

NOVEMBER 27, 2024 | ISSUE 1

NEPSGBA INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of the NEPSAC Girls Basketball Assoc



Fope Ayo - Austin Prep tips off with Caterina Ravosa - WMA in the inaugural NEPSAC Scholastic Showcase

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THE JUMP BALL

Written by Ayo Hart

Welcome to our inaugural NEPSGBA Newsletter, your source for all things NEPSAC Girls Basketball.

Subscribe to follow our teams during the season and our student-athletes throughout the year. In this and the next couple of editions, we will share season previews for several of our teams. Get to know key returning players and rookies to watch, meet our new coaches, and more.

Throughout the season, we will share game recaps, player profiles, team spotlights, alumni updates, and community outreach just to name a few topics.

TIAN TANG IGNITES A NEW ERA AT STORM KING

Written by Ayo Hart

The AA Class is our only “opt-in” class for NEPSAC Girls basketball. Member schools can opt-in to Class AA irrespective of enrollment numbers. It is a three-year commitment. It has been our most competitive class for the past four years. The 2023 - 2024 rosters are packed with more talent than ever. Let's start by welcoming our newest head coach to the class, Tian Tang of The Storm King School.

“We are looking to rebuild the program's culture and looking to put Storm King on the map over the next couple seasons” - Tian Tang, Storm King

In his debut season at Storm King, Coach Tian Tang is on a mission to reshape the basketball program's culture and propel Storm King onto the regional basketball map. With a young roster, the focus is on development and progress, prioritizing principles over set plays.

Coach Tang emphasizes a modern style of play, emphasizing spacing, pace, and a robust defense as the backbone of their evolving culture. Winning is a byproduct, with player development taking center stage this season. Says Tang, “We are looking to rebuild the program's culture and looking to put Storm King on the map over the next couple seasons.”

Key returners, including sharpshooter Bella Suero '24, Yale Commit Marisa Chapman, and the recovering speedy lead guard Ari Lopez, form the core of the Cougars' squad. Amber Lewis, a tenacious post player, adds strength to the lineup.

Watch out for promising rookies Elizabeth Ukejiana '26, Leni Rodriguez '26, Imani Porter '26, Bella Santana '25, and Mariah Kinscy '26 as they contribute to Storm King's transformative journey. The storm is brewing, and Coach Tang is leading the charge toward a dynamic, competitive future for the Cougars.



Coach Tang most recently served as the interim head coach of the City College of New York's women's basketball program for the 2021-22 season, becoming the first Chinese-native basketball head coach in NCAA history.

THE STORM KING
SCHOOL





D-HALL'S TEAM EYES EIL TOURNEY IN COACH LACURE'S SECOND ACT

Written by Ayo Hart

In the wake of a triumphant inaugural season under Dr. Jeff LaCure, Dana Hall's basketball team is gearing up for a compelling journey with eyes set on the E.I.L. tournament and beyond. Boasting the highest win count in years, the team is set to redefine its identity on the court.

Coach LaCure outlines the team's strategy – an uptempo, fast-paced offense paired with an unyielding, in-your-face defense that makes them a formidable force. “We are hard to guard and look to make opponents play at an uncomfortable pace.”

Senior Anelly Mad-Toingue, a returning EIL and NEPSGBA all-star, stands as a triple-double threat in every game, epitomizing the team's versatility. Accompanying her is the seasoned senior, Daisy deHollan, who comes off an impressive junior year. The squad is further reinforced by the off-season development of sophomore Sarah Gallagher and the defensive prowess of junior Rhoda Faalabayou.

D-Hall's schedule is peppered with thrilling matchups, including formidable opponents like Beaver Country Day, Berwick, and a challenging opener against Thayer Academy. Coach LaCure issues a warning to rivals – don't underestimate Dana Hall. While not overflowing with depth, their tough, talented starting five is ready to make a statement. At D-Hall Basketball, it's all about "the standard" – a commitment to excellence and competing at the highest level.

“We are hard to guard and look to make opponents play at an uncomfortable pace.” - Jeff LaCure, Dana Hall Head Coach

We're bursting with pride as we celebrate the incredible achievement of our esteemed alum, Aliyah Boston! Aliyah was the #1 pick in the WNBA draft and was unanimously voted as the **2023 WNBA Rookie of the Year**, a testament to her outstanding talent and unwavering dedication to the game.

Aliyah honed her skills during her time with Coach Sherry Levin at Worcester Academy where she led the Hilltoppers to back-to-back NEPSAC Class A Championships, was a McDonald's All-American, and a 5-star recruit. She went on to take her game to the next level under the tutelage of Dawn Staley where she catapulted the Gamecocks to their first end of season #1 ranking her freshman year and their second national title her junior year. She is now making waves in the WNBA. In her debut season, she led all rookies in points, rebounds, and blocks while leading the league in FG% and finishing the season 24th overall in scoring, 9th in rebounding, and 9th in blocks. Her remarkable achievements not only reflect her gifts as an athlete but also highlight her incredible work ethic, resilience, and commitment to excellence.

As we applaud Aliyah's well-deserved success, we are reminded of the impact our alumnae can make on our current student-athletes. Our NEPSAC family couldn't be prouder, and we can't wait to witness the continued brilliance of Aliyah on and off the court!



Photo Credit Indiana Fever



FIRST WEEKEND TIPOFF

SEASON OPENERS SAT 12/2

- 12:00 GA @ Miss Porter's
- 2:00 Storm King @ Hoosac
- 3:00 Hotchkiss @ Sacred Heart Greenwich
- 3:00 Tilton @ Nobles
- 3:00 MacDuffie @ Marianapolis
- 3:30 Kent @ Berkshire
- 3:30 Groton @ St. Paul's
- 4:00 Worcester @ Winchendon
- 6:00 Portsmouth Abbey @ Austin Prep

BERKSHIRE GIVES TRIPLE THREAT A NEW MEANING

Written by Ayo Hart

In his sophomore season at Berkshire School, Coach Junior De La Hoz Sr. is steering the team toward an electrifying brand of basketball. Coach describes the team as run and gun enthusiasts who prioritize three-pointers, valuing the three ball over the deuce any day. Defending and competing relentlessly every possession, Berkshire is a force to be reckoned with this season.

Returning stars include: Mia Sayaz, the team's reigning MVP, reaping the rewards of a summer and fall spent honing her skills. Leading scorer Evi Higgins, versatile player Trinity Buckrham, and the dynamic Izzy Taylor add depth to the seasoned roster. Keep an eye on Berkshire's triple threat of newcomers: the towering defensive maestro Pearl Dickson, crafty playmaker Marcela Sanz, and the sharpshooter Alicia Mauer. Berkshire will host the Rose Classic Prep Jam.



ROSE CLASSIC
PREP JAM
SATURDAY DECEMBER 9, 2023

- 12:00PM BUSCHE ACADEMY (NH) VS. WESTERN RESERVE (OH)
- 1:30PM CHESHIRE ACADEMY (CT) VS. CUSHING ACADEMY (MA)
- 3:00PM ST. LUKE'S (CT) VS. BERKSHIRE SCHOOL (MA)
- 4:30PM PROCTOR ACADEMY (NH) VS. GREENWICH COUNTRY DAY (CT)
- 6:00PM KENT SCHOOL (CT) VS. CHESHIRE ACADEMY (CT)
- 7:30PM KIMBALL UNION ACADEMY (NH) VS. BUSCHE ACADEMY (NH)

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10, 2023

- 10:00AM HAMDEN HALL (CT) VS. KIMBALL UNION ACADEMY (NH)
- 11:30AM WINCHENDON SCHOOL (MA) VS. BUSCHE ACADEMY (NH)
- 1:00PM WESTERN RESERVE (OH) VS. DARROW SCHOOL (NY)
- 2:30PM PROCTOR ACADEMY (NH) VS. SUFFIELD ACADEMY (CT)
- 4:00PM CHESHIRE ACADEMY (CT) VS. BERKSHIRE SCHOOL (MA)

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