

# GIRL'S BASKETBALL SECTIONAL PREVIEW

## Batesville aims for sectional success

**Rob Lafary**  
SPORTS WRITER

The job first-year head coach Mitchell Taylor has done at the helm of Batesville girls basketball has been Coach of the Year worthy this season. Now Taylor's magic will be relied upon as the Lady Bulldogs try to navigate Class 3A Sectional 29. It has not been an easy task in past years. Three of the last four seasons have seen Batesville lose its sectional opener and the program has been without a sectional title since 2009. Not to men-

tion when you throw in the results of the 2022-2023 campaign, five of the Lady Bulldog's 10 losses heading into the final regular season week have come against Sectional 29 opponents with just two -Lawrenceburg and Franklin County-decided by less than 10 points. And advancing through the bracket will require potential wins against Franklin County, Greensburg/Rushville and Lawrenceburg. Batesville is 0-4 against those schools. But when Batesville

is on its A-game, they certainly can compete and the potential of that consistency stringing together makes them the biggest dark horse in that sectional. The Lady Bulldogs have recorded 11 wins -the most since 2018- thus far and victories come when the blue and white are able to get their offense in sync, scoring just shy of 51 points per game when they finish games on top. When it's not in sync? Try scoring just 37.2 points per night. It all starts with Alyson Peters who is leading the way at 13 points and 7.1 rebounds per game but the sophomore is not alone in terms of who can do some damage for Batesville. Sophie Gesell (7.1 ppg, 4.7 rpg) and Lydia Haskamp (6.3 ppg, 6.0 rpg) are legitimate threats while Emma Weiler (6.1 ppg), Claire Saner and Marlee Obermeyer are all threats from the perimeter. A returning senior Makayla Granger could also be a spark as she continues to get back into playing form. Granger is averaging three points since returning from a multi-year ACL injury. Batesville plays Franklin County (14-5) on Wednesday night at Rushville in the evening's first opening round game. The winner advances to the second semifinal on Friday, facing either Greensburg (12-8) or Rushville (11-12).



RICH FOWLER PHOTO  
Batesville sophomore Alyson Peters leads her team in scoring and rebounding. Both will be needed for the Lady Bulldogs in Class 3A Sectional 29.



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Lady Bulldogs*



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# Lady Eagles are again the favorite



**Rob Lafary**  
SPORTS WRITER

Jac-Cen-Del girls basketball has watched a couple of fellow Class A Sectional 60 opponents reign supreme over the past two years but now the Lady Eagles are the favorites to once again bring home a sectional championship to Osgood.

The Lady Eagles have won 25 sectional championships -fifth-best in the state- and are in the driver's seat as Sectional 60 favorites, entering the final week of the regular season with an overall record of 11-10 which includes a five-game win streak and chance at an Ohio River Valley Con-

ference championship. Only Morristown (10-10) and Oldenburg Academy (9-9) are current postseason foes with a record of .500 or better while Waldron and Southwestern (Shelby), the two previous defending champions, are just 4-16 and 5-15 respectively.

Jac-Cen-Del is unblemished against sectional opponents this year with a mark of 5-0 and the five wins have come by an average margin of 22.4 points per game. Only Oldenburg, who lost 57-47 on November 18, has come within 10 points or less of the Lady Eagles.

As impressive as the defense has been in terms of allowing low point totals

and creating turnovers, it is Jac-Cen-Del's offense that is currently red hot and has paced their recent five-game win streak. After a four-game losing skid that saw the Osgood crew score just 50-plus points on one occasion, the Lady Eagles in their last five contests are averaging 57.6 points per game and three players are averaging double figures.

Reagan Hughes (13.1 ppg), Julia Meyer (13.0 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 3.4 apg) and Olivia Neal (10.0 ppg, 6.0 rpg) are spearheading the effort while Kelsey Borgman at 7.6 points per night has come on as of late and provided another scoring threat.

Jac-Cen-Del opens Sectional 60 next Tuesday night at Southwestern (Shelby) against defending champion Waldron who made a run to the Class A Final Four a year ago. The winner meets the host Lady Spartans in the first semifinal game on Friday night.



RICH FOWLER PHOTO  
Jac-Cen-Del's Reagan Hughes is averaging 13.1 points per game, leading a Lady Eagles team that is favored in Class A Sectional 60.

## Good Luck Lady Eagles



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# Lady Indians prepare for sectional run

**Rob Lafary**  
SPORTS WRITER

Milan girls basketball has not won a game inside Class 2A Sectional 45 since 2019 but after receiving a bye to the semifinals this season against an opponent it can compete with, the Lady Indians just may have the opportunity to sneak into next week's championship game.

The Lady Indians were sectional runner-up in 2018 and plays Hauser (9-9) next Friday night in the semifinal round with a title game berth on the line. Milan fell to the Lady Jets 48-33 all the way back on November 10 but it was a game in which one bad second quarter ruined a matchup in which the black and gold owned an advantage in the three other quarters combined.

Tournament success has been tasted by Milan already this season, having won the Cambridge

City Classic on December 29 but a downward spiral has been trending ever since. The Lady Indians entered this week with a 3-17 overall record and has suffered through a five-game losing streak that dates back to after that tourney. In their defense, the schedule in that stretch has been brutal considering four of the five foes -South Ripley, Jac-Cen-Del, Shawe Memorial and North Decatur- own winning records while the other loss, to Rising Sun, was against a Lady Shiner ball club that has hovered around the .500 mark all season.

So how exactly can the Lady Indians get a victory when wins matter the most? A lot of it will have to do with the offense. Yes, turnovers are a big issue for an inexperienced roster but points have to be put up and such a statement has evidence behind it. Milan is only averaging 32 points per

game but two of their three wins have been by being able to score 40 points or more. Should they score and take care of the basketball, that will in return limit possessions by the opponent and make Friday night's sectional title an interesting contest.

The freshmen duo of Kaiya Rinear and Emma Voss will be relied upon heavily to produce that kind of offense. Rinear is a double-double machine at 12.6 points per game and 11.8 rebounds per game while Voss is averaging just under double figures and has connected on 24 made 3-pointers. A third scorer could ease the load and that perhaps comes in the form of Anna Herzog who continues to improve as the year goes along.

The Friday night game against Hauser will be the first semifinal played that night at Switzerland County.



RICH FOWLER PHOTO

Anna Herzog is looking to make an impact as the Lady Indians are in hopes of a Class 2A Sectional 45 championship game appearance next week.

**Pairings for the 48th annual IHSAA Girls Basketball State Tournament were drawn on Sunday evening in Indianapolis as sectional action is scheduled to begin next week.**

**Sectionals across the state tip-off on Tuesday night with many area schools kicking off action on that same day. Local sectional pairings are as follows:**

**Class A Sectional 60 at Southwestern (Shelby)**  
Tues.- Waldron vs Jac-Cen-Del  
Wed.- Oldenburg Academy vs South Decatur  
Wed.- Morristown vs Edinburgh  
Fri.- Winner of G1 vs Southwestern (Shelby)  
Fri.- Winner of G3 vs Winner G4  
Sat.- Championship Game  
\*Winner advances to the Class A Regional Championship at Southwestern (Shelby)

**Class 2A Sectional 45 at Switzerland County**  
Tue.- South Ripley vs North Decatur  
Fri.- Milan vs Hauser  
Fri.- Winner of G1 vs Switzerland County  
Sat.- Championship Game  
\*Winner advances to the Class 2A Regional Championship at Crawford County

**Class 3A Sectional 29 at Rushville**  
Tue.- South Dearborn vs Connersville  
Wed.- Franklin County vs Batesville  
Wed.- Greensburg vs Rushville  
Fri.- Winner of G1 vs Lawrenceburg  
Fri.- Winner of G2 vs Winner of G3  
Sat.- Championship Game  
\*Winner advances to the Class 3A Regional Championship at Charlestown

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# Lady Raiders set for the gauntlet

**Rob Lafary**  
SPORTS WRITER

By no means can a team be intentionally punished by a blind state tournament draw but two-time defending sectional champion South Ripley sure did get the brutal draw inside Class 2A Sectional 45.

A road back for a chance to win a sectional crown for a third-straight season will have to go through the two teams in the field who currently own the two best win-loss records. North Decatur is an overwhelming favorite with a 15-5 record and should South Ripley win that opening round battle, they will meet Switzerland County (13-7) in the semifinal round. The Lady Raiders lost to both in the regular season, falling 55-37

to the Lady Chargers on November 29 and then to the Lady Pacers 39-30 on December 13.

Injuries galore have hampered the green and white since December but the Lady Raiders remain above .500 in the final week of the regular season, joining Jac-Cen-Del in pursuit of an Ohio River Valley Conference championship while also sporting a 12-9 overall record. South Ripley has won five of its last seven games and with the roster being as healthy as it possibly can be at the moment, there's no reason to overlook the Versailles gang as a sectional contender.

It's defense that makes South Ripley a legitimate threat each and every night, only allowing opponents to score 38.7

points per game but a spread-the-wealth caliber lineup on offense makes it difficult to defend the Lady Raiders on the flip side.

Senior Emily Flood currently leads the way at 9.3 points per game and classmate Katelynn Samples is not too far behind with 8.9 points and 7.0 rebounds per night. Juniors Reese Obendorf (7.4 ppg) and Lydia Cornett (6.6 ppg) are right behind while Mya McNew and Lexi Franklin hover between four and five points per game.

The South Ripley/North Decatur clash will be at Switzerland County next Tuesday night with the semifinal matchup against the host Lady Pacers being slated as the second game on Friday.



RICH FOWLER PHOTO  
South Ripley senior Emily Flood looks to lead her team to a third-straight Class 2S Sectional 45 championship.



# OA girls have title aspirations

**Rob Lafary**  
SPORTS WRITER

It has been 17 long years since Oldenburg Academy has won a Class A Sectional 60 championship but with the right draw in place, the Lady Twisters feel they are a contender in the tournament come next week.

Not that the road to a title game won't be a challenge because it will. However, Oldenburg is 2-1 against opponents that stand in its way of that goal. Their opening round matchup against South Decatur (7-12) is a rematch from a game that saw the Lady Twisters win 42-30 on December 3 while also having beat potential semifinal foe Edinburgh 41-29 on November 29. The only loss on that side of the bracket has been to Morristown as the Yellow Jackets won the regular season collision 36-32 on December 12.

Oldenburg's only other loss to a Sectional 60 team was the 10-point loss to Jac-Cen-Del. A potential rematch between those two would come in the championship game next Saturday night.

With a 9-9 record going into this week, the Lady Twisters have had some impressive victories which includes wins over Rising Sun, Franklin County and Hauser. Oldenburg coming into the final week of the regular season was on a two-game skid but those losses were chalked up to Class A No. 1 Tri and Providence who is 14-6 and considered a favorite in Class 2A Sectional 46. It is worth noting that in the nine wins, Oldenburg's offense is only averaging 43 points per game but the defense has been stifling, only allowing 32.4 points in those same contests.

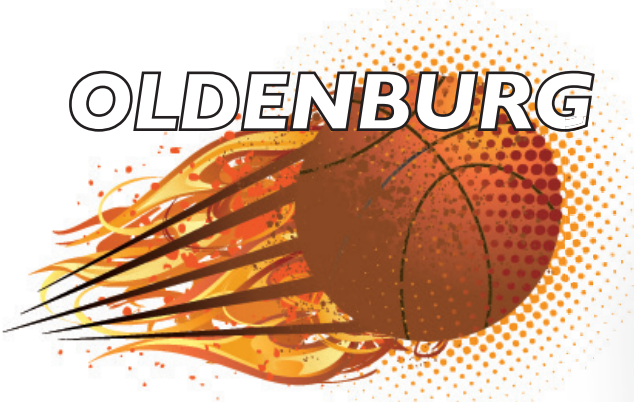
Overall on the year it is an offense scoring just 39 points per game but again defense has made



RICH FOWLER PHOTO  
Ashley Borgman brings into the postseason averages of 6.1 points and 4.8 rebounds per game as Oldenburg looks for a Class A Sectional 60 crown for the first time since 2006.

up for that low number, allowing 41 points per night through 18 games. A big part of the scoring load falls on Ellie Ryan who leads in scoring at 12.4 points per game and rebounding at 6.9 boards per contest. Ashley Borgman is a capable scorer at 6.1 points and 4.8 rebounds while Kate Weber's area of expertise has been defense, averaging a sensational 5.1 steals per game. She also has 5.3 points per game and dishes out a team-high average of 4.3 assists.

Oldenburg faces South Decatur at Southwestern (Shelby) in game one on Wednesday with the winner advancing to the second semifinal on Friday.



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