



2017 U.S. Bank State Basketball Championships

Sandia Takes 6A Girls' Title over La Cueva

The Sandia Matadors (27-5) captured the blue trophy with a 57-53 win over the La Cueva Bears (20-9) in the 2017 U.S. Bank Class 6A Girls' State Basketball Championship game. It was the first title for Sandia since 2010 and the fourth overall in school history.

The Matadors were led by Marisol Silva, who dropped in a game-high 18 points, while teammate Cara Liggins added a double-double with 14 points and 12 rebounds. As a team, Sandia shot 39 percent from the floor.

The Bears had three players in double figures, as Kaya Ingram led La Cueva with 14 points.

The Matadors jumped out to an early 8-4 lead over the Bears in the first, finishing the quarter on a 7-3 run to hold an 11-7 lead after one.

In the second quarter, the two teams exchanged baskets most of quarter before La Cueva finished on a 9-4 run to end the half, carrying a 20-18 lead into the locker room at the half.

Sandia opened the third quarter on a 9-0 run, taking a 29-20 lead with 6:38 left in the quarter. The Bears cut the lead to three at 39-26 after a 6-0 run but Sandia continued to pound the ball inside and went back up by seven at 36-29 with 3:30 to go in the third. At the end of the third, Sandia continued to lead 41-37.

A 9-3 run by the Matadors to open the fourth quarter gave Sandia a 10-point advantage at 50-40 with 2:44 remaining in the game. In the end, Sandia's inside game was too much for the Bears, as the Matadors took home the blue trophy with a 57-53 victory.



Goddard Captures First State Title in Girls' Basketball

The Goddard Rockets (22-9) took home their first state title in girls' basketball at the 2017 U.S. Bank Class 5A State Basketball Championship game with a 35-30 win over the Los Lunas Tigers (23-8).

Camaryn Villalpando led all scorers and rebounders with 11 points and eight boards in the game, as the Rockets shot 42 percent from the field. Goddard also out-rebounded Los Lunas 26-23.

Three players (Mica Jenrette, Hayley Torres and Ashley Blackwell) each scored six points for the Tigers, as Los Lunas shot just 29 percent from the floor.

The first quarter was back and forth between the two schools, as Goddard held a one-point lead after one, at 13-12.

In the second quarter, neither team could find the bottom of the net as a combined total of 11 points were scored. The Rockets took a two-point advantage into the locker room at the half, 19-17 over Los Lunas.

Coming out of the locker room in the third quarter, the tough defense of the Tigers shut down the Goddard offense not allowing the Rockets to score a single point in the quarter. After being down two at the half, Los Lunas held a nine-point lead at 28-19 heading into the final quarter of play.

The fourth quarter was a much different story, as the Tigers saw their nine-point lead vanish, with Goddard outscoring Los Lunas 16-2. The only points for the Tigers came from two made free throws. The Rockets held the blue trophy overhead with a 35-30 win over the Tigers.



Shiprock earns Sixth Blue Trophy in Girls' Basketball

The Shiprock Chieftains (26-5) defeated the Hope Christian Huskies (28-3) in the 2017 U.S. Bank Class 4A Girls' State Championship by a score of 47-42 to capture their first blue trophy since 2002 and the sixth overall in school history.

Hope Christian had defeated Shiprock in the Championship game the previous year.

As a team, Shiprock shot 35 percent from the field, making 18-of-23 free throw attempts. The Chieftains were led by Tanisha Begay with 22 points, while Tierra Clichee grabbed a team-high eight rebounds in the game.

The Huskies had two players in double-digits, Alivia Lewis (16) and Hanna Valencia (10). Lewis also grabbed a game-high 15 boards.

In the first quarter, the two teams exchanged baskets with Shiprock holding a slight edge at the end of one, 8-7.

The Huskies started the second quarter on an 11-1



run to take an 18-9 lead with 3:13 left in the half. Hope Christian finished the quarter on a 7-3 run to take an 11-point lead into the half, as the Huskies were on a mission to capture their third straight blue trophy.

Hope Christian would maintain their lead in the third but were outscored by Shiprock 15-10 in the quarter as the Chieftains cut their lead to six at 33-27 heading into the final quarter of play.

Down six to start the fourth, Shiprock came out shooting, taking the lead at 38-37 on an 11-4 run with 3:46 to go in the game. The Huskies regained the lead at 40-38 with just over two minutes to play but a 9-0 run by the Chieftains over the final two minutes of play pushed them ahead.

A late basket by the Huskies wasn't enough, as Shiprock captured the 4A girls' title, 47-42.

Tohatchi Wins 3A Girls' Blue Trophy

For the first time in school history, the Tohatchi Cougars (26-5) held the blue trophy overhead in girls' basketball with a 57-50 win over the Eunice Cardinals (27-4) at the 2017 U.S. Bank Class 3A Girls' State Basketball Championships.

The Cougars were led by Kalian Mitchell with 20 points, followed by Cheyenne Begay with 15. Samantha Belone grabbed 11 boards to lead Tohatchi on the glass. As a team, Tohatchi shot 37 percent from the floor and 72 percent from the charity stripe.

Harria Mendoza led the Cardinals and all scorers with 25 points, followed by teammate Jada Jones with 18. As a team, Eunice shot 43 percent from the field but were 0-of-11 from behind the 3-point arc.

After the Cardinals jumped out to an early 4-0 lead, Tohatchi tied the game at nine all with 2:32 left in the first. The two teams exchanged baskets the remainder of the quarter with Eunice holding a slight lead at 15-12.

In the second quarter, the two teams continued to stay within shooting distance of each other as the score was 27-22 in favor of the Cardinals going into the locker room at the half.

In the third, each team scored 11 points, as Eunice held a five-point lead at 38-33 lead heading into the final quarter of play.

The fourth quarter was a much different story for the Cougars, outscoring the Cardinals 24-12. Tohatchi took their first lead of the game with 3:05 to go in the game at 45-44. The Cougars would put together a 9-0 run to extend their lead to 51-44 with just over a minute to play.

In the end, Tohatchi's momentum was too much for the Cardinals to overcome, as the Cougars captured the 3A girls' state title with a final score of 57-50.



Tatum Hoists Blue Trophy in 2A Championship

The Tatum Coyotes (26-5) defeated the Escalante Lobos (22-8) in the 2A girls' championship game at the 2017 U.S. Bank State Basketball Championships. It was the first title for the Coyotes since 2014 and the third overall for Tatum.

Tatum was led by Kenna McNeil, who was 3-for-9 from the floor and 8-for-10 from the free throw line, tallying 15 points in the game. Teammate Celeste Jimenez added eight points and a team-high 11 boards. As a team, Tatum shot 24 percent from the floor.

Escalante was led by Sarah Hurd with eight points, while Tori Salazar added seven and a game-high 13 rebounds. The Lobos shot 28 percent from the field.

Escalante jumped out to an early 8-1 lead over Tatum, holding a five-point lead at 8-3 at the end of the first quarter.

In the second, the Coyotes outscored the Lobos 10-7 but remained down by two points at the half, 15-13.

A 9-4 run by Tatum to start the third quarter gave them a three-point lead at 22-19 with less than four minutes to go in the quarter. The Coyotes ended the third on another 9-4 run, taking a 31-23 lead into the fourth. Tatum outscored Escalante 18-8 in the third.

The Coyotes put together a 9-4 run to start the fourth, extending their lead to 40-25 with less than two minutes to play in the game. A small run by Escalante to end the game was not enough, as Tatum claimed the 2A girls' championship.



Elida Wins Seventh Straight Class A Blue Trophy

The Elida Tigers (26-6) earned their seventh straight blue trophy at the 2017 U.S. Bank State Basketball Championships with a 49-38 win over the Melrose Buffaloes (22-11).

The Tigers were led by Taylor Epps, who recorded a double-double with 17 points and 11 rebounds, while teammates Madison Haley and Lacy Ferguson each added nine points. Haley also grabbed 10 boards in the win. As a team, Elida shot 30 percent from the field.

Melrose was led by Reagan Carthel, who dropped in 15 points and a game-high 12 rebounds. Brette DeVaney and Landry Widner added seven points each. The Buffaloes shot just 26 percent from the floor in the game.

The first quarter between the No. 1 and No. 2 seeds was close as each team scored 11 points.

In quarter number two, the Tigers took control, outscoring the Buffaloes 13-7, carrying a 24-18 lead into the locker room at the half.



The two teams exchanged baskets over the first four minutes of the third as Elida maintained a six-point lead at 30-24 with 2:44 left in the quarter. The Tigers then pushed their lead to eight at 36-28 to end the third.

In the fourth quarter, the Buffaloes would get no closer than nine points as Elida captured their seventh straight state title, with the final score of 49-38.

Volcano Vista Wins First State Title in Boys' Basketball

The No. 12 seed Volcano Vista Hawks (18-12) defeated the No. 2 seed Las Cruces Bulldawgs, 47-39, in the 6A boys' U.S. Bank State Basketball Championship. It was the first blue trophy for the boys' program in school history.

David Cormier led all scorers with 20 points on 7-of-11 from the field and 6-of-11 from the charity stripe. He also pulled in nine rebounds. Teammate Jalontae Gray had 11 points and nine boards in the win. As a team, the Hawks shot 51 percent from the floor.

Las Cruces was led by RJ Brown with 13 points, followed Vincente Johnson with eight. The Bulldawgs shot 34 percent from the field.

The Hawks led the game from start to finish, jumping out to a three-point lead at the end of the first quarter at 12-9. Despite being outscored 8-7 in the second quarter, Volcano Vista carried a two-point lead at 19-17 into the locker room at the half.

The two teams exchanged back and forth through most of the third quarter, as Las Cruces pulled to within one at 25-24 with just under two minutes left in the quarter. A 4-0 run by the Hawks gave them a five-point cushion heading into the fourth quarter at 29-24.

Volcano Vista opened the final quarter of play on an 11-3 run, pushing their lead to 13 points at 40-27 with 3:48 to play in the game. The Bulldawgs pulled back within 10 points at 47-37 but it was too little too late as Volcano Vista captured the blue trophy by a final score of 47-39.



Roswell Wins Ninth Blue Trophy

The Roswell Coyotes (25-4) earned their first state title since 2014 and the ninth in school history with a 74-53 win over the Capital Jaguars (25-6) in the 5A boys' U.S. Bank State Basketball Championship game. For head coach Britt Cooper, it was the fourth state title under his direction of the program.

The Coyotes had four players in double figures, led by Tarren Burrola with 25, followed by Garret Smothermon and Chris Mesquita with 12 each and Logan Eaker with 11. Mesquita recorded a triple-double in the game with 12 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists. As a team, the Coyotes shot 56 percent from the field and 58 percent from be-



hind the 3-point arc.

Capital had three players in double figures, led by Jeremy Anaya with 17 points, followed by Matt Smith and Marcos Vegas with 10 each. As a team, the Jaguars shot 36 percent from the floor.

Roswell exploded out of the gate, opening the game on a 7-2 run. Capital pulled to within two at 15-13 before the Coyotes went on a 9-2 run to take a 24-15 lead with 1:32 left in the first quarter. At the end of the first, Roswell held a nine-point lead at 27-18.

The Coyotes continued to extend their lead with runs of 5-0 and 10-1 in the second quarter. Roswell took a 19-point lead into the locker room at the half.

In the third quarter, Capital outscored Roswell 15-12 and cut the Coyotes lead to 14 points at 53-39 heading into the fourth quarter.

Roswell's 14-2 run to start the fourth quarter would be the difference in the game as the Coyotes hoisted the blue trophy overhead, defeating Capital by 21 points, 74-53.

Hope Christian earns 15th Blue Trophy

The Hope Christian Huskies (26-5) defeated the Portales Rams (25-5), 58-46 in the 4A boys' 2017 U.S. Bank State Basketball Championship game. It was the fifth straight title for the Huskies and the 15th overall in school history. It was also the 15th title under the guidance of head coach Jim Murphy, dating back to 1985.

As a team, Hope Christian shot 36 percent from the field and 50 percent from behind the 3-point line. Marcus Medina led the Huskies with 17 points, followed by Chris Ward with 14 and Preston Ulibarri with 10. Cole Yearout led Hope Christian with 12 rebounds.

Portales was led by Jeremie Karngbaye with a game-high 30 points, including 11 rebounds. Karngbaye was 16-for-21 from the free throw line for the Rams. As a team, Portales shot 24 percent from the floor and were just 3-for-25 from behind the 3-point arc.

The Huskies and Rams battled back and forth throughout the first quarter, as Hope Christian held a 4-point lead at 16-12 after one.

In the second quarter, the game was much the same with the Huskies holding a slim lead. Hope Christian maintained a 28-21 lead at the half.

The third quarter proved to be the separating quarter, as the Huskies held the Rams to just three points, leading 39-24 going into the final quarter.

The No. 2 seed Rams were not going down without a fight, outscoring the No. 1 seed Huskies 22-19 in the final quarter but it just wasn't enough to take down the four-time defending champions, as Hope Christian took home the blue trophy with a 58-46 victory.



Pecos Back on Top in 3A Boys' Basketball

For the first time since 1966, the Pecos Panthers (29-1) hoisted the blue trophy with a 60-49 win over Santa Rosa (21-9) in the 3A boys' 2017 U.S. Bank State Basketball Championship game.

Four players scored in double figures for the Panthers, as Carlos Cordova dropped in 16 points to lead Pecos, followed by Mario Archuleta with 11 and Cameron Quintana and Xavier Padilla with 10 each. Quintana also led the Panthers with seven rebounds. As a team, Pecos shot 34 percent from the field.

Santa Rosa was led by Christian Chavez with 12 points, followed by Joaquin Romo with 11 points. Romo's 10 rebounds helped him record a double-double. As a team, the Lions shot 43 percent from the floor but were 1-for-6 from behind the 3-point line.

It was a fast start for the Lions as they took an early 11-9 lead over the Panthers in the first quarter.

In the second quarter, the two teams battled back and forth with five lead changes and four ties, as the Panthers pulled away late in the quarter on a 6-2 run to take a 4-point lead at 32-28 into the locker room at the half.

The third quarter was a low-scoring affair as Pecos outscored Santa Rosa 11-10 and maintained a small 5-point lead at 43-38 heading into the final quarter of play.

An 8-4 run by Pecos to start the fourth quarter extended their lead to nine points at 51-42 with just 3:49 left in the game. The Lions cut the lead to six at 51-45 but Pecos had too much firepower, winning their first state title in 51 years by a final score of 60-49.



Lordsburg Captures Blue Trophy

The Lordsburg Mavericks (29-2) captured their first blue trophy since 1974 in the 2A boys' 2017 U.S. Bank State Basketball Championship game with a 64-38 win over the Mesilla Valley Christian SonBlazers (23-9).

Jacob Esquivel led the Mavericks with a double-double, scoring 14 points and grabbing 11 boards, while teammate Johnny Plowman dropped in 12 points in the win. Plowman also had eight assists and seven boards. As a team, Lordsburg shot 46 percent from the field.

Hunter Coyle led the SonBlazers with 10 points, while Josh Castillo had eight points and 10 rebounds. As a team, Mesilla Valley shot 29 percent from the floor and were out-rebounded by the Mavericks, 43-34.

Lordsburg jumped out to an early 7-2 lead on Mesilla Valley but the SonBlazers cut the lead to four at 9-5 to end the first quarter. The Mavericks opened with a 10-4 run in the sec-



ond to take a 19-9 lead with 1:39 left in the half. Lordsburg would carry a 9-point lead into the locker room at the half, 20-11.

Lordsburg extended their lead to 14 points to start the third quarter at 34-20, however, the SonBlazers ended the quarter on an 8-0 to cut the Mavericks' lead to 40-28.

The two teams exchanged baskets early in the fourth but a 14-4 run by the Mavericks put the game out of reach, as Lordsburg captured their first state title in 43 years, winning 64-38 over Mesilla Valley.

Maxwell Wins First Boys' Basketball Championship

The Maxwell Bears (28-3) defeated the Springer Red Devils (23-10) for their first state title in school history at the 2017 U.S. Bank State Basketball Championships by a score of 63-53. The win also marked the fourth state title for head coach Eloy Brazil, who had guided teams to state titles at Springer and Cimarron.

As a team, Maxwell shot 41 percent from the field, while out-rebounding Springer 49-to-36. Aaron Salazar led the Bears with 17 points, going 3-for-7 from behind the 3-point line. Carl Gonzales dropped in 16 points, while Andrew Archuleta added 13. Kolten Riggs added a double-double for the Bears with 10 points and 14 rebounds. Jeremy Archuleta also grabbed 10 boards.

Estevan Romero led Springer with 20 points, while teammates Bryan Romero added 13 and Isiah Garcia recorded 12. As a team, Springer shot 31 percent from the floor.

Springer jumped out to an early 14-4 lead over Maxwell with 4:12 left in the first. The Bears then put together a 12-4 run to get within two points at 18-16 to end the first quarter.

The scored would be tied three times in the second quarter with four lead changes, as Springer maintained a 2-point lead heading into the locker room at the half, 33-31.

Maxwell opened the third quarter on a 14-2 run over Springer to take a 45-35 lead with just 3:24 on the clock. The Bears took a 10-point lead into the fourth quarter, 49-39.

The Red Devils would get as close as three points at 51-48 with 5:06 remaining in the game but a quick 6-0 run by the Bears put the game out of reach and, in the end, it wasn't enough for Springer to overcome, as Maxwell won 63-53.

