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# High school preview: Girls basketball

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Written by **Maurice Patton** | [The Tennessean](#)

## PLAYERS TO WATCH

**Shacobia Barbee**, 5-11, Sr., Riverdale: Georgia signee is reigning AAA Miss Basketball and two-time *Tennessean* player of the year.

**Nicole Bowers**, 6-2, Jr., Hillsboro: Top returnee from Region 6-AAA semifinal team averaged 12 points and nine rebounds.

**Chandler Cooper**, 5-11, Sr., Clarksville: Florida signee hit 91 3-pointers during junior season.

**Rachel Garland**, 5-9, Sr., Moore Co.: Class A Miss Basketball finalist averaged 15.2 points, seven rebounds.

**Bashaara Graves**, 6-2, Sr., Clarksville: Lady Vols signee averaged 19.1 points, 10.9 rebounds for AAA tournament team.

**Alexa Middleton**, 5-9, So., Riverdale : Started as freshman, attended 16U national trials in May.

**Tyisha Petty**, 5-7, Jr., Riverdale: Provided defensive spark and 15.2 ppg for Class AAA runnerup.

**Christina Slay**, 5-10, Sr., Ensworth: Drawing mid-major recruiting interest after averaging 12.3 points, 7.7 rebounds.

**Caya Williams**, 6-1, Sr., Mt. Juliet: MTSU signee was 9-AAA player of the year and a Miss Basketball finalist.

**Derica Wyatt**, 5-10, Jr., FRA: Averaged 16 points for DII-A champ and was a Miss Basketball finalist after winning in '10.

## MIDSTATE TOP 10

**1. Riverdale:** 2011 AAA runner-up, 2010 champion lost just two seniors, adds another key transfer.

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**2. Clarksville:** Lady Wildcats start five Division I signees, including three going to SEC schools.

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**3. Mt. Juliet:** Strong senior nucleus will be aided by the addition of 6-3 sophomore post Sally McCabe.

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**4. Wilson Central:** Regular Class AAA tourney contender has firepower on perimeter, in paint.

**5. Cane Ridge:** Perimeter quickness and interior size make Lady Ravens a team to watch.

**6. Ensworth:** Lady Tigers hope inexperience at guard doesn't offset solid frontcourt play.

**7. Jackson Co.:** All five starters from a 30-4 Class A quarterfinal team return.

**8. Macon Co.:** First berth in AA championship game puts Lady Tigers on hoop radar.

**9. David Lipscomb:** Lady Mustangs return bulk of their roster from Class AA quarterfinal squad.

**10. Franklin Road Acad.:** Mariah Canady, Derica Wyatt shoot for back-to-back DII-A titles

### 3-POINTERS

1. With four senior starters returning, Summertown should contend for a Class A tournament berth under first-year Coach Craig McGill despite finishing 11-16 last season. But the Lady Eagles will have to overcome the loss of 6-3 senior Sarah Graham, who died in a car wreck on June 29. "It's going to be a very emotional year," McGill said. "They're going to play for her."

2. A handful of notable players changed schools over the offseason. Senior wing Matoria Henley transferred from Metro power Hillsboro to up-and-coming Cane Ridge. Shelbie Davenport, Siegel's leading scorer as a freshman wing, has gone to Riverdale. Guard Sommer Smith has returned to Summertown — where she played as a sophomore — from Lawrence County.

3. Riverdale will host the inaugural State Farm Tournament Dec. 19-21. Among the participants are Class AAA champion Memphis Central, Lovett (Ga.) and Cane Ridge. Riverdale travels to Mt. Juliet on Dec. 13 with the Lady Bears making the return trip on Feb. 13. Clarksville makes two trips to Nashville: Nov. 28 against Cane Ridge and Jan. 7 at Hillsboro.

### STATE PREDICTIONS

#### CLASS A

**Final Four:** Jackson County, Lake County, Moore County, North Greene

**Champion:** With senior guard Caroline Warden and sophomore guard Jaycee Coe, Jackson County can claim its seventh state

crown since 2000.

**CLASS AA**

**Final Four:** David Lipscomb, Macon County, McMinn Central, Obion Central

**Champion:** Behind versatile junior forward Elizabeth Massengil, McMinn Central should repeat as champion.

**CLASS AAA**

**Final Four:** Clarksville, Memphis Central, Riverdale, Science Hill

**Champion:** With a reigning Miss Basketball, a junior who has committed (Olivia Jones, MTSU) and two nationally ranked sophomores, Riverdale should win its second title in three years.

**DIVISION II-A**

**Final Four:** FRA, Harding Academy, Knoxville Webb, USJ

**Champion:** Georgia signee Marjorie Butler and an experienced supporting cast makes Knoxville Webb the favorite.

**DIVISION II-AA**

**Final Four:** Baylor, Briarcrest, Ensworth, Girls Prep

**Champion:** Girls Prep could repeat with Auburn signee Chadarryl Clay and Loyola (Md.) signee Jeneh Perry.

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