



State Championships Preview

February 23 2019

1A #2 Marquette Catholic (26-2) v #1 Vincennes Rivet (29-0) 10:30am
Sagarin: MC #14 (#1 in class), VR #31 (#2)

Not a big surprise that we get a rematch of last year's state championship in which Marquette Catholic came away with the title in a 38-31 win. All three of the Blazers loses against Indiana teams in the last two seasons have been against the 4A variety. Rivet is riding a perfect season and just captured their 7th semi-state title in the last 11 seasons and looking to capture their second State Championship (2011). Marquette Catholic, who start five seniors, are led by St. John recruits and twin sisters Emma and Sophia Nolan. The sisters combine to average 37.5 PPG and 16 RPG while both shooting nearly 50% from the floor. Senior Morgan Crook averages 7.5 a game while hitting at a 36% clip from behind the three point line. Rivet is led by Grace Waggoner 22.5PPG, IU preferred walk-on, and junior Tia Tolbert 13 PPG. The Blazers average 61 a game while giving up only 38.5 that the 7th largest average margin of victory. The Patriots are the 11th stingiest defense giving up only 35 a game and a 25.7 average margin of victory. If the Nolan sister can stay out of foul trouble and on the floor the Blazers should be in a good spot to defend and repeat as 1A champions but there are no bigger competitors than Waggoner and Tolbert and given the opportunity they will make the most of it. **Marquette Catholic 46 Vincennes Rivet 43**

2A #3 Oak Hill (24-3) v #5 Winchester (26-3) 12:45am
Sagarin: OH #25 (#1), WHS #46 (#5)

Winchester, last year's state runner up, returns to the state title game and Oak Hill which is just two years removed from a state runner-up find themselves back in the title tilt as well. Winchester's duo of Maddie Lawrence 16 PPG / 6 RPG and Shelby Miller 10.5 PPG spent the off season and much of the high school season recovering and getting back to form from knee injuries that they played through in last year's state championship game. The Falcons include three other starters that average over 8 PPG in 6'3 center Robinson (12.5), Chamberlin (11PPG), Graft (8.5PPG). Oak Hill led by junior forward Taylor Westgate (14.5 PPG) have a similar balance which includes seniors Trexler (12.5 PPG), Robey (8.5PPG), and Hasty (6PPG). 74-8 over the last three season with this core, Oak Hill is coming off an upset when of the unbeaten defending state champions. They also own a lopsided victory over Winchester, 59-39, back on November 24th in the New Castle Shootout (that write-up can be found on our site). Expect a much closer game, but if Oak Hill can win the physical matchup, as they did earlier in the season, and keep Winchester off the line the Golden Eagles will come away with their first state championship. **Oak Hill 54 Winchester 50**

3A #1 Northwestern (26-3) v #8 Benton Central (22-6) 6:00pm
Sagarin NW #2 (#1), BC #23 (#2)

Northwestern were heavy favorites to repeat as state champs entering the season and that has held true as they enter the state title game as a double digit favorite. The Tigers are led by arguably the top 1-2 punch in the state in the junior duo of Madison Layden 22 PPG and 7 APG and forward Kendall Bostic 18.5 PPG and 9 RPG. Several others fill their roles at a high level, including senior guard Katie Nehr 9 PPG. The Tigers, who average over 66.5 PPG, have only lost one game to an Indiana team, 4A power North Central, over the last two seasons. Benton Central is coming off impressive wins against the #2 and #9 teams over the last two weeks. The Bison, who average 65 PPG are led by senior guard Emma Fisher 15 PPG and 6 APG and junior forward Audrey Strawsma 15 PPG and 63% FG. Freshman Tressa Senesac (7.5 PPG) role and contribution has steadily increased throughout the season The Bison bring a feisty aggressive style of play on both ends with the idea of out working their opponents for 32 minutes. A lot of things will need to fall in line for Benton Central but expect for them to compete. Northwestern's experience and backcourt/frontcourt production should allow them to repeat as state champs. **Northwestern 61 Benton Central 48**

4A #1 Hamilton Southeastern (26-1) v #9 Lawrence North (22-6) 8:15pm
Sagarin: HSE #1 (#1), LN #4 (#5)

Different teams but once again a MIC team out of Sectional 10 in Lawrence North will take on a HCC team in Hamilton Southeastern for the 4A state title. The Royals did not lose to an Indiana team this year including a 56-45 January 15th win over LN. The Royals have a trio of senior starters in Amaya Hamilton (12PPG), Malea Jackson (10PPG), and Tayah Irvin (4 RPG). They are led by 2020 Miss Basketball candidate Sydney Parrish (20.5 PPG and 7 RPG). The Royals were able to break through their Sectional for the first time since 2007 and have passed each test since. LN played one of the state's toughest schedules and five of their six losses came to teams in the final 4A top 10. The Wildcats are led by sophomore Jayla Smith (14 PPG) and three juniors in Katie Davidson (10 PPG), Kristian Young (9 PPG), and Lauren Gunn (6.5 RPG). Plenty of skill and athleticism on both sides, it will most likely come down to who can hit their perimeter shots and limit runs. **Hamilton Southeastern 53 Lawrence North 48**

