



ALL-COUNTY GIRLS BASKETBALL

Player of the Year

LIANA MAXWELL

LINGANORE SOPHOMORE GUARD

■ It's inaccurate to call this a breakout season for Maxwell, considering her stellar freshman campaign, but she substantially elevated her game to become Frederick County's most dominant player. With an ability to drive for layups and/or trips to the free throw line, run the floor and hit 3-pointers, she led the county in scoring. She also led one of Frederick County's top teams in assists, steals and blocks and was second in rebounds — teammate Rachael Hepner was one of the area's fiercest board crashers. She did these things despite switching from off guard, a position she was expected to play this season, to point guard (her position last season) because Sedona Brown was sidelined for the first part of the season.

■ She routinely filled out the stat sheet each night, averaging 21.9 points, 6.7 rebounds, 3.4 assists, 3 steals and .8 blocks a game. She had a knack for coming through in big games, scoring 31 and 36 to lead the Lancers to a pair of wins over longtime nemesis Oakdale, 26 points in both regular-season victories over fellow local power Frederick and 28 points in a pair of wins over a quality Urbana team.



FIRST TEAM

SOPHIA BURGEE FRESHMAN GUARD THOMAS JOHNSON

■ Delivered in big games. Her 22 points, 4 assists and 3 steals helped knock off Urbana in the regional semis. Hit the game-winner at the buzzer against Catoctin. Was 2nd in the county in scoring with 17.4 points a game. Also averaged 3.1 assists, 3 steals and 2 blocks a game.



ZIZI ETOLUE JUNIOR FORWARD URBANA

■ A returning first-teamer who was the top player for one of Frederick County's top teams. Led the county in rebounding with 11.1 a game and led the Hawks in scoring with 12.9 points per game.



ALEXIS PARKER SENIOR FORWARD MIDDLETOWN

■ Offseason work on post moves and driving to the hoop helped Parker, known more as a catch-and-shoot player in the past, expand her game. She led the Knights in scoring (11.4 points per game) and rebounding (6.4 boards a game).



JAMEIRAH THOMPSON SOPHOMORE GUARD FREDERICK

■ Top player for a team that won the CMC Large Schools and 3A West Region I titles. Excelled on both ends of the floor and possessed a hard-to-defend spin move on drives. Averaged 15.1 points (a team high), 4.4 assists and 3.3 steals per game.



KELSEY TROXELL SENIOR FORWARD CATOCTIN

■ She crashed the boards hard, fearlessly drove the lane and hit timely jumpers. Averaged a team-high 14.5 points along with 7.3 rebounds. Her 28 points and 13 rebounds helped Catoctin to a double-overtime win over South Carroll in the regional semifinals.



KENZIE WALKER SENIOR GUARD OAKDALE

■ Set a team single-game record for points (31) and a single-season record for steals. Led the Bears in scoring (12 points per game), was second in assists (3.7 per game) and third in rebounds (5.0 per game). Is second on Oakdale's all-time list in career points and steals.



MARLEE WILLIAMS JUNIOR GUARD FREDERICK

■ Ran the point to bolster a talented guard corps for a team that won the CMC Large Schools and 3A West Region I titles. Led Frederick County in assists with 5.1 per game. Also averaged 10.1 points, 6.8 rebounds and 3.4 steals a game.



SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name	School	Grade
F	CYRAH CREWS	FREDERICK	SOPHOMORE
F	RACHAEL HEPNER	LINGANORE	SENIOR
F	ANNABELLE HORST	THOMAS JOHNSON	FRESHMAN
G	TALIA JENKINS	MIDDLETOWN	SENIOR
F	LAYLA MCFARLAND	OAKDALE	SENIOR
G	CAYENNE PIGEON	FREDERICK	JUNIOR
G	SHAY RAIFORD	OAKDALE	SENIOR
G	KELSEY RYAN	LINGANORE	SOPHOMORE
G	CHANDLER WAYS	URBANA	JUNIOR
G	BROOKE WILLIAMS	CATOCTIN	SENIOR

HONORABLE MENTION

- Brunswick**—Madison Greenwood, Emme Miller
- Catoctin**—Leah French, Olivia Hoyt, Madelynn Myers
- Frederick**—Riley Kelly
- Frederick Warriors**—Maddie McGrew, Ava Phimmakaysone
- Linganore**—Sedona Brown, Bradyn MacKay
- Middletown**—Avery Larson
- Maryland School for the Deaf**—Jacquindia Fuller, Avery Penny
- Oakdale**—Lillian Leon, Shaylee McGlinchey, Kaitlyn Staiger
- St. John's Catholic Prep**—Kieryn Gomez, Catie Power, Marlee Thomas
- Thomas Johnson**—Laney Baer, Leah Brown, Chadaya Hairston
- Tuscarora**—Alex Bender, Cahya Jefferson
- Urbana**—Tobi Adebambo, Ella Crammer, Mackenna Patterson, Dyanara Valenzuela-Ruz
- Walkersville**—Madalynn Diggs, Nahlaya Johnson-Freeman

Justice Department investigating NFL for potential anticompetitive practices

The Justice Department is investigating the NFL for potential anticompetitive practices, according to a government official.

The official, who was not authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation by name and spoke on condition of anonymity Thursday, said the investigation is "about affordability for consumers and creating an even playing field for providers."

The investigation was first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

The NFL has not received a notification that the league is being investigated, according to two other people with knowledge of the situation. Those people spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak on possible legal matters.

The investigation comes amid increasing federal scrutiny of the amount of money fans are paying to watch sports on television. The Federal Communications Commission, for example, is seeking public comments on the ongoing shift of live sports from broadcast channels to streaming services.

The NFL said in a statement Thursday that over 87% of its games are available on broadcast television, including all that are played in a team's local market.

"The NFL's media distribution model is the most fan and broadcaster-friendly in the entire sports and entertainment industry. The 2025 season was our most viewed since 1989 and reflects the strength of the NFL distribution model and its wide availability to all fans," the league said in its statement.

Utah Sen. Mike Lee, chair of the Senate judiciary subcommittee on antitrust, competition policy, and consumer rights, wrote a letter to the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission on March 3 urging them to review whether the NFL's distribution methods are in line with the Sports Broadcasting Act, which grants limited antitrust immunity to allow

Short Takes

from wire reports

teams to collectively license game broadcasts to national networks.

"The modern distribution environment differs substantially from the conditions that precipitated this exemption. Instead of a small number of free broadcast networks, the NFL now licenses games simultaneously to subscription streaming platforms, premium cable networks, and technology companies operating under different business models," the Republican senator wrote. "To the extent collectively licensed game packages are placed behind subscription paywalls, these arrangements may no longer align with the statutory concept of sponsored telecasting or the consumer-access rationale underlying the antitrust exemption."

Lee said in his letter that football fans spent almost \$1,000 on cable and streaming subscriptions. Forbes estimated the cost of watching every NFL game via streaming last season at \$765.

The NFL aired games last season on CBS, NBC, ABC/ESPN/ESPN+, Fox, NFL Network, Amazon Prime Video, Netflix and YouTube TV.

The Sports Broadcasting Act exemption passed in 1961 applies only to broadcast television. Courts have ruled in the past that it does not apply to other media, including cable, satellite and streaming.

Sarr dealing with toe injury, 'unlikely' to return to Wizards this season

WASHINGTON — Wizards forward Alex Sarr is likely done for the season due to a toe injury, Washington coach Brian

Keefe said Thursday.

The 7-foot Sarr, the No. 2 overall selection in the 2024 NBA draft, has missed the Wizards' last six games with capsulitis in his left big toe.

The NBA-worst Wizards are 17-62 and have games remaining against Miami (Friday) and Cleveland (Sunday).

Sarr has averaged 16.3 points and 7.4 rebounds for Washington in 48 games while managing a range of short-term ailments.

NCAA weighs 5-year eligibility limit for college athletes

An NCAA panel is scheduled to discuss potential changes to eligibility rules that would include an age limit, according to two people with knowledge of the situation.

The proposal, which mirrors language written in the executive order issued by President Donald Trump last week, would give athletes five years of eligibility with the clock starting when an athlete turns 19 or graduates from high school, whichever is earliest. There would be limited exceptions but they would not include injuries, which has been a common reason for players to ask for and receive extra eligibility.

The details will be reviewed and discussed by the Division I Cabinet next week, but not voted on for implementation, according to the two people who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Wednesday because the NCAA hasn't publicly discussed the proposal. Yahoo Sports was first to report the details.

Trump called for "clear, consistent and fair eligibility limits, including a five-year participation window" that limits athletes to one transfer with one more available once they get a four-year degree.

McIlroy has share of lead

(Continued from B1)

when he won in 2021 — shot 67 while hitting only five fairways. McIlroy was the sixth defending champion to have at least a share of the 18-hole lead, though only Jack Nicklaus (1966) went on to win.

There's a long way to go, and a course that already has everyone's attention because

of how fast and firm it already was on Thursday.

Burns was among the early starters. He played the par 5s with three birdies and an eagle and wound up with his lowest score in his fifth Masters appearance.

"Historically, people who have success here play the par 5s really well, and we were able to do that today. So it's a

good recipe around this golf course," Burns said.

Scottie Scheffler, the No. 1 player in the world going for a third green jacket in the last five years, was 3 under through three holes in the tougher afternoon, when the light gusts began playing tricks and the greens got crispy. He had one bogey and 14 pars the rest of the way for a 70.

The whole day was tough, and the forecast — this could be the first Masters in 25 years without any rain — has everyone on edge thinking what the next three days could hold. Yes, the weather was gorgeous. But dry and firm conditions are scary, even in this marvelous garden.

"It's not right on the edge, but it's playing nice and firm

where you can get yourself in a lot of trouble if you lose control somewhere," Adam Scott said after a 72.

Patrick Reed, the 2018 Masters champion and a two-time winner on the European tour this year, was at 69 along with Jason Day and Kurt Kitayama. Reed was atop the leaderboard for so much of the day due to two eagles on the front

nine that sent him out in 31.

But he dropped a shot on the 10th, and then was flummoxed by what he thought was an ideal shot for his second into the par-5 15th. Such are the firmness of the greens that his shot hit hard off the back of the green, bounded down the slope and didn't stop rolling until it was in the pond on No. 16.