



2024 Nusenda Credit Union State Basketball Championships

Fort Sumner/House Wins Girls 1A Title

Ft. Sumner/House beat Logan 54-36 to claim the Girls 1A State title at the 2024 Nusenda Credit Union State Basketball Championships. It's their second state title in three years. Ft. Sumner/House outscored Logan in every quarter and won the battle of the boards 46-36. Emmarie Casaus led the Vixens with 18 points and her teammate/cousin Allyssa Casaus added 15, both grabbed 9 rebounds each. It's the 2nd title in 3 years for Ft. Sumner/House.



Penasco Girls Capture 2A Blue Trophy

For the first time in their program's history, the Penasco Panthers finished the season on top. Penasco beat Tularosa 39-36 in the Girls Class 2A title game of the 2024 Nusenda Credit Union State Basketball Championships to claim their first title ever. Penasco (21-11) jumped out to a 9-0 lead to start the game, but trailed at halftime 15-14. Penasco used a 15 point third quarter to take the lead over the Wildcats (24-7). Rochelle Lopez led the Panthers with 18 points and Alyssa Atencio added 10. Alexis Romero grabbed 13 rebounds in the winning effort.



Navajo Prep Earns 3A Girls Championship

In front of a packed Pit at the University of New Mexico, Navajo Prep beat defending state champ and top seed Tohatchi 41-26 to claim the Class 3A Nusenda Credit Union State Basketball Championship. The Lady Eagles (25-8) outscored the rival Cougars (25-7) 24-9 in the final two quarters to win their third state title in five years. Navajo Prep was led by Aniya Johnson who scored 11 points. The Lady Eagles outrebounded Tohatchi 41-27 on the game, scoring 13 second-chance points.



Kirtland Central Grabs Number 21

Kirtland Central claimed their 21st overall title in winning the 2024 Nusenda Credit Union State Basketball Championships. The #1 Lady Broncos beat #2 St. Pius X 45-33 in the championship game. Kirtland Central tied a school record picking up their 29th win on the season with the victory. It was the third straight year the Lady Broncos made an appearance in the title game. Kirtland Central (29-3) spotted St. Pius X (26-4) and 8 point lead in the first minute of the game, but the Lady Broncos put together an 8-point run in the second quarter and held a 24-23 lead at halftime. Kirtland outscored St. Pius X 13-6 in the final quarter to clinch their 2nd title in three years.



Sandia Wins 5A Girls Title in Thriller

In a tightly contested final game of the season, Sandia beat Volcano Vista 49-45 to win the Girls 5A title at the 2024 Nusenda Credit Union State Basketball Championships. Sandia (28-3) jumped out to a 10-4 lead in the first eight minutes of the game, but the Hawks (24-6) outscored the Matadors 12-4 before halftime to take a two point lead into the break. Volcano Vista was up by as many as ten points in the third quarter, but that's when the Gatorade New Mexico Girls Basketball Player of the Year took over. Sandia's Sydney Benally scored bucket after bucket in the second half and finished with a game-high 35 points, leading her team to the championship. Sandia outscored Volcano Vista 23-13 in the deciding fourth quarter. TT Hill led the Hawks with 19 points and 20 rebounds. It's Sandia's first state title since 2017.



Fort Sumner/House Goes Back to Back

For the second straight year, Ft. Sumner/House finished the season on top. The Foxes beat top ranked Magdalena 45-38 in the title game of the 2024 Nusenda Credit Union State Basketball Championships to win the Class 1A trophy. The game was a rematch of the 2023 final. The game was tied 10-10 after one quarter, and knotted up 20-20 at halftime. The Foxes (24-5) outscored the Steers (30-2) in each of the final two quarters to win back-to-back titles. Cash Burney led Ft. Sumner/House with 15 points. The Foxes outran Magdalena with an 11-0 advantage in fast break points.



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ATC Wins First 2A Boys Title

For the first time in the history of their program, Academy for Technology and the Classics got to lift the blue trophy. ATC beat Pecos 63-37 in the title game of the 2024 Nusenda Credit Union State Basketball Championships to win the Class 2A trophy. The Phoenix (21-3) jumped out to a 22-14 lead in the first quarter and never looked back. Rocky Miller led ATC with 25 points and Julian Bernardino added 21. Defensively the Phoenix held Pecos (21-11) to 2-21 shooting in the second half. It was the 100th career victory for ATC head coach Bobby Romero.



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Navajo Prep Boys Wins First Blue Trophy

For the first time ever, Navajo Prep will hang a championship banner with the words Boys Basketball across it. Navajo Prep beat Robertson 60-50 to win the Boys 3A title at the 2024 Nusenda Credit Union State Basketball Championships. The Eagles (27-3) trailed by 9 at the half, but outscored the Cardinals 23-2 in the third quarter and outrebounded Robertson 36-19 on the game. The top-ranked Cardinals finished the season with a 25-4 record. Orion King led Navajo Prep with 18 points and 14 rebounds, Jude Thomas added 16 points, and Xavier Nez had 13. It's the first boys basketball championship for Navajo Prep.



Highland Wins 4A Boys Championship

It was another comeback for the Highland Hornets, a program with several come-from-behind wins in the 2023-2024 season. Highland beat Valley 45-44 in overtime to win Boys 4A title at the 2024 Nusenda Credit Union State Basketball Championships. The top-ranked Hornets (26-6) held a 19-13 advantage at halftime, but a strong second half effort by Valley (24-7) gave the Vikings a three-point lead late in the fourth. Highland sharpshooter Jesus Licon hit a game-tying three-pointer in the closing 30 seconds to send the game to overtime tied at 44. One free throw by Highland was the only point scored in the extra five minutes to give Highland the state championship.



Volcano Vista Earns Third Straight Title

It's a three-peat for the Volcano Vista Hawks. Volcano Vista beat Organ Mountain 47-34 to win the Boys 5A title at the 2024 Nusenda Credit Union State Basketball Championships. It's the 3rd straight state title for the Hawks. The Knights (29-2) had a two points advantage on Volcano Vista (30-1) at halftime. The Hawks put together a 16-9 run in the third to take the lead and never look back. Volcano Vista was led by Kenyon Aguino with 18 points and 13 rebounds. David Lunn added 14 points and Rian Gonzales had 11.

