



2022 NMAA State Basketball Championships



Fort Sumner/House Girls Capture 1A Title

The Fort Sumner/House girls basketball team overcame some obstacles on their run through the Class 1A bracket, but when the buzzer sounded the Vixens lifted the championship trophy. Fort Sumner/House (21-4) beat Melrose in the title game 56-30 to claim the Class 1A State Title. It was the fourth meeting between these two rival schools.

Fort Sumner/House jumped out to an early 11-2 lead and never looked back. The Vixens put together a 10-0 run to take a 36-18 lead into half-time. Avery Cavett led the Vixens with 14 points. Fort Sumner/House held Melrose (22-8) to just 17.1% shooting and outrebounded Melrose 42-29.



Following the victory, head coach Ben Segura said his team's bus broke down and a player's luggage was stolen during the week. "This team has been through a lot," said Segura. "The fact we were able to come out and play our best game today, you can't beat that feeling."

Clayton Girls Basketball on Top

Clayton and Escalante provided a fantastic finish to the Class 2A championship game. It was a fast and furious final minute between the top two seeds in the bracket. With 33 seconds in the game, Escalante's Emma Maestas got the Lobos within one, 46-45. On the next possession, Brycelyn Martinez stole the ball and scored the go-ahead basket with 12 seconds left. Clayton inbounded the ball to Emersen Beiland who drove the length of the court and scored for Clayton with just five seconds left as the Yellowjackets beat the Lobos 48-47 to win their first girls basketball title since 1994.

Escalante built up a 25-14 halftime lead, but Clayton (22-5) put together a strong second half behind an 11-2 run to close out the third quarter and eventually take the lead in the 4th. Akira Herrera led the #2 seeded Yellowjackets with 14 points, Beiland added 11. Brycelyn Martinez had 20 points for Escalante (23-5).



It's the 13th state title for Clayton overall.

Robertson Girls Repeat

The Robertson Lady Cardinals were back in the championship for the second straight year and this time walked off the court with the championship trophy, beating Santa Fe Indian School in the title game 37-31.

Robertson returned their entire roster from the 2021 runner-up squad and won it's second 3A title in the last four seasons. The Lady Cardinals (28-1) led after a low scoring two quarters, 16-9, and built up a 14-point lead in the third. The Lady Braves took the lead early in the fourth quarter, but Robertson closed the game on a 12-3 run to give them a six-point championship victory. Jayden Jenkins was the only player in double figures with 16 points.



Kirtland Central Girls Captures 20th State Title

For the first time since 2012, Kirtland Central is back on top of the basketball world. The Lady Broncos beat Bernalillo 55-32 in the Class 4A Championship game. It's the 20th overall state championship for Kirtland Central (27-5).

The top-seeded Lady Broncos (27-5) were led by senior guard Aisha Ramone with 23 points and 8 steals. Kirtland led by 14 points in the first half, despite an 0-for-9 performance from 3-point range in the first two quarters. In the third, Kirtland went 5-10 from three-point range and led 42-22 heading into the final 8-minutes.



Kirtland Central held Bernalillo (28-2) below their season average of 67 points a game and kept Gatorade New Mexico Player of the Year, Juliana Aragon, in check with only 13 points.

Volcano Vista Girls Finish Undeafed

Perfection. The Volcano Vista girls basketball team capped off an undefeated season with a 49-32 win over Hobbs in the Class 5A Championship. It's back-to-back championships for the Hawks who finished the year on a 42-game win streak dating back to the previous season.

It was the third consecutive season these two schools met in the championship. Volcano Vista led for most of this game, outscoring the Eagles in every quarter. The Hawks led 23-14 at the break and added an 11-2 run to end the third quarter. Volcano Vista was led by Senior Jaelyn Bates with 18 points. Taejhuan Hill added 12 points and 10 rebounds.



Volcano Vista is the first large-school division team to go undefeated since Clovis in 2005.

Magdalena Boys Earn Second Straight Title

The Magdalena Steers continue to dominate the 1A Classification, winning the state title for the second straight year. The defending state champs beat Elida 71-55 at the 2022 State Basketball Championships. Magdalena (31-1) jumped on Elida in the first eight minutes with a 14-0 run midway through the opening quarter to build a 24-8 lead. The Steers started the third quarter on another 10-2 run and cruised home to their second title in as many years.

D'Shaun Vinyard led the Steers with a game-high 30 points and senior Joren Mirabal added 21. Magdalena is 76-2 over the past three seasons.



Menaul Boys Wins First Title

2022 will be etched in Menaul School history as the year the Panthers won their very first boys basketball title. The Panthers beat Pecos 70-63 to win the Class 2A State Championship.

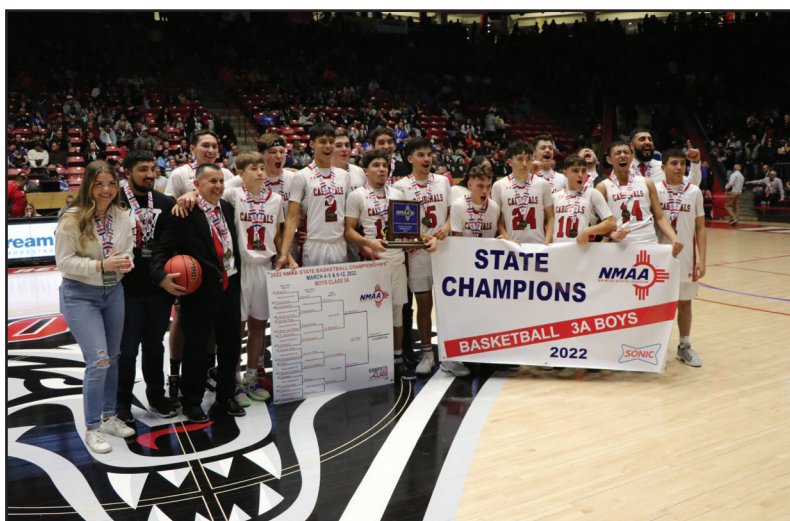
Menaul was up as many as 10 points in the first half, but Pecos cut it to 4 by the break. Menaul went up by a dozen in the second half and held on down the stretch for the victory. Menaul (23-4) had four players in double figures, led by Maximus Mkpa with 19 points and an impressive 23 rebounds. Praschant Chouhan added 16 points, Brandon Oloumou had 15, and Alexander Rael hit four three pointers for his 12 points.



Robertson Wins 3A Boys Championship

The Robertson Cardinals beat rival St. Michael's 65-56 to win the Class 3A State Basketball Championship. It's the school's first boys basketball championship. The Robertson (23-6) roster is made up of several athletes who helped the Cardinals win a state football title in the fall. One of those athletes is senior Matthew Gonzales who led all scorers with 26 points, 20 of those in the second half. Mateo Contreras added 19 points and Bodie Schlinger had 10.

The Cardinals led wire to wire against district foe St. Michael's (16-15). First year head coach James Branch also won a state title with Questa in 1994. "Coach Branch came in and said, 'Our goal is to play in the Pit in March and get the blue trophy,'" said Gonzales. "We put trust in him since day one and he put his trust in us and the ultimate goal was to get here and we got it done."



Highland back on Top after 50 Years

Highland High School won their first basketball state title in 1972 and 50 years later the Hornets added another blue trophy to the resume. The #1 Hornets beat Del Norte 76-59 to win the 2022 Class 4A State Championship.

Highland (26-3) was powered by 6'9" senior Jose Murillo who posted a line of 40 points and 20 rebounds. In four state tournament games, Murillo scored 143 points and pulled down 73 rebounds. Del Norte (15-15) fell behind by as many as 12 points in the first half, but evened it up in the third. Highland outscored the Knights 25-13 in the final quarter on the way home to the victory. Del Norte junior Shane Douma-Sanchez led all scorers with 36 points.



Volcano Vista Wraps Up Undefeated Season with Championship

In a matchup of two unbeaten teams, the 2022 Class 5A State Basketball Championship proved to be a classic that wouldn't be decided in four quarters. Number two Volcano Vista took down top seed Las Cruces 66-55 in overtime to win the state title and cap off an undefeated season. Volcano Vista (29-0) is the first large school boys team to post a perfect record since Hobbs did it in 1999. The Volcano Vista girls basketball team capped off an undefeated season with a state title the night before, giving the school the distinction of being the first high school in New Mexico to have both their boys and girls post undefeated seasons.



Volcano Vista scored the first points of the game with an emphatic rebound-slam dunk by Sean Alter, who finished with 15 points, and the Hawks led for most of the game. The Hawks were up 42-32 in the fourth quarter, but Las Cruces fought back. The Bulldawgs (31-1) took the lead in the final minutes. With Las Cruces on top 49-47 in the closing seconds, Volcano Vista's Ja'Kwon Hill drove the lane and was fouled with 4 seconds left. Hill hit both free throws to force the game into overtime, as part of his team-leading 17 points. In the extra minutes, Jaden Malone scored the first five points to give the Hawks the lead for good as Volcano Vista outscored Las Cruces 17-6 in overtime. Senior guard Deuce Benjamin led the Bulldawgs with a game-high 27 points.