



3A

Down the Stretch

At the conclusion of last season, as **Northwestern** captured the state title with a 21 point victory, the prevailing thought was to go ahead and give them the hardware for this season as well. After watching them systematically pick apart two of 4As top teams at the recent Hall of Fame Classic that may have not been far off. The Tigers have not lost to an Indiana team since the 2016-17 season in an elite eight matchup against eventual State Champ South Bend St Joseph. That spans three seasons and 39 Indiana teams in a row that have fallen since that loss. They will have a couple tough ones down the stretch that include 2A Oak Hill and 4A North Central. Northwestern is led by Junior All-Star candidates Madison Layden (22.5 PPG / 6.6 APG) and Kendall Bostic (18.2 PPG / 8.5 RPG).

The North is deep consisting of 4 of the top 5 spots. #2 **Norwell**, 13-1, only loss this far was a battle against 4A top 5 Homestead. A tough nosed group that can play a variety of paces and are led by sophomore K.Fuelling and senior A.Dunnuck. Five teams in their sectional (23) are currently in the Sagarin Top 100, including **Bellmont** and **Marion**. **Mishawka Marian** 16-1 at #3 have steadily raised in the polls and are a team to take note of. The Knights are 9-1 against 4A teams with that only loss against 4A #5 Penn. The Knight are led by seniors M.Weaver (14.8 PPG), A.Payne (13 PPG), and sophomore transfer M.Hudgen has made a huge impact (12.4 PPG). The Knights have a tough schedule down the stretch including, South Bend St Joseph, Northwood, Breman and Elkhart Central (those teams 48-17). #5 **Fort Wayne Concordia** 12-3, that features Indiana All-Star candidate Carissa Garcia have stood tall after losing an important part of their front court prior to the season.

The South is wide open to a deep field that include the likes of Salem, Danville, Vincennes Lincoln, Evansville Memorial and Scottsburg to name a few. #4 **Salem** 13-3 have been a solid performer throughout the year, and have five wins against 4A opponents. The Lions have talented deep guard play from L.Miller, H.Tomlinson, and KSweeny with the inside presence of 6'2 L.Nice. Salem is in perhaps the toughest 3A sectionals (30), with all 6 teams currently in the Sagarin Top 140. #6 **Benton Central** 17-2 has impressed this season against a solid schedule and are poised to be a tough matchup come tourney time. #7 **Danville**, are off to a 12-3 start with all three losses coming to 4A squads that are or have been ranked. The Warriors will see at least one of those teams again in their county tourney, along with three other currently ranked 2A & 3A teams as they close out the regular season. Danville is always a threat with Junior All-Star candidate Ella Collier 24.7 PPG. #11 **Vincennes Lincoln** is off to a nice 13-3 mark and will be favorites in their remaining matchups. The Alices feature a stout frontline with senior A.Hein (13/8) and Sophomore M.Lange (17.5/13), along with active junior guard D.Carmean (15/6.7APG). #14 **Evansville Memorial** 8-5, who has fallen from our preseason #2, has played one of 3As toughest schedules and are still to be considered a heavy hitter. The Tigers feature some of the classes top guard play from S.Riekers, R.Anslinger, and P.Murphy, who combine for 35 PPG. A couple

others to mention that have been solid this far and could ruffle some feathers in the tourney are **Indianapolis Chatard** 9-5 and defending state runner-up **Greensburg** 12-4.

We fully expect Northwestern to represent the North, barring any unforeseen circumstances, but the South appears to be completely open to a deep field. Sectional 23 (at Norwell) and Sectional 30 (at Charlestown) will be two of the most anticipated draws and competitive sectionals once we arrive there in a few weeks.

3A Scoring leaders (as reported by Maxpreps 12.30)

Dash Shaw	Gary West	31.1 PPG
Darlisha Reed	Hammond Gavit	26.5 PPG
Ella Collier	Danville	24.7 PPG
Cameron Tabor	New Castle	23.4 PPG
Grace Hunter	Bellmont	23.2 PPG

3A Rebounding leaders (as reported by Maxpreps 12.30)

Darlisha Reed	Hammond Gavit	16.9 RPG
Alexiana Blakely	Beech Grove	16.1 RPG
Maycee Lange	Vincennes Lincoln	13.1 RPG
Alaina Omonode	West Lafayette	12.7 RPG
Brooke Jackson	Mt Vernon	11.8 RPG

3A Assist leaders (as reported by Maxpreps 12.30)

Darrian Carmean	Vincennes Lincoln	6.7 APG
Madison Layden	Northwestern	6.6 APG
Jalyn Duff	Greencastle	6.2 APG
Grace Sandlin	Tri-West	5.8 APG
Lindsey Simpson	Knox	5.0 APG

