



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



Florence's Bryant James.



Deshler's Khalil Bland.



Hamilton's Kel Battle.



Muscle Shoals' Jalen Bowens.



Russellville's Malachi Duncan.

TIMES DAILY

2024 LARGE SCHOOL ALL-AREA BOYS BASKETBALL

FIRST-TEAM ALL-AREA

EJ King, Russellville, Jr., G, 6-1

First-team Class 5A All-State. Led the Shoals with a 25.1-point averaged. Also averaged 8.1 rebounds. Had five 30-point games with a two-time high of 35. Was Russellville's first first-team All-State player since Luther Tiggs in 1983.

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

Third-team Class 7A All-State. Posted averages of 15.7 points and 5.1 rebounds and totaled 75 steals. Recorded his best scoring effort with 33 points in a December overtime victory over Muscle Shoals. Has scored 1,752 career points between Haleyville and Florence. Two-time All-Area.

Khalil Bland, Deshler, Sr., G, 5-9

Led the Tigers with a 14.6-point average. Also posted 4.9-rebound and 3.3-assist averages. His best scoring night was a 29-point effort in January at Wilson. Helped lead the Tigers to their first appearance in the state semifinals since 2008.

Noah Gregg, Brooks, Sr., F, 6-3

Averaged 11 points per game on 56% shooting with 6.8 rebounds. Scored a high of 27 points in a January victory over Sparkman. Helped the Lions reach 20 wins for the sixth time in seven seasons.

Luke Mosley, Muscle Shoals, Sr., G, 6-0

Led the Trojans in scoring and assists, averaging 12.9 and 2.7, respectively. Set his season high for points with 28 in an early-January victory at Athens that helped Muscle Shoals to the 6A, Area 15 championship. Two-time All-Area.

SECOND-TEAM ALL-AREA

Jalen Bowens, Muscle Shoals, Sr., G, 6-1

Finished with a 12.2-point average on 56% shooting. Tossed in a season-high 29 points in a December overtime loss at Florence.

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

Had 13-point and 4-rebound averages. Part of Deshler's eighth straight 20-win season and 12th straight winning year.

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

Led the Aggies in scoring with 18 per game. His 97 3-pointers, the most in the Shoals. Posted three 30-point games, highlighted by 34 in a December win over Northside.

Malachi Duncan, Russellville, Sr., G, 6-0

Posted a 13.7-point average with a high of 28 in a January home win over Hamilton.

Will Robertson, Rogers, Jr., F, 6-5

Averaged 12.4 points on 54% shooting and 8.6 rebounds. Regularly faced double-team defenses.

HONORABLE MENTION

Brooks: RJ Gourley
Central: Michael McClure, Jackson Brewer
Deshler: Aiden Woody
Florence: Jayshod Pearson
Haleyville: Eli Cagle
Hamilton: Mason Holloway
Muscle Shoals: Luke Sasser
Russellville: KJ Murray
Wilson: Freddy Franks

FINAL RECORDS

Brooks (23-6), Central (11-16), Deshler (22-12), Florence (15-12), Haleyville (8-15), Hamilton (17-12), Lawrence Co. (Tenn.) (25-7), Loretto (20-8), Muscle Shoals (16-6), Rogers (12-16), Russellville (18-7), Wilson (9-20).

COACH OF THE YEAR

Brian Pounders, Deshler

Dealt with the loss of four starters from last year's team and directed the Tigers to their first state semifinal appearance since 2008. In 12 years, has a 258-127 record.

All-area team compiled by A. Stacy Long in consultation with area coaches. No information received from Lawrence County (Tennessee) or Loretto.



Brooks' Noah Gregg.



Deshler's Garrett Reid.



Rogers' Will Robertson.



Muscle Shoals' Luke Mosley.