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March 23, 2012

Chris Roemer/Doug Benton

Northern California will try to build on its two state titles last year with a shot to win a majority of the championships this week. The five games will also be the final chance to see talented seniors and also get an early look at the next stars.

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Division I: Mater Dei vs. Berkeley

Jordan Adams 6-foot-1 G Mater Dei (2012): The USC bound Adams is a familiar face in these championship settings and one people have become accustomed to for awhile. Adams is the Monarchs' floor general and leader out on the floor. She has superior size at her position and flourishes with the ball in her hands with a chance to make a big play dishing it off in the open floor. she can knock it down from the outside, but she is streaky. A versatile perimeter threat who can impact the game distributing, hitting the timely shot, or posting up around the basket. Last, but not least she has a winning persona oozing with confidence.

Elisha Davis 5-foot-5 PG Berkeley (2012): Davis can shoot it out to NBA range and has the court vision to set up her teammates for easy looks. She is also a tough on-ball defender in being ranked as a 4-star prospect and No. 3 in the NCP Top 40. She is headed to Arizona State and will need to produce an efficient standout game for Berkeley to stay in this one.



Elisha Davis needs a stellar game for Berkeley to defeat Mater Dei

Nirra Fields 5-foot-9 G Mater Dei (2012): The UCLA bound senior is one of the best scorers in the country period. Fields is a strong and athletic off guard who also has the ability to handle and dish the rock in transition. She's incredibly explosive in the middle of the floor and plays much taller than advertised. Not only does she produce in transition, but she is a very capable long range threat too. She gets to the rim in a variety of ways, but has been known to use ball fakes routinely. She has had some big scoring games this year and we could be seeing another one from her this Saturday. She will be tough to stop and will, and should be, a huge priority for the Yellowjackets.

Alexas Williamson 5-foot-9 G Mater Dei (2012): Headed to Washington State, Williamson is the third Monarch guard headed to the Pac-12. It is hard to say a Pac-12 signee is under the radar, but Williamson can hurt you if you pay too much attention to Adams and Fields to put more pressure on Berkeley's defense.

Rachel Howard 6-foot-0 F Berkeley (2013): Howard has started to come into her own this season. The junior rebounds well, is a tough post defender and has shown improved shooting touch from 15 feet and in. Can she continue to produce against the skill and athleticism of Mater Dei?

Division II: J.W. North vs. Mitty

Brittney Crain 5-foot-9 F JW North (2012): This off guard displays playmaking skills from the wing with a powerful body. She thrives off of situations where she finds herself going one on one with her defender and an opportunity to get to the line for a score. A tough minded guard, she chooses to body up against the offensive player allowing her physicality to control the opposition.

Amanda Lovely 6-foot-2 F Mitty (2012): Lovely has become more of a post player this year, but is still a threat as a ball handler and in the open court. Headed to Pepperdine, Lovely was vital in helping Mitty breaking the St. Mary's-Stockton press last week and has been consistent throughout her senior year. She is ranked No. 7 in the NCP Top 40.

Kalyn Simon 5-foot-9 G Mitty (2013): Simon is a good standstill shooter and a tough perimeter defender in drawing plenty of Division I interest on a deep Mitty squad. She is ranked No. 15 in the NCP Top 40 and has been one of the fastest risers in the class this season.

Kelli Hayes 6-foot-1 W Mitty (2014): Hayes is full of potential and should be among the top players in a loaded 2014 class. She was a difference maker in the regional final win over St. Mary's-Stockton in playing with great energy and handling the ball well for her size. Hayes is an x-factor type player who could be the difference in Mitty winning a state title on Friday.

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Division III: Laguna Hills vs. Bishop O'Dowd

Celia Marfone 6-foot-0 F Laguna Hills (2012): The UC Davis bound senior is a fundamental face up 4 who has the ability to be a perimeter threat. Marfone possesses a nice stationary mid-range game and operates along the baselines well. The ball touches and goes through her hands quite frequently and she serves as a viable passing option to distribute the ball around in the half court. She had a big game in knocking off Mission Bay from San Diego and if her team is going to have a shot at claiming a championship this weekend she will have to have another big performance for her team.

Oderah Chidom 6-foot-3 Post Bishop O'Dowd (2013): The top ranked player in the 2013 class has started to separate herself throughout the season. She has drawn interest from high major programs around the country due to her athleticism, being able to work from the high post and the block and developing an inside presence. She was outstanding in the regional finals against Miramonte.

Kendall Waters 6-foot-1 Post Bishop O'Dowd (2013): Waters teams with Chidom and Breanna Brown to form an imposing frontline. Waters has good touch around the basket and is a strong last line of defense to allow the Dragons' guards to pressure the ball. She is a 5-star recruit and ranked No. 3 in the NCP Top 40.

Asha Thomas and Aisia Robertson G Bishop O'Dowd (2015): Last year, the freshman duo of Gabby Green and Mikayla Cowling nearly helped St. Mary's-Berkeley to the Division IV title. Thomas and Robertson will look to do the same for the Dragons in Division III as Thomas is coming off of a strong regional finals and Robertson may be the top freshman in the area. Both players figure to be 1-2 in the 2015 rankings.

Division IV: La Jolla Country Day vs. Salesian

Malina and Maya Hood, La Jolla Country Day, 2012: The University of San Diego bound sisters are ultra-athletic off guards whose games complement each other and can prove to be deadly from their wing positions. Malina has the stronger frame of the two and uses it to her advantage in a more physical style of play. An explosive leaper she competes on the glass and rebounds well. At times Malina will go down low and post up versus a mismatch. Maya on the other hand does more purely from her wing position. She handles and creates off of penetration with the ability to score off the bounce. Both sisters will get out and defend with pressure in the half and full court.

Kelsey Plum 5-foot-9 G La Jolla Country Day (2013): Plum is a left handed lead guard with a scorer's mentality, who when on the floor makes everyone around her better. The leader for her team handles and directs game with a high level basketball IQ. She has a quick release with consistent range to the arc and can pull up knocking down the shot off the dribble as well. Off penetration Plum handles contact well in the lane in still being able to finish. Her and her LJCD team has been tested coming up through the competitive Division IV of Southern California.

Mariya Moore 5-foot-11 W Salesian (2014): Moore is one of the top sophomores in the area and was the best player on the floor in the Division IV regional finals against St. Mary's-Berkeley. From her performance last week, we wrote, "Moore was the best player on the floor on the night where her team needed her most. She was physical on the floor and put her body to work. At both ends she banged and tussled for position drawing the foul calls which presented her with the chance to shoot 11 free throws in the game. Moore wanted to win and in doing so she was getting everyone involved with touches and open shots. At times her decisions with the ball could be called into question, but she was over anxious trying to make the next big play. Throughout the contest she chose not to shoot the ball too far away from the paint instead choosing to pound her frame down low block to block. Down the stretch of the game she deferred to being more of a playmaker in the role of the distributor high and extended away from the scoring area. In the closing seconds the fate of the game was decided as she sealed it going 3-4 from the free throw line."

MaAne' Mosley 5-foot-10 W Salesian (2015): Mosley is the second leading scorer for the Pride in being an impressive freshman this year. After watching her in the regional finals, we wrote, "Every lead player has a solid complimentary running mate and that is what Mosley is to Moore. Her teammate Moore was busy using her size in the paint and her ability with the ball leaving plenty of need for Mosley in other areas. Mosley was an aggressive presence with her athleticism and build allowing her to match up with multiple players. Mosley used her strengths to slash the defense for higher percentage shots whether coming from lay ups or pull ups just outside the key. Off the dribble she was a tough guard because of her ability to shoot over the opposing player and elevate up with good bounce. Suited for being a strong, slashing perimeter wing she needs to work on her ball control and limiting the turnovers."

Division V: Mission Prep vs. Brookside Christian

Tiara Tucker 5-foot-6 G Brookside Christian (2014): The sophomore is a bona fide scorer and impressed again in the regional finals against Eastside Prep. "Tucker is the floor general, and the one responsible for pushing the pace and leading charge against Eastside Prep. Tucker did a good job of getting out and pushing the ball up the floor and speeding up the game. She produced in the open floor fast break situations driving through end to end and getting the easy looks right at the basket. In the outlet she was quick to drive through the defense and delivering the ball to get some early looks in the offense to other players. Defensively she was active chasing down the opposing ball handlers and trying to force the turnovers."

Ra'kyra Gabriel 6-foot-1 F Brookside Christian (2015): Gabriel has been a solid freshman this year and played well against the size of Eastside Prep last week. "Gabriel is a promising young post prospect coming out of the freshman class. She has good size at 6-foot-1 and moves well both end to end and side to side. She's a solid thread from the high post area. She's a threat to catch and face for the shot or attack with two dribbles all the way in for the score. She proved to be a nice option to bring the ball up and handle against the pressure looking very comfortable while in the role. Displaying some more of her versatility she defended well not only around the blocks, but covering open space in the pressure of the full court. On her lone three point shot she connected with a nice looking stroke and release."

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