15 ppg at Butler, William & Mary and Oregon, and Stanley Johnson, who scored 14 at Arizona. **Etiwanda** finished 28-3 with their loss to Mater Dei. They were led by Jordan McLaughlin who went on to score 13 ppg at USC.

Chicago Simeon won an unprecedented 4th straight Illinois title, beating Lincolnshire Stevenson 58-40 to finish 30-3. They lost to Montverde 83-52, but beat Oak Hill. **St. Benedict's Prep** of Newark, New Jersey, lost to Montverde 67-65 in the GEICO finals to finish 30-2. They also beat Montrose, St. Anthony, LaLumiere and Findlay Prep. **Romulus** won the Michigan title, beating Detroit Southwestern 55-34 to finish 27-1. They were led by E.C. Matthews, who went on to score 15 ppg at Rhode Island. There were at least 3 unbeaten state champions—**Germantown**, Wisconsin (26-0), **Iowa City**, Iowa (26-0) and **Overland Park Blue Valley West**, Kansas (24-0).

Academy National Champion—Montverde Academy, Florida (27-2, would have been #1)

2013	<p>1. Highland Lone Peak, Utah (27-1) 2. Santa Ana Mater Dei, California (34-2) 3. Chicago Simeon (30-3) 4. Romulus, Michigan (27-1) 5. Etiwanda, California (28-3) 6. Germantown, Wisconsin (26-0) 7. Iowa City, Iowa (26-0) 8. Overland Park Blue Valley West, Kansas (24-0) Player of the Year Jabari Parker, Chicago Simeon</p>
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2014 Santa Ana Mater Dei, California (35-0)

MaxPreps continued to militate against the wild west academies that were coming to proliferate. This time they abandoned picking 2 champions—a state association champion and an academy champion. This time they simply picked an actual high school, **Santa Ana Mater Dei**, California, as its national champion while everybody else picked **Montverde Academy**. Mater Dei finished 35-0 and Montverde officially 28-0. But, part of MaxPreps rationale had to be that Montverde in fact lost a game to Chicago Curie, but then the game was forfeited due to Curie's use of an ineligible player. Mater Dei beat a who's who of California opponents—Oakland Bishop O'Dowd twice, including 71-61 to repeat as the California big-school champion; Bellflower St. John Bosco twice, Chino Hills, Etiwanda and Westchester; plus Chicago Whitney Young, Houston Yates and Philadelphia Neumann-Gorretti. They were led by the California player of the year Stanley Johnson.

Houston North Shore went 35-3 against a mostly Texas schedule, beating highly-rated DeSoto 48-45 and **Judson Converse** 57-45 in the big-school final 4. They were led by Jarrey Foster, who went on to score 9 ppg at SMU. **Tempe Corona del Sol** won the Arizona title, beating Phoenix Pinnacle 71-70 in OT to finish at 33-1. They sent a total of 6 players on to D1 colleges where they scored a combined 35 ppg in their careers. **Danville Monte Vista** won California's D2 title, beating Corona Centennial 66-55 to finish 32-1. They sent 4 players on to D1 careers.

Indianapolis Arsenal Tech won the Indiana title, beating Lake Central St. John 66-59 to finish 26-2. They also beat the new Indiana prep school, LaLumiere, 71-60. They were led by Trey Lyles, who went on to score 9 ppg at Kentucky. **Highland Lone Peak** repeated as the Utah champion, beating Pleasant Grove 84-66 to finish 23-3. **Seattle Rainier Beach** lost only to Findlay Prep 67-59 and beat Chicago Whitney Young 89-82.

Academy National Champion—Montverde Academy, Florida (28-0, would have been #1)

2014	<p>1. Santa Ana Mater Dei, California (35-0) 2. Houston North Shore (35-3) 3. Tempe Corona del Sol, Arizona (33-1) 4. Danville Monte Vista, California (32-1) 5. Indianapolis Arsenal Tech (27-2) 6. Judson Converse, Texas (37-2) 7. Highland Lone Peak, Utah (23-3) 8. Seattle Rainier Beach (29-1) Player of the Year Jahlil Okafor, Chicago Whitney Young</p>
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2015 Oakland Bishop O'Dowd (28-4)

The academies continued to conquer the world, but they're not eligible to win this national championship. But, Montverde Academy, Florida, was everybody else's pick for #1, and they beat our #1, #4 and #10. In fact, our #1—the best real high school team in America, the California big-school champion **Oakland Bishop O'Dowd**—lost 4 times. No previous champion has ever lost more than twice. jnhhygAnd, all 4 losses came to academy teams—Oak Hill twice, Montverde, and Wesleyan Christian Academy of High Point, North Carolina. They were unbeaten against high schools, as was one other high school team, that being the Cinderellas from Mustang, Oklahoma. Bishop O'Dowd edged perennial power Santa Ana Mater Dei 65-64 in OT to win its state title at 28-4. They were led by Paris Austin and Ivan Rabb, both of whom went on to the U. of California, where they combined to score 15 ppg. **Santa Ana Mater Dei** finished 29-5 and 2nd among California's large schools, as noted above. They were led by Rex Pflueger, who went to Notre Dame to play college ball. Meanwhile, **Torrence Bishop Montgomery** came into the California semi-finals with the best record, but lost to Mater Dei 65-59 to finish 31-2. They had Stevie Thompson who went on to score 15 ppg at Oregon State.

Mustang defeated Texas powers DeSoto and Dallas Kimball, then hammered Edmond Santa Fe 93-54 to win the Oklahoma big-school title. They were led by Aubrey Johnson who went on to scored 13 ppg at Oklahoma Christian. **Plano West** lost to Montverde and just one high school team, then won the Texas big-school title 56-54 over Clear Lake. Tyler Davis and D.J. Hogg both went on to Texas A&M where they combined to score 22 ppg. **Wichita East** lost just one game (to a high school team), but defeated Lawrence 58-43 to win the Kansas title.

Philadelphia Roman Catholic and **Philadelphia Neumann-Gorretti** won the class 4A and 3A city championships, respectively, and then the class 4A and 3A state titles, respectively. Roman Catholic beat Philadelphia Martin Luther King in both finals, 58-57. Neumann-Gorretti defeated Imhotep Charter 77-74 for its 7th straight class B city title, then Radnor Archbishop Carroll 69-67 at state. Roman Catholic and Neumann-Gorretti played for the Philly Catholic title, with Roman Catholic winning 71-68. Roman was led by Tony Carr who went on to score 17 ppg at Penn State, while Neumann relied on a cast of thousands.

Lincolnshire Stevenson won the Illinois title in a surprise, despite their 30-3 record. Well, actually, the big surprise was Normal Community beating the Chicago champion, **Chicago Simeon**, 64-50 in the state tournament. The smaller surprise was Stevenson

then beating Normal 57-40 in the final. Stevenson was led by Jalen Brunson who went on to score 14 ppg at Villanova. Simeon had at least 4 players who went on to play D1 ball at Boston College, DePaul, Illinois, Marquette, Nebraska, Southern Illinois, UNLV and more, an average of 2.5 different schools per player.

Academy National Champion—Montverde Academy, Florida (28-0, would have been #1)

2015	<p>1. Oakland Archbishop O’Dowd (28-4) 2. Mustang, Oklahoma (29-0) 3. Philadelphia Roman Catholic (30-2) 4. Plano West, Texas (33-2) 5. Wichita East, Kansas (24-1) 6. Philadelphia Neumann-Gorretti (29-2) 7. Lincolnshire Stevenson, Illinois (30-3) 8. Santa Ana Mater Dei, California (29-5) 9. Torrance Bishop Montgomery, California (31-2) 10. Chicago Simeon (30-2) Player of the Year Brandon Ingram, Kinston, North Carolina</p>
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2016 Chino Hills, California (35-0)

The academies continued to conquer the world, but they’re not eligible to win this national championship. And, so, the unanimous choice was **Chino Hills**, who defeated 3-time national champions (according to those other guys) Montverde 83-82 and went on to win the California big-school title over Concord DeLaSalle 70-50 to finish unbeaten at 35-0. What Chino Hills had going for it was a lot of Balls—LiAngelo was their leading scorer, though it was younger brothers Lonzo and LaMelo who went on to score 12 ppg and 16 ppg in the early years of their NBA careers. Eli Scott went to Loyola Marymount where he scored 14 ppg. **Torrance Bishop Montgomery** lost 3 times—all to Chino, including 82-64 in the state semis. They were led by Stevie and Ethan Thompson, who went on to score 15 and 14 ppg, respectively, at Oregon State. **Encino Crespi** won California’s D2, beating Berkeley 68-53 to finish 33-4.

Back east perennial power **Jersey City St. Anthony** somehow managed to go 30-0, one of 4 unbeaten at the New Jersey school, yet was rated only #11 by MaxPreps. This is inscrutable, though it’s true that 2016 turned out to be the school’s penultimate (2nd to the last) season. It closed in 2017. Not only that, but they had 4 players who went on to score in double figures in college, though not at your high D1 schools. **Hyattsville DeMatha** lost 5 times, but played a remarkable 12 games against the top 25, going 9-3, losing to the academies Montverde and Oak Hill. They beat Bel Air John Carroll 71-56 to win the D.C.-area Catholic title at 33-5. Ryan Allen, Ahmad Clark and Nate Darling went on to score in double figures in college.

Down south, **DeSoto** won the Texas champions, beating **Humble Atascocita** 73-54 to finish 35-2. DeSoto was led by K.J. Riley, who scored 11 ppg at Evansville, and Mason Jones and Marques Bolden, who scored 5 ppg at Arkansas and Duke, respectively. The loss to DeSoto was Atascocita’s only loss. It was led by Carsen Edwards, who scored 18 ppg at Purdue.

In the midwest, **New Albany** won the Indiana title, beating Lafayette McCutcheon 62-59 to finish 27-1. They were led by Romeo Langford, who scored 16 ppg at Indiana; Rondell Moore, who played football at Purdue and in ther NFL; and Josh Jefferson, who scored 13 ppg at Illinois State, Green Bay and Middle Tennessee. **Hopkins** won its 7th Minnesota title in 15 years, beating Lakeville North 64-55 in the final to finish 31-1. They were led by Amir Coffey, who scored 14 ppg at Minnesota. **University of Detroit Jesuit** won the Michigan title undefeated, beating North Farmington 69-49 to finish 28-0. Cassius Winston went on to score 14 ppg for Michigan State.

Academy National Champion—Oak Hill, Mouth of Wilson, Virginia (45-1, would have been #3)

2016	<p>1. Chino Hills, California (35-0) 2. Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey (30-0) 3. DeSoto, Texas (35-2) 4. Torrance Bishop Montgomery, California (28-3) 5. New Albany, Indiana (27-1) 6. Hopkins, Minnesota (31-1) 7. University of Detroit Jesuit (28-0) 8. Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland (33-5) 9. Humble Atascocita, Texas (38-1) 10. Encino Crespi, California (33-4) Player of the Year Lonzo Ball, Chino Hills, California</p>
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2017 Seattle Nathan Hale (29-0)

For the 2nd straight year, a bona fide high school was the unanimous choice for national champion. This time it was **Seattle Nathan Hale**. Among their 29 wins was a 80-77 win over Oak Hill and another over Sierra Canyon 67-65. They also swept through their local competition, beating Seattle Garfield to win the Washington state title. They were led by Michael Porter, Jr., who went on to score 10 ppg in one year at Missouri and 3 other players who played college ball. But, seriously, California was the center of high school basketball with no less than 4 of the top 10 teams. **Torrance Bishop Montgomery** won its 1st California title, beating Roseville Woodcreek 74-67 to finish 31-2. They lost to Montverde Academy and Oakland Bishop O'Dowd, but beat Sierra Canyon, Chino Hills, and Mater Dei twice, including 60-53 in the southern California finals. They were led by Ethan Thompson (see 2016); John Schakel, who went on to scored 9 ppg at San Diego State; and David Singleton, who scored 5 at Utah. Meanwhile, **Chino Hills** went from 4 Balls to 2, but still went 30-3, losing only to Oak Hill, Mater Dei and Bishop Montgomery. **Santa Ana Mater Dei** of course lost to Bishop Montgomery but lost only to Monty and to Chino Hills, but also defeated Chino in the post-season. They finished 33-3, and were led by Justice Sueing, who went on to score 13 ppg at Cal and Ohio State. **Chatsworth Sierra Canyon** in California also lost 3 times, to Nathan Hale, Bishop Montgomery and San Diego St. Augustine but defeated Oak Hill and Findlay Prep. This was LeBron James' new high school, the one he picked out for his son, Bronny, and as such it drew a lot of talent. In 2017 it was led by Marvin Bagley who scored 21 ppg at Duke in the freshman (and only) season; Remy Martin who scored 14 ppg at Arizona State and Kansas; Cody Riley who scored 8 ppg at UCLA; and Duane Washington, Jr., who scored 11 ppg at Ohio State.

Imhotep Charter, located in Philadelphia, was founded in 1998 with an African-centered education but also emphasizing STEM subjects. They quickly became an athletic power and beat Montverde Academy in 2017. They also beat Eric Strong Vincent 80-52 for the Pennsylvania class AAA (smaller than AAAAA and AAAA) title. They were led by Dave Beatty who scored 8 ppg at South Carolina and LaSalle. **Warminster Archbishop Wood** won the class AAAA title, beating Meadville 73-40 to finish 27-3. They were led by Matt Cerruti and Andrew Funk, each of whom scored 11 ppg at the mid-major level. Staying out east, **Elizabeth St. Patrick**, now known as the Patrick School, lost to Memphis East and to IMG Academy twice, but rallied to hammer Blairstown Blair Academy 89-57 to win the New Jersey TOC.

Jonesboro won the Arkansas title, beating El Dorado 74-57 to finish 32-0. They were led by Ben Harvey and Desi Sills, each of whom scored 9 ppg in their college careers at Southern Illinois and Arkansas, respectively. **Memphis East** split with Montverde and lost to Sierra Canyon. They defeated Memphis Southwind 65-45 to win the Tennessee title and finish at 23-3. They were led by Alex Lomax, who went on to score 6 ppg at Memphis. **Chicago Simeon** beat **Chicago Whitney Young** twice, only to lose to Young 60-50 in OT in the Illinois big-school final. Both teams played exhausting national schedules, then took unexpected losses at home. Simeon beat teams from D.C., Texas, Tennessee, Baltimore and Milwaukee, and sent 5 players to college, all of whom scored 9 ppg or more at places like Iowa State, LSU and UTEP. Young beat teams from Maryland, New York and Texas, and Jason Freeman and Lucas Williamson each went on to score 9 ppg at DePaul and Chicago Loyola. Apple Valley knocked off undefeated and ranked Champlin Park to win the Minnesota title. They were led by Tre Jones, who went on to score 12 ppg at Duke.

Academy National Champion—LaLumiere, Indiana (28-1, would have been #5)

2017	<p>1. Seattle Nathan Hale (29-0) 2. Torrance Bishop Montgomery, California (31-2) 3. Philadelphia Imhotep Charter (31-2) 4 (tie). Chatsworth Sierra Canyon, California (27-3) 4 (tie). Chino Hills, California (30-3) 4 (tie). Santa Ana Mater Dei, California (33-3) 5. Jonesboro, Arkansas (32-0) 6. Warminster Archbishop Wood, Pennsylvania (27-3) 7. Memphis East (23-3) 8 (tie). Chicago Simeon (27-5) 8 (tie). Chicago Whitney Young (28-7) 9. Elizabeth St. Patrick (The Patrick School), New Jersey (27-6) 10. Apple Valley, Minnesota (31-2) Player of the Year Marvin Bagley, Chatsworth Sierra Canyon</p>
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2018 Philadelphia Imhotep Charter (31-2)

There was something of a changing of the guard at least for this one season of 2018. DeMatha was back in the rankings, but there was nobody from Baltimore or New York or Chicago, and California got just one team in the top 10 and they were down at #6. On the other hand, it's true that Philadelphia and Memphis and Indiana and Texas, all with teams in the top 5, were no strangers to such a ranking.

Philadelphia made its way to the top of the heap for the 4th time ever, now with **Philadelphia Imhotep Charter** who, as we noted last year, was founded in 1998 with an African-centered education but also emphasizing STEM subjects. They were 31-2

for the 2nd straight year, but this year that was good enough for #1, partially, again, because some of the perennial powers failed to field teams at their usual levels. Imhotep lost only to DeMatha and LaLumiere, Indiana, Academy, defending champion of the GEICO national championship. Their signature wins were against Las Vegas Bishop Gorman and Sharon in the Pennsylvania D2 final, 71-35, and they did it without a surfeit of college-type talent. Bernard Lightsey was their star, and he went on to score 12 ppg at Lincoln U.

Memphis East moved up from #7 to #2 though they again lost 3 times, including a loss to Chicago Simeon. But, they defeated Findlay Prep and, later, Memphis Whitehaven 72-50 to win the Tennessee big-school title. James Wiseman, who went on to score 20 ppg with 10 rebounds at the U. of Memphis, was their star. He was the #2 pick in the 2020 NBA draft but has been injured for much of his NBA career. **Indianapolis Warren Central** won the Indiana title, beating Carmel 54-48 to finish undefeated at 32-0. They were led by Antwane Cushingberry, who went on to score 16 ppg at St. Francis. **Belleville West**, defeated Chicago Whitney Young 60-56 to win the Illinois title at 32-2 after Young had surprised Simeon 71-66 in the quarterfinals. West was led by Malachi Smith and Juwan Pickett, who went on to play for Chattanooga and Missouri, respectively. **Oshkosh North** defeated Brookfield 61-44 to win the Wisconsin title at 28-1. Tyrese Haliburton went on to score 10 ppg at Iowa State.

Allen surprised **Denton Guyer** 40-36 for the Texas title. Allen was led by Isaiah Stevens, who went on to score 14 ppg at Colorado State, while Guyer had Jalen Williams, who scored 11 ppg at Kansas. Both had 5 or 6 others who played college ball. **Chatsworth Sierra Canyon** won the California big-school title. They beat Bishop Gorman, Mater Dei and Archbishop Montgomery, then Sacramento Sheldon 75-62 in the state final. This year they were led by Scottie Pippen, Jr., who went on to score 17 ppg at Vandy, and Cassius Stanley, who scored 13 at Duke. **DeMatha** of Hyattsville, Maryland, lost to **St. Paul VI** of Chantilly, Virginia, 3 times, but rebounded to beat them 72-50 in an eastern Catholic tournament. DeMatha had 4 players who scored in double figures at places like Villanova, Charlotte, Howard and Lycoming.

Academy National Champion—Montverde Academy, Florida (36-1, would have been #1)

2018	<p>1. Philadelphia Imhotep Charter (31-2) 2. Memphis East (31-3) 3. Indianapolis Warren Central (32-0) 4. Belleville West, Illinois (32-2) 5. Allen, Texas (35-5) 6. Chatsworth Sierra Canyon, California (27-4) 7. Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland (31-5) 8. Oshkosh North, Wisconsin (28-1) 9. Denton Guyer, Texas (38-2) 10. Chantilly St. Paul VI, Virginia (33-4) Player of the Year Zion Williamson, Spartanburg Day School, South Carolina</p>
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2019 Sierra Canyon, California (32-3)

Sierra Canyon high school, located in Chatsworth, moved up from #4 to #6 to #1 nationally, and they did it very simply by moving up to #1 in their home state of California. They lost 3 times, twice to the academy powerhouse, Montverde, but they beat perennial powers L.A. Westchester and Mater Dei and then Sacramento Sheldon 76-52 in the big-school final. This, as you'll recall, was and is the school that LeBron James chose to send his son, Bronny, to, and other talent slowly but surely assembled. Bronny was still just a youngster, so this team was led by Scottie Pippen, Jr., who went on to Vanderbilt where he scored 12 ppg over 3 years. Duane Washington, Jr., also went on to score 11 ppg at Ohio State and Christian Koloko 7 at Arizona. Most of the way, the best team in California appeared to be **Richmond Salesian College Prep**, who won their 1st 31 games before losing to Modesto Christian 56-55 in the southern Cal playoffs. Salesian then lost to Sheldon in the semi-finals and, again, Sheldon lost to Sierra Canyon in the finals. Salesian was led by James Akinjo, who went on to score 14 ppg for Baylor and to play for Baylor's 2021 national champions.

The other challengers came mostly from the midwest. The fact is that the academies, which continued to proliferate, were taking more and more of the best players out of the east coast and some from out west. Midwestern kids were a little more likely to stay home. The best team in the midwest was in the eye of the beholder. We like **Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller**, who won the Ohio big-school title undefeated in 29 games. They beat LeBron's old team, Akron St. Vincent-St. James 52-44 in the final. Their best player was Jaxson Haynes, who went on to score 10 ppg at Texas. **Belleville West** undoubtedly faced the toughest competition in the midwest, winning the Illinois title by shocking previously #1 (in Illinois) Chicago Curie 70-48 and then Evanston 71-59. **Chicago Curie** finished 35-2 behind Dajuan Gordon, who scored 8 ppg at Kansas State and Missouri. Belleville's Juwan Pickett also scored 8 ppg at Missouri. **Hermitage Kennedy Catholic** won the Pennsylvania big-school title, edging Perkasio Penridge 64-62 in 2 OT. Kennedy's Oscar Tshiebwe went on to score 13 ppg at Kentucky.

2 eastern teams made the top 10. One was **Long Island Lutheran**, who won the New York state title, beating Christ the King, located in Middle Village, Queens, 51-31 to finish 25-2. LIL also won state titles in 2009, 2011-2012 and lost state finals in 2008, 2013-2014 and 2017. They were led by Essan Mostafa, who went on to score 13 ppg at Coastal Carolina, and Tykei Green, who scored 10 ppg at Stony Brook. The other was defending national champion **Philadelphia Imhotep Charter**, who defeated Drexel Hill Monsignor Bonner 67-56. 3 of their 6 losses were to McEachern and Sunrise Academy. They again were led by David Lightsey.

Down south, the best teams were **Powder Springs McEachern**, Georgia, and **High Point Southwest Guilford**, North Carolina, who went 64-0 between them. McEachern defeated Norcross Meadowcreek for the Georgia title 62-54, and was led by Isaac Okoro who scored 13 ppg at Auburn. Guilford defeated Burlington Williams 67-60 in the North Carolina final. Brothers Keyshaun and Kobe Langley combined to score 12 ppg at UNC-Greensboro.

Academy National Champion—IMG Academy, Bradenton, Florida (31-1, would have been #1)

2019	<p>1. Chatsworth Sierra Canyon, California (32-3) 2. Powder Springs McEachern, Georgia (32-0) 3. Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller, Ohio (29-0) 4. Belleville West, Illinois (34-4) 5. Long Island Lutheran, New York (25-2) 6. Hermitage Kennedy Catholic, Pennsylvania (27-3) 7. Richmond Salesian College Prep, California (31-1) 8. Chicago Curie (35-2) 9. High Point Southwest Guilford, North Carolina (32-0) 10. Philadelphia Imhotep Charter (26-6) Player of the Year James Wiseman, Memphis East</p>
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2010-2019		All-Stars
<p>1. Chino Hills, California 2016 (35-0) 2. Houston Yates 2010 (34-0) 3. Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey 2011 (33-0) 4. Ames, Iowa 2010 (27-0) 5. Highland Lone Peak, Utah 2013 (27-1) 6. Seattle Nathan Hale 2017 (29-0)</p>	<p>7 (tie). Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey 2012 (30-0) 7 (tie). Jersey City St. Anthony, New Jersey 2016 (30-0) 8. Santa Ana Mater Dei, California 2014 (35-0) 9. Chatsworth Sierra Canyon, California 2019 (32-3) 10. Flower Mound Marcus, Texas 2011 (38-1)</p>	<p>C-Anthony Davis, Chicago Perspectives CH F- Marvin Bagley, Chatsworth Sierra Canyon F- Jabari Parker, Chicago Simeon 2013 G- Lonzo Ball, Chino Hills, CA 2016 G- Kyle Anderson, Jersey City St. Anthony</p>

2020 Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland (30-3) (5)

Hyattsville DeMatha and **Chatsworth Sierra Canyon** provided a difficult choice for 2020 national champion. DeMatha went 30-3, Sierra Canyon 30-4. They had the deepest D1-type talent among bona fide high schools. DeMatha's Hunter Dickinson went on to Michigan where he scored 16 ppg; Brayon Freeman scored 10 at GW; and Earl Timberlake scored 6 at Memphis. Sierra Canyon was led by B. J. Boston and Ziaire Williams, each of whom went on to score 11 ppg at Kentucky and Stanford; and K.J. Martin, who went straight to the NBA and scored 8 ppg. They had 3 common opponents—#12-ranked Chantilly St. Paul VI from Virginia, #22 L.A. Mater Dei and unranked but 22-8 Temecula Rancho Christian from California. DeMatha went 4-1 against those 3 opponents and outscored them by 28 points. Sierra Canyon went 2-2 and outscored those opponents by 15 points. DeMatha closed its season by winning the rubber match with St. Paul 70-56. Sierra Canyon finished with a 59-48 win over Mater Dei that put it into the California state final against **Sacramento Sheldon** that was then cancelled due to COVID. **Etiwanda** lost to Sierra Canyon 3 times, including 63-61 in the southern California semi-final, to finish at 30-4. They were led by Jaylen Clark who went on to score 5 ppg at UCLA.

Oh, yeah, COVID. COVID also made the rankings difficult as most states and other jurisdictions were unable to complete their post-seasons tournaments, as was the case in California and Texas, who between them accounted for approximately half of the top 10. The same was true in Illinois, Minnesota and Ohio, each of whom provided top 10 teams as well.

But **Las Vegas Bishop Gorman** beat Sacramento Sheldon, and beat Desert Pines 65-37 to win one of the few state championships that was completed this year with a record of 29-3. Sheldon made its way to the California final with a win over Mater Dei and then Dublin 59-58. They were led by Marcus Bagley, who went on to score 11 ppg at Arizona State.

Most people seem to think that **Duncanville** was the best team in Texas, but **Lancaster** had a much better record (36-1 vs. Duncanville's 29-5), not to mention that Lancaster defeated Duncanville. Well, okay, it was on a forfeit. Lancaster lost only to Prolific Prep of Napa, California; while Lancaster lost to Montverde and Sierra Canyon. Both advanced to their respective Texas final 4, Duncanville in the big-school class, beating Odessa Permian 59-43 in its final game, while Lancaster beat Dallas Kimball 90-69 in its final game in the next class down. Duncanville was led by Micah Perry, who went on to score 6 ppg at Texas Tech and TCU, while Lancaster was led by Wade Taylor, who scored 8 ppg at Texas A&M. Also down south, **Roebuck Dorman** is regarded as the best team ever in South Carolina. They lost to Oak Hill, but defeated Irmo Dutch Fork 65-46 to win the state big-school title at 30-1. They were led by P.J. Hall, who went on to score 10 ppg at Clemson.

In the midwest, **Chicago Curie** went 29-2, and defeated Berwyn-Cicero Morton 65-52 to advance to the Illinois sweet 16, but the state tournament was cancelled at that point. In Minnesota, Minnehaha Academy of Minneapolis was highly regarded, led by 2020 national player of the year Jalen Suggs and 2021 national player of the year Chet Holmgren, both of whom went to Gonzaga. Minnehaha defeated Sierra Canyon by 20 points and was proclaimed (by Minnehaha partisans) to be the best team in Minnesota history. One recent list had them at #32 all-time, nationally, and indeed the highest-ranked team ever from Minnesota. Unfortunately, Minnehaha lost 3 games to Minnesota high schools, including undefeated Eden Prairie. **Eden Prairie** beat Prior Lake 99-74 in its final game to get to 28-0 when the Minnesota tournament was called off. The Ohio tournament only got to the round of 32. **Cincinnati Moeller**, ranked #1 in Ohio, beat Centerville 54-42 in the 1st round, **Lakewood St. Edward's**, ranked #2, beat Lorain 76-55.

Academy National Champion—Montverde, Florida (25-0, would have been #1)

2020	<p>1. Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland (30-3) 2. Chatsworth Sierra Canyon, California (30-4) 3. Las Vegas Bishop Gorman (29-3) 4. Sacramento Sheldon (29-5) 5 (tie). Duncanville, Texas (29-5) 5 (tie). Lancaster, Texas (36-1) 6. Roebuck Dorman, South Carolina (30-1) 7. Chicago Curie (29-2) 8. Eden Prairie, Minnesota (28-0) 9. Etiwanda, California (30-4) 10 (tie). Cincinnati Moeller (25-1) 10 (tie). Lakewood St. Edward's, Ohio (25-1) Co-Player of the Year Brandon (B.J.) Boston and Ziaire Williams, Chatsworth Sierra Canyon</p>
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2021 Duncanville, Texas (29-1)

COVID continued to be a problem. Many states and other jurisdictions did not start their seasons on their normal schedule. Many delayed the start until January, and some did not finish up until July. But most jurisdictions did play down to their normal champions. But some teams suspended their seasons due to localized outbreaks of the pandemic. And, so, 2 of America's best teams, DeMatha and Camden, New Jersey, played just 9 and 13 games, respectively, winning them all. Still, we reserved our championship for a team that faced all the rigors of a normal full season. It might not be fair but, hey, life's not fair. And, so, they end up sharing the #2 spot in our ratings. **Hyattsville DeMatha**, Maryland, swept 9 games including Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary's, the Ohio D2 champion and Chantilly St. Paul VI 109-107 in OT in their final game. They were led by Brayon Freeman and Elijah Hawkins, who sent on to score 10 and 13 points, respectively, at GW and Howard, and by Jerrell Roberson and Tyrell Ward, highly rated among DelMarVa recruits. **Camden** swept 13 games, but did not begin play until January 26 and there was no post-season play in New Jersey. They were led by freshman D.J. Wagner, the son of former Louisville and NBA star DeJuan Wagner.

But, our champion is **Duncanville**, Texas, who lost only to **Waxahachie** (in OT), but bounced back to beat Waxahachie in the state QF, #20-nationally rated Richardson 68-49 in the SF, and #18 Austin Westlake, who came into the final 30-1 with its only loss to Duncanville 77-67 early on. This time the final was 66-53. It was Duncanville's 2nd straight state title (2019 and 2021; the 2020 tournament was cancelled with Duncanville among the final 4). Duncanville was led by Anthony Black, rated the #3 point guard in the nation who went on to Gonzaga; football star Omar Abor, who went to Ohio State in that sport; Chauncey Gibson, who went to Clemson; and others. Waxahachie was led by Jalen Lake and C.J. Noland, each of whom scored 4 ppg at Colorado State and Oklahoma as freshmen. **Beaumont United** won the Texas D2 championship, beating Dallas Kimball 71-70 in the final to finish 31-0. They were led by 4-star recruit and Houston commit Terrance Arceneaux.

We noted that in 2020 **Minnehaha Academy**, Minneapolis, had been vastly over-hyped: the greatest team in Minnesota history, they (Minnehaha partisans) said, and somebody at MaxPreps decided to believe them despite the fact that they lost 3 games to Minnesota opponents. Well, this year, playing without Jalen Suggs who had gone on to Gonzaga, Minnehaha was the best team in Minnesota. They lost only to IMG Academy 73-53. They swept 20 Minnesota games, however, including the state D2 title game, 80-29 over Alexandria. They were led by the 7-footer Chet Holmgren, who famously beat Steph Curry one-on-one as a high school junior, then followed Suggs to Gonzaga. Also in the midwest, **Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary** defeated Columbus St. Francis DeSales 72-50 in Ohio's D2. They were led by Malaki Branham who went on to score 13 ppg at Ohio State. **Omaha Millard North** defeated Bellevue West in a rubber match in the state final to finish 27-2. They defeated Bellevue West 94-91 in 2 OT, lost to them 81-69, then won 84-78, again in OT. Millard North also lost to Creighton Prep. Bellevue finished 25-3, losing only to Millard North and Sunrise Christian Academy. They beat Creighton Prep twice in a total of 4 OT. Creighton Prep finished 23-3, losing only to Bellevue 3 times. Among the 3 of them, Bellevue was 4-2, Millard North 2-2 and Creighton 1-3. In 7 total games, the 3 teams played a total of 7 OT. Millard North was led by Hunter Sallis, who went to Gonzaga. **Carmel** "repeated" as Indiana champion, having won in 2019 while the 2020 tournament was cancelled. Here they defeated Bloomington Lawrence North 51-46 in OT to finish 26-2. They were led by Brian Waddell who went on to Purdue.

Milton won the Georgia title, beating Lilburn Berkmar 52-47. They subsequently lost an exhibition game to IMG Academy 73-68 to drop to 28-3. They started 3-2 but did not lose again in the state of Georgia. They were led by Bruce Thornton, a 4-star recruit who subsequently went on to Ohio State, and 3-star recruits Kendall Campbell and Devin Farrell. In November 2021, Milton players Cameron Walker and Jonathon Murray were arrested for the murder of a drug dealer. They intended to rob the man of his drugs and cash, and shot him during the altercation. Walker was a part of the state championship team of 2021, and had scored 17 points in a winning effort earlier that evening. He had committed to play basketball at George Mason, which swiftly cut ties to Walker. Murray had transferred to Milton that fall. He was both a football and basketball player, and had a scholarship offer to play football for Virginia. **Orlando Christian** defeated Jacksonville Impact Christian 51-32 to win the Florida class 2A title (second smallest out of 7 classes) at 27-0. They were led by 3-star prospect A.J. Brown.

Academy National Champion—Montverde, Florida (24-1, would have been #1)

2021	<p>1. Duncanville, Texas (29-1) 2 (tie). Camden, New Jersey (13-0) 2 (tie). Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland (9-0) 3. Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis (20-1) 4. Beaumont United, Texas (31-0) 5. Milton, Georgia (28-3) 6. Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary, Ohio (27-2) 7. Orlando Christian (27-0) 8. Omaha Millard North (27-2) 9. Waxahachie, Texas (20-3) 10. Carmel, Indiana (26-2) Player of the Year Chet Holmgren, Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis</p>
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2022 Duncanville, Texas (33-1) (2)

Duncanville won its 3rd straight Texas big-school championship—and it would likely have been 4 but for the COVID interruption in 2020. Not only that, but they repeated as our national champion. They lost just one game to Richardson, Texas, 60-58 in OT during the regular season. But, McKinney surprised Richardson in one semi-final while Duncanville beat Humble Atascocita in the other, totally improbable semi-final. Atascocita led 30-10 in the 1st half and 32-19 at the half, but Duncanville held Atascocita to 2 points each in the 3rd and 4th quarters while scoring 31 points themselves in the 2nd half. That's right, they outscored Atascocita 31-4 in the 2nd half to win 50-36. Then they beat McKinney 69-49 to finish 33-1. Duncanville was led by McDonald's all-American and state tournament MVP Anthony Black, and big Ron Holland, rated #4 in the country.

MaxPreps returned to its policy of 2012 and 2013, which was to put state association high schools and academies in separate categories, and to name a pure high school champion. They, too, liked Duncanville, and why not.

#2 **Corona Centennial** lost to #1 Duncanville 75-70, but that was their only loss, and they went on to defeat Sierra Canyon 83-59 and Modesto Christian 59-50 to win the California title. Centennial was led by 4-star prospect Jared McCain, the #22-rated prospect nationwide, plus point guard Donovan Dent, a New Mexico recruit. #3 **Ft. Lauderdale Calvary Christian** won Florida's class 4A (middle class among 7) beating #1-seeded Jacksonville Andrew Jackson 74-58. They were led by 4-star point guard Gregg Glen, who is headed to Michigan, and 3-star prospects Carl Chenefant and Taylor Hendricks. #4 **Centerville**, Ohio, is the highest ranked unbeaten team at 28-0. They won the Ohio title, beating Fairfield 55-39. They were led by 3-star prospects Gabe Cupps (Indiana) and Tom House (Florida State).

#5 **Camden**, New Jersey, lost only to Montverde and Ft. Lauderdale Calvary Christian, but defeated Roselle Catholic and Sierra Canyon. They were led by D.J. Wagner, son of former Louisville and NBA star DeJuan Wagner, with 19 ppg, 4 rebounds, 3 assists and 3 steals. **North Little Rock** beat Richardson and Beaumont United of Texas, but lost to IMG and Calvary Christian academies. They beat Bentonville 65-47 for the Arkansas state title and to finish 27-3. They were led by McDonald's all-American and Arkansas recruit Nick Smith. **Glen Ellyn Glenbard West** beat Chicago Whitney Young 56-34 for the Illinois title. 4 of their starters are going to college at Gonzaga, Princeton and Army (2). **Roselle Catholic** lost only to Camden and Oak Hill, and beat Gill St. Bernard's 68-62 to win the state title. They were led by Akil Watson, rated #24 nationally and who scored 25 ppg. **Memphis Christian Brothers** beat Knoxville Catholic 79-72 to win the Tennessee class II-AA title at 28-0. The 3rd unbeaten member of our top 10 is **Matthews Weddington**, who beat Charlotte Chambers 58-56 to win the North Carolina big-school title.

Academy National Champion—Sunrise Christian Academy, Bel Aire, Kansas (24-1, would have been #1)

2022	<p>1. Duncanville, Texas (33-1) 2. Corona Centennial, California (31-1) 3. Ft. Lauderdale Calvary Christian (24-2) 4. Centerville, Ohio (28-0) 5. Camden, New Jersey (25-2) 6. North Little Rock, Arkansas (27-3) 7. Glen Ellyn Glenbard West, Illinois (34-1) 8. Roselle Catholic, New Jersey (24-2) 9. Memphis Christian Brothers (28-0) 10. Matthews Weddington, North Carolina (30-0) Player of the Year Anthony Black, Duncanville, Texas</p>
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2023 Richmond John Marshall, Virginia 28-0

Once again, 3 of the top 4 "high school" teams in the nation according to ESPN are not truly high schools at all. They're academies, meaning they don't play by the rules that other high schools play by. Meaning, we don't know about the academic status of their players. Would they be eligible to play at law-abiding institutions? So, again, we put them off in a separate category and we pick a true high school as our #1 team of the year.

Two true high schools played a national schedule and went undefeated against bona fide high school competition. They are **Long Island Lutheran** (23-3), who lost to Compass, IMG and Montverde academies and defeated top 10 Philadelphia power Imhotep Charter; and **Richmond, VA, John Marshall** (28-0), who defeated Marietta, GA, Wheeler and Miami Columbus, and won the Virginia big school title 91-34 over Radford. They won 6 playoff games by an average of 107-42.

Just missing a third straight title is **Duncanville**, Texas (29-1), now with a 3-year record of 91-3.

To be sure, the problem with the academies is not that they play a national schedule. Indeed, there are 2 kinds of real high schools—a few that play a national schedule, and the great many who do not. Duncanville plays some national games, though this year it was just 4. Still, they beat top 10-rated Corona Centennial and Miami Columbus and top 20 Roselle Catholic. They lost only to top 20, Oregon state runner-up West Linn on a tour of the west coast in December. They do not appear to have played in the Texas state tournament, but they beat Texas big school champion Dallas Lake Highlands 53-52. They are led by 6-8 "Big Ron" Holland, who announced that he would forego college to turn pro right out of the gate.

Also playing national schedules were **Camden, New Jersey** (23-2), who defeated top 10 Paul VI of Chantilly, VA, and Imhotep, but lost to Corona Centennial and Miami Columbus; **Paul VI**, who won 3 of 7 games against a slate of national, top 10 caliber teams; **Imhotep**, who split 4 games against such opponents; **Corona Centennial, California**, who won one of 3 games against top 10 national opponents; and **Miami Columbus**, who went 3-3 against such opponents. Miami Columbus had been the pre-season #1 but lost to Duncanville, Imhotep and John Marshall. In the absence of Duncanville from the Texas playoffs, **Dallas Lake Highlands** (34-3) won the big school title but lost to Centennial, Duncanville, Paul VI. Centennial was surprised by Studio City **Harvard-Westlake** 80-61 in the California big school semis, then Harvard-Westlake defeated Santa Maria St. Joseph's 76-65 in the final. Imhotep was led by the nation's #3-ranked recruit, Justin Edwards, and Camden by #6 D.J. Wagner.

Harvard-Westlake was perhaps the top team that did not play any national (our-of-state) games, but **Indianapolis Ben Davis** (34-0) is also in that conversation. Finally, **Marietta Kell** (28-2) and **Marietta Wheeler** (27-7) both from Georgia, were highly ranked. Some had Kell, the 5A champion, more highly ranked, but Wheeler was surely better. 5 of their 7 losses came to top 10 teams already mentioned here, and Wheeler was the only team with 2 of the top 60 prospects in the class of 2023. Only Wheeler, Duncanville and Corona Centennial had 2 of the nation's top 100 recruits.

Academy National Champion—Link Academy, Missouri (27-1, would have been #2)

2023	<p>1. Richmond John Marshall, Virginia (28-0) 2. Long Island Lutheran, New York (23-3) 3. <i>Duncanville, Texas (29-1)</i> 4. Camden, New Jersey (23-2) 5. Studio City Harvard-Westlake, California (33-2) 6. Philadelphia Imhotep (30-3) 7. Miami Columbus (26-4) 8. Chantilly Paul VI, Virginia (31-4) 9. Corona Centennial, California (30-4) 10. Dallas Lake Highlands (34-3) Player of the Year D. J. Wagner, Camden, New Jersey</p>
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2020-2023		All-Stars
<p>1. Duncanville, Texas 2022 (33-1) 2. Richmond John Marshall, Virginia 2023 (28-0) 3. Hyattsville DeMatha, Maryland 2020 (30-3) 4. Corona Centennial, California 2022 (31-1) 5. Chatsworth Sierra Canyon, California 2020 (30-4) 6. Ft. Lauderdale Calvary Christian, Florida 2022 (24-2)</p>		<p>C- Chet Holmgren, Minneapolis Minnehaha F- Ron Holland, Duncanville, TX 2023 F- Justin Edwards, Philadelphia Imhotep G- Anthony Black, Duncanville, TX 2022 G- D.J. Wagner, Camden, NJ 2023</p>