



Russellville's EJ King. [PHOTOS BY DAN BUSEY/TIMESDAILY]



Florence's Bryant James.



Deshler's Garrett Reid.



Florence's Jalen Chandler.



Central's Jackson Brewer.



Loretto's Grayson Bursleson.

TIMES DAILY

2025 LARGE SCHOOL ALL-AREA BOYS BASKETBALL

FIRST-TEAM ALL-AREA

EJ King, Sr., G, 6-2, Russellville

First-team Class 5A All-State and a finalist for 5A player of the year. Averaged 31.8 points per game, a school record, according to the AHSAA. Posted three 40-point games, twice reaching his 44-point high. Had a season low of 21 points. Two-time All-State, the first in Russellville history. Two-time TimesDaily player of the year.

Bryant James, Sr., G, 6-2, Florence

First-team Class 7A All-State. Finished with a 15.9 average, sinking 37% of his 3-pointers and 85% of his free throws. Hit for a season-high 31 points in a playoff win over Bob Jones. Finished with 2,237 career points between Haleyville and Florence. Three-time All-Area. Two-time All-State.

Jalen Chandler, Sr., F-C, 6-7, Florence

Second-team Class 7A All-State. Posted 15-point and 7.6-rebound averages. Set a 7A state tournament record with a 41-point semifinal outburst against Fairhope. His previous season high was 24 points, three times. His previous career high was 31 as a junior with Covenant Christian. Three-time All-Area. Three-time All-State.

RJ Gourley, Sr., F, 6-3, Brooks

Second-team Class 4A All-State. Led the Lions to the state semifinals with a 14.4-point average. Dropped a season-high 29 points in a January win over Central.

Kel Battle, Sr., G, 6-1, Hamilton

Class 4A All-State honorable mention. Tossed in a 20.9-point average this season and was 84% on free throws. Breached 40 points twice, scoring 41 in a December win at Sulligent and a January win over Hackleburg. Set a school record with 1,755 career points. Two-time All-Area.



Brooks' RJ Gourley.



Hamilton's Kel Battle.

SECOND-TEAM ALL-AREA

Garrett Reid, Jr., G, 6-1, Deshler

Totaled averages of 16.3 points and 6.2 rebounds. Had the most assists of any large school nominee with 127, a 3.8 average. Posted four 30-point games with a high of 32 in a January loss at Red Bay. Two-time All-Area.

Miles Warren, So., G, 6-0, Brooks

Pitched in, on average, 13.5 points and 6.8 rebounds per game. Totaled 40 points in a November win over Lawrence County (Alabama) and had 33 in a December win at Deshler.

Grayson Bursleson, Sr., G, 6-5, Loretto

Finalist for Tennessee's 2A player of the year. Averaged 17 points per game for the state champion Mustangs, who were the first unbeaten Tennessee Division I state champion in 17 years.

Jackson Brewer, Sr., F, 6-2, Central

Averaged 12.5 points and 8.5 rebounds. Scored in double figures in all but four games, hitting 21 twice.

Jemarion Draper, Jr., F, 6-6, Muscle Shoals

Led the Trojans with an 11.1-point average on 58% shooting. Reached 20 points twice.

HONORABLE MENTION

- Central: Bryant Hanback
- Florence: Jaylen Blackwell
- Haleyville: Eli Cagle
- Hamilton: Mason Holloway
- Lawrence Co. (Tenn.): Alex Bedford
- Loretto: Kasen Buie
- Muscle Shoals: Gavin Hulsey
- Wilson: Freddy Franks, Braxton Glaze

No information received from Hatton.

FINAL RECORDS

	W	L	PF	PA
Brooks	26	10	55.2	46.5
Central	16	7	57.4	49.9
Deshler	20	13	63.6	59.3
Florence	26	8	64.2	53.3
Haleyville	15	14	53.9	52.6
Hamilton	10	18	61.8	64.4
Hatton	4	21	51.0	63.1
Lawrence Co. (Tenn.)	15	15	47.6	44.5
Loretto	35	0	64.9	41.0
Muscle Shoals	16	8	55.3	49.6
Russellville	15	10	68.0	64.2
Wilson	19	12	59.2	51.9

COACH OF THE YEAR

Dylan Bursleson, Florence

Was the 7A coach of the year, leading the Falcons to their first regional championship and first state runner-up finish. Helped Florence spark a late-season 12-game winning streak that ended in the 7A championship game. Guided his second school to its first state semifinal berth, also doing so at Haleyville in 2022. Has a 41-20 record in two seasons at Florence and is 131-88 in seven years as a head coach.

All-Area team compiled by A. Stacy Long in consultation with area coaches.



Florence's Dylan Bursleson.



Muscle Shoals' Jemarion Draper.



Brooks' Miles Warren.