



ALL-COUNTY BOYS BASKETBALL

Co-Player of the Year CHASE BEARD

Senior Point Guard, Middletown
 ■ The leader of the best three-year stretch in Knights history, Beard captained the team to its third consecutive Class 2A state semifinal. He was a steady and reliable hand on both ends of the floor, guiding an experienced and well-oiled unit to a school-record-tying 23 wins and the Central Maryland Conference Small Schools Championship.

■ Beard led Middletown in scoring, averaging 17 points per game, while finishing his high school career as a 1,000-point scorer. He was well-rounded, too, averaging 5 rebounds and 3.5 assists per game while guarding the best opposing player each night.

■ He is committed to play in college at Division II Seton Hill (Pennsylvania).



Co-Player of the Year ALEX RODRIGUEZ

Senior Guard, Oakdale
 ■ Thrust into a point guard role after spending his first three years as a versatile wing, Rodriguez shined in ways both visible and invisible. He captained the Bears to 17 straight wins and a Central Maryland Conference Large Schools championship.

■ Rodriguez was dynamic as a scorer, rebounder, distributor and defender while serving as a calm, steady presence for his teammates. He averaged 16.6 points per game, 6.2 rebounds per game, 2.6 assists per game and 2 steals per game while notching three double-doubles.

■ Rodriguez will play football in college at Navy.



FIRST TEAM

DYVAE AMBUSH JUNIOR POINT GUARD

THOMAS JOHNSON
 ■ The driving force of a youthful but talented Patriots team, Ambush led all county public school players in scoring (19.8 points) while serving as a high-level creator (5.5 assists), rebounder (5.2 per game) and leader. He shined in key moments, leading TJ to the CMC Large School title game and 4A West regional final.

SAM COOPER JUNIOR FORWARD

TUSCARORA
 ■ The nationally ranked high jumper also showed his hops on the hardwood. Few could challenge Cooper down low, as he rose for 14.5 points per game and 7.3 rebounds per game to lead an up-and-down Titans squad that challenged most opponents on a nightly basis.

OSBORNE EHANA SENIOR FORWARD

FREDERICK
 ■ After spending the first part of the year in and out of the lineup, Ehana dominated down the stretch and was a major catalyst in the Cadets' run to the 3A state semifinals after an underwhelming regular season. The big man averaged 14.6 points, 7 rebounds and 2 blocks, posting multiple double-doubles in the playoffs.

KEEGAN MARCERON SENIOR FORWARD

OAKDALE
 ■ A dominant force down low, Marceron helped the Bears win 17 straight games as the area's top regular season team. He led Oakdale in scoring (17.3 points) while averaging 7.3 rebounds and 2.3 assists, registering five double-doubles. Marceron will play in college at Fairleigh Dickinson-Florham.

AJ SPENCER SENIOR POINT GUARD

FREDERICK
 ■ After a lackluster regular season, Spencer spearheaded the Cadets to an underdog run to the 3A state semifinals. He hit a game-winning shot in the final seconds of the state quarterfinals to knock off top-seeded Marriotts Ridge, the highlight of a season in which he averaged 13.8 points, 5 assists and 1.5 steals.

MASON WHIPP SOPHOMORE FORWARD

MIDDLETOWN
 ■ A two-way force in the paint, Whipp played beyond his years and solidified himself as one of the region's best big men. He was the only Frederick County public school player to average a double-double (12.8 points, 10 rebounds), helping the Knights reach the 2A state semifinals for the third straight season.



SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name	School	Grade
G	Kyrin Ambush	Thomas Johnson	Freshman
G/F	Daveon Black	Linganore	Senior
PG	Mitchell Curtis	Tuscarora	Senior
G	Blaine Kalaw	St. John's Catholic Prep	Senior
G	Mason Leonard	Urbana	Junior
G	Jaiwyn Moody	Brunswick	Freshman
G	Trevor Pfeil	Walkersville	Senior
F	Brittin Poffenbarger	Middletown	Senior
F	Brady Renn	Brunswick	Senior
G	Christian Rivera	Oakdale	Junior
G/F	Mookie Taylor	Frederick	Sophomore
F	Bryden Tema	Thomas Johnson	Freshman
PG	Cohen Wade	Frederick Christian Academy	Senior
G/F	Owen Yarborough	St. John's Catholic Prep	Freshman

HONORABLE MENTION

Brunswick – Aaron Birney, Nick Martinis
Catoctin – Gabe Contreras, Zach Williams
Frederick – Divine Wolo
Frederick Christian Academy – Jude Annor
Frederick Warriors – Asher Brandenburg
Linganore – Will Davis, Taylor Rosario
Maryland School for the Deaf – Mark Gwynn III
Middletown – Will Akingbade, Trevor Beard
New Life – Jeffrey Nyaku
Oakdale – Cooper DeWaal, Ethan Wilson
St. John's Catholic Prep – Kenneth Butler III, Million Fessuh
Thomas Johnson – Mide Adeoye
Tuscarora – Enoch Adeyemi, Zack Byrd
Urbana – Jaxson Howington, Jimmy McGinley
Walkersville – Ivan Ansong

ShortTakes

from wire reports

UNC working to finalize deal to hire Malone as basketball coach

North Carolina is working toward finalizing a deal with NBA championship-winning coach Michael Malone to lead the Tar Heels' basketball program, a person with knowledge of the situation said Monday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the school hasn't publicly discussed its search. Malone would replace Hubert Davis, who was fired March 24 after five seasons as the successor to retired Hall of Famer Roy Williams.

ESPN was the first to report UNC moving toward hiring Malone.

The 54-year-old Malone spent 12 seasons as a head coach in the NBA, including a 10-year run in Denver. He led the Nuggets to the 2023 championship behind three-time league MVP Nikola Jokic.

The Nuggets fired Malone last spring with less than a week left in that regular season. Almost a year to the day later in another surprise move, Malone is on the verge of taking over a blue-blood program with six national titles, a record 21 appearances in the Final Four and alums including Michael Jordan, James Worthy Vince Carter and Atlantic Coast Conference career scoring leader Tyler Hansbrough.

Angel Reese traded from Sky to Dream for first-round draft picks in 2027, 2028

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Dream acquired two-time WNBA All-Star Angel Reese from the Chicago Sky on Monday in exchange for first-round draft picks in 2027 and 2028.

Atlanta also receives the right to swap second-round picks with Chicago in 2028.

The 6-foot-3 Reese averaged 14.1 points and 12.9 rebounds in her two seasons with Chicago, earning All-Star honors each year while finishing as the runner-up for rookie of the year in 2024.

"Angel is a dynamic talent and a perfect fit for what we are building in Atlanta," general manager Dan Padover said in a statement released by the Dream. "She has already



Malone

proven herself as one of the most impactful players in the league, and her competitiveness, production and drive to win align seamlessly with our vision. This is an exciting moment for our organization and our fans."

Reese, 23, was the No. 7 overall pick by Chicago in the 2024 WNBA draft after leading LSU to the 2023 national championship.

The trade comes after Reese expressed frustrations late in last season's 10-34 finish for the Sky. She told the Chicago Tribune that she "might have to move in a different direction and do what's best for me" if the team didn't improve its outlook. She later apologized to the team for the comments.

Mets expect Soto to be sidelined 2 to 3 weeks by strained right calf

NEW YORK — New York Mets outfielder Juan Soto is projected to miss two to three weeks because of a strained right calf.

New York put the four-time All-Star on the 10-day injured list Monday, a move retroactive to Saturday. The Mets said the typical timeframe for a return to play for this type of injury is about two to three weeks.

Infielder Ronny Mauricio was recalled from Triple-A Syracuse.

Soto, 27, is in the second season of a record \$765 million, 15-year contract. He is hitting .355 with one homer and five RBIs in eight games after batting .263 with 43 homers, 105 RBIs, 38 stolen bases, 127 walks and a .921 OPS in his first season with the Mets.

Soto was hurt Friday night trying to run from first to third during the Mets' 10-3 win at San Francisco.

Lawrence asks Giants for trade, won't attend offseason workouts

Three-time Pro Bowl nose tackle Dexter Lawrence has requested a trade from the New York Giants and will not attend their offseason workout program, according to three people familiar with the situation.

The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Monday because discussions were not being made public.

Lawrence has played his first seven NFL seasons with the Giants since they selected him with the 17th pick in the 2019 draft out of Clemson.

Now 28, he still has two years left on his contract, set to earn \$20 million and \$19.5 million in each of the next two seasons.

Coming off a dislocated left elbow from a game on Thanksgiving in 2024, Lawrence started all 17 games last season. He finished with a career-low 31 tackles and a half-sack for a defense that ranked 30th out of 32 teams in the league.

Lawrence has 341 tackles and 30½ sacks in 109 regular-season games in the league. He made 12 more tackles in two playoff games.

The Giants began spring workouts Tuesday under new coach John Harbaugh, who along with general manager Joe Schoen hired Dennard Wilson as the team's defensive coordinator. They have the fifth pick in the upcoming draft after going 4-13.

US striker Agyemang's World Cup hopes clouded after stretcher exit for Derby

DERBY, England — U.S. striker Patrick Agyemang's World Cup hopes were in doubt after he was carried off on a stretcher while playing for Derby in the English second-tier on Monday.

Agyemang landed awkwardly while bringing the ball down on his chest and collapsed to the grass. He was visibly emotional as he was taken off, his right leg strapped.

"He's gone for a scan so we'll just have to wait and see," Derby manager John Eustace said. "It's not good when a player comes off on a stretcher."

In his absence, Derby beat Stoke City 2-0.

Agyemang has helped Derby rise into contention for promotion from the Championship thanks to a team-leading 10 goals since arriving last summer from Charlotte in Major League Soccer.

During the recent international break, he came off the bench for the United States and scored in a loss against Belgium and got minutes against Portugal.

Mystics fire GM Wideman

WASHINGTON — The Washington Mystics fired general manager Jamila Wideman, citing strategic differences. The WNBA franchise made the move Monday on the first day of free agency.

Mystics coach Sydney Johnson, entering his second season, is assuming control of basketball operations.