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Mater Dei and Bishop O'Dowd take home titles as expected, while a new power emerges out of Stockton as the state championships concluded at Power Balance Pavilion with some record-setting performances.

Talk about it in the Message

Bishop O'Dowd 62, Laguna Hills 24

Looking to avenge a loss in last year's state finals, O'Dowd (30-3) took control from the opening tip as the Oakland school held Laguna Hills scoreless for the first five minutes of the game, jumped out to a 10-0 lead, and were never challenged in a dominating 62-24 win.

In the process, the Dragons set a new state record, regardless of division, for the least number of points allowed.

While establishing their trio of 6-foot-4 post players (Oderah Chidom, Breanna Brown, and Kendall Waters) on offense, the Dragons' guards rattled the Lady Hawks on the defensive end and converted turnovers into easy buckets. Ariell Bostick was a particular hindrance to any Laguna Hills (26-9) ball-handler. After converting the second of two consecutive steals for breakaway lay-ups, one only had to observe and compare the body language of Bostick and that of Laguna's guards to know that this one was over before it really started.

O'Dowd led 18-6 after one period and 34-14 at the half. Worse for Laguna Hills, they managed just four field goals while the Dragons shot 52% from the field.



Kendal Waters was a dominant post presence for Bishop O'Dowd

The second half was no improvement as Laguna Hills scored just 10 points (only a field goal in the final period) and never reached double-digits in any period as they shot a painful 18% for the game.

Mater Dei 57, Berkeley 40

In the highlight game of the day, the Mater Dei Monarchs beat Berkeley for the second year in a row for the state title, 57-40. Mater Dei won last season, 59-47, and this marked Berkeley's fifth loss in the state championship in the last seven years and their overall record in the finals went to 2-9.

In a fast-paced first quarter, Berkeley's offense was crisp as the Yellowjackets hit their perimeter shots and led 16-15 after one period, but the Monarchs tightened up their defense and held Berkeley (27-3) scoreless for three minutes before two free throws by guard Elisha Davis ended the drought. "We were trading baskets and then we started to guard people," said Mater Dei coach Kevin Kiernan. Nothing could have been more accurate.

Mater Dei (34-3) put on a defensive clinic the rest of the game as they used their speed and length to harass Berkeley and hold the 'Jackets to a meager 24 points over that span.

After another nationally-ranked guard, Nirra Fields, wrapped a 10-point barrage of her own around Davis' free throws, it became apparent that the Yellowjackets were, as has been the case in their history at the state championships, simply in over their head.

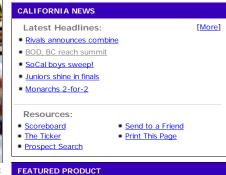
Fields finished with a game-high 24 points, nine boards, and six assists, Alexis Williamson added 16, and Jordan Adams, a top 10 player in her own right, had a full night with 13 points, 11 rebounds, three steals, and three blocked shots.

For Berkeley, Rachel Howard led with 12 points and Davis contributed 10 points and nine rebounds.

Div. V: Brookside Christian 70, Mission Prep 64

Tiara Tucker lived up to her billing with 28 points as the Brookside Christian Knights (30-4) took home a state title in their inaugural appearance with a 70-64 win over the Mission Prep Royals (32-2). The Royals are now 0-7 in state titles games and this was their first loss since last December.

Down by five after one guarter, the Knights, led by the speedy Tucker, turned it up a notch in the second period by outscoring Mission Prep 23-11 and taking a lead into the locker room that they would not





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relinquish the rest of the game. "She was very impressive for a sophomore and just so fast," said Mission Prep coach John Krossa.

Brookside lost the battle on the boards (37-26 for Mission Prep) but won the war from the field as they shot an impressive 47%.

The Knights managed to withstand a last-minute rally by Mission Prep, and despite their youth (one senior on a roster that includes seven freshmen) the Knights were prepared for the challenge. "We scheduled a lot of upper-division teams such as Sacramento, Deer Valley, and St. Francis-Sacramento in order to be ready for pressure games like this one," said Brookside coach Que K Ngo.

6-foot-1 freshman Ra'Kyra Gabriel added 16 points and seven boards for Brookside Christian while Bri Harvey led Mission Prep with 22 points (14 in the second half) and leading scorer Jenna Dunbar contributed 17 points.

Player report

Tiara Tucker 5-foot-6 G Brookside Christian (2014) - With speed and a great handle, Tucker is quite the weapon. A scoring machine at 26.3 points per game, she displayed an array of offensive moves from drives from either side of the floor with either hand, three-point range from both corners, and the ability to draw the defense and find teammates for easy lay-ups and wide-open jumpers. Even more impressive, the sophomore guard did not force the action as she did it all within the framework of the Knights' sets as evidenced by her 28 points, accomplished on just 17 shot attempts and 12 attempts from the line.

Ra'Kyra Gabriel 6-foot-1 F Brookside Christian (2015) - The long freshman was impressive on the big stage as the Knights' main inside threat and perfect complement to Tucker. With 18 points on 8-of-12 shooting and seven rebounds, Gabriel finishes inside, runs the floor well, and is a decent defender in the post.

Bri Harvey 5-foot-10 G-F Mission Prep (2012) - Harvey, although not as athletic as most inside players, got great position in the paint as she drew a slew of fouls and cashed out at the line. She ended her prep career on a solid note with 22 points, nine rebounds, and a perfect 12-fo-12 from the free throw line.

Ariell Bostick 5-foot-4 G Bishop O'Dowd (2013) - The speedy southpaw with the flashy game was in rare form. Bostick set the tone of this game on the defensive side of the ball as she rattled Laguna Hills' back court like Rickey Henderson on the base paths as her anticipation of the opponents' every move un-nerved ball-handlers into submission. The result was five steals and some impressive passes with major velocity to set up easy scores for her teammates.

Breanna Brown 6-foot-4 F-C Bishop O'Dowd (2013) - As usual, Brown used her body to her advantage for great position inside as she put up 12 second-half points. She also played great defense in the paint and blocked a shot while literally standing still.

Aisia Robertson 5-foot-6 G Bishop O'Dowd (2015) - Like her back court mates, Robertson was a thorn in the Lady Hawks' side on defense, but she lit them up at the other end with three treys. A ball-hawk who can score, Robertson will be a top player in the region over the next three years.

Kendall Waters 6-foot-4 F-C Bishop O'Dowd (2013) - Waters intimidated Laguna Hills in the paint and never let their post players get on track. She also garnered the game's only double-double with 14 points and 14 boards.

Nirra Fields 5-foot-9 G Mater Dei (2012) - The No. 11 prospect in the nation was a major way for Mater Dei to fill the void left by the graduation of UConn freshman Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis. An Ohio transplant, Fields was by far the fastest and best player on the floor and she got her shot whenever she wanted. Headed to UCLA, Fields was obviously a match-up problem for the 'Jackets and subsequently tallied a game-high 28 points on quick slashes to the basket and a mid-range jumper. Her first step is lightening quick, she can literally stop on a dime, and she has nice elevation on her jumper. The Bruins have received an early Christmas gift.

Jordan Adams 6-foot-1 G Mater Dei (2012) - Adams has the entire package with great size, a quick first step, and a great handle to go with a superior stroke. The USC-bound guard will be a huge factor at the next level. The No. 6 prospect in the country, Adams stays under control at all times offensively, looks to set the tempo and get her teammates in good situations, and she utilizes her length effectively to bother shooters on the defensive end.

Alexas Williamson 5-foot-9 G Mater Dei (2012) - Another Pac-12 bound player from Mater Dei, Williamson was big with 16 points, but even larger in that she was instrumental in the Monarchs containment Berkeley's Elisha Davis. A top-notch defender, she will compete in the Pac-12 against Davis and her current Mater Dei teammates, Adams and Fields, when she heads to Washington State next fall.

Rachel Howard 5-foot-10 F Berkeley (2012) - A solid wing who had a great career at Berkeley, Howard hit the mid-range jumper and she showed her ability to knock down the three-pointer. Despite not getting a bunch of shots, Howard still managed to lead the 'Jackets in scoring.'

Elisha Davis 5-foot-5 G Berkeley (2012) - Headed to Arizona State, Davis did not have a good game as Mater Dei's length hindered her shot, inside and on the perimeter as evidenced by her seven turnovers. Davis is a gamer, but she was seriously challenged players by the taller (and just as fast) Monarchs.

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