

# RETROSPECTIVES

## NCHSAA CLASS 1-A

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### **1987: Hendersonville 50, Gates County 47**

The Lady Bearcats made it a clean 1-A sweep for Hendersonville, which also took the men's crown. Andrea Carter scored 17 points and Valerie Simpson 12 for the winners, while Barbara Jones scored 13 for Gates County. Gates closed out the year 25-4 while Hendersonville posted a 23-7 mark. Both teams shot under 40 percent from the field for the contest.

#### **1988: Hayesville 70, Hobbton 53**

Alice Calder hit 13 of 17 shots from the field en route to a 26-point performance, leading unbeaten Hayesville (31-0) to victory. Calder was the game's MVP. Hayesville also got 18 points from Jeanne Coker while Charlene Penland tossed in 16 and grabbed 13 rebounds. Hobbton was paced by Linda Blue's 21 points, including a pair of three-pointers, as the Lady Wildcats finished at 26-6.

#### **1989: Hayesville 70, Chocowinity 41**

The Lady Yellow Jackets won their second straight crown, rallying from a 9-7 deficit after one quarter and outscoring the Lady Indians 45-22 in the second half. Jeanne Coker had 22 points and 14 rebounds for the winners, who finished 27-2, while Lori Powell added 21 and grabbed 11 boards. The Jackets outrebounded Chocowinity 57-37. Chrylene Myers led Chocowinity, 26-4, with 22 points but the Lady Indians had a tough shooting day, hitting just 22.2 percent from the floor for the game.

#### **1990: Hayesville 51, Tabor City 48**

The Lady Yellow Jackets became the first team to win three straight NCHSAA women's hoop titles. Jeanne Coker scored 15 points for the winners, including both ends of a one-and-one with five seconds remaining. MVP Christy Cagle added 15 and Laura Cottrell 13 for the 25-4 Jackets. Tabor City, 20-9, was paced by Teresa Hickman's 20 points and Stephanie Duncan added 16. A three-pointer by Duncan bounced off the rim as the buzzer sounded.

#### **1991: Hayesville 73, Tabor City 49**

The Lady Yellow Jackets became the first team ever to win four consecutive NCHSAA women's basketball crowns, and for the second straight year beat Tabor City in the finals. Christy Cagle of the winners was the MVP for the second consecutive year, scoring 19 points and grabbing 12 rebounds. Laura Cottrell had 22 points and 10 boards for coach Darryl McClure's Hayesville team, 28-1 overall. Tabor City, 25-4 overall, got 16 points from Tami Soles and Stefanie Duncan added 11. The Lady Jackets led 29-20 at the half and then scored the first 11 points of the third quarter to take command.

#### **1992: Hayesville 77, Midway 49**

The dynasty continues with Hayesville's fifth straight NCHSAA championship, and this one wasn't ever really close. The Lady Jackets broke to an 11-0 lead, led 19-2 early and were up 44-18 at the half. Junior center Laura Cottrell was the MVP with 32 points and seven rebounds for the winners, while point guard Beth Hall added 17 points. Hayesville, with only one senior starting for head coach Darryl McClure, posted a 27-2 record. Midway, finishing 24-6, got 14 points from Lorrie Johnson.

#### **1993: Hayesville 54, Mattamuskeet 40**

Hayesville made it an unprecedented--in either men's or women's play-- sixth straight NCHSAA title, and did it with leading scorer and rebounder Laura Cottrell in street clothes due to an injury suffered in the regional finals. Point guard Beth Hall had 18 points to lead the Lady Yellow Jackets, 28-2, while Lisa Bright and Lori Hughes scored 11 each. Mattamuskeet got 18 points from Frederika Clayton in suffering its first loss after 27 straight victories.

**1994: Lakewood 80, Murphy 60**

Lakewood's Chasity Melvin poured in 37 points and hauled down 21 rebounds to lead the Lady Leopards to victory. An N.C. State signee, Melvin hit 15 of 20 from the field in establishing a Carmichael Auditorium women's prep scoring mark and went over the 2,000-point mark for her career. Sister Danielle Melvin added 19 for the winners while Melanie Dyer got 17 for Murphy (23-4). Lakewood, 26-2, also set new Carmichael standards for shooting with a blistering 72.3 percent clip for the game and 78.3 in the second half.

**1995: Murphy 62, Williamston 37**

Murphy roared from a 24-23 halftime lead by outscoring Williamston 20-4 in the third quarter. Kristy Kent led Murphy with 19 points and 10 rebounds while Cindy Jordan added 15 on five three-pointers. Tracie Bond had 13 points for Williamston, who shot just 29.6 percent from the field for the game while Murphy was red hot at 64 percent in the second half. The victorious Bulldogs finished with a 22-2 slate while Williamston was 19-10.

**1996: Cherokee 69, Roanoke 63**

Cherokee made it eight titles in nine years for the Smoky Mountain Conference, as the young Lady Braves forced 35 Roanoke turnovers. Cherokee (22-7) started four sophomores, with Ida Lespier scoring 21 and game MVP Peaches Squirrel adding 20 and hitting 14 of 18 free throws. Monesha Staton pumped in 26 points for Roanoke, which had its 27-game winning streak snapped and Tisha Wiggins added 18. Roanoke dominated the boards 56-30.

**1997: Murphy 77, Union 51**

Tabitha Kephart poured in 28 points, including 13 of 17 at the line, and Kristy Kent added 24 as Murphy (27-2) won its 27th straight and dealt Union its first loss after 27 wins. Kephart was named MVP. The Lady Bulldogs shot a blistering 64.7% from the field in the second half. April Cromartie scored 17 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for Union.

**1998: Union 85, Cherokee 70**

April Cromartie went wild, scoring a championship record 48 points and pulling down 18 rebounds as Union finished the year with a perfect 28-0 mark. The Spartans sprinted to a 45-29 halftime lead and then shot 65.2 percent in the second half. Soph Crystal Robinson added 20 for the winners and Vern Beatty had 10 assists. Ida Lespier scored 19 points for Cherokee (28-5).

**1999: Chatham Central 53, Red Springs 47**

Crissy Marsh scored 18 points and was one of three Lady Bears to grab 10 rebounds, earning MVP honors as Chatham Central (30-1) won its third NCHSAA women's title. Tonya Chavis scored 20 for Red Springs (22-9). Central had a 47-36 edge on the boards, resulting in a huge 25-4 edge in second-chance points. Neither team shot over 30 percent from the floor in the second half.

**2000: Chatham Central 65, Roanoke 64**

Kathryn Caudle pumped in 25 points and MVP Randi Jo Kivett had 16 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Lady Bears (24-4) to their second straight state crown. Deborah Cherry led Roanoke (21-8) with 28 points, including an NCHSAA finals record six three-pointers. Roanoke threatened to break it open early, leading by 11 in the first quarter, but Chatham Central stormed back with great shooting (65% from the floor for the game). Roanoke missed two shots in the final 19 seconds that would have lifted it to victory.

**2001: East Surry 69, Perquimans 65**

Kelley Karns tallied 23 points and pulled down 13 rebounds to help the Cards (28-3) deal Perquimans (30-1) its only loss of the year. The lead changed hands five times in the fourth quarter in the tight game. Perquimans attempted a whopping 34 more shots than East but shot just 29.3 percent from the field for the contest. Kindra Lee led the Pirates with 34 points and 14 rebounds, including 13 offensive boards, while Kari Karns scored 15 points and Maya Bennett had 14 points and 14 boards for the winners.

### **2002: Thomasville 69, Midway 44**

Relentless Thomasville speed and pressure forced 36 Midway turnovers as the Lady Bulldogs picked off an amazing 27 steals. Soph Erin Crowder scored 19 points to earn MVP honors for the winners, who had four players in double figures. Midway (23-4) shot just 27.6 percent from the floor for the game and was led by Brittany Carroll's 16 points. Thomasville raced to 11-3 advantage in the first four and half minutes and never looked back.

### **2003: Thomasville 68, Farmville Central 65**

Erin Crowder scored 21 points to earn MVP honors for the second consecutive year as Thomasville completed a perfect 32-0 campaign. The Lady Bulldogs rallied from 16 down with 1:38 to go in the third quarter to pull out its second straight state title. Freshman Megan Zullo paced Farmville Central (23-6) with 22 points while Shannon Edwards scored 14 and had 18 rebounds for the Lady Jaguars.

### **2004: Thomasville 67, Farmville Central 48**

Thomasville blew open a close game after halftime, outscoring Farmville 25-8 in the third quarter en route to its third consecutive state crown. Charnette Davis pumped in 18 points and pulled down 11 rebounds for Thomasville (30-1) to earn MVP honors while Wudi Alford paced the winners with 19. Soph Megan Zullo had a great game for Farmville (29-2) with 19 points, 10 rebounds, six assists and two steals.

### **2005: Thomasville 63, Weldon 26**

The Lady Bulldogs (32-0) had little trouble, outscoring Weldon 23-5 in the second quarter to blow it open. Wudi Alford had 20 points for the winners and earned Wendy's MVP honors while Charnette Davis added 18. Weldon (27-2) managed to shoot just 13.2 percent from the floor for the game, making just nine of 68 shots on the day. Gary Bell paced Weldon with seven points and 12 rebounds.

### **2006: Bishop McGuinness 54, Southeast Halifax 31**

In a battle of unbeaten teams, Bishop McGuinness got 15 points, eight rebounds, three assists and three steals from Wendy's MVP Katheryn Lyons to pull away to the victory. The victorious Villains led 18-14 at the half as both teams shot atrociously (under 15 percent from the field), but opened up a lead with a 19-9 advantage in the third quarter. Sarah Foroudi scored 17 for Bishop McGuinness (32-0). Candice Harrison tallied 17 for Southeast and April Whitaker pulled down 18 boards.

### **2007: Bishop McGuinness 79, East Bladen 42**

Erinn Thompson pumped in 20 points, grabbed 16 rebounds and blocked five shots to earn Wendy's MVP honors, leading Bishop (32-1) to its 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive win and second straight state title. The Lady Villains spurted to an 18-7 first-quarter lead and were never headed. Maggie Ronan scored 15 and had five assists for the winners. JaToya Kemp led East Bladen (25-7) with 30 points, although East shot only 25 percent from the floor for the game.

### **2008: Bishop McGuinness 56, Pender 43**

Erinn Thompson earned Wendy's MVP honors for the second consecutive year, scoring 14 points but grabbing 19 rebounds to pace Bishop (27-6). Maggie Ronan led the Lady Villains with 16 points while Jannetta Robinson scored 18 for Pender (30-2) and Muriel Seabrooks pulled down 18 rebounds for the Patriots. It was 38-33 Bishop entering the final quarter and the 13-point margin was the largest of the game, and the Lady Villains hit six free throws in the final 39 seconds.

### **2009: Bishop McGuinness 64, East Bladen 33**

Bishop McGuinness (29-4) grabbed an 11-2 first period lead and was never headed en route to its fourth straight state title. Megan Buckland led the winners with 15 points and was selected as the Wendy's MVP while Brittany Cox added 11 points. Courtney Melvin led East Bladen (26-3) with 14 points and 11 rebounds. Bishop outrebounded East 41-25 and scored 27 points off 26 East Bladen turnovers.

### **2010: Bishop McGuinness 55, Williamston 47**

Bishop McGuinness took a 15-4 lead in the opening quarter and never trailed en route to its fifth consecutive NCHSAA women's basketball crown. Megan Buckland earned the Wendy's Kay Yow MVP award for the second straight year despite missing the last quarter and a half due to injury, finishing with 15 points including three three-pointers. The Lady Villian defense limited high-scoring Katie Paschal of Williamston to 18 points and forced 26 Williamston turnovers. Bishop finished 23-7 overall and dealt Williamston its only loss after 29 straight wins.

### **2011: Bishop McGuinness 57, Southwest Onslow 43**

Bishop McGuinness (26-6) took command early, leading 34-13 at the half while Southwest made only four of 29 field-goal attempts in the first 16 minutes. Megan Buckland of the Lady Villains was chosen as the Wendy's Kay Yow MVP for the third consecutive year, pulling down 15 rebounds to go with seven points, five assists, three blocks and three steals. Julia Brown had 15 points and Sammi Goldsmith 11 for the winners, who claimed their sixth consecutive NCHSAA state title. Janika Williams paced Southwest (24-4) with 19 points and 11 boards.

### **2012: Bishop McGuinness 60, Southside 44**

Bishop McGuinness (27-5) won its seventh consecutive state title as Kay Yow MVP Sammi Goldsmith scored 20 points, including a perfect 10 of 10 from the foul line, and handed out six assists. Bishop took advantage of 23 Southside turnovers and outscored the Seahawks on turnovers 20-4. Cameron Nieters added 16 points for the winners while Katisha Hyman scored 15 for Southside (29-4). Bishop hit 20 of 21 free throws in the second half to preserve the victory.

### **2013: Bishop McGuinness 57, River Mill Academy 52**

Bishop McGuinness (25-7) staged an amazing comeback to capture its eighth consecutive NCHSAA state title. The Villains trailed by 11 in the fourth quarter and came roaring back. Bishop, which was 8-6 on the season at one point, was just six for 25 from behind the arc, but made its final three three-pointers. Julia Brown was named the Kay Yow MVP with 17 points and 14 rebounds, while Cameron Nieters and Tia Cappuccio contributed 12 points apiece for the winners. River Mill, in its first ever state title game, got 17 points from Lenaira Ruffin as the Jaguars finished 28-4 overall.

### **2014: Bishop McGuinness 61, Riverside (Martin) 58**

Bishop McGuinness (29-4) won its ninth straight NCHSAA state title in the most improbable way possible and made ESPN SportsCenter's Top 10 as a result. Alex Putnam hit a three-pointer from midcourt at the buzzer to give Bishop the victory. Julia Brown had 26 points and seven rebounds to earn the Kay Yow MVP award, while freshman Kayla Jones had a monster game for Riverside (29-1) with 31 points and 14 rebounds, including four three-pointers and seven steals. The game was tied with five seconds to go, but Jones missed a pair of free throws, Bishop rebounded and drama ensued.

### **2015: Winston-Salem Prep 58, Riverside (Martin) 31**

Winston-Salem Prep jumped to an early lead and was never headed as the Phoenix won their first NCHSAA women's basketball crown. Winston-Salem Prep (24-3) had four players in double figures, with Chrisalyn Boston and Kayla Robinson recording double-doubles and Dominique Claytor (10 points, eight rebounds, three steals) taking the Kay Yow MVP award. Riverside managed to shoot just 25.5% from the floor, and star Kayla Jones was held to 12 points and 11 rebounds. Riverside, in the finals for the second straight year, finished 23-6.

# RETROSPECTIVES

## NCHSAA CLASS 2-A

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### **1987: Bandys 52, Clinton 45**

Tradition-rich Bandys rallied from a 22-21 halftime deficit to take the championship. The balanced Lady Trojan attack was led by Mitzi Yount's 14 points while DeAnna Cresimore added 13. Bandys finished with a 25-5 record. The Lady Dark Horses got 22 points from all-state player Danyel Parker, 14 in the first half.

#### **1988: Bandys 73, Clinton 69**

Bandys knocked off the Lady Dark Horses for the second consecutive year. The Lady Trojans, 32-1, shot 54 percent from the field for the game and were led by Mitzi Yount with 26 points. Erica Turner added 16 and Levonda Wilson of Bandys handed out a whopping 14 assists. Tonya Sampson poured in 30 points and hauled down 17 rebounds for Clinton, 25-4, while scoring ace Danyel Parker added 21 points.

#### **1989: Clinton 72, Bunker Hill 63**

Clinton made its third straight trip to the finals successful after two consecutive runner-up finishes. The Lady Dark Horses potent one-two punch saw state player of the year Danyel Parker, headed to N.C. State, pour in 34 points while Tonya Sampson added 25 and hauled down a game-high 20 rebounds. Clinton completed a perfect 27-0 campaign. Kelly Morrison with 16 points and Nise Rinehardt with 15 were high scorers for the Lady Bears, 27-7. Clinton won the battle of the boards 53-34 in avenging its previous title game losses to Bunker Hill rival Bandys of the Southern District Seven Conference.

#### **1990: Clinton 58, Newton-Conover 52**

Tonya Sampson poured in 33 points, hauled down 16 rebounds and handed out five assists to lead Clinton to its second straight title. Sampson, a North Carolina recruit, was voted the MVP. It was the Lady Dark Horses' fourth straight appearance in the championship game and the fourth straight time a team from the Southern District Seven had faced Clinton in the final. The winners closed out the year 24-1 while Newton-Conover, 27-4, was paced by Lena Barber's 16 points.

#### **1991: Madison 66, East Duplin 48**

Madison built a big lead with its pressure defense and held on to down East Duplin. Michelle Johnson had 10 points, five rebounds and three steals in the balanced Lady Patriot attack to earn MVP honors, while Angie Metcalf led the winners in scoring with 13 points. Rita Henry had 15 points to lead the Lady Panthers, who were hurt by 25 turnovers, 18 in the second half. Madison sprinted to a 42-23 halftime advantage and won for the 25th time in 30 outings, while East finished at 27-3.

#### **1992: Newton-Conover 77, Farmville Central 54**

Shannon Spencer pumped in 23 points, grabbed five rebounds, had five steals and handed out nine assists as the Lady Red Devils rolled to victory. N-C led just 37-33 at the half but outscored the Lady Jaguars 26-7 over the final 8:51. Newton-Conover shot 58.2 percent from the field for the game, best ever by an NCHSAA team in Carmichael, and had a huge 42-20 rebounding edge. The Devils, 29-1, lost only to 3-A champion Fred T. Foard and were the fifth SD7 team in the finals in the last six years. Farmville, 26-3 overall, was led by Charlene Reid's 27 points but only three Farmville players scored.

#### **1993: Monroe 54, Franklinton 42**

Guard Lavetta Rushing had 14 points and 11 rebounds to lead Monroe to victory over a cold-shooting Franklinton team, which shot under 25 percent for the game. Monroe led 16-2 in the first half, although Franklinton closed to within 45-39 with 2:40 left to play. Natasha Crudup paced the losing Lady Rams with 22 points. Franklinton ended the season with a 29-2 mark while Monroe was 24-5.

**1994: Bandys 57, Western Guilford 51**

Bandys won its sixth NCHSAA women's title, led by sophomore MVP Tiffany Chappell's 18 points and 18 rebounds. The Lady Trojans, unbeaten in 29 starts, trailed 39-37 entering the fourth quarter by rallied to win. Karen Mason contributed 15 points to the Bandys cause. Beth Schoolfield led Western, 30-3, with 15 points.

**1995: Ledford 65, Southwest Guilford 60**

Great shooting by Ledford (66.7 percent in first half, 61.8 for the game) lifted the Lady Panthers to victory. Courtney Patterson had 17 points, MVP Stacey Hinkle scored f5 and Ginger Cox 14 in the balanced Ledford attack. The Cowgirls (30-2) had a 22-game win streak snapped and Ledford (29-3) won its 21st straight. Ebony Waters with 17 was one of four Cowgirls in double figures.

**1996: Mitchell 44, Northside 43**

Leslie Burleson scored 22 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to lead Mitchell, which never trailed but had to hold off a big Northside rally after leading 32-23 after three quarters. Kim Green scored 15 and Kolletta Harris 12 for Northside (22-6). Mitchell shot just 29.8 percent from the floor for the game but won for the 27th time against four losses.

**1997: Ledford 59, St. Pauls 57**

Stacey Hinkle scored 22 points, including Ledford's last seven, to lead her team to victory and earn MVP honors. Her layup with 19 seconds left proved to be the margin of victory. There were nine lead changes and seven ties in the game, although St. Pauls had rallied from an 11-point first half deficit. Chaquita Currie topped St. Pauls (28-2) with 16 points.

**1998: East Duplin 59, Ledford 45**

Clifeteana McKiver scored 20 points and grabbed 15 boards for East Duplin, who never trailed and kept Ledford from its third title in four years. East, which was unbeaten in 29 games, also got 16 points from Ebony Green. Stacey Hinkle scored 14 points for Ledford (29-2), which shot just 25.9 percent from the floor for the game.

**1999: High Point Central 78, St. Pauls 63**

Lee Culp scored 20 points and Katie Copeland was a perfect 12 of 12 at the foul line to lead the Lady Bison (28-2) past St. Pauls (27-2). Turnovers were a big key—High Point Central scored 32 points off a whopping 35 Lady Bulldog turnovers. Shaunise Robinson had 17 points and hauled down 20 rebounds for St. Pauls.

**2000: Ledford 62, Western Alamance 41**

Ledford (30-2) had a solid performance, with great defense forcing 34 Western turnovers and holding the Warriors to four points in the opening quarter. Lindsay Smith of the Panthers was the MVP in the balanced attack, with 12 points, eight rebounds and six steals. Latasha Watlington paced Western (24-4) with 19 points. Ledford scored the first six points of the game and never looked back.

**2001: High Point Central 92, Eastern Alamance 62**

Central (30-0) completed a perfect season in which its average margin of victory was better than 34 points a game. Velinda Vuncannon of the Lady Bison was the MVP with 17 points and 13 assists, while Leslie Cook of Central had five three-pointers and led all scorers with 23 points and 10 rebounds. Eastern (23-9) got 19 points from Whitney Crisp and 18 from Tee-Tee Walters. Central's 92 points was the most ever scored in a state 2-A women's title game.

**2002: Ledford 73, Tarboro 51**

Leslie Hinkle ripped the nets for 40 points, including hitting 12 of 16 at the line, as Ledford completed a perfect 32-0 season. Hinkle was a unanimous choice for Most Valuable Player. Ledford led 48-39 late in the third quarter and then went on a 9-1 run to break the game open in the Lady Panthers' fifth trip to the championship in the last eight years. Marquetta Dickens scored 23 points for Tarboro (24-5).

**2003: Mitchell 61, Red Springs 50**

Emily Paffrath had a big game—13 points, 17 rebounds, five assists and two blocks—to lead Mitchell (25-6) past previously unbeaten Red Springs. Ashley Buchanan added 15 points for the winners while Tiffany Troy paced Red Springs (26-1) with 16 points. Mitchell pulled away from a 26-25 halftime advantage and held Red Springs to just 28 percent field goal shooting for the game.

**2004: Salisbury 65, Southern Vance 40**

Sade Jordan scored 25 points and grabbed 11 rebounds and MVP Shayla Fields had 23 to lead the Hornets to a perfect 31-0 final record and a convincing victory. Salisbury led just 32-29 at halftime but opened the third quarter with a 14-2 run to take command. Salisbury shot 55.6 percent from the floor for the game, 60 percent in the second half. Alicia Person scored 13 for Southern Vance (27-3).

**2005: SouthWest Edgecombe 72, East Rutherford 50**

East Rutherford was probably seeing double as the Hudson twins, Dominique and Monique, combined for 33 points to lead SouthWest (30-1). Monique, with 18 points, 11 rebounds and 7 assists, was the Wendy's MVP. The victorious Cougars pulled away to a 33-19 halftime edge and never looked back, holding East (24-6) to 29.7 percent field goal shooting. Brittany Boyce had 11 points for East and Karess Mayse had 10 points and 10 boards.

**2006: Farmville Central 56, Salisbury 55 (OT)**

Crystal Smith hit a layup at the buzzer off a pass from Wendy's MVP Megan Zullo to lift Farmville (26-3) to victory. Zullo, headed to play at N.C. State, scored 17 points and handed out 12 assists. Her twin sister Kim led the victorious Lady Jaguars with 21 points, including six three-pointers. Ashley Watkins paced Salisbury (27-3) with 21 points while Saybah Sammy scored 13 and pulled down a whopping 19 rebounds.

**2007: Smoky Mountain 85, Graham 62**

Cetera DeGraffenreid, a North Carolina signee, almost personally broke open a 33-33 game at halftime. She scored 36 of her 42 points after intermission to lead the Lady Mustangs, hitting 16 of 19 from the foul line and also handing out seven assists. Amy Haggard contributed 18 points for Smoky Mountain (30-1), which shot 60 percent from the floor in the second half. Simone Robinson scored 18 points and hauled down 15 rebounds for Graham (31-2).

**2008: East Davidson 62, Graham 59**

Wendy's MVP Anna Freeman scored 18 points, grabbed 12 rebounds and blocked four shots to lead East (27-4) past Graham (31-2). The lead changed hands six times and the score was tied five times, the last occasion with just 1:37 to play. East shot a sizzling 57.9 percent from the floor in the second half. Kiki Allen led Graham with 14 points and Courdne Miles added 12.

**2009: Salisbury 56, Graham 41**

Shanequa Phifer scored 15 points and De'Rya Wylie scored 10 to go with 11 rebounds as Salisbury (29-3) rallied in the second half to beat Graham. Kiki Allen had 17 points, including four three-pointers, and Beth Miller 13 for Graham (28-4), which lost the battle of the boards 37-24 and also committed 20 turnovers. A 15-4 run by Salisbury in the second half put the Hornets in charge after Graham led late in the third quarter.

**2010: Salisbury 49, East Bladen 37**

In a rare battle of two undefeated teams in the state finals, Salisbury won its second straight state title behind 14 points and four rebounds by Wendy's MVP Shanequa Phifer. The victorious Hornets outscored East Bladen 14-4 in the third quarter to take command. East Bladen (29-1) got 17 points and 12 rebounds from C.J. Melvin while Jazmine Kemp added 13 points. Salisbury (29-0) forced 24 East turnovers and held the Eagles to 23 percent shooting in the second half.

### **2011: Salisbury 76, East Bladen 44**

In a rematch of last year's title game, Salisbury (27-1) scored the first six points and was never seriously threatened thereafter. Brielle Blair of Salisbury with 20 points was one of four Hornets in double figures and was selected as the Wendy's Kay Yow MVP. The Hornets scored 31 points on 27 East Bladen turnovers. Jazmine Kemp led East Bladen (30-2) with 12 points and eight rebounds.

### **2012: Jordan-Matthews 56, Wilkes Central 39**

Jordan-Matthews completed a perfect 31-0 season as Mylia Garner earned Kay Yow MVP honors, scoring 22 points and grabbing eight rebounds for the victorious Jets, who forced 25 Wilkes Central turnovers and scored 29 points off them. Paige Love was the leading scorer for Wilkes Central (30-2) with 10 points. A 14-4 run in the third quarter by J-M put the Jets in command. Wilkes Central shot just 29.8 percent from the floor for the game.

### **2013: Kinston 51, Canton Pisgah 40**

Lydia Rivers scored 13 points, grabbed nine rebounds and blocked a whopping nine shots—all of the blocks in the first half—as Kinston (27-4) won its first ever women's NCHSAA basketball title. Jada Faison added 13 and Monique Lofton scored 11 for the winners, who fell behind 6-0 and 9-2, failing to score for almost the first six minutes of the game. Brooklyn Allen and Sheridan Pressley each scored 13 for Pisgah (26-7), but the Black Bears shot just 29.8% from the field for the game.

### **2014: T.W. Andrews 57, Bandys 51**

Imani Watkins poured in 27 points to lead T.W. Andrews (25-5) to victory and deal Bandys its first loss in seven trips to the NCHSAA women's championship. Watkins also had five rebounds, four steals and hit a trio of three-pointers. The Red Raiders rallied from a 44-37 deficit after three quarters. Sara Goble scored 17 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for Bandys, which suffered its first loss after 31 consecutive victories.

### **2015: Wilkes Central 44, Kinston 41**

Laken Blackburn had 15 points and nine rebounds and Kailey McNeil hauled down a whopping 19 boards to lead Wilkes Central (26-4) past Kinston for its first NCHSAA women's hoop title. The Lady Eagles led by as many as 14 and held off Kinston (19-11) at the end as the Vikings shot just 24.5 percent from the floor for the game, 15 percent in the first half. Lydia Rivers led Kinston with 15 points and 13 rebounds.



# RETROSPECTIVES

## NCHSAA CLASS 3-A

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### **1987: Trinity 65, North Iredell 64 (OT)**

Trinity scored its third successive one-point victory in the playoffs with this thrilling triumph in overtime. LeAnn Kennedy scored 22 points and hauled down 10 rebounds while Gail White added 20 points for the winners. The game was close throughout and was tied at 59 at the end of regulation. Trinity, with an all-junior roster, wound up 23-4, with North closing at 27-3. The Raiderettes were led by Cheryl Johnson's 18 points, one of four in double figures.

#### **1988: Trinity 69, East Henderson 65 (OT)**

For the second consecutive year, Trinity scored an overtime victory to win the state title, but it was far from easy. Trinity, 25-2, was on the verge of blowing East out, leading 43-23 at halftime, before the Lady Eagles mounted a tremendous comeback. LeAnn Kennedy scored a game-high 34 points for the winners, 20 in the first half, and grabbed nine rebounds. Kim Stephens had 28 points and Tammy Gilliam 18 for East. East Henderson finished 25-5 and capped a fabulous turnaround, having lost 62 straight just a couple of years ago.

#### **1989: Pisgah 65, D.H. Conley 44**

Vickie Henson tallied 23 points and the scrappy Sugar Bear defense forced 18 turnovers as Pisgah rolled to its first women's state basketball title. Vicki Inman contributed 18 points for Pisgah, 28-4, which had opened up a 37-22 halftime advantage. Conley got 13 points from Glenda Hardy while sophomore Lendora Tyson, the Eastern Regional MVP, had 10 points and a game-high 14 rebounds. The Lady Vikings closed the year at 23-6.

#### **1990: North Iredell 53, Tarboro 49**

North Iredell rallied in the final minutes for a come-from-behind victory, holding Tarboro to just nine fourth-quarter points and going on a 19-5 run at the end of the game. Lori Reavis scored 16 points and had nine rebounds for the winners, 23-5 overall, while Tiffany Turner had 17 points and Kim Busch 13 for Tarboro, 23-4. Tarboro's 24 turnovers were a key factor.

#### **1991: West Henderson 68, Harnett Central 61**

Josie Youngblood scored 17 points and Kelly Redick added 16 as West dealt the Lady Trojans their only loss of the year. Youngblood was named the MVP of the game, and she had been named the MVP of the 3-A volleyball championship on this same Carmichael Auditorium floor just a few months earlier. Karen Stanley of Harnett Central led all scorers with 21 points and Pam Spence added 14 for the Lady Trojans, 29-1, West hit 25 of 37 free throws on the night, including seven of eight in the final 1:05. The Lady Falcons wound up the year at 26-5.

#### **1992: Fred T. Foard 69, High Point Central 53**

Junior guard Kristin Teague turned in a great performance to lead Foard to the crown. She scored 28 points, including five of five from three-point range, as the Lady Tigers finished 29-1. Central scored the game's first seven points, but Foard came back to lead 29-25 at the half and outscored the Lady Bison 20-9 in the third period. Jennifer Howard added 19 points for Foard while Christi Shaw paced Central's attack with 11 points. The Lady Bison finished the year 27-3.

#### **1993: High Point Central 101, North Iredell 61**

Unbeaten High Point Central set a women's championship record for points scored and margin of victory in recording its 31st straight win against no losses. Central's press took its toll as the Lady Bison moved out from a 41-30 halftime lead. Sophomore Tina McNeil earned MVP honors with 27 points for the winners, while North Iredell's Desha Hamilton led all scorers with 28. North closed the year at 24-6.

**1994: West Carteret 48, Smoky Mountain 43**

West overcame a six-point deficit entering the fourth period and rallied to win for the 28th time in 30 games. In fact, Smoky led 43-38 with 2:38 to play and the Lady Patriots scored the game's last 10 points. A basket and free throw by Akilah Johnson with 22 seconds left gave West the lead for good. Johnson had 18 points and earned MVP honors while Lisa Bateman led Smoky Mountain, 27-3, with 11 points and 10 rebounds.

**1995: Hickory 67, SouthWest Edgecombe 63 (OT)**

It was a game befitting the number-one and number-two teams in the final Associated Press poll, with number-two knocking off number-one. Datishella Byrd poured in 27 points and grabbed nine rebounds for the winners (27-3), while Monica Smith and Sunteh Derr added 19 apiece. SouthWest, which finished 29-2, got 25 points from Tynesha Lewis. SouthWest led 28-27 at halftime and 40-39 after three, and it was 55-all at the end of regulation. The game featured a whopping 25 lead changes.

**1996: SouthWest Edgecombe 58, North Buncombe 51**

SouthWest completed a perfect 31-0 season, rallying from a 33-21 halftime deficit. Tynesha Lewis of the Lady Cougars earned MVP honors with her 20-point effort, including three three-pointers. Lewis made the hoop that gave SouthWest the lead for good with 2:34 to go. Jackie Mayo added 13 for the winners. Kristy Ray scored 20 for North Buncombe (28-2).

**1997: High Point Central 66, Wilson Fike 64**

Tameika McRae's bucket with 3.6 seconds to play lifted Central (22-9) to the title. Mandy Hall with 22 points (9 of 12 FG, four 3-pointers) was the game's MVP while McRae scored 18 and got eight rebounds. Shemkia Reid led Fike (23-6) with 22 points and 12 rebounds. The Golden Demons rallied from a 14-point third quarter deficit to tie it with 29 seconds left.

**1998: Hickory 37, Wilson Fike 29**

Hickory won for the 31st time in 32 starts in a game which tied the mark as the lowest scoring final in history. Alicia Abernathy had 12 points and six assists for the winners and MVP Shirena James had 10 as both teams shot under 39 percent from the floor. Soph Beth Foster led the Demons (28-2) with 11 points.

**1999: Hickory 69, Eden Morehead 64 (OT)**

Alicia Abernathy scored 28 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and handed out five assists to lead the Lady Red Tornadoes (32-0) to their second straight title. Shirena James added 22 points for the winners, while Amy Simpson scored 22 for Morehead, but that was almost 18 below her average. Morehead led 36-28 at halftime. Hickory hit seven of eight free throws in the overtime after regulation ended 58-all.

**2000: East Henderson 65, Winston-Salem Carver 49**

Cristi Strickland pumped in 22 and MVP Nicki Fauntleroy had 21 points and 16 rebounds for East (28-2), ending the Cinderella season of Carver at 21-6 after a 1-23 slate the year before. The Lady Eagles, who never trailed, led by just seven with 2:48 to go and then pulled away as Carver failed to convert. Porsche Jones had 17 points and Camille Little 13 for the Yellow Jackets.

**2001: Winston-Salem Carver 64, Asheville T.C. Roberson 53**

Point guard Porsche Jones scored 15 points, six assists and five steals, running the team flawlessly as Carver (30-0) made its second straight state final trip a successful one. Camille Little scored 18 points while Nicole Moore and Theresa Bowser had 10 each for the winners. Carver scored 33 points off turnovers. Roberson (25-5) got 17 points from Crystal Jackson. Carver led by 17 at one point before Roberson trimmed it to six and then the Jackets hit some key free throws.

### **2002: High Point Central 56, Rockingham County 53**

Leslie Cook tossed in 22 points, including five three-pointers, to lead the Bison (31-1) to a hard-earned victory. Central led by as many as 16 in the first half before the Lady Cougars (29-3) mounted a courageous comeback and cut it to one with a minute left, before Cook hit a pair of free throws at the 0:44 mark. Freshman Kalen Kropa scored 16 and Carol Lowe had 15 for Rockingham, while Krystion Obie added 15 for Central, which won its fifth NCHSAA women's crown.

### **2003: Asheville 62, Rockingham County 52**

Tootie Smith had 15 points, including four three-pointers, to lead a balanced attack as Asheville denied Rockingham County's second straight title bid. Rashanda McCants and Danielle Burgin both had double-doubles and both blocked four shots apiece for Asheville (29-2), while Kalen Kropa paced Rockingham County (28-3) with 12 points. Rockingham cut the margin to two in the fourth quarter but could get no closer.

### **2004: Asheville 64, Southern Durham 47**

Asheville scored the first nine points of the game and sprinted to a 23-5 first-quarter advantage as the Lady Cougars won their second straight state crown. Rashanda McCants had 21 points for the winners and earned MVP honors while Danielle Burgin dropped in 13 points and grabbed 10 boards. Southern cut a 24-point third-quarter advantage in half by the end of the period but got no closer. Ebony Little led Southern (21-9) with 22 points.

### **2005: Asheville 72, High Point Central 65**

Asheville completed a perfect 32-0 season led by Wendy's MVP Danielle Burgin's 18 points and 11 rebounds. Rashanda McCants contributed 11 points, 15 rebounds and five assists as the Cougars won their third straight state title. The game stayed close, although Asheville never trailed, and Central (30-2) cut the margin to three with 1:27 to go. Teshymia Tillman had a huge game for the Bison, pouring in 35 points.

### **2006: Wilson Beddingfield 64, Newton Fred T. Foard 53**

Jacobia Lucas poured in 23 points, hitting 10 of 14 shots from the floor, to earn Wendy's MVP honors as Beddingfield ended its season at 30-0. Foard managed to shoot just 23.9 percent for the game, including a chilly six for 37 in the second half, although the Lady Tigers closed within five points in the fourth quarter. Jacquia Winstead scored 12 points and grabbed nine rebounds for the winners, while Jami Safrit paced Foard (29-4) with 18 points.

### **2007: Winston-Salem Carver 58, SouthWest Edgecombe 49**

N.C. State-bound Brittany Strachan scored 29 points, grabbed 13 rebounds and blocked four shots, earning Wendy's MVP honors as Carver pulled away in the final four minutes of a close game. Danielle Hardy added a double-double (13 points, 14 rebounds) for Carver, 29-3. SouthWest, in its eighth women's final, got 14 points from Monique Hudson and 12 from Monique Williams to finish at 25-3 overall.

### **2008: Concord 77, Wilson Beddingfield 62**

Concord's high-octane offense and pressure defense resulted in a victory for the Lady Spiders (31-2). Wendy's MVP Nyshia Hammonds had 20 points and Jatzmin Johnson added 16 for the winners, offsetting Jean Best's perfect 10 for 10 from the floor and 21 points for Beddingfield (30-2). Monique Spry scored 17 for the Lady Bruins. Concord took the lead at the end of the first quarter and then went on a 24-7 run to take command.

### **2009: Greensboro Dudley 60, Gastonia Forestview 58**

This classic game featured 17 ties, 14 lead changes and no more than six points ever separated the two teams. Dudley trailed by four with less than three minutes to play and Helen Terry's free throw with 1:27 to go gave the Panthers (30-3) the lead for good. Terry was the Wendy's MVP with 16 points and five assists, but Dudley also got excellent performances from Breonna Patterson with 23 points while Desiree Drayton pulled down 18 rebounds. Shannon Smith of Forestview (27-5) led all scorers with 31 points.

### **2010: Gastonia Forestview 62, South Central 55**

Shannon Smith pumped in 26 points, including hitting 13 of 15 from the foul line, to earn the Wendy's Kay Yow MVP award to lift Forestview to its first state title ever. She got support from Kelsey Harris (13 points) and Bre Armstrong (10 points) as Forestview finished 27-2 overall. South Central, in its first final ever, got 17 points from Danielle Butts and 16 from JaNesha Ebron. The Falcons were hurt by 26 turnovers.

### **2011: Winterville South Central 61, Hickory 58 (OT)**

Janesha Ebron scored 29 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead South Central (28-4) to its first NCHSAA women's basketball crown. No more than eight points ever separated the two teams in the game. Hickory led through most of regulation and South Central hurt itself by going five of 18 from the free throw line. The two teams also combined for 56 turnovers, 29 by South Central. Jada Payne poured in 29 points for Hickory (28-3), including five three-pointers.

### **2012: Harding University 65, Burlington Williams 43**

Harding took advantage of some cold Williams shooting-- just 27.8 percent from the field for the game-- en route to the victory. Abrea Harris, with 18 points, seven rebounds and six assists, earned the Kay Yow MVP award and Alexius Hampton tossed in 14 points for Harding University (26-3). Jaylaa' Stewart led Williams (27-4) with 12 points. Harding broke away from a 12-12 first quarter tie to lead 33-19 at halftime.

### **2013: Harding University 56, Chapel Hill 52**

Abrea Harris scored 11 points, grabbed 12 rebounds and handed out six assists to earn Kay Yow MVP honors as Harding won its second straight state title. Brianna Hamrick led the winners with 16 points and Myicha Drakeford contributed 11. Chapel Hill (30-2) was down by 12 in the first half but battled back to take the lead midway through the third quarter. Jamella Smith and Catherine Romaine each scored 14 for the Tigers, who shot just 20.6% from the floor in the first half and 28.8% for the game.

### **2014: Chapel Hill 69, Hickory 56**

In a battle of teams which entered the championship with perfect records, Chapel Hill jumped on Hickory early and then held off a Red Tornado comeback. Chapel Hill raced to a 23-6 lead after one quarter and led by as many as 26 points before Hickory rallied to cut the margin to five. The Tigers regrouped and hit free throws to put the game away. Raziyah Farrington of Chapel Hill (32-0) was named the Kay Yow MVP with 22 points, one of four Tigers in double figures. Hickory (29-1) was led by Sadasia Tipps with 17 points and Yazman Hannah with 16.

### **2015: Hickory 71, Chapel Hill 53**

In a rematch of last year's final, Hickory (27-0) became the only school in the NCHSAA to complete its varsity season with a perfect record as the two tenacious defenses battled. The defenses forced a lot of turnovers—23 on both sides—but Hickory scored 33 points off turnovers to 17 for the Tigers. Denasia Witherspoon of Hickory was the Kay Yow MVP with 20 points and seven steals, while Sadasia Tipps pulled down 20 rebounds for the winners. Raziya Farrington led Chapel Hill (25-3) with 19 points.

# RETROSPECTIVES

## NCHSAA CLASS 4-A

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### **1987: Asheville 66, Westover 59**

MVP Rhonda Mapp poured in 27 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to power Asheville to the title with a second-half surge, breaking a 27-27 deadlock at the half. Asheville shot 58.3 percent from the floor in the final two periods. Erica Moore had 22 points and 13 rebounds for Westover, 28-3 overall, while Traci Williams had 12 points and eight assists. Asheville completed a 30-1 season.

#### **1988: Vance 53, Freedom 48 (OT)**

Tracey and Shannon Young combined for 42 of Vance's 53 points in the overtime victory for coach Dottie Cobb's team. Tracey scored 23 and Shannon added 19 to go with a game-high 16 rebounds. Barbara Webb led Freedom with 21 points before fouling out. Vance, which played an effective man-to-man defense, ended its year with a 25-3 record while Freedom was 23-4.

#### **1989: Freedom 66, Richmond County 59 (OT)**

The Lady Patriots, in the finals for the second straight year, this time took home the big prize, rallying from a six-point halftime deficit. Kenda Walker poured in 24 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for the winner while Missy Collette added 16 points. Richmond was paced by Shaneequah Chambers, who tossed in 18 points and pulled down 13 rebounds before fouling out. Freedom ended the season with a 27-2 mark while the Lady Raiders were 22-5.

#### **1990: A.C. Reynolds 70, Broughton 65**

Tara Saunooke scored 19 points and Gretchen Fellerath added 18 as Reynolds won a tight one. The game was knotted eight times and there were 22 lead changes. Reynolds closed out a brilliant 29-1 season as Fellerath scored the game's last seven points. Karen Clayton scored 18 for the Lady Caps before fouling out and Markeita Wilson added 16 for the Raleigh team, a young club with one senior on its roster en route to a 26-3 record. The Rockettes' 34-24 edge on the boards was also a key factor.

#### **1991: McDowell 53, Pinecrest 43**

McDowell's high-scoring Lady Titans were held to a season-low 53 points, but it was enough to record their 29th victory in 30 games. Tammy McEntire of McDowell was the game's MVP with 10 points and seven rebounds for the well-balanced Lady Titans, while junior Tiffany Stacey led the winners with 12 points. Pinecrest was paced by 6-3 Melissa Ferris with 17 points, while Jennifer McNeill had 12 points for the 26-5 Lady Patriots. McDowell had topped the 100-point mark four times and was averaging over 80 points per game, but this time was able to win in a slower-paced, defensive-oriented contest.

#### **1992: Pinecrest 57, Hickory 48**

Charlette Hargrove, a 6-3 junior, poured in 32 points, 25 in the second half, to lead Pinecrest past the Lady Red Tornadoes. Hargrove also had 12 rebounds as Pinecrest posted a 27-5 overall mark. Hickory got 14 points apiece from Addria Capps and Datishella Byrd to end its campaign at 21-10. Hickory led 22-15 at the half but Pinecrest scored 11 unanswered points to take the lead. Still, Hickory led 44-43 with 4:02 to play before Hargrove hit some key buckets for the Lady Patriots.

**1993: Cary 61, Freedom 48**

Karen Curtis scored 26 points and hit key free throws down the stretch to lead Cary to its 29th win in 30 games in a contest of streaks. Freedom jumped out to a 10-0 lead, but the Lady Imps battled back to within 16-15 after one quarter. In the final period, Cary held Freedom without a field goal and the Lady Patriots went three minutes without scoring a point. Tiana Tate led Freedom, 27-4, in scoring with 13 points and Cynthia Shade added 12.

**1994: Freedom 80, Terry Sanford 51**

For the fourth year in a row, a Northwestern Conference team made the finals and Freedom made its second straight appearance successful. The Lady Patriots' strong inside game was the difference, led by MVP Natasha Davis with 23 points and 11 rebounds. Terry Sanford (29-2) trailed 60-50 before star soph guard Shea Ralph fouled out with 4:38 to go. Freedom (27-1) then ended the game with a 20-1 run. Sonia Autry with 26 and Ralph with 25 accounted for all the scoring for Terry Sanford, which shot just 31 percent from the floor for the game.

**1995: Freedom 65, Person 55**

Freedom made it two straight state crowns in three consecutive appearances, led by an extraordinarily balanced attack. Five Lady Pats were in double figures, topped by Tara Ramsey with 16 and Amber Snipes with 15 as Freedom rolled to its 29th win in 30 games. Person got 19 points from Melinda Goodson as the Rockettes fell to 26-4. Freedom led by as many as 17 in the final quarter as the Western representative won the 4-A title for the seventh time in 10 years.

**1996: Hillside 73, Terry Sanford 51**

Hillside had just too many guns for Terry Sanford and offset the 40-point effort by all-American Shea Ralph, bound for UConn. Jamie McDonald pumped in 27 points, hitting 10 of 17 from the field, and added five assists to earn MVP honors as the Lady Hornets finished 25-2. Jackie Higgins scored 18 for the winners, who had a 57-41 rebounding edge. Ralph scored all of her team's second half points and finished with over 3,000 points for her career. Terry Sanford finished 29-2, with both losses to Hillside, but shot just 28.8 percent from the floor in the final.

**1997: East Wake 38, North Forsyth 28**

The lowest scoring game in NCHSAA women's state tournament history, but East Wake (24-6) held on to win. The score was 12-12 at the half, with both teams shooting under 32 percent from the field. Shaneka Ellis, with 15 points for the winners, was the MVP while Blake Nichols scored 10 and had 11 boards. Charette Guthrie scored 18 of North Forsyth's 28 points. North finished 25-7 but shot only 28.6% from the field for the game.

**1998: Northern Nash 65, McDowell 53**

Carisse Moody paced a balanced Northern attack with 17 points and nine rebounds as the Lady Knights won for the 27th time in 28 games. McDowell's Jennifer Brooks led all scorers with 22. Northern Nash led 28-25 at the half but McDowell (27-4) got no closer as the Lady Knights then shot 70 percent from the floor in the final 16 minutes to take command.

**1999: Southeast Raleigh 68, McDowell 65**

Ansley Bienvenu hit a long, arching three-pointer with just two-tenths of a second left on the clock to give the second-year school its first NCHSAA championship in any sport. Jessica Hawkins with 19 points was named MVP of the game while Tracy Alston scored 18 and pulled down 15 rebounds for Southeast (29-1). McDowell (29-2) was paced by Brandi Westmoreland's 17 points. McDowell had led by as many as 10 in the third quarter. Jennifer Brooks hit a layup for the Lady Titans to tie the game with 22 seconds to go.

**2000: Asheville A.C. Reynolds 54, Fayetteville Terry Sanford 52**

Lauren Trantham's follow shot with 2.2 seconds to play provided the margin of victory for Reynolds (28-4) against the nationally ranked Lady Bulldogs (28-2). Trantham, with 14 points and 12 rebounds, was the MVP of the game while Kendra Bell of Terry Sanford scored a game-high 19 points, hitting nine of 14 field goals, and dishing out five assists. Reynolds never led until 2:30 remaining in the third quarter and had to rally from five down with just 1:28 to play.

### **2001: Lumberton 69, East Wake 45**

Lumberton outscored East Wake 20-1 in the fourth quarter to blow open the game after East Wake led 35-33 at the half. Yolanda Jones of Lumberton (29-1) was the MVP with 20 points and eight rebounds, while Shakwonda McArn scored 18 and Billie McDowell had 16 points and grabbed 17 rebounds for the winners. Keauna Vinson paced East (28-3) with 21 points and 10 boards. East shot just four of 23 from the field in the second half.

### **2002: Morganton Freedom 68, Lumberton 52**

MVP Kerri Gardin had a monster game for Freedom, with 25 points, 19 rebounds and six assists to lead the Lady Patriots over the defending state champs. Freedom outscored Lumberton 13-5 early in the fourth quarter to take command. Billie McDowell had 17 points and Yolanda Jones added 16 for the Lady Pirates (28-2). Freedom also got 18 points from Tara Tate in winning its fourth NCHSAA women's title.

### **2003: Fayetteville Seventy-First 50, Charlotte Vance 47**

LaToya Pringle earned MVP honors with a huge performance, including 17 points, an all-time state tournament record 28 rebounds, five assists and eight blocks. The lead changed hands eight times but Seventy-First (30-1) took command with a 20-10 edge in the third quarter. Shantia Washington led Vance (28-3) with 13 points but the Lady Cougars shot just 29.5 percent from the field for the contest.

### **2004: Fayetteville Seventy-First 76, McDowell 70**

LaToya Pringle earned her second consecutive MVP and her team its second straight title, scoring 25 points and hauling down 18 rebounds for Seventy-First (30-1), which won its 30<sup>th</sup> straight. Anna Atkinson had 20 points and nine assists for McDowell while Akendra Brown and Emily Lovik scored 19 apiece for McDowell (29-3). Seventy-First hit 11 of 12 free throws down the stretch to preserve the victory.

### **2005: Raleigh Broughton 69, Northern Durham 60**

Broughton took the lead early in the first quarter and never relinquished it en route to the victory. Monica Beck led the Caps with 19 points and Wendy's MVP Jasmine Newkirk contributed 18 as Broughton shot 58 percent from the floor for the game. Utahye Drye with 19 points and Tonia Roundtree with 17 paced Northern (25-3). The Caps led by as many as 13 in the game, although the Ladies cut the margin to six in the final two minutes.

### **2006: South Mecklenburg 60, Apex 53**

South Meck (29-3) used its huge size advantage to dominate the boards 41-28 and down a scrappy Apex team. South led just 26-25 at the half but went on a 16-2 run to open the third quarter. Joy Cheek of South captured the Wendy's MVP honor with a 22-point effort while Kim Durham of Apex (28-1) led all scorers with 24. South led by as many as 17 in the fourth quarter and then held off a late Apex rally.

### **2007: Hope Mills South View 69, Greensboro Grimsley 64**

South View rallied from 17 points down with 6:32 to go in the third quarter and hit some key free throws to upend Grimsley. Guard Amber Calvin earned Wendy's MVP honors with 17 points and 10 assists, including 15 of 17 from the foul line as South View placed five in double figures, Samantha Ramirez scored 16 for the winners, who finished as the only unbeaten NCHSAA varsity team in the state. Trumae Lucas tallied 33 points for Grimsley (30-2).

### **2008: Fayetteville Westover 58, West Charlotte 53**

Tequila Jones scored 20 points and collected 10 rebounds to lead Westover (30-2) to victory and earn the Wendy's MVP honor. Brittney Deas tallied 13 and Tiara Gause 12 for the winners, who earned their first women's basketball title. West Charlotte (29-3) got 22 points from Christal Caldwell and Ebony Caldwell added 10. Westover hit eight free throws in the final 1:51 after the game was tied at 48 with 2:23 remaining.

### **2009: West Charlotte 78, Hillside 60**

This game was much closer than the final would indicate, since West Charlotte led by only two entering the fourth quarter and by three with 3:14 to play before finishing with a 16-1 run. West (28-3) forced 29 turnovers and came up with 17 steals on the night. Christal Caldwell with 19 points, one of five West Charlotte players in double figures, was the Wendy's MVP while Nikki Burton added 16 points and nine boards. Asia Williams paced Hillside (26-6) with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

### **2010: David Butler 87, Green Hope 61**

Butler scored a 4-A women's championship record 87 points and dashed Green Hope's quest for an unbeaten season. Cierra Burdick had a monster game, pouring in 28 points, grabbing four rebounds, handing out four assists and blocking two shots to earn the Wendy's Kay Yow MVP award. Clair Watkins added 20 points and hauled down eight rebounds for Butler (25-4). Kristen Gaffney scored 25 points for Green Hope, in its first women's title game, as the Falcons finished 31-1 overall.

### **2011: Southwest Guilford 44, Millbrook 35**

Southwest Guilford (30-2) won the low scoring game, scoring the first seven points of the contest and never trailing. The victorious Cowgirls shot just 25 % from the floor for the game but Millbrook shot only 26.9 %. Jessica Pone was the Wendy's Kay Yow MVP with 13 points for Southwest while Zena Lovette was the game's leading scorer with 14. Taylor Houston's 10 points led Millbrook (31-2).

### **2012: Millbrook 57, West Forsyth 40**

Briana Day scored 17 points and was selected as the Kay Yow Most Valuable Player as Millbrook (31-2) made its second straight appearance in the state championship game. Ryan Flowers and Mykia Jones scored 15 points apiece for the winners while West Forsyth (25-4) got 11 points from Tori Cook and 10 from Jazmine Jones. Millbrook forced 21 West turnovers and blew it open in the final quarter after leading 36-32 after three. Millbrook outscored West Forsyth 15-2 in the final three and half minutes.

### **2013: Millbrook 62, Page 56**

Briana Day tallied 16 points, grabbed nine rebounds and had three steals to earn her second consecutive Kay Yow MVP award as Millbrook (33-0) won its third straight state title. The balanced Wildcats offset a great performance by Paris Kea of Page, who scored 31 points and was a perfect nine for nine from the charity stripe. Millbrook never trailed, leading by as many as 11 early in the second half, but the Wildcats could never really put page away. Mykia Jones added 15 points for the state champs.

### **2014: Myers Park 61, Southeast Raleigh 46**

Myers Park (30-1) jumped on Southeast Raleigh early and rolled to the title. The Mustangs led 16-4 after one quarter and got a great performance by Rydeiah Rogers, the Kay Yow MVP with a big 25-point, 20-rebound night. Myers Park crushed Southeast on the boards 55-26 and had a 25-0 advantage in second chance points. Tiffany McCarter tallied 18 points and Alexis Hicks 10 for Southeast (26-3).

### **2015: Myers Park 52, Southeast Raleigh 47**

Myers Park (29-1) never trailed but had to hold off the Bulldogs at the end after leading by as many as 13 in the first half. Rydeiah Rogers was the Kay Yow MVP for the second year in a row with 15 points and seven rebounds, and Aliya Mazyck added 12 points and six boards for the winners. Amber Richardson's 21 points paced Southeast Raleigh (26-4), while Jade Phillips had 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Bulldogs.