



2020 State Basketball Championships



Melrose Wins 8th Girls' Basketball Title

The Melrose Buffaloes (27-4) defeated district rival the Logan Longhorns (25-5), 47-39, in the 2020 NMAA 1A Girls' State Championship game, earning the school's eighth overall title and the first since 2016. This was the fifth time during the 2019-20 season the two teams had faced each other.

The Buffaloes were led by Hailey Martin and Shannon May with 12 points apiece. Teammate Nataley Mondragon added 10 points in the win. As a team, Melrose shot 38 percent from the field but were out-rebounded 41 to 23.

Logan's Karli Webb recorded a double-double with 14 points and 11 rebounds, while Jordan Hines also dropped in 14 points and nine boards. The Longhorns were 32 percent from the floor.

The Buffaloes took an early lead in the first quarter, 11-4 but Logan clawed their way back into the game in the second, outscoring the Buffaloes 12-7. Melrose would take a two-point lead into the locker room at halftime, 18-16.

In the third, the Longhorns came out on fire, pulling ahead by three points at 30-27 going into the final quarter of play. The fourth quarter, however, was a different story and it was all about Melrose. Over the last six minutes of the game, the Buffaloes held Logan to just one field, outscoring the Longhorns 13-2, as Melrose lifted the blue trophy over-head for the first time since 2016.



Mescalero Apache Wins First Blue Trophy in School History

The Mescalero Apache Chiefs (28-3) earned the school's first-ever blue trophy with a 69-54 win over No. 1 seed the Penasco Panthers in the 2020 NMAA Class 2A Girls' State Basketball Championships. The state title was the second for head coach Elmer Chavez, who also guided Santa Fe High to a state championship in 2014.

The Chiefs had three players score in double figures, as Ramona Fossum dropped in 13 and Brynn Martinez added 11 but the story of the game was all about Fallon Velasquez. Velasquez scored a game-high 32 points and grabbed 10 rebounds in the Chiefs win. She was 8-of-15 from the field, 4-of-8 from behind the 3-point arc and an incredible 12-of-13 from the charity stripe. She tallied six assists on the night.

Carly Gonzales led the Panthers with 18 points and 14 rebounds, while teammate Adrianna Tafoya knocked in 14 points as well.



The two teams were tied at 10 all after the first quarter and Penasco took a four-point lead into the locker room at halftime, 28-24. The Chiefs' offense exploded in the third quarter outscoring the Panthers 24-10, holding a 10-point lead at 48-38 heading into the fourth.

Mescalero Apache continued to hold the lead in the fourth quarter, adding another 21 points. In the final two quarters of play, the Chiefs outscored the Panthers 45 to 26.

Navajo Prep Wins First Title Since 2009

Navajo Prep head coach Rainy Crisp said this was the most talented group she's had since 2009 and she was right. The 2020 Class 3A State Basketball Championship title went to the Navajo Prep Lady Eagles. Navajo Prep beat district rival Tohatchi 43-33 to win their first blue trophy since 2009.

Tiontai Woods drained a three pointer late in the first quarter to cap off a 10-2 run for Navajo Prep and the Lady Eagles never trailed the entire game. Woods led Navajo Prep with a team-high 13 points. Navajo Prep was up 23-12 at halftime and Tohatchi went shot for shot the remaining two quarters, but the deficit was too big to recover. The Lady Eagles had seven players put up points in the scoring column. Krystal Benally led Tohatchi with a game high 14 points.

Navajo Prep finished the year with a 28-2 record.



Los Lunas Captures Blue Trophy for Third Time in a Row

For the 3rd year in a row, the Los Lunas Tigers lifted the blue trophy at the end of the season. Los Lunas beat Kirtland Central for the second straight year in the title game to win the 2020 State Basketball Class 4A Championship, 47-33. It was the seventh trip to the finals over the last eight years for head coach Marty Zeller and the Lady Tigers.

After a competitive 15-12 first quarter, Los Lunas built their lead up to 23-16 by halftime. The Los Lunas defense held Kirtland Central to just one point in a decisive 10-1 third quarter. "That's what the Lady Tigers do," said head coach Marty Zeller. "We take opponents out of their game."

Los Lunas had three players in double figures led by Natalie Jojola with 14 points. Dani Ross and Mia Guest each added 11 points a piece for the Lady Tigers. Los Lunas outrebounded the Lady Broncos 31-18 and shot 40% from three-point range. After starting the season with a 5-4 record, Los Lunas won their final 22 games of the season and ended the year with a 27-4 record.



Hobbs Back on Top in Class 5A

For the second time in three years, head coach Joe Carpenter and the Hobbs Lady Eagles are on top of the basketball world. Hobbs High School beat Volcano Vista 58-43 to win the 2020 State Basketball Class 5A Championship. It was the third straight trip to finals for Hobbs and the fourth time in five years Carpenter has coached in the title game.

Hobbs built up a 23-12 first quarter lead, but the Hawks wouldn't fly off without a fight. The Lady Eagles held onto a 32-24 lead at the break, but a strong third quarter start by Volcano Vista would tie the game at 34-all. "I felt good at the end of the third quarter that we were going to finish strong," said Carpenter. He was right. A strong team effort by Hobbs with baskets by Ashley Aragon, Elisa Turrubiates, Wisdom Anthony and Jamiah Clay helped the top ranked team build up another 10-point lead midway through the fourth quarter to put it out of reach. Anthony led all scorers with 23 points. Ashley Aragon scored 14 and Elise Turrubiates added 13. Hobbs outrebounded Volcano Vista 39-26. Natalia Chavez led Volcano Vista with 13 points.

Hobbs finished the season with a near-perfect 29-1 record.



Las Cruces Captures 5A Boys Basketball Title

The Las Cruces Bulldawgs (29-3) captured the 2020 NMAA State 5A Boys Basketball Championship with a 65-53 win over Capital (28-5). It was the first title for the Bulldawgs since 2013 and the ninth blue trophy for the school in boys' basketball.

The Bulldawgs were led by Gobzalo Carbalan with 17 points, followed by Isaish Carr, who scores 14. Teammate Salvador Nevarez added 10 points and 10 rebounds for a double-double. As a team, Las Cruces shot 58 percent from the floor and out rebounded the Jaguars 34 to 23.

Capital's Antonio Sanchez led his team with 15 points, as teammate Dominic Luna added 13. The Jaguars were 39 percent from the field, while hitting 12-of-13 from the free throw line.

Capital held a one point lead at 11-10 following the first quarter of play but a 20-point second quarter by Las Cruces gave the Bulldawgs a nine point lead heading into the half. Las Cruces extended their lead to 12 after the third quarter, leading 48-36.

The two team each scored 1 points in the fourth quarter as the 12-point deficit was too much to overcome for Capital. The Bulldawgs hoisted the blue trophy overhead, capturing their first title since 2013.



Valley Repeats as 4A Basketball Champions

The Valley Vikings (22-7) headed into the 2020 NMAA State 4A Boys Basketball Championships as the No. 1 seed and didn't disappoint. The Vikings faced district foe the Highland Hornets (21-11) for the fifth time in the season, which proved to be a classic, as Valley hoisted the blue trophy with a 67-61 overtime win.

This was Valley's fourth title in school history.

Marcus Voss and Gio Casaus led the Vikings with 15 points apiece, followed by Jevin Baker with 14 and Seyi Oyeku with 10. Oyeku also grabbed 10 rebounds to lead the team, recording a double-double. As a team, Valley shot 53 percent from the field.

Highland was led by Erasmo Carreon and Josh Baraza, who both knocked in 17 points, while Joe Murillo added a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds. As a team, the Hornets were 43 percent from the floor.

Valley grabbed an early five-point lead after the first quarter as 14-9 and extended their lead to six at the half at 34-28 going into the locker room. After an even third quarter between the two teams, the Vikings held a seven-point advantage heading into the fourth.

The Hornets responded in the fourth quarter, outscoring Valley 17-10 to tie the game at 59-59 at the end of regulation. In overtime, it was all Valley, as the Vikings outscored the Hornets 8 to 2, going 2-of-4 from the floor and a perfect 4-for-4 from the line. Valley's defense also held Highland to just 1-of-4 from the field in overtime, as the Vikings won 67-61 and took home the 2020 state title.



Bosque School Wins First Boys Basketball Title

For the first time in school history, the Bosque Bobcats (26-4) captured the blue trophy in the sport of basketball with a 65-57 overtime win over district rival the Sandia Prep Sundevils (23-9) in the 2020 NMAA 2A State Basketball Championships.

The Bobcats were led by Elijah Davidson with 26 points and 13 rebounds. He was also one assist shy of a triple double with nine. Teammate Ian Kahn knocked down 13 points in the win. As a team, Bosque shot 41 percent from the field. Sandia Prep was led by Max Feit with 20 points and Sam Henderson with 10. As a team, the Sundevils shot 37 percent from the floor.

Bosque jumped out to an early 20-13 lead in the first quarter but the Sundevils climbed their way back into the game in the second quarter and trailed 27-25 going into the locker room at half-time. Over the next two quarters of play, both teams exchanged baskets and at the end of regulation, the two teams were tied at 51-51.

In overtime, the Bobcats offense was hot, going 4-for-4 from the floor, including 2-for-2 from behind the arc and a perfect 4-for-4 at the free throw line, as they outscored the Sundevils 14-6, hoisting the blue trophy overhead for the school's first boys' basketball championship.



Pecos Completes 4-Peat

Pecos, Pecos, Pecos, Pecos...for the fourth straight year, the Pecos Panthers (29-1) won the Class 2A state title at the 2020 NMAA State Basketball Championships with a win over the Magdalena Steers (30-1), 63-53. It was one of the most anticipated finals of the event, pitting No. 1 versus No. 2. Magdalena came into the game undefeated at 30-0, while Pecos was 28-1 on the season.

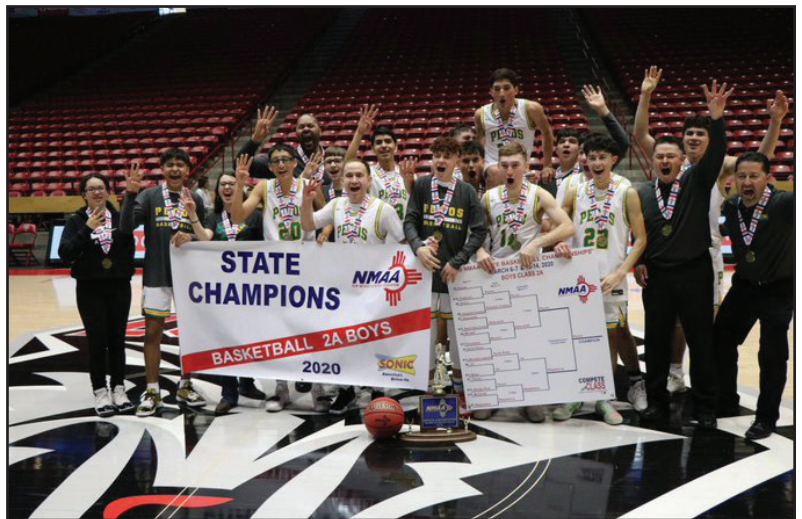
For the Panthers, this was the fifth title in school history, becoming one of just a handful of teams to accomplish the 4-peat.

Pecos was led by Ismael Villegas and Xavier Padilla with 16 points each, followed by Anthony Armijo with 15 and Juan Varela with 12. As a team, the Panthers shot 48 percent from the field and outrebounded the Steers, 41 to 30.

Magdalena's Joren Mirabal led all scorers with 20 points, followed Kyle Julian with 13 and Jaxson Mirabal with 11. The Steers were 35 percent from the floor in the game.

Pecos jumped out to an early 17-12 lead in the first quarter but the No. 2 Steers ended up taking a one-point lead into half time at 29-28, after outscoring the Panthers 17-11 in the second. The third quarter, however, proved to be the difference in the game, as Pecos put together a 13-2 run to finish the quarter, making it 52-39 after three.

The 13-point deficit was too much in the end for Magdalena to overcome as Pecos won their fourth straight title, 63-53.



Melrose Back on Top in Class 1A

It was another No. 1 versus No. 2 match-up in the Class 1A championship game at the 2020 NMAA State Basketball Championships as the Melrose Buffaloes (29-1) and the Maxwell Bears (25-5) squared off for the blue trophy. The Buffaloes would prevail by a score of 59-56, earning the school's third straight championship and the sixth overall.

Melrose had four players in double figures, as Tate Sorgen led the Buffaloes with 20 points, followed by Trace Jackson, Dylan Valentine and Tristan Sena each adding 11 point each. The Bears were led by Kaden Riggs who had a game-high 23 points and 17 rebounds, followed by Kolten Riggs with 13 and Caden Floyd with 10.

Three of the four quarters in the game were separated by just one point between the two schools. Melrose led after one 16-15 but Maxwell managed to tie the game at 31-31 going into the half.

The third quarter proved to be the different in the game as Melrose outscored Maxwell 18-14. The Buffaloes would hold on to the slim lead throughout the fourth quarter, eventually winning by three, 59-56 and hoisting the blue trophy for the third straight year.

