



2023 Nusenda Credit Union State Basketball Championships

Roy/Mosquero Takes Home Girls 1A Title

For the 2nd time in 3 years, the Roy/Mosquero girls basketball team finished the season on top of Class 1A. Big Blue (28-2) beat To'Hajiilee 62-61 to win the title at the 2023 Nusenda Credit Union State Basketball Championships. To'Hajiilee (27-2) was making its first appearance in a state final and kept it close the entire way. Roy/Mosquero's Tanna Crisp scored the go-ahead layup with less than 10 seconds to play to seal the win. Crisp led the way with a game-high 21 points. Her teammate Sylvania Baca added 18. Roy/Mosquero also battled the boards, outrebounding To'Hajiilee by a dozen. "It was a battle, and we were fortunate to get that last basket, it could have gone either way and it went our way," said Roy/Mosquero head coach Blair Clavel.



No. 7 Seed Texico Wins 2A Girls Championship

A seed is just a number when it comes to the state basketball tournament as the No.7 Texico Lady Wolverines ran through the bracket to finish the season on top. Texico (17-13) took down top seed Escalante 44-30 to win the Class 2A Title at the 2023 Nusenda Credit Union State Basketball Championships. Texico came into the tournament with a 14-14 record and ran through the top three seeds in the bracket. After a close first half with the Lobos, Texico distanced themselves from Escalante (22-8) in the third quarter with an 11-3 run. It's the 11th overall state title for Texico. Emma Wahlen had a team high 12 points and 10 rebounds. Catelyn Breshears added 10 points. Texico outrebounded Escalante 47-33. Texico's defense prevented Escalante from scoring from long distance as the #1 team went 1-17 from three-point range. "Whenever our record was questionable, these girls still bought in with what we taught and in the end they battled together," said Texico head coach Jaylyn Cook. "I told the girls seven was just a number and we wanted to use it as motivation and I said, 'Let's go get the #1'".



Tohatchi Dominates 3A Girls Championship Game

Tohatchi used an early 14-0 run to jump on Santa Fe Indian School and claim the Class 3A Title at the 2023 Nusenda Credit Union State Basketball Championships. The Lady Cougars (24-9) beat the Lady Braves 46-24 for their 2nd state title in school history. Santa Fe Indian School (23-8) scored the first basket of the game but didn't get another point for more than nine minutes. A 12-point halftime lead was up to 21 by the start of the 4th quarter. Tohatchi's defense held the Lady Braves to 2-20 shooting from three-point range. Brooke Badonie and Marisa Denetso each scored 12 points to lead Tohatchi. "I'm very proud of these ladies, they're very hardworking and grateful they were able to take us on this journey," said Tohatchi head coach Tanisha Bitsoi.



Rivals Gallup-Kirtland Squared Off in 4A Girls Title Game

In front of a packed Pit crowd, Gallup beat district rival and defending state champ Kirtland Central 57-47 to claim the Class 4A Title at the 2023 Nusenda Credit Union State Basketball Championships. The Lady Broncos (29-4) started the game with a six-point lead after the first eight minutes, but Gallup went on a 25-8 run to end the half and Kirtland Central never recovered. The Lady Bengals (28-5) had four players in double figures, led by Rylie Whitehair with 18 points and 13 rebounds. It's the 2nd state title in three seasons for Gallup and their seventh overall championship.



"We came out in the second quarter and played lights out and built up a lead and these kids are unbelievable," said Gallup head coach Todd McBroom.

Hobbs Girls Capture 5A Blue Trophy

Hobbs and Volcano Vista met up in the championship game for the fourth straight year. In 2023, it was the Hobbs Eagles coming out on top beating the two-time defending state champs 52-47 at the Nusenda Credit Union State Basketball Championships. The Eagles (28-3) never trailed and a 12-4 run in the third quarter made it tough for the Hawks (27-4) to catch up. Hobbs had four players in double figures. Jayla David and Nakia Mojica each scored 12 points, Bhret Clay added 11 points, and Brynn Hargrove scored 10. Hobbs has now played in the final each of

the last six years, winning state titles in three of them. "We're young, but we've been here six times in a row and a lot of these girls have been here three times and we held our composure," said Hobbs head coach Joe Carpenter.



Fort Sumner/House Wins 1A Boys Basketball Title

The Fort Sumner/House Foxes did what no other team had been able to do for two years, beat Magdalena. Fort Sumner/House took down the previously unbeaten top seed 45-43 to win the Class A Title at the 2023 Nusenda Credit Union State Basketball Championships. Fort Sumner/House led most of the game, but Magdalena's Kael Stephens hit a three pointer that tied it up at 43-43 with less than ten ticks on the clock. Chance Thomson of Fort Sumner/House was fouled on the inbounds play, and he hit two free throws with six seconds left to seal the deal for the



Foxes (29-2). Magdalena (31-1) was riding a 46-game win streak dating back to last season. Cash Burney led the Foxes with 14 points. "Five years ago, was the last time we were up on this podium and these current kids were young and this has been their goal since they were brought up," said head coach Brad Holland.

Pecos Back on Top of 2A Boys Basketball

The Pecos Panthers are back on top of the basketball world. The #1 seed beat Academy for Technology and the Classics 52-49 to win the Class 2A Title at the 2023 Nusen-da Credit Union State Basketball Championships. ATC (26-7) reached the title game in their first state tournament appearance. The Phoenix built up an 11-point lead at halftime but couldn't hold off the powerhouse Panthers. Pecos (28-3) put together an 18-4 third quarter run to take the lead for good. Jodaiah Padilla led Pecos with 14 points. It's the fifth state title for the Panthers in the last seven years. "We waited a long time because last year (losing in the final) was a tough one and we've been waiting for this opportunity and we pulled together and got a good win," said Pecos head coach Arthur Gonzales.



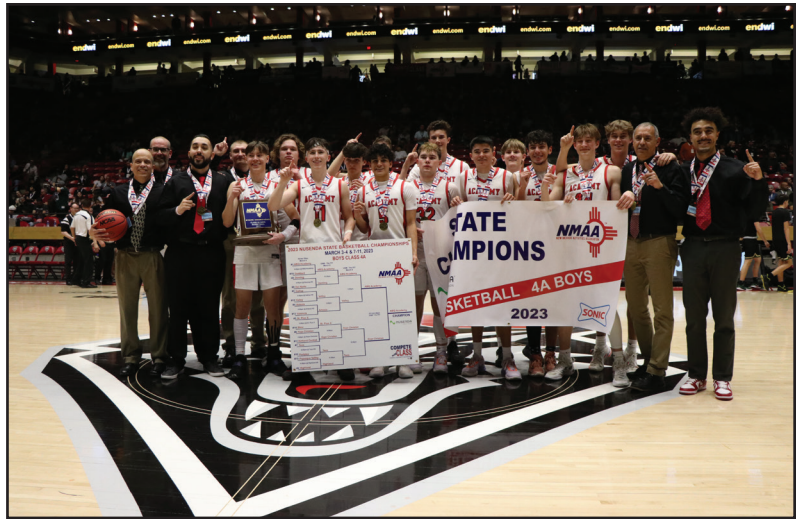
St. Michael's Wins 3A Boys Championship; First Time since 2012

It was a repeat matchup in the finals between district rivals St. Michael's and Robertson, but this time the Horsemen finished the season on top. St. Michael's took down defending state champ Robertson 66-49 to win the Class 3A Title at the 2023 Nusen-da Credit Union State Basketball Championships. Robertson (26-6) built up an 11-point lead after one quarter, but failed to score a basket the rest of the half. A 13-1 second quarter run gave St. Michael's (27-4) a one-point lead at the break. The game was tied at 35 after three quarters, but the Horsemen blew the game open with in the final quarter, outscoring their rival 31-14 in the final 8 minutes. Adam Montoya led St. Michael's with 20 points, 15 of those in the fourth quarter. Sabiani Ross scored 10 of his 15 in the final quarter as well. It's the first state championship for St. Michael's since 2012. "These guys put it all out on the court for us each and every day and a 22-game win streak is almost hard to do in high school basketball," said St. Michael's head coach Gerard Garcia.



ABQ. Academy gets First Blue Trophy since 1994

In the largest margin of victory of any of the final games in this year's tournament, Albuquerque Academy beat Hope Christian 70-39 to win the Class 4A Title at the 2023 Nusenda Credit Union State Basketball Championships. The top seed outscored the Huskies in every quarter. The Chargers (27-3) were led by Joe Jack with 27 points. Andres Rivera added 17 and Kellan Gehres scored 15 points. Hope Christian (21-11) struggled from long distance shooting 3-19 from three-point range. It's the first state title for Academy (27-3) since 1994 and 9th overall championship. "I stared at the wall in our gym last night, '94 was the last time we put a banner up, and at our pregame I had the players stare at the wall, and I told them we want a 2023 up there and we got it," said Academy head coach Marcos CdeBaca.



Volcano Vista Boys Basketball wins Back to Back Titles

The last final of the tournament matched up brother against brother. Volcano Vista head coach Greg Brown was going up against Sandia head coach Danny Brown and the Matadors in a battle of 1 versus 2. In the end, Volcano Vista took down Sandia 43-31 to win the Class 5A Title at the 2023 Nusenda Credit Union State Basketball Championships. It's the second straight title for Volcano Vista (29-1). Sandia hit 6 of their first 8 shots, but only made five more field goals the entire game. The defending state champs trailed Sandia (26-6) by 6 points at halftime but rallied to take a three point lead heading into the final quarter. The Hawks put the low scoring game out of reach in the final quarter, outscoring the Matadors 21-6. Volcano Vista outrebounded Sandia 35-22 and only allowed the Matadors to hit two three pointers in the game. Kenyon Aguino led Volcano Vista with 17 points and 11 rebounds. It's the fourth overall state title for head coach Greg Brown, three of those with the Hawks. "I'm proud of them, they're an awesome group," said Brown.

