

# NEPSGBA INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of the NEPSAC Girls Basketball Assoc

## THE NICKERSON SHOWCASE AT NOBLES – A PREMIER STAGE FOR NEPSAC GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Written by Ayo Hart

The stage is set, and the excitement is palpable. NEPSAC Girls' Basketball takes center stage at the Nickerson Showcase at Nobles this weekend - an event that has become synonymous with excellence, talent, and a must-see for college coaches. Organized by Alex Gallagher, head coach and Athletic Director at Nobles, the Nickerson Showcase has evolved into a powerhouse event, showcasing over 20 of the region's top programs and featuring close to 150+ college-level players under one roof.

Gallagher says, "The event began because we really wanted to create a venue for the top teams in the area to gather so that we could highlight the tremendous talent in NEPSAC Girls basketball." What began as a tournament quickly transformed into a showcase to accommodate the depth of talent in the conference. The event now welcomes all interested teams, focusing on AA teams primarily due to their minimum game limit within the class.

***"Bringing together this much firepower under one roof has sent a loud message about the basketball being played here", Alex Gallagher***

The Nickerson Showcase has become a powerful platform on the national recruiting stage, sending a resounding message about the strength of NEPSAC Girls' Basketball. "The list of girls who have competed at this event and are now impact players at the next level is long and distinguished. Every year that we have run the event, I have received several thank you notes from families whose children received offers because of their play at the Nickerson. That is what makes all the work that goes into this event so worth it", says Gallagher.

The event not only elevates the student-athletes' level of play due to the level of competition but also instills their pride in being NEPSAC basketball players. It reinforces the significance of high school teams at a time when AAU and club teams can seem to be the only place to experience the highest levels of the game.

As anticipation builds for this year's showcase, Coach Gallagher is excited about welcoming teams for the first time like Sacred Heart Greenwich, Cushing, and 2023 Class C Champion, Hamden Hall. The event will also provide a platform for new faces in NEPSAC to make their mark, further showcasing the talent emerging from within an incredibly strong conference.

Coach Gallagher humbly acknowledges the Nickerson Showcase as a game-changer. Drawing hundreds of college coaches, the event has positioned NEPSAC as one of the strongest conferences nationally. "Bringing together this much firepower under one roof has sent a loud message about the basketball being played here," says Gallagher.

Looking ahead, the Nickerson Showcase aims to continue to welcome every school within NEPSAC interested in participating. Coach Gallagher envisions leveraging social media and other technology to enhance event marketing, ensuring the showcase continues to evolve and captivate audiences.

[Click here](#) for the full event schedule.

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# GREENS FARMS DRAGONS READY TO SOAR

Written by Ayo Hart

The GFA Dragons are gearing up for an exciting season with Coach Maria Conlon entering her second year at the helm. With ambitious goals and a dynamic roster, the Dragons are poised to make waves in a very competitive FAA league and across the tough landscape of NEPSAC Class B.

Under the leadership of Coach Conlon, the team should be well prepared to reach success. Coach Conlon brings a wealth of experience. She played at UCONN where she won three national titles. And before coming to GFA, she led Notre Dame-Fairfield to the 2022 CIAC Class L Championship. She has a clear goal for her team stating that they are "looking to keep growing and be in the top of our league and class for NEPSAC," Coach Conlon describes the team's style of play as "open architecture on offense and gritty uptempo defense," indicating that the Dragons are set to showcase versatility and tenacity on both ends of the court.

**2023 - 2024 Record** 1-1 (as of 12/11/23)

## Key Returners:

The Dragons boast a formidable lineup of key returners, each bringing unique skills to the court:

- Ryley Tate Padian: A sharpshooter and slasher, Padian's scoring prowess adds a dynamic element to the Dragons' offensive arsenal.
- Molly Keaveney: Known for her sharpshooting abilities and excellent movement without the ball, Keaveney promises to be a consistent threat on the perimeter.
- Cheyenne Brand: A versatile player capable of handling all positions, Brand's toughness around the rim adds resilience to the Dragons' lineup.
- London Powell: The shifty point guard with a high basketball IQ and exceptional on-ball defense, Powell is set to be a playmaker for the team.
- Julia Johnson: A player with the flexibility to excel anywhere on the court, Johnson's court vision and defensive prowess make her an invaluable asset.

## Promising Newcomers:

The Dragons also welcome promising newcomers who are expected to make an impact:

- Maddie DiNatali: A junior transfer, DiNatali brings experience and skill to the team, adding depth to the Dragons' roster.
- Jacylah Goode: A talented freshman, Goode or "Lala" as she is known in the hoops world, is set to make her mark and contribute to the team's success.







## COACH LACURE HITS 300 WINS IN NAILBITER

Written by Ayo Hart

In a thrilling overtime showdown against a resilient Montrose team, Dana Hall's Head Coach Jeff LaCure not only secured his 300th career win but also witnessed standout performances from his players that defined the historic moment. The hard-fought 45-41 victory showcased the resilience, strategic prowess, and leadership that have become hallmarks of Coach LaCure's coaching career.



The 45-41 OT victory was marked by stellar performances from Daisy deHollan who led the charge with an impressive 16 points and Anelly Mad-Toingue who recorded a triple-double in points, rebounds, and blocks, underscoring her all-around contribution to the team's success.

Congratulations to Coach LaCure on this remarkable achievement, and here's to many more victories in the seasons to come!



Photo Credit University of Illinois

Our very own Samantha "Sam" Dewey was recently featured in the Illinois *Inside the Huddle*. Jackson Janes gives a wonderfully written story of Sam's journey from 2x NEPSAC Class B Champions Brooks to the University of Illinois.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

# 2023 TOURNAMENTS

12/15 - 12/17

## Nickerson at Nobles

Austin Prep	Nobles
Choate	NMH
Cushing	Putnam Science
Dexter Southfield	Rivers
Hamden Hall	Sacred Heart Greenwich
Hoosac	Storm King
Kent	Tabor
Loomis	Tilton
Marianapolis	Winchendon
Milton	Worcester Academy
New Hampton	

12/15 - 12/16

## Ethel Walker Holiday

Canterbury  
Cheshire  
Ethel Walker  
Hotchkiss  
MacDuffie  
Millbrook  
Miss Porter's  
Westminster

12/15 - 12/16

## St. George's Holiday

Beaver Country Day  
Brooks  
Greens Farms  
Greenwich Country Day  
St. George's  
St. Luke's

12/15 - 12/16

## Deerfield Holiday

BB&N  
Deerfield  
St. Paul's

12/15 - 12/16

## Groton/Lawrence Holiday

Andover	Lawrence
Exeter	Taft
Groton	
Suffield	

## A LOOK BACK AT WEEK TWO IN NEPSAC

### Cheshire 64

### Cushing 41

CH - Abby Bradbury '24 (21 pts)

### Hamden Hall 61

### Rocky Hill 51

HH - Mackenzi Mori (33pts, 8reb)  
MaryGanim (14 pts, 10 ass)  
Reilly Chernovetz (5pts, 6 reb)

### St. Luke's 64

### Berkshire 50

SLS - Camdyn Nelson (22pts)  
Olivia White (17pts)  
Kaya Weiskopf (12pts)

### Sacred Heart Greenwich 83

### Greenwich Country Day 50

SH - Payton Sfredo (27pts, 9reb, 8ast)  
Eva Wilkerson (17pts, 10reb, 5ast)  
Madison Hart (12pts, 3stl, 3ast)  
Victoria Hart (8pts, 4reb, 3stl)

GCDS - Brianna McDermott (25pts, 4ast, 4rb)

Mia Grant - (8pts, 3rb)

Lara Young - (6pts, 6rb)

### Greenwich Country Day 49

### Proctor 44

GCDS - Brianna McDermott (24pts)

### MacDuffie 57

### Rocky Hill 51

MacD - Kameron St. Pierre (28 pts)  
Derin Tokcan (12pts)

RH - Sophie Mahar (12pts, 4reb, 4ast, 3stl)

Ava Cappuccilli (12pts; 4reb; 3ast)

Dariia Serednytska (11reb; 5ast )

Aliona Nikulina (9pts; 2stl)

Addie Mahar (5pts; 5reb; 4ast; 2stl)

### Rivers 55

### Groton 36

Natalia Hall-Rosa (29p 5r 2a 6s)

Payton Richard (12p 11r 2a 1s 1b)

Rissi Smith (5p 1r 2a 2s)

Grace O'Sullivan (4p 6r 4a 1s)

Chase Anderson (3p 4r 1a 1s)