



2018 State Basketball Championships



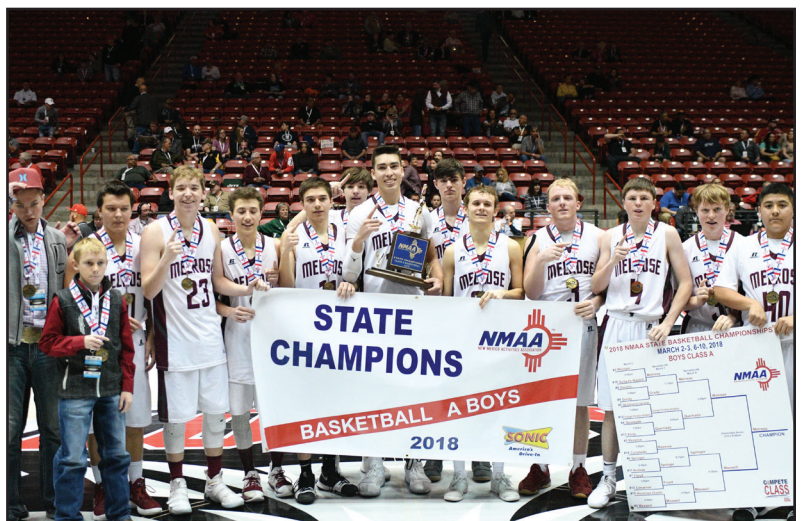
Melrose Brings Home 4th Boys Basketball Title

The Melrose High School Buffaloes defeated the Maxwell Bears 50-37 to become the 2018 Class 1A State Basketball Champions. Melrose (29-3) shot 32% overall for the game led by senior Jordan Jasso who put 19 points on the board for the Buffaloes. Melrose opened the first quarter with an 8-point run before Maxwell (28-2) started their own streak of 7 points. The first quarter ended tied 11-11.

Maxwell's leading scorer, Carl Gonzales, put in 18 of the Bears' points on the game. Gonzales was the only scorer in double digits for the Bears. The second quarter was a low scoring 8 minutes as Melrose took a 19-16 lead into the locker room.

In the third quarter, Melrose took a commanding lead as Blake Devaney put 10 of his 12 points on the board for Melrose. The Buffaloes wrapped up the third quarter with an 8-point lead, 35-27.

The Bears would get as close as five points, but ultimately fell short, surrendering the blue to the Buffaloes, 50-37. The Buffaloes brought home their 4th State Championship in the program's history.



First Blue Trophy for the Foxes

The 2A State Basketball Championship trophy was awarded to Fort Sumner/House (24-6) in a nail-biting 56-53 victory over the Menaul Panthers (26-6). The Foxes brought home their first ever blue trophy shooting 37% as a team.

Menaul dominated the first half with an opening 12-3 scoring run on the Foxes. The Panthers were led in scoring by sophomore Carlos Fuentes who was responsible for 18 of the team's 53 points in the game. The scoring run left Menaul ahead of Fort Sumner/House 19-15 as the first quarter ended.

The Foxes struggled to take the lead in the second quarter, putting up only ten more points on the board before the half. Fort Sumner/House's leading scorer, Brant West, added 21 points in the game, but landed only 5 points in the 2nd quarter leaving the score 35-25, Menaul up at halftime.

The locker room certainly refocused the Foxes as they commanded the 3rd quarter with a 22-7 run. Fort Sumner/House finished the 3rd leading the Panthers 47-42. The 4th quarter was a nail biter, cutting the deficit to 2 points. When the clock hit 0:00, the Foxes pulled through winning the title with a score of 56-53.



Back to Back 3A Champs of Pecos High School

The returning State Champion Pecos Panthers (28-3) defeated the Wolverines of Texico High (29-1) in a 58-44 victory to win back-to-back state titles. Shooting 37% as a team, the Panthers were led by senior Mario Archuleta who was responsible for 18 of the team's 58 points.

The first quarter seemed promising for Texico as the Wolverines pulled a slight lead at the end of the 1st quarter leaving the score 10-8 as they returned to their bench.

Before halftime, Pecos put 14 more points on the board. With only two scorers in double digits, the Panthers were finally able to pull ahead, leaving the score 25-21 as they headed up the ramp for halftime.

As the third quarter played out, the Panthers and Wolverines hustled for the points and Texico again took a lead by two points, finishing the quarter 37-35. The 4th quarter turned the game around as Pecos went on a 9-0 scoring run. The Panthers outscored Texico 23-7 in the final quarter. Pecos finished the game with a 58-44 win, bringing home the blue for the second year in a row.



6 in a Row: Hope Boys Basketball 4A Champions

Collecting their 6th straight title, the Hope Christian Huskies (23-8) defeated the Bernalillo Spartans (29-2) with a final score of 81-52. Hope Christian senior Chris Ward posted a game-high 27-points.

After a 3-0 lead, Bernalillo played catchup the rest of the way. The Huskies were up by a dozen in the first eight minutes and led 19-12 after one quarter.

Prior to halftime, Hope continued to put points on the scoreboard and building on their lead. The Huskies went into the lockerroom with a 41-29 lead. The Spartans were led by Reyes Herrera, Bernalillo's only scorer in the double digits, who had 14 of their 52 game points.

Hope went on a 9-0 scoring run in the 3rd quarter where they solidified their chance at a 6th straight blue trophy outscoring the Spartans 25-10 during that eight minute stretch. Finishing the third, Hope led Bernalillo by 27 points, 66-39. The Huskies cruised home in the fourth quarter to another state championship, 81-52.



First Basketball Championship for Belen Eagles

With a massive crowd that filled The Pit to its spectator capacity, the Belen Eagles (26-7) brought home the 5A State Championship trophy in a 73-65 victory over the Espanola Valley Sundevils (28-2). The Eagles were led in scoring by senior Garrett Gallegos who put up 22 points for Belen.

Belen opened the game with a 9-0 scoring run before Espanola put their first point on the board. This continued through the first quarter and Belen led at the end by eight points, 19-11. In the second quarter, Espanola stepped up and tied the game 25-all after an 8-point run of their own. The Sundevils outscored Belen 26-14 in the second quarter and led 37-33 at halftime. The Sundevils were led by senior JP Sena who racked 15 points for Espanola Valley on the game. Espanola Valley had three other players in double figures that afternoon (Christian Fernandez-14, Ryan Trujillo-12, and Azaziah Salazar-10).

Shooting 55% as a team, Belen stepped on to the court after half with a desire to raise the digits on their side of the scoreboard. They quickly took a lead and finished the third on a 17-3 run. The Eagles led 50-40 after three quarters. The final quarter of this game was tooth and nail for the Sundevils as they brought the game as close as 2 points, but Belen ran off a 10-3 streak to separate themselves. Ultimately, Belen defeated Espanola with a final of 73-65, winning their first Championship in basketball in the school's history. The Eagles were an impressive 10-21 (48%) from three-point range on the game.



Atrisco Heritage Wins First State Championship in School's History

After a tough fought battle, the Atrisco Heritage Academy Jaguars (26-3) defeated the Cleveland Storm (22-10) with a final score of 53-49. The Jaguars brought home the first state championship title, in any sport, to their school.

Atrisco never trailed in the opening quarter, putting together a 12-4 run after the first eight minutes. In the second quarter, Cleveland climbed back into it, bringing the game within in three points before the half. The Storm posted 14 points in this quarter, most of which were by their leading scorer Jalen Munn who made 21 of their 49 total points. Atrisco headed up the ramp at halftime ahead of the Storm 23-18.

Cleveland quickly tied the game at the start of the 3rd quarter 23-all. Both teams kept pace in this quarter, never letting the difference in score be greater than four points. Cleveland entered the fourth quarter on top, 33-32. The fourth quarter was no different, each time the Storm put two points on the board, Atrisco had two to follow. The Jaguars put together a 6-0 run midway through the quarter and never looked back. Ultimately, Atrisco finished on top with a final score of 53-49. The Jaguars were led by senior Enrique Bibian, who put in 20 of the team's 53 game points on the board. Jo-ziah Ramos added 13 points in the winning effort.



Elida wins 8th Straight Girls' Basketball Title

The Elida Tigers (25-7) defeated the Melrose Buffaloes (23-8) in the 2018 Class 1A Girls' State Basketball Championship game, 58-44, to grab their eighth straight blue trophy and the ninth title overall in school history.

Elida was led by Lacy Ferguson, who recorded a game-high 22 points, on 5-of-9 shooting from the field. Kasyn Creighton and Alyssa Bargas each recorded double-digit scoring efforts, as Creighton dropped in 12 and Bargas had 15. As a team, Elida shot 50 percent from the field and 60 percent from the 3-point arc.

Brette DeVaney led the Buffaloes with 13 points, followed by Landry Widner with 12, as Hailey Martin led all rebounders with 12. Melrose shot 29 field from the floor and just 38 percent from downtown.

Melrose started the game quickly, jumping out to a 5-2 lead. Elida though crawled their way back into the game and eventually took the lead at 8-7, extending their lead to 14-9 at the end of the first quarter.

The Tigers continued to pull away in the second quarter, opening up on a 13-2 run, making it 27-14 in a blink of an eye. Elida went into the locker room up 14 points, 31-17.

The two teams were back and forth in the third, exchanging baskets the entire quarter, as Melrose was unable to gain any ground on the Tigers. As the buzzer sounds in the third, Elida held a 43-28 advantage, as an eighth straight title looked to be secured.

Melrose did out score Elida in the fourth quarter 16-15 but it was Elida's day, as they hoisted the blue trophy overhead.



Fort Sumner/House Captures First Title Since 2011

The Fort Sumner/House Vixens (21-11) hoisted the blue trophy for the first time since 2011 with a 49-38 win over Penasco Panthers (26-5) in the Class 2A Girls' State Basketball Championships. The win marked the seventh girls' basketball title for Fort Sumner/House.

The Vixens were lead by Abby Wilton and Claudia Torres, who dropped in 13 points each, while Wilton added 13 rebounds for the double-double. Karla Paredes also scored in double-digits with 12. As a team, Fort Sumner/House shot 36 percent from the field in the game.

Carly Gonzales of Penasco led all scorers and rebounders in the game, finishing with 15 points and 20 rebounds. Ariana MacAuley also grabbed double-digit boards with 10. The Panthers struggled from the field only shooting 25 percent from the floor and 1-of-16 from behind the 3-point arc.

The Vixens dominated the first quarter, taking an early 12-4 lead, opening the game on an 8-3 run.

In the second, Penasco settled down and exchanged baskets with Fort Sumner/House, as they tried not to let the game slip away. At the end of the



second quarter, the Vixen held a 28-17 lead going into the locker room.

The Panthers would get within seven points to start the third quarter at 28-21 but could manage just four more points in the quarter, as the Vixen now held a 12-point lead, 37-25, with one final quarter remaining.

Despite a double-digit deficit, the Panthers continued to fight cutting the Vixens' lead to six at 36-30 and five at 39-34. However, a 10-4 run to end the game by Fort Sumner/House put the game out of reach, as the Vixens captured the 2018 Class 2A Girls' State Basketball Championship.

Texico Wins 3A Girls' Title on a Buzzer Beater

Arguable the best game of the entire tournament on the girls' side featured the No. 1 seed Texico Wolverines (26-4) and the No. 2 seed Tohatchi Cougars (24-7). The game ended with the Wolverines hoisting the blue trophy following a 48-47 win in dramatic fashion.

It was Texico's 11th state basketball title and the 10th in the last 18 years for the Wolverines.

Tohatchi has control of the game the entire first half of play leading by one point at the end of the first quarter, 14-13 and by three points going into halftime, 23-20.

An 11-3 run by Texico gave them a five point at 31-26, as neither team could find the bottom of the hoop over the last 2 minutes of the quarter, missing a combined six shots.

Although the game up until this point was an exciting one, the drama was not over yet.

A 9-4 run by the Cougars to open the fourth tied the score at 35-35, halfway through the quarter. The score would be tied three more times from that point on before Tohatchi took a 44-43 lead with 1:24 left in the game.

Seconds later, Texico took the lead back at 45-44 following a layup with just over a minute remaining. The Wolverines added a free throw with :23 to go.

Then with just :12 seconds on the clock Shania Manygoat hit a deep 3-pointer to give Tohatchi a one-point lead at 47-46. Texico took the ball the length of the court in just seven seconds, as Mary-elle Dickerman hit a two-foot jumper with five seconds remaining to give the Wolverines a 48-47 lead and eventually the Class 3A Girls' Title.

Dickerman led the Wolverines with 20 points, followed by Baylee Sours with 14. As a team, Texico shot 44 percent from the field in the win. Tohatchi's Kalian Mitchell led all scorers 28 points on 9-of-18 from the floor and 9-of-10 from the free throw line. The Cougars also shot 44 percent from the field and 38 percent from behind the 3-point arc.



Portales Claims 4A Girls Basketball Championship

The Portales Rams (28-2) capped off a stellar season with a 50-39 win in the 2018 Class 4A Girls' State Basketball Championships over the Moriarty Fighting Pintos (27-5). This was the eighth title for the Rams and the first since the 2014 season.

Portales was led by Taylee Rippee who led all scorers with 23 points and 10 rebounds. Teammate Zamorye Cox added 11 points in the win. As a team, the Rams shot 26 percent from the floor in the game.

Alyssa Adams guided the Fighting Pintos with 21 points on 7-of-18 from the floor. The Fighting Pintos shot 33 percent as a team and 91 percent from the charity stripe.

Both teams started the game slow, as Portales held a one-point lead at 13-12. Moriarty, however, came out in the second quarter poised to take the lead, outscoring Portales 12-9, holding a halftime lead at 24-22.

The Rams held Moriarty to just nine points in the third quarter but never took the lead back until late in the quarter at 35-33. The fourth quarter, however, was a much different story.

Portales jumped out to a 43-35, following an 8-2 run to start the quarter, eventually taking a 10-point lead at 47-37 with just under 2 minutes to play in the game. The Rams would add three free throws in the final minutes to put the game out of reach, as Portales captured the 2018 4A Girls' State Basketball Championship, 50-39 over Moriarty.



Los Lunas Back On Top in 5A Girls Basketball

The 2018 5A Girls State Championship was captured by the Los Lunas Tigers (29-2) in their defeat of the Bloomfield Bobcats (26-6) with a final score of 48-43. Los Lunas, shooting 41% from the floor, was led in scoring by Senior Mica Jenrette who posted 16 points for the Tigers.

The parity of the one and two seed was clear in the first quarter, where the difference in the score was never greater than two. In the second quarter, Bloomfield's leading scorer Alyssa Quintana, the only bobcat with double digit points, made her debut. Putting only seven points on board in the 2nd, Los Lunas fell behind 19-21.

The third quarter showed a desire and passion for the blue, as Los Lunas opened with an 8 point lead and at one point tied the score. The third left Bloomfield in the lead 39-37. The largest difference in score during the fourth quarter was five points as the Bobcats tried to maintain their lead. Ultimately, Los Lunas came out on top, trading their 2017 Runner-Up finish for the 2018 Champion trophy with a final of 48-43.



Hobbs Captures Blue Trophy Over Cibola

The 2018 6A Girls State Basketball Championship game pitted No. 1 Cibola (26-3) versus No. 2 Hobbs (30-2) with the Eagles coming out on top in overtime, 64-55. For Hobbs, it was the second state basketball title in school history for the girls' and the first since 2003.

Hobbs had four players in double figures in the game, led by Ayanna Smith and Kiara Knight, each with 18 points. The Eagles shot 34 percent from the floor as a team. Kayla Martinez of Cibola led all scorers with 22, while collecting 10 boards, as teammate Amaya Brown dropped in 16 points and pulling down 17 rebounds. The Cougars shot 37 percent from the field in the game.

In the first quarter, Cibola opened with an 8-point scoring run before Hobbs' first score. The second quarter was more balanced with the score never differing by more than five points. Coming out of the locker room, Cibola had an 8-point run before finishing the third ahead of Hobbs 36-29.

The Cougars maintained the lead throughout the first half of the fourth quarter before Hobbs took their first lead of the game at 45-44 with 3:25 to go. A 4-0 run by the Cougars gave them a 48-45 lead but the Eagles tied the game at 48-48, following a deep 3-point bucket by Amaya Lewis.

Then with just four seconds left on the clock and down by two at 53-51, Kiara Knight hit two free throws for Hobbs to force the game to overtime.

In overtime, it was all Hobbs, as the Eagles outscored the Cougars 11-2, capturing the 2018 6A Girls' Basketball Championship, 64-55.

