

RETROSPECTIVES

NCHSAA CLASS 1-A

MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1986: Currituck 70, Orrum 53

Currituck grabbed a 13-point halftime lead and went on to victory, paced by Travis Saunders with 18 points and 11 rebounds as the Knights placed five players in double figures. Orrum, which shot just 30 percent from the field, got 22 points from Herbert Govan. Currituck never trailed in finishing at 24-4; Orrum wound up losing for the first time in 27 outings. This was the first North Carolina High School Athletic Association state championship game played in the Smith Center.

1987: Hendersonville 80, North Duplin 73

Scott King poured in 33 points and Brian Combs added 23 to pace the Bearcats to a wild victory over Eastern champ North Duplin. The Bearcats shot a torrid 70.6 percent from the field in the first half and raced to a 50-41 halftime advantage, with Combs getting 16 of his 23 points in the opening two quarters. Anthony Oliver of North, headed to the University of Virginia, had a great game with 23 points and 17 rebounds. Hendersonville finished 28-2 while the Rebels wound up 27-3.

1988: St. Pauls 80, Rosman 62

Tony Bethea pumped in 26 points and Edward Gerald added 20 points to go with 11 rebounds as St. Pauls downed Western champion Rosman. The Bulldogs pulled away from a 40-37 halftime lead and blew it open with a 28-17 scoring edge in the final eight minutes. St. Pauls shot 50.8 percent from the floor for the game to just 31.3 percent for the Tigers, who finished with a 23-4 mark. Chris Thomas had 23 points and 21 rebounds for Rosman.

1989: North Duplin 68, East Montgomery 61

North Duplin grabbed a 40-30 halftime edge and held on to down Cinderella team East Montgomery. Dexter Morrissey of the winners pumped in 19 points and grabbed eight rebounds to lead the Rebels to their 26th victory against a single loss. Chuck Morrison of East had 18 points and 15 boards as the Eagles finished the campaign 16-12. A 14-2 run by the Rebels in the final three minutes of the first half put them in control. Both clubs shot less than 35 percent from the floor and committed over 20 turnovers in the hard-fought battle.

1990: Bladenboro 70, Hendersonville 64

Trelonnie Owens, a Wake Forest recruit, scored 17 points, grabbed 15 rebounds and blocked seven shots to lead his team to victory. The winning Bulldogs shot 70.8 percent from the floor in the first half, a Smith Center record for an NCHSAA final, and built a 17-3 lead after four minutes of play. Bladenboro won its first men's state basketball crown and finished with a 28-3 record, while the Bearcats wound up 20-9. Guy Johnson of Hendersonville led all scorers with 28 points.

1991: St. Pauls 81, Cherokee 69

Jerrell Emmanuel pumped in 22 points and pulled down 15 rebounds to earn MVP honors, leading the Bulldogs of St. Pauls to victory. St. Pauls rallied from a 39-34 halftime deficit in the fast-paced game, and led by only one at 59-58 with 4:45 to go. The Bulldogs then went on a 12-2 run to take control. Dwayne Gerald added 19 for the winners, 28-2 on the year. Cherokee got 23 points from Jeremiah Littlejohn and 17 from Jonah Wolfe to finish at 21-8. St. Pauls had a key 50-26 edge on the boards.

1992: Hendersonville 55, Bladenboro 44

Bobby Britt scored 19 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to lead the Bearcats and avenge their loss to Bladenboro in the '90 championship. Hendersonville held the Eastern champs to 30 percent shooting and forced 19 turnovers, but Bladenboro still cut it to 43-41 with 3:10 left to play but failed to convert on four consecutive possessions. Jason Thomas added 13 points for the winners and Britt hit six free throws in the final minutes for the Bearcats, 24-5 overall. Keith Todd led Bladenboro, which finished 23-7, with 17 points.

1993: Jones 83, Polk County 77

Dexter Cannon scored 25 points, hauled down 19 rebounds and had nine assists to lead Jones to a come-from-behind victory. Polk had led by as many as 13 points in the first half, aided by Trojan turnovers. Jondale Stanley of Jones had 22 of his 24 points in the first half as the winning Trojans shot 59.6 percent for the game. Polk, 25-5, got 17 points apiece from Will Rogers and Steven Hines. Jones won its 19th straight game to finish at 25-6 overall.

1994: Bladenboro 59, Williamston 51

Bladenboro won a state crown for the second time in five years in a game much closer than the score would indicate; it was 52-50 with just 1:08 left to play and the Bulldogs hit their free throws in the final minute. Alfonza Lewis had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the winners, 25-5 overall, while guard Bert Rogers earned MVP honors and added 17. Williamston got 11 points from Anthony Slade and finished 23-7 on the season. The Bulldogs owned a key 40-25 edge on the boards.

1995: Jordan-Matthews 59, Williamston 50

Jordan-Matthews won its first team state championship in any sport, since the school opened in 1956. Reginald Carter pumped in 23 points and Terrence Newby added 18 for the victorious Jets, who finished 25-7. Donde Brooks failed to score but had 12 key boards for J-M. Williamston shot just 31.3 percent from the floor for the game, paced by 15 points by Daniel Everett. The Tigers (25-5) trailed by 15 with 5:10 to play and sliced the lead to seven but the Jets held on to win. Carter earned MVP honors.

1996: Roanoke 83, Jordan-Matthews 70

MVP Blake Little poured in 29 points, hitting nine of 12 from the field, to pace Roanoke over the defending state champions. The victorious Redskins shot 57.4 percent from the floor, 60 percent in the second half, to win for the 25th time in 27 outings. Roanoke led most of the way, although J-M made a run that cut it to 52-51 in the waning seconds of the third quarter. North Carolina signee Terrence Newby had 26 points to lead the Jets, who finished 26-2.

1997: Roanoke 85, Hayesville 58

Ernest Hudson led the way for the winners with 28 points, hitting 13 of 18 from the field, to earn MVP honors as the Redskins made it two straight titles. The scrappy Hayesville team battled but couldn't overcome a distinct size disadvantage. Roanoke (28-2) shot 58% for the game, 64.5 in the second half, to pull away from a 33-24 halftime lead. Trevor Mattix led Hayesville (21-11) with 13 points.

1998: Thomasville 72, Bunn 69

A bizarre finish-- Thomasville led by 11 with 30 seconds to play and before it was over Bunn had a chance to tie it with a three-pointer at the buzzer. Jimmy Thorne, who led Bunn with 23 points, hit a three and five free throws in the waning seconds to give the Wildcats a chance, although Bunn shot just six of 28 from beyond the arc. Rada Simon of Thomasville (26-3) was the game's MVP with 25 points, including 12 of 15 from the line. Bunn finished 30-2.

1999: Burlington Cummings 70, Bunn 67

The balance of Cummings—all five starters scored in double figures—offset the 33-point, 12-rebound, six-assist MVP effort by Bunn's Troy Wheless, although he was harassed into 11 of 35 field-goal shooting. The Cavaliers (26-3) got 16 points and 11 boards from Victor Leath while Roc Alston contributed 15 points. The Cavs rallied from a 29-24 halftime deficit and led 48-47 after three quarters, and no more than four points separated the two clubs after that.

2000: Thomasville 66, Midway 61

Anthony Harris pumped in 25 points, grabbed 15 rebounds, had three steals and two blocks as the Bulldogs (21-3) won their second state title in three years. The wild game featured 30 steals and 54 turnovers, 29 by Thomasville. Bradley Blue led Midway with 28 points, two above his season average. Although the game stayed close, Thomasville never trailed after the 4:08 mark in the first quarter.

2001: Burlington Cummings 82, Northside 73

Charlie Norman came off the bench to score 19 points and grab eight rebounds to earn MVP honors and lead the Cavaliers (25-2) to their second state crown in three years. Drew Williamson added 14 points for the winners, offsetting a 26-point effort by Cleveon Arthur of Northside (24-4). A 22-8 run in the second quarter put Cummings in command, although Northside closed to within two with 2:23 to play.

2002: Mount Airy 63, Plymouth 58

Justin Brim poured in 24 points, including four buckets beyond the arc, to lead Mount Airy (31-1) to its 20th straight win and first NCHSAA men's title since 1963. The Bears went on a 9-0 run in the fourth quarter, holding Plymouth scoreless for almost six minutes, to rally for the victory. Ryan Denney chipped in with 15 points for the Bears while Kelvin Nixon scored 22 for the Vikings (25-3).

2003: Thomasville 75, Perquimans 62

Brandon Setzer pumped in 28 points, hauled 21 rebounds and blocked seven shots to lead the Bulldogs past Perquimans and their second state crown in four years. Junior Thorne also had a big game for the winners with 21 points and 14 rebounds as the 'Dogs enjoyed a 58-39 edge on the boards. Jerrell Foreman paced Perquimans (25-5) with 22 points and 14 rebounds. Thomasville (29-2) led just 50-46 entering the final quarter.

2004: Hayesville 70, Weldon 56

Hayesville scored the last 19 points of the game to pull away after trailing by as many as 11 in the third quarter and by eight with 5:20 to go. Brett Bracken poured in 30 points, including a phenomenal 15 of 16 from the line, to earn MVP honors. The Yellow Jackets (29-2) hit their last 12 foul shots in a row and their last five baskets from the field were three-pointers. Joseph Chilton pumped in 20 for the winners while Charles Balmer led Weldon (23-5) with 16 points.

2005: Thomasville 85, North Johnston 58

Brent LeMay scored 19 points, including four three-pointers, to earn Wendy's MVP honors and help spark the Bulldogs (29-2) to their fourth men's state title since 1998. Tavarius Henderson scored 17 points and had a whopping 10 steals for the winners, who forced 31 North Johnston turnovers. Brandon Taylor had 16 points and 10 boards for the 'Dogs. Brandon Sanders paced North (25-8) with 16 points and 10 rebounds.

2006: Wallace-Rose Hill 78, North Stokes 58

Wallace-Rose Hill (28-2) won its first state title since 1998, outscoring North Stokes 19-6 in the third quarter to take command. Michael Evans came off the bench to pour in 23 points, including five three-pointers, to lead the Bulldogs and earn Wendy's MVP honors. North Stokes (29-3) got 16 points from Seth Johnson. W-RH outrebounded the Vikings 50-28 and forced 26 North Stokes turnovers.

2007: Thomasville 86, North Edgecombe 76

Chris Woods pumped in 23 points and grabbed 17 rebounds as he led the Bulldogs (24-2) to their fifth state crown in the last 11 years. Woods was the Wendy's MVP as Thomasville won a hard-fought game that featured seven ties and nine lead changes. Zach Perry added 15 for Thomasville, which shot 55.9 percent from the field in the second half. Jerby Cooper and Terrell Davis poured in 26 points each for North Edgecombe (22-7).

2008: Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy 73, Pamlico 42

Big Reginald Johnson, a 6-9, 280-pound University of Miami signee, scored 25 points and pulled down a whopping 23 rebounds to lead the Phoenix to their first state title in any sport. Marcus Wright added 21 points for the winners, who finished 29-6 overall. The Phoenix led 13-5 after one quarter and were never headed, as Pamlico shot just 22.4 percent from the floor for the game and just four of 29 in the first half. Maurice King led Pamlico (20-7) with 15 points.

2009: Bishop McGuinness 72, Weldon 56

Aaron Toomey pumped in 35 points, including 19 of 21 from the foul line, to lead the Villains (31-2) to victory and earn Wendy's MVP honors. Bishop McGuinness led just 35-34 at the half but broke it open with a 15-2 scoring edge in the third quarter. Ross Diachenko added 14 for the winners while Cameron Staton scored 11 and Desmond Faulcon 10 for Weldon (26-2), which shot just 28.6% from the field for the game and missed its first 14 shots of the second half.

2010: Monroe 62, Goldsboro 46

Issac Blakeney pumped in 24 points and grabbed 15 rebounds, hitting nine of 11 shots from the field, to earn MVP honors and pace the Redhawks (32-1) to victory. Goldsboro led by 10 late in the quarter before Monroe outscored the Cougars 21-4 in the second stanza to take control. Jamison Crowder added 20 for the winners while RaSean Brewington poured in 27 points for Goldsboro (23-8), including 16 of his team's 18 points in the first quarter. Monroe had a 52-38 edge on the boards.

2011: North Rowan 64, Pender 57

North Rowan (27-5) rallied from a 19-point deficit in the second quarter to overtake Pender. Samuel Starks scored 19 points to lead the Cavaliers, earning Wendy's Charlie Adams MVP honors, while Pierre Givens added 13. That offset a 32-point, 17-rebound effort by Pender's Addison Spruill. North scored 21 points off 23 Pender turnovers. The Patriots led 39-25 at the half on the strength of 51.5% shooting from the field during that stretch to just 25.6 for North.

2012: Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy 61, Plymouth 49

Winston-Salem Prep (31-1) used excellent balance and hit 28 of 43 free throws to down Plymouth. Mike Hughes, with 11 points and 10 rebounds for the victorious Phoenix, was named the Charlie Adams MVP, while Kerry Campbell led the winners in scoring with 12 points and RaeKwon Harney also added 11. Plymouth (23-5) got 14 points from Carl McCray and 11 from Adrian Moore. The game was knotted at 33 at halftime, and both teams only made five buckets apiece in the final two quarters.

2013: Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy 53, Rocky Mount Preparatory 41

Winston-Salem Prep (32-1) won its second straight state title, using excellent team balance to beat Rocky Mount Prep. Mike Hughes of W-S Prep earned the Charlie Adams MVP award for the second consecutive year, with 12 points and seven rebounds. Raekwon Harney also scored 12 and Aaron Lipscomb 10 for the winners. Deshawn Freeman led Rocky Mount Prep (24-4) with 15 points but W-S Prep played great defense, holding the Jaguars to 0 for 17 from beyond the arc and 28 percent shooting from the field for the game.

2014: Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy 72, East Carteret 71

Winston-Salem Prep (26-4) won its third straight state title and Mike Hughes of the winners earned the Charlie Adams MVP award for the third consecutive year, but it wasn't easy. Hughes led the balanced Phoenix attack (17 points, 6 rebounds, 5 assists, 3 steals) to offset a three-point barrage by East (31-1), including 14 threes in 29 attempts. Trevor Willis had 24 points for the Mariners, including six buckets from behind the arc, and Sam Johnson had 20 points, including five threes. The lead changed hands 10 times with Kyle Hollingsworth's basket with three seconds to go lifting W-S Prep to the win.

2015: East Carteret 67, Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy 64

East Carteret (28-2) placed four players in double figures and repelled a bid by Winston-Salem Prep to earn its fourth consecutive state crown. The balanced Mariner attack saw Jacque Brown earn the Charlie Adams MVP award with 17 points, six assists and five steals, while Ty Simmons was the leading scorer with 23 points. There were 17 lead changes and the score was tied eight times, with never more than six points separating the teams. Kwa Hollingsworth topped Winston-Salem Prep (20-8) with 25 points.

RETROSPECTIVES

NCHSAA CLASS 2-A

MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1986: North Rowan 74, Ayden-Grifton 69

North took the lead for good with under six minutes to play and held off the Chargers (25-4). Antoine Sifford had 25 points and Jimmy Kesler 20 for the winning Cavaliers, who finished 29-2, while Ralph Kitley, bound for Wake Forest, had 17 points and 14 rebounds to earn MVP honors. Marvin Smith had 26 points and 13 boards for Ayden-Grifton, which shot 55.9 percent from the field for the contest.

1987: Salisbury 63, Farmville Central 45

Fred Campbell of Salisbury earned MVP honors, scoring 22 points as the Hornets rolled to victory. Salisbury broke a 4-4 tie en route to a 14-6 lead after one quarter and didn't look back. Farmville Central, finishing 24-5, got 14 points and 10 rebounds from James Reid while Kennedy Williams scored 13 points. Brian Withers added 20 for the Hornets, who won for the 30th time in 32 games. Salisbury had a key edge on the boards, 41-29.

1988: Lexington 91, Pender 71

Robert Watson scored 29 points and grabbed 15 rebounds to earn MVP honors as Lexington rolled to a 20-point victory. The victorious Yellow Jackets, who finished 26-6, shot a sizzling 58 percent from the floor for the game and almost 61 percent in the second half. Anthony Miller had 18 points and Anthony Zellars added 10 for the winners, while Pender got 22 points from Sharmin Marshall and 19 from Craig Wilson. Pender lost for only the second time in 29 games.

1989: Farmville Central 70, Bunker Hill 52

Jarvis Lang poured in 28 points and grabbed 12 rebounds to power the Jaguars to victory in an unusual game. Bunker Hill went scoreless for over four minutes to open the game and fell behind 10-0 almost immediately, but the Bears roared back and actually led 39-38 late in the third quarter. But the Jaguars ended the game with a 22-6 spurt to win going away. Austin Roberts paced Bunker Hill with 15 points. Farmville finished the year with a 26-4 mark while the Bears wound up 24-7.

1990: Farmville Central 73, Monroe 57

Farmville's inside game proved too strong as the Jaguars successfully defended their 2-A championship. Game MVP John Tyson hit 10 of 14 shots from the field en route to 22 points for the champs, while '89 MVP Jarvis Lang, bound for UNCC, also had 22 points. The Jags finished the year at 29-1 while Monroe closed its campaign at 22-4. The Rebels got 14 points from Johnny Ivey and actually led 38-37 with 1:55 left in the third quarter before Farmville went on a 17-2 run to take command.

1991: Ayden-Grifton 83, Bessemer City 62

Carl Artis scored 20 points and Kincy Wallace added 19 as Ayden-Grifton rolled to an 83-62 triumph over Bessemer City. Wallace hit nine of 11 shots from the field to earn MVP honors as the Chargers raced to a 14-point halftime lead and led by 60-37 late in the third quarter. It was Ayden-Grifton's 25th win in 29 starts with a team that had no seniors in the starting lineup, and for the third straight year an Eastern Plains Conference representative took the state crown. Bessemer City, which finished 24-4, got 18 points each from Kevin Milwood and Vida Merritt.

1992: Ayden-Grifton 75, Ledford 69

Sophomore point guard Alico Dunk had 19 points, including 14 of 16 at the foul line and 10 straight in the final 1:39, to lead the Chargers to their second consecutive championship. Carl Artis had 18 points and Thomas Edwards added 16 for the winners, who completed a 28-2 campaign. Ledford was paced by sharpshooting Brian Hege, who pumped in 25 points and had a pair of three-pointers, while Brett Speight added 22 and hauled down a game-high 12 rebounds. Ledford finished 25-5 but won the NCHSAA Pepsi-Cola Scholar-Athlete award as the men's basketball team with the highest aggregate GPA in the state.

1993: Farmville Central 67, Monroe 53

Virgal Smith pumped in 23 points, grabbed eight rebounds and had four assists while Reggie Tyson added 20 points as the Jaguars won their third state title in five years. Smith, who was named MVP, scored his team's first 11 points as Farmville forged an early lead. Monroe closed to within 47-41 with 7:18 to play before Farmville pulled away to its 25th win in 30 games. The Rebels, finishing 21-7 overall, got 17 points from Milik Prather.

1994: Fairmont 67, West Caldwell 64 (OT)

Forward Wesley Hinson pumped in 30 points, including all of his team's OT points, grabbed 12 rebounds and blocked three shots to earn MVP honors and lead the Golden Tornadoes to their 30th win in 32 games. A three-pointer by West's Joey Smith with four seconds left forced the extra stanza. The Warriors, 25-6 overall, got 15 points from Mike Setzer and 13 from Darien Horton. Damion Page added 17 for Fairmont, who like 1-A champ Bladenboro hailed from the Three Rivers Conference.

1995: Lexington 69, Whiteville 67

Bernard McIntosh poured in 28 points, including a follow shot at the buzzer, and grabbed 12 rebounds to lift the surprising Yellow Jackets to a dramatic victory over the Wolfpack. MVP McIntosh's bucket broke a five-year win string by the East representative in the finals and gave Lexington an overall record of 22-9. Whiteville got 20 points from Andre McCollum and 15 each from Nathan Greene and Curtis Norton as the Pack finished 27-2.

1996: Southwest Guilford 64, Thomasville 57

These two nearby rivals were meeting for the third time on the year, with Southwest winning the rubber game. Lamont Sides had 21 points and MVP Rod Boger, with some key buckets down the stretch, added 13 for the Cowboys (30-2). Ricky Smith scored 17 and Damian Henderson 13 for the Bulldogs (26-5), who were seeking to become the first team in 33 years to win both football and basketball titles in the same academic year. Southwest trailed 41-34 midway through the third quarter but battled back to win.

1997: West Rowan 79, Wallace-Rose Hill 67

West Rowan's relentless full-court pressure finally took its toll in the second half as the Falcons (24-6) rallied from a 12-point deficit in the third quarter. Freshman Scooter Sherrill was remarkable, scoring a Smith Center high school record 25 points in the second half en route to a 29-point performance (four three-pointers) and MVP honors. He was the first freshman ever to win the MVP award in a state title game at the Smith Center. David Carr poured in 25 points and grabbed nine rebounds for Wallace-Rose Hill (22-7).

1998: Wallace-Rose Hill 78, North Stanly 56

Wallace completed a perfect 31-0 season with a great passing attack-- 31 baskets on 25 assists, led by a championship game record 13 by Erwin Murray, who was one point away from a triple double. Game MVP Jamar Phillyaw hit 12 of 15 from the floor and pumped in 25 for the 'Dogs, who shot an incredible 70.8 percent in the second half. North Stanly (25-5) got a mammoth 19-point, 18-rebound effort from Correy Watkins.

1999: Whiteville 56, West Caldwell 45

Chris Wilcox scored 20 points, grabbed 12 rebounds and blocked four shots to lead the Wolfpack (27-3) to its first NCHSAA men's hoop crown in 30 years. Jason Marriner added 15 points for the winners. Julius Patterson scored 18 points and had 12 rebounds for West (28-3), which shot a chilly 25.8 percent from the floor for the game. Still, the Warriors led 43-42 with 5:06 to play before Whiteville scored eight unanswered points to take command.

2000: Whiteville 68, Pittsboro Northwood 66

Despite leading scorer and rebounder Michael Pittman out with an injury and the Wolfpack missing 16 free throws in the fourth quarter alone, Whiteville (23-6) held on to beat the determined Chargers. No more than eight points ever separated the two teams. Greg Robinson let Whiteville with 20 points, including two key free throws with 11 seconds left; David Stephens of Northwood (26-3) was named MVP with a tremendous 30-point, 16-rebound effort.

2001: East Bladen 75, Lexington 65

East's quickness and defensive pressure forced 19 Lexington turnovers in the first half and 32 for the game. The Eagles (24-3) led 48-28 at the half, although Lexington rallied to within eight with 2:09 to play. There were co-MVP's in this one, the East Bladen brother duo of Sakrid Dent (23 points) and Aking Elting (22 points). Lexington (19-13) got 15 points from Marquis Carroll.

2002: Burlington Cummings 80, North Pitt 78

Cummings won its third NCHSAA men's title in four years, as the defending 1-A champs moved up a classification and took the title. Freshman T.J. Gwynn scored 22 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for the Cavaliers (24-4) to earn MVP honors, while Drew Williamson added 21. Quinton Person tallied 24 points for North Pitt (24-3) while Kendric Harris had 22 and hauled down 18 rebounds.

2003: Reidsville 86, West Columbus 60

Reidsville came out blazing, racing to a 28-11 lead after one quarter and cruising to victory. The depth of the Rams (23-4) was a key. Jerome Simpson scored 19 points and earned MVP honors and Clint Blackburn came off the bench to score 18, including three three-pointers. Aaron Yates paced West Columbus (20-8) with 12 points. Every Reidsville player saw at least seven minutes of action, none more than 19.

2004: Burlington Cummings 87, East Bladen 63

The Cavaliers (27-2) ran away from East as all five starters scored in double figures and the Cavs shot 53.2 percent from the floor as a team. T.J. Gwynn, with 19 points and 11 rebounds for the winners, was the MVP for the second time in three years. Terrance Oliver also scored 19 and Dwight Jones 18 for Cummings. Stan Johnson led East Bladen (25-5) with 15 points.

2005: Canton Pisgah 66, Warren County 41

Buoyed by a huge crowd from Canton, the Black Bears (29-0) completed a perfect season as Wendy's MVP Jake Robinson poured in 23 points and grabbed 19 rebounds to lead the way. Pisgah spurted to a 23-2 lead in the opening quarter and never looked back, holding Warren County (22-10) to 25 percent shooting from the field for the game. Elliott McDowell added 15 points for Pisgah while Eric Stevenson paced Warren with 11.

2006: Burlington Cummings 68, Shelby 65

Dwight Jones pumped in 24 points and hauled down 16 rebounds to lead Cummings (29-1) to its fifth state crown since 1999. Cummings led 40-31 at the half but Shelby came back to post a 48-46 edge after three quarters. Omar Green added 15 points for the winners while Darryl Montgomery scored 23 and Ed Gullatte added 18 for Shelby (25-6).

2007: Burlington Cummings 52, Starmount 49

Cummings won its second straight state title and third in four years behind the 23-point, 16-rebound effort of Dwight Jones, the Wendy's MVP for the second consecutive year. The game was knotted at 23-all at the half but the Cavaliers outscored Starmount 13-4 in the third quarter. Victor Davila paced the Rams with 18 points, nine rebounds and seven blocked shots. Cummings led by 13 with 3:18 to play and held off a stirring Ram comeback.

2008: West Bladen 65, Canton Pisgah 50

West Bladen spurred to a 16-3 first period lead and was never headed as Matt McCall scored 20 points, grabbed eight rebounds and handed out six assists to earn Wendy's MVP honors. Pisgah went the first 13 minutes of the game without a field goal and missed 22 of 23 shots in the first half as West Bladen led 30-12 at halftime. Austin Moore had points and Jarrod Conard 13 for Pisgah (25-5). West Bladen ended the year with a 30-2 record.

2009: Shelby 62, Pittsboro Northwood 50

Eric Mayo scored 15 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead a balanced Shelby attack. The Golden Lions (29-2) also got 14 points from Nick Stamp and 10 from Derrick Mayo. Shelby led by as many as 13 points in the fourth quarter, but the Chargers rallied to cut it to seven with 54.8 seconds left before the Lions hit foul shots down the stretch. Jake Houck led Northwood (20-6) with 15 points, including four three-pointers, and big Terrance Hackney had 11 points and 11 rebounds.

2010: Kinston 51, West Caldwell 29

Reggie Bullock had 15 points and 10 rebounds to lead Kinston (28-4) to victory. West Caldwell had an almost eight-minute scoring drought and went from a 14-11 lead in the second quarter to a 22-16 deficit in the third and could not get back in it. Dallas Best added 15 points and Dory Hines 10 for Kinston as the Vikings earned their seventh NCHSAA men's hoop title overall. West Caldwell (27-3), which shot just 26.7 percent from the floor for the game, got 11 points from Kendall Jones.

2011: East Rutherford 58, Pittsboro Northwood 56

East Rutherford (27-1) rallied from an eight-point halftime deficit, holding Northwood (28-5) scoreless for the first 6:59 of the final period, to record the victory. East's Devince Boykins, with 16 points and nine rebounds, was selected as the Wendy's Charlie Adams MVP, and his dunk gave East the lead for good with 2:34 to play. Zack Price contributed 14 points and T.J. Watkins 13 for the winners. Juan Young had 15 points and Brandon Williams 14 for the Chargers, who had an 11-point lead in the first half.

2012: Kinston 58, Cuthbertson 55

Cuthbertson led almost the whole way, but Kinston (27-4) rallied to finally take the lead for the first time with just 29 seconds to go on a pair of free throws by Angelo Keyes. Angelo Keyes, who was the Charlie Adams MVP, wound up with 19 points and Denzel Keyes added 17 for the winners, who won their eighth NCHSAA state title. Cuthbertson (31-2) was led by Shelton Mitchell's 22 points. The Cavaliers managed just seven points in the fourth quarter after leading 48-42 after three.

2013: Kinston 56, Cuthbertson 53

For the second straight year, Kinston won the state title—its ninth NCHSAA crown-- over Cuthbertson in an entertaining game decided by just three points. Denzel Keyes led the way for the Vikings (28-2), earning Charlie Adams MVP honors with 18 points and nine rebounds, while Brandon Ingram and Josh Dawson scored 12 apiece. Shelton Mitchell paced Cuthbertson (29-4), which had beaten Kinston in the HighSchoolOT.com holiday tournament earlier in the season, with 22 points, leading all scorers. No more than seven points ever separated the two teams.

2014: Kinston 67, North Rowan 57

Kinston won its 10th NCHSAA basketball crown and third consecutive title in a tight game that featured four ties and nine lead changes. The Vikings (26-4) were led by Charlie Adams MVP Brandon Ingram, who had a monster game with 28 points and 16 rebounds, 23 points coming in the second half. Andrew Lopez added 27 for Kinston. Jalen Saunders with 19 and Mike Bowman with 17 led the way for North Rowan (22-6). It was a two-point game with two minutes to go but Kinston hit clutch free throws down the stretch.

2014: Kinston 60, East Lincoln 43

Kinston made it 11 NCHSAA basketball crowns and four consecutive state titles, led by Brandon Ingram's second consecutive Charlie Adams MVP honor. Ingram poured in 28 points and hauled down 10 rebounds to lead the way for the Vikings (26-4), who pulled away after a two-point halftime margin. East Lincoln suffered its only loss after 24 consecutive victories, led by Sage Surratt's 25 points, but the Mustangs shot just 29.6 percent from the field for the game.

RETROSPECTIVES

NCHSAA CLASS 3-A

MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1986: R-S Central 70, West Craven 68

Tim Kincaid hit four free throws in the final 52 seconds to lift the Hilltoppers to victory and their first state crown since 1980. Blease Young scored 19 points and hauled down 11 rebounds for R-S Central (29-1) while Gary Blount paced the Eagles with a 23-point, 14-rebound effort. West hurt itself with 28 turnovers but rallied from a nine-point deficit with just over four minutes to play to tie it at 64-all with 1:40 remaining.

1987: Greenville D.H. Conley 64, North Gaston 55

D.H. Conley ended the North Gaston Cinderella dream by 60 percent shooting from the floor in the second half. Ricky Farrow tossed in 16 points and hauled down 11 rebounds as Conley ended its year 22-8. Troy Ebron had 12 points and six assists for the winners. North's Wildcats, a fifth-place team in the Southwestern 3-A, were paced by Alton Mintz with 21 points and ended their season with a 15-15 record.

1988: Bartlett Yancey 84, North Surry 68

Bartlett Yancey pulled away from a 35-33 halftime lead with some red-hot shooting from the floor to beat the Greyhounds. The Bucs, 31-1, shot 62.1 percent in the second half to offset a 28-point effort by North's Marcus Allen. Louis Williamson, with 26 points for BY, was the game's MVP while Keith Claiborne added 17 points and Dana Elliott collected 16 rebounds. North Surry finished the year with a 26-4 record.

1989: North Surry 81, Southern Alamance 66

Jimmy George keyed a North Surry rally from a three-point halftime deficit as the Greyhounds rolled to victory. George was voted the game's MVP for his 23-point, six-assist effort, which included two three-pointers and a perfect 11 for 11 at the foul line. North, 26-6 overall, shot a sizzling 64.3 percent from the field while Southern fired at only a 39.7 clip. Phillip McAdoo paced the Patriots, 20-9, with 17 points. Rodney George had a game-high 24 points for the Hounds.

1990: Greenville D.H. Conley 75, Kings Mountain 54

Bershaun Thompson scored 23 points and Terry Williams added 13 to go with a game-high 16 rebounds as Conley rolled to victory. Leading 10-9, Conley went on a 14-point run to take command and led 36-22 at the half. The Mountaineers got no closer than 11 points in the final 16 minutes. The victorious Vikings also hit 37 of 43 shots from the foul line to win for the 26th time in 30 outings. Kings Mountain, 26-3, was led by Era Vaughn with 16 points and 10 rebounds.

1991: Eastern Alamance 69, T.C. Roberson 66

Tyrone Satterfield had 22 points and 14 rebounds to help Eastern Alamance win its first state basketball title ever, nipping T.C. Roberson 69-66. Mikey Bynum added 20 points and 12 boards for head coach Tal Jobe's victorious Eagles, 24-6 overall. Eastern also had a sizable 49-33 rebounding edge. T.C. Roberson was led by Scott Bradley, whose 29 points included a pair of three-pointers, and John Temple added 17 for the Rams, 26-3. A 65-footer which would have tied the game rimmed out at the buzzer.

1992: Eden J.M. Morehead 72, West Henderson 66

A balanced Morehead attack overcame a 33-point, 15-rebound effort by West's Richard Loftis to forge the victory. Morehead used its quickness and aggressiveness on the boards-- 22 offensive rebounds-- to record its 29th win against three losses, with all the losses to league rival Reidsville. The victorious Panthers were led by Junior Taylor with 15 points while Shawn Johnson and Mike Broadnax had 13 apiece. Loftis hit 15 of 24 shots from the floor en route to MVP honors while Philip Keefe added 23 for West, which suffered its only loss of the year after winning 29 in a row.

1993: Eden J.M. Morehead 89, Lincolnton 65

Morehead's balance and withering full-court pressure was too much for a scrappy Lincolnton team. The Panthers won their second straight title as Junior Taylor and Mike Broadnax scored 15 each and Mike Jumper added 14. Ten different Morehead players scored. The Panthers committed 26 turnovers but forced Lincolnton into 29. Charles Briggs of the Wolves was MVP for his 26-point, 13-rebound effort in a losing cause. Morehead finished 30-1, the Wolves 24-6.

1994: Reidsville 80, Winston-Salem Parkland 79

Clint Harrison's 33 points, including a follow shot with three seconds remaining, lifted the Rams past a determined Parkland team. Curtis Pass added 18 for the winners, who finished unbeaten in 30 starts. Parkland's deadly shooting (62.2 percent for the game, 71.4 in the second half) was almost too much for the Rams. Rugged Cuncho Brown poured in 28 points and Antonio Minor 26 for the Mustangs, 26-5.

1995: High Point T.W. Andrews 71, Wake Forest-Rolesville 51

The Red Raiders scored the first 10 points of the game and never looked back en route to their 23rd win in 29 starts. Rico Leach scored 21 and game MVP David Wall added 20 and had four assists for the winners. WF-R got 18 points from Major Carmon and finished 25-5 on the season. The Cougars were plagued by 25 percent field goal shooting in the first half as they suffered their first loss in seven NCHSAA title appearances.

1996: Burlington Walter Williams 78, Hickory 58

Alex Spaulding of Williams earned MVP honors with a 27-point outburst, including 13 in the first quarter, and he also had eight rebounds, seven assists and five steals. Williams led 34-24 at the half and then shot 66.7% from the field in the final 16 minutes. Lamont Watlington added 14 for the Bulldogs (27-2). Hickory got 21 points, including four three-pointers, from Theo Streeter. Durell Byrd added 19 for the Red Tornadoes (23-7), who played without injured leading scorer Ty Hunt.

1997: East Chapel Hill 60, Hickory 59

One of the most dramatic finishes in state tournament history-- Andy Jones nailed a long three-pointer as time expired to lift first-year school East Chapel Hill to victory. The Wildcats (24-5) were led by Paul Kindem's 15 points while MVP Brian FitzGerald scored 13 to go with nine rebounds and four blocks. East (a school with no seniors) was up eight with 5:51 to play before the Red Tornadoes (23-5) stormed back and actually led by four with 0:58 left. Daniel Willis had a big game for Hickory with 24 points and 10 rebounds.

1998: Goldsboro 77, T.C. Roberson 72

The Cougars got off to a blazing 16-3 start and led by 18 with 4:42 to go in the third quarter, but had to hold off a furious Ram rally led by Shawn Alexander, who poured in 41 points to set a Smith Center high school record and earn MVP honors. He also had a championship record seven 3-pointers. Chris Tann led Goldsboro with 21 points while Angelo Maddox added 20 and grabbed 14 boards. Roberson finished 28-2 overall while Goldsboro went 24-8 after being 9-6 at midseason.

1999: Winston-Salem Parkland 101, West Rowan 83

This was the highest scoring NCHSAA final in history, and the first time a team had broken the century mark. Danny Gathings led Parkland (29-1) with a tremendous 36-point, 12-rebound effort to earn MVP honors and Clifford Crawford added 20. The Mustangs scored 53 points in the first half and shot 58.1 percent for the game. Scooter Sherrill scored 33 points for West Rowan (28-3), which got within 87-82 with 2:27 to play.

2000: Central Cabarrus 56, Greensboro Dudley 52 (OT)

Central (24-6) earned the first NCHSAA basketball championship by a Cabarrus County school, led by the MVP performance of Mickey Mickens with 17 points, three assists and three steals. An old-fashioned three-point play by Doug Naumann with 2:52 left in OT gave the Vikings the lead for good. Chris Ferguson scored 17 for Dudley (29-4), which hit only seven for 32 shots from beyond the three-point line and shot 29.8% from the floor for the game. No more than six points ever separated the teams and there were 19 lead changes.

2001:High Point T.W. Andrews 63, Kinston 60

Sophomore point guard Will Price of T.W. Andrews pumped in 28 points, including some key free throws late, and effectively controlled the game as the Red Raiders (26-6) captured the crown. Kinston (28-3) shot just 33.3 percent from the floor for the game and Eastern Regional MVP Corey Rouse failed to score. The Vikings were led by Dodson Worthington's 17 points and 11 rebounds. Freddie Aughtry-Lindsay scored 13 for the winners and grabbed 16 rebounds.

2002: West Rowan 80, Winston-Salem Parkland 68

West Rowan completed a perfect 30-0 season in this rematch of the '99 3-A title game. Donte Minter scored 29 points and Phillip Williams added 22 for the victorious Falcons, with Minter earning MVP honors. Guard Ray Bristow tossed in 26 points for the Mustangs (21-10). West led by as many as 18 in the second half before holding off a Mustang rally that cut it to six with 1:08 to play. The Falcons' 51-38 board edge was a key.

2003: West Rowan 72, Goldsboro 57

West Rowan ran its winning streak to 61, led by the MVP performance of Junior Hairston with 22 points and 11 rebounds. Phillip Williams added 17 for the Falcons (31-0), who won their second straight crown. Brian Lane topped Goldsboro (20-11) with 14 points. West never trailed in the game, although the Cougars did cut it to six with 3:06 left in the third quarter. But then West broke it open and the lead reached 23 at one point.

2004: Trinity 73, Greensboro Dudley 64

Trinity (29-1) ran a spread offense to perfection and hit key shots to beat Dudley (25-8). Josh King, the state's all-time leading three-point shooter, led Trinity with 21 and game MVP John McEachin scored 18 and was a defensive stopper. Kevin Swinton paced the Panthers with 26 points and 11 rebounds. Trinity spurted to a 13-3 lead and never trailed in the contest.

2005:Greensboro Dudley 58, Crest 57

Barry Ferrell hit a pair of free throws with 5.7 seconds to play to lift Dudley (29-3) to a thrilling victory. Kevin Swinton was the Wendy's MVP as he paced the Panthers with 19 points and 15 rebounds. Crest (24-6) got 13 points from Omar Washington and 11 from Maurice Gullatte. The lead changed hands six times in the fourth quarter and Rashawn Roseboro's layup with 13 seconds left had put Crest up by one, setting the stage for Ferrell's free throws.

2006: Greensboro Dudley 79, Concord 75

Dudley, making its third consecutive title game appearance, never trailed but couldn't put away scrappy Concord. William Graves, a North Carolina signee, was the Wendy's MVP as he paced the Panthers with 28 points while grabbing eight rebounds, and Rashawn Polk contributed 22 points and 10 boards for Dudley (27-4). Concord had four score in double figures, led by Danny Nieman with 21 and Lance Lewis with 17.

2007: Concord 85, Kinston 79

Concord made its return trip to the state finals successful, as Wendy's MVP Dee Bost fired in 27 points for the Spiders (27-4). Lance Lewis added 17 and Danny Nieman 14 for the winners, while Curtis Hines tallied 17 for Kinston (29-3). Concord shot a blistering 60.8 percent from the floor for the game, including 65.2 in the second half. The Spiders took the lead for good in the first minute of the final quarter and upped it to 13 at one point.

2008: Kinston 60, Trinity 58

Kinston raced to a 13-0 lead in the game's first 4:30, but Trinity actually battled back and took the lead in the third quarter in the hard-fought battle. Donovan Ingram tallied 21 points and pulled down eight rebounds for Kinston, which earned its sixth NCHSAA men's crown in 16 final appearances but first in 43 years. Reggie Bullock, a UNC recruit, scored 13 but was injured in the game but could not play down the stretch. Josh Pittman led Trinity (30-2) with 23 points, including tying a state championship game record with seven three-pointers.

2009: Northern Guilford 66, Forestview 54 (later vacated)

Chris McCain scored 25 points, hitting 10 of 12 shots from the field, and hauled down 11 rebounds to lead the Nighthawks (30-3) to what would have been their first state title in any sport in the school's second year of existence and with no senior class. However, later ineligible players were discovered for Northern and with the forfeitures the title was vacated. Forestview (25-7) got 19 points from Preston Holmes, including four threes.

2010: Rocky Mount 84, Concord 79

Tashawn Mabry tallied 26 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead the Gryphons to victory in a fast-paced, entertaining game that saw 11 ties and six lead changes. He offset a 28-point, 11-rebound effort by Concord's Jacquise Moore, while Jalen Kennedy added 17 points for the Spiders (25-7). Rocky Mount led by 12 with 5:59 to play and had to hold off a furious Concord comeback that saw the Spiders cut it to three and have the ball with 1:30 to go. Detrail Jenkins added 15 points for Rocky Mount (24-3).

2011: Gastonia Hunter Huss 63, Winterville South Central 62

Veteran coach Ron Bray made his final game a great one as Hunter Huss (29-2) eked out a win in a game that featured eight ties and 16 lead changes. Jihad Wright's free throw with 3.4 seconds remaining broke a 62-all tie. Freshman Kerrion Moore led the Huskies with 24 points (10 of 17 from the floor) and was the Wendy's Charlie Adams MVP. Donta Harper pumped in 23 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for South Central (26-6) while Anthony Hilliard also scored 23 points. South Central led by four points with about three minutes to play but failed to score after that.

2012: Rocky Mount 78, Hickory 64

Rocky Mount (27-3) withstood some early hot three-point shooting by Hickory and rallied in the second half for the win. Dante Battle, with 20 points and 16 rebounds for the Gryphons, was the Charlie Adams MVP and Terrill Hilliard poured in 21 points for the winners. Hickory, which hit seven for 12 from beyond the arc in the first half, only hit three three-pointers in the final 16 minutes. Darius Malbon scored 17 for the Red Tornadoes (28-4) and Jalen Byrd added 15. Rocky Mount outscored Hickory in the paint 50-16.

2013: Oxford Webb 73, Statesville 70 (OT)

Isaiah Hicks, a McDonald's All-American headed to the University of North Carolina, had an incredible performance, pouring in 34 points and grabbing an amazing 30 rebounds to lead Webb (27-5) to its first NCHSAA men's basketball crown. Webb led most of the way before Statesville (25-4) came storming back, aided by the great play of Breon Borders with 26 points and nine rebounds. Webb, with a substantial size advantage, held a 58-41 edge on the boards, but hurt itself with 27 turnovers.

2014: Morganton Freedom 59, Wilson Hunt 57

Kasen Wilson's bucket in the final seconds lifted the Patriots (31-1) to the state title—the only time Freedom led in the entire game. Chris Bridges led the winners with 19 points, including five baskets from behind the arc in a balanced attack, and he was the Charlie Adams MVP. Josh Willingham led Hunt (25-3) with 17 points and 10 rebounds. The game was tied with 30 seconds to go, but Hunt turned it over with 18 ticks remaining to set Freedom up for the potential game-winner.

2015: Fayetteville Terry Sanford 67, Gastonia Ashbrook 60

Mark Gilbert poured in 31 points, including hitting 12 of 16 free throws, to lead the Bulldogs (27-3) to victory, and he was selected as the Charlie Adams MVP of the championship. The Bulldogs led most of the way. Isaiah Stallings added 12 points for the winners while Ashbrook was paced by Z'Andre givens and Isaiah Whaley with 14 points apiece. The Green Wave finished 23-4 overall.

RETROSPECTIVES

NCHSAA CLASS 4-A

MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1986: West Charlotte 67, Raleigh Broughton 66

This was a thriller all the way, with seven lead changes in the fourth quarter alone. West placed four players in double figures, with Cliff Caldwell leading the way with 16 points. That balance offset a tremendous 33-point game by the Caps' Gary Mattison. Two buckets by Caldwell in the final 1:30 lifted the Lions to victory, and Broughton missed a shot at the buzzer which could have won it.

1987: Chapel Hill 82, North Mecklenburg 79

Henrik Rodl of Chapel Hill poured in 34 points to grab MVP honors as the Tigers held on to down North Mecklenburg. Rodl got 23 of his points in the second half as Chapel Hill held a 12-point lead with less than two minutes to play and held off a furious North comeback. Major Geer and Nate Fearington each had 16 points for the winners, with Kenneth Wylie scoring 18 and Nelson Frazier 16 for the Vikings. Chapel Hill finished the year 29-1 while North lost for the first time in 31 games.

1988: A.C. Reynolds 58, Richmond Senior 52

A.C. Reynolds overcame a 32-26 halftime deficit and hit some key three-pointers down the stretch to edge the Raiders. The Rockets were eight for 12 from beyond the arc for the contest, with Scott Hill making five of those en route to 17 points. Willie Battle scored 13 for the Rockets, 27-2, while Oscar Sturgis had 20 points and 13 rebounds for the Raiders. Richmond's Cinderella season ended with a 19-10 mark.

1989: Charlotte Garinger 71, Wilson Fike 63

Maurio Hanson connected for 22 points and hauled down 13 rebounds as the surprising Wildcats beat Wilson Fike. Marlon Stewart scored 24 points for the 'Cats, who finished 26-4, while Fike lost for the first time in 29 outings. Jamie Watson led the Demons with 26 points but suffered through a nine for 34 shooting night. Garinger led by as many as nine early in the fourth quarter before Fike sliced the lead to 59-58 and set the stage for an exciting finish. The Wildcats shot a strong 56.5 percent from the field in the second half while Fike shot under 35 percent for the game.

1990: Greensboro Page 46, Wilson Fike 43

Marc Lewis scored 16 of his game-high 24 points in the second half to lead undefeated Page to its three-point victory. Lewis, headed to N.C. State, was a perfect 10 for 10 at the foul line as Page finished the year at 31-0. Fike led 24-21 at the half but couldn't hold the Pirates off. All-American Jamie Watson had 19 points and Corwin Woodward added 11 for the Golden Demons, who shot just 31.5 percent from the floor for the game. Fike finished 24-5 under veteran head coach Harvey Reid.

1991: West Charlotte 61, East Wake 44

A stifling West Charlotte defense was the difference as the Lions defeated East Wake 61-44. The sophomore-dominated West team used its defensive pressure to hold East Wake to just 29.3 percent shooting from the floor, including under 22 percent in the second half. Jeff McInnis of West was the game's MVP, with 20 points, and Thadius Bonaparte added 15 for the Lions, 24-3 overall. Jearwann Tuck had 13 for East Wake, which finished at

26-4. The Warriors trailed just 24-22 at halftime but the Lions dominated the third quarter with a 14-2 run to take command.

1992: West Charlotte 65, Kinston 63

Before one of the largest crowds to watch a high school basketball game in North Carolina, the Lions made it two titles in a row, coming back to surprise highly rated Kinston and all-American Jerry Stackhouse. West played its customary great defense and Antonio Bell came off the bench to score 22 for the Lions to earn MVP honors. Stackhouse had 20, 12 rebounds, seven assists and six blocked shots before fouling out. The Vikings were hurt as West forced 26 turnovers. The Lions finished 25-5 overall while Kinston wound up 28-2.

1993: South View 53, South Mecklenburg 52

Parade All-American Jeff Capel had a sub-par shooting night (5 of 17) but hit two buckets in the final 57 seconds, including the driving game-winner with five seconds to go. Andre Allen had 19 points and 11 rebounds for the victorious Tigers, who shot just 30.8 percent from the floor in winning for the 31st time in 32 outings. South Mecklenburg's Daymond Forney picked up MVP honors with a triple double-- 17 points, 10 rebounds and 10 blocked shots. South View had a huge 55-32 rebounding edge.

1994: Morganton Freedom 87, Cary 75 (runner-up vacated)

Guard Danny Johnson poured in 37 points (a Smith Center prep record), including 21 in the first half, and was a unanimous choice for MVP as the Patriots downed Cary. It was 74-72 with 1:35 to play but Freedom hit 11 of 12 free throws down the stretch. Wesley Ervin added 19 points for the Patriots while Jeremy Pearson had 19 and Scotty Hall 18 for the Imps. Coach Terry Rogers of Freedom earned his 500th career victory. Freedom finished 28-2 while Cary wound up 27-2. However, later it was discovered that Cary used an ineligible player and the runner-up finish was vacated.

1995: Cary 55, Greensboro Ben Smith 54

MVP Scotty Hall scored 17 points, including a three-pointer with 1:08 to play to break a 50-50 tie and give the Imps the lead for good. Cary rallied from an 11-point deficit in the second half. Clavon Ingram scored 15 and Rasean Sinclair 14 for the Eagles, 26-5, while the Imps wound up 27-3 overall. Cary hit 59.1 percent from the field in the second half.

1996: Greensboro Dudley 76, Richmond Senior 68 (OT)

Vincent Whitt and Braxton Williams scored 24 points apiece for the winning Panthers (29-2). Williams, only a soph, scored 22 points after intermission and earned MVP honors. The Raiders led most of the way and by as many as 11 before Dudley came back. It was 60-60 after regulation. Chris McDonald had a big game for Richmond (25-4) with 19 points and 17 rebounds, but the Raiders shot just 33.8 percent from the floor for the game.

1997: Charlotte Independence 82, Richmond Senior 80

Jobey Thomas scored nine of his 16 points in the final six minutes to earn MVP honors as Independence rallied to win. Scott Lilly led the Patriots (28-3) with 21 points, while Richmond (25-5) got 21 from Corey Nelson. Richmond had led 41-30 at the half, but the Pats came back. Independence hit nine free throws in the final 1:05 and held on at the end.

1998: Morganton Freedom 74, Fayetteville Pine Forest 59

Point guard Casey Rogers, the son of head coach Terry Rogers, had 23 points and 11 assists to earn MVP honors and lead the Patriots to their 30th win in 31 games. Nick Collette added 18 points and Cory Largent scored 15 to go with 10 rebounds for the winners. Pine Forest (25-7) got 16 from Kevin Henry but shot just 31 percent from the field for the game. The Trojans narrowed the gap to 47-45 with 3:02 left in the third quarter before Rogers hit two key threes.

1999: West Charlotte 84, Wilmington Laney 67

Highly touted Jason Parker lived up to his billing—38 points, 17 of 22 field goal attempts, 12 rebounds, four blocked shots—to lead the nationally-ranked Lions (30-2) past the Buccaneers (24-8). Marcus Oliver added 23 points for the winners, who owned a 40-30 advantage on the boards. Darren Dickerson of Laney had 33 points, including four three-pointers.

2000: Winston-Salem R.J. Reynolds 78, Fayetteville Seventy-First 74

The Demons (27-2) got 25 points from Derrell Mitchell and 19 from Mitchell Bittle to win their first NCHSAA hoop title in 25 years. That offset a 36-point, 11-rebound assault by Florida State-bound Michael Joiner of the Falcons (24-5). A layup by Bittle with 17 seconds left put Reynolds up by one, and then in the final seconds Bittle stole the ball and dunked it to stop the Falcons' hope for a last-second victory.

2001: Winston-Salem R.J. Reynolds 94, Raleigh Leesville Road 73

Reynolds (28-3) exploded for 58 second-half points after leading just 36-32 at intermission. A 17-6 spurt to open the third quarter put the Demons in command. MVP Derrell Mitchell of the Demons hit nine of 11 from the field and scored 22 points while Whit Holcomb-Faye added 17. McDonald's All-American Anthony Richardson scored 19 points for Leesville (24-5) before fouling out.

2002: Winston-Salem R.J. Reynolds 63, Fayetteville Seventy-First 58

Reyshawn Terry scored 21 points and Whit Holcomb-Faye added 15 as the Demons (26-6) won their third straight NCHSAA 4-A crown, a feat not duplicated since South Mecklenburg in 1970-72. Casey Long led Seventy-First (28-3) with 21 points. It was tied at 47-all with 5:55 to play but the Falcons could never quite get over the hump. Both teams shot under 38 percent from the field for the game.

2003: Charlotte Zeb Vance 68, Lee Senior 61

Vance rallied from a 10-point halftime deficit to win its first NCHSAA men's hoop title. Floor leader Lowen Wray of the Cougars was named MVP and scored 18 points for Vance (27-4), while V.J. Fails added 14. Lee (25-5) was led by Adrian Woodard's 17 points, but the Jackets were hurt by 27 turnovers. It was a two-point game a couple times in the final minute, but Wray hit three key free throws in the final 22 seconds.

2004: Raleigh Wakefield 48, Winston-Salem R.J. Reynolds 46

Wakefield, in just its fourth year of operation, upset perennial power Reynolds, outscoring the Demons 17-8 in the final period. Sam Carlisle led the Wolverines (26-3) with 15 points and earned MVP honors while Kerry Atkinson hauled down 17 rebounds for the winners. Joe Fulp led Reynolds with 18 points. A bucket by Elhadji N'Diaye with 1:41 to go gave Wakefield the lead for good.

2005: North Mecklenburg 68, Fayetteville Westover 65 (OT)

Four North players scored in double figures, paced by Ben Stywall's 21 and Jamie Skeen with 17 points and 13 rebounds as the Vikings (31-1) hung on to beat Westover before a big crowd. Eric Maynor poured in 25 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for the Wolverines (29-2). North had opened up a 48-40 lead entering the final quarter and Westover stormed back and led late. There were 19 lead changes and 12 ties in the game.

2006: Raleigh Wakefield 45, North Mecklenburg 43

A basket by Scott Brooks with seven seconds left was the margin of victory as Wakefield (27-4) won its second state crown in three years and denied North Meck (23-7) back-to-back titles. Wakefield's Darius Johnson-Odom was the Wendy's MVP with 16 points, while Wake Forest-bound Jamie Skeen of North led all scorers with 20 points and nine boards. The score was tied five times and there were 13 lead changes.

2007: Wilmington New Hanover 39, Charlotte Zeb Vance 35

Seven-footer Ty Walker had 12 points, six rebounds and eight blocked shots to lead New Hanover (29-4) over Vance in a low-scoring but taut game. New Hanover led just 19-17 at the half and by nine with 5:53 to go before Vance rallied and actually took the lead with 1:37 to play. Al'Lonzo Coleman had 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Cougars (28-4).

2008: East Mecklenburg 72, Apex 63

East opened up a 20-11 first-quarter advantage, Apex battled back to lead 30-29 at the half, and then finally East took the lead for good late in the third quarter, leading by as many as 17 points in the final minutes. Titus Robinson of East Mecklenburg (25-8) was voted Wendy's MVP with 20 points and 11 rebounds, while Malik Stith also tallied 20 for the winners and had seven steals. Adam Perry scored 17 and Weston Murphy 15 for Apex, the Cinderella team in the tournament which finished 19-12 overall.

2009: Winston-Salem Mount Tabor 60, Fayetteville Terry Sanford 55

Mount Tabor never trailed, surging to a 25-8 first-quarter lead but then holding off a game Bulldog rally. C.J. Harris of Mount Tabor (31-1) was the Wendy's MVP with 20 points, including 12 of 14 at the foul line, and Josh Hicks added 14. Terry Sanford (28-4) got 16 points from Chris Wilson and a 12-point, 11-rebound performance from Mike Mason. The Bulldogs limited Mount Tabor to just 20 percent shooting from the field (5 of 25) in the second half.

2010: Lake Norman 63, Fayetteville Terry Sanford 46

A 23-5 explosion in the fourth quarter lifted Lake Norman to its first NCHSAA basketball title ever as the Wildcats overcame an eight-point Terry Sanford lead in the third quarter. Reggie Price scored 20 and Paul Larsen added 18 points and eight rebounds for the winners (26-3), with Larsen earning MVP honors. Chris Wilson had 13 points and Robert Carpenter 11 for the Bulldogs, who saw their undefeated season come to an end after 31 straight wins.

2011: West Charlotte 78, Raleigh Millbrook 69

Statistically, this game was amazing-- Millbrook attempts 39 more shots from the floor than West Charlotte, but the Lions outrebound Millbrook 51-38 while committing 27 turnovers. West (28-2) scored the game's first seven points and never trailed, leading by as many as 23 in the third quarter before Millbrook (22-10) battled back. Kennedy Meeks of West Charlotte was the Wendy's Charlie Adams MVP with 19 rebounds to go with 12 points. Mike Brown led the West scoring with 23 while Millbrook's balanced attack was paced by DaVon Silvera's 15 points.

2012: New Hanover 67, West Charlotte 56

Thomas Johnson scored 24 points and Charlie Adams MVP Kadeem Allen added 21 to lift the Wildcats (30-1) over the defending state 4-A champs. Johnson hit four three-pointers, scoring 18 points in the first half as the Wildcats took a 33-21 advantage at the break. Kennedy Meeks had a big game for West Charlotte with 14 points and a whopping 21 rebounds, while Mark Blackmon connected six times from beyond the arc en route to a team-high 20 points for West Charlotte (27-6).

2013: Charlotte Olympic 56, Raleigh Broughton 53

Deriece Parks dropped in 19 points and C.J. Jackson added 17 as Olympic (30-0) finished the first unbeaten season for any NCHSAA men's team since 2005, but it wasn't easy. Broughton (27-6) scrapped back from a nine-point deficit with 1:56 to go in the third quarter, but missed a three-pointer in the game's final second that would have tied it. Devonte' Graham had an outstanding game for Broughton with 23 points, seven rebounds and six assists, and James Hemphill added 13 points.

2014: Apex 62, Lake Norman 59

Ian Boyd dropped in 25 points and T.J. Evans added 22 to lift Apex (23-7) over Lake Norman (28-2) for the state crown. Boyd, who also had eight rebounds, was named the Charlie Adams MVP in a tight game that included 10 lead changes and five ties. Lake Norman led by nine in the first half and 42-40 entering the final quarter. Hunter Seacat paced Lake Norman with 18 points and 14 rebounds while Kishawn Pritchett scored 17 for the Wildcats.

2014: Garner 70, Ardrey Kell 64

Julius Barnes poured in 26 points, including 14 in the fourth quarter, to lead the Trojans (28-1) to their first NCHSAA men's basketball title since 1936 and earn Charlie Adams MVP honors. Garner spurted to a 22-8 lead after one quarter but had to withstand an record-setting barrage by Ardrey Kell's Steven Santa Ana, who poured in a state championship game 44 points, including five three-pointers, 13 of 15 from the foul line and eight rebounds. The Knights finished the year 28-2 overall. Thomas Allen added 16 points for the winners.