

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026

# 2025-26 NASH CENTRAL HS GIRLS BASKETBALL PART OF THE PROCESS



NASH CENTRAL'S JAKAYLA GAY MAKES A STRONG DRIVE VS. ROCKY MOUNT

(Photos Submitted by Carl Copeland)

## Young Bulldogs fall to veteran RMHS squad

By CHANCE PUCKETT  
Correspondent

ROCKY MOUNT -- Two of the area's top girls basketball teams met on the hardwood last Wednesday, with Rocky Mount topping the Nash Central Lady Bulldogs 48-34.

Rocky Mount seniors Kira Jones and Keysha Mizzell combined for 37 of the Lady Gryphons' 48 points, with Jones leading the way with a game-high 20.

As for Nash Central, freshman phenom A'dia Cash accounted for a team-best 14 points while senior JaKayla Gay contributed 12 as well.

"We didn't execute the gameplan well," stated long-time Nash Central head coach Terri Cash after the loss.

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NASH CENTRAL'S A'DIA CASH HAS BEEN EXCEPTIONAL AS A FRESHMAN



2025 NORTHERN NASH HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS TENNIS SQUAD

## NN Was Strong In The Big East

Lady Knights finished tied for second place in tough league

From Staff Reports

NASH COUNTY -- Northern Nash High School's successful girls tennis season was capped off when a pair of Fighting Knights earned spots on the prestigious 2025 All-Big East Conference Girls Tennis Team.

Making the list from Northern Nash were teammates Esther Edgerton and Carisma Deans. Olivia Webb was an honorable mention selection.

With those players leading the way, the Fighting Knights claimed a tie for second overall in the competitive league behind

Wilson Fike.

Northern Nash posted an 11-4 overall mark to go with an impressive 7-3 worksheet in Big East action.

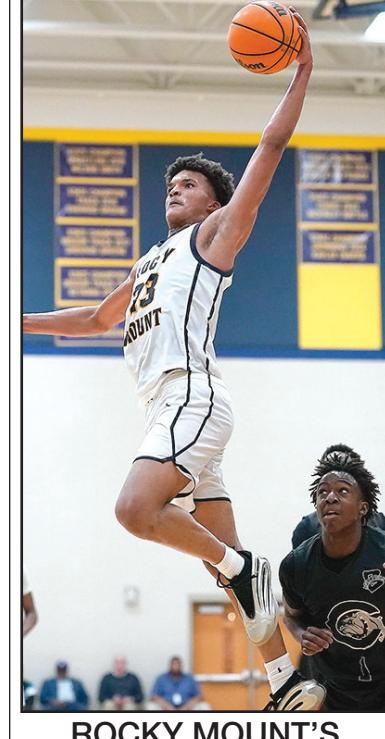
Fike's Holland Ellis was the Big East Player of the Year, while Lee Matthews was the automatic pick as the Conference Champion Coach of the Year.

Southern Nash, which tied for fourth place, featured Taryn Reams and Lauren Maldonado on the squad, with Hayden Baker earning an honorable mention salute.

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NASH CENTRAL'S ZACCAI ALLEN



ROCKY MOUNT'S BRELYN MOSES

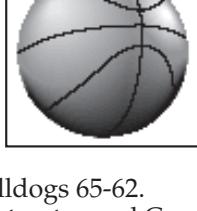
## RM boys edge the Bulldogs

By CHANCE PUCKETT  
Correspondent

ROCKY MOUNT -- A rivalry tilt between Nash Central and Rocky Mount came down to the wire on the high school circuit last Wednesday, with the Gryphons edging the Bulldogs 65-62.

Rocky Mount outscored Central 20-17 in the final period and bucketed the game's final four points to erase a late Bulldog lead, using a score-tying

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SOUTHERN NASH'S ELIZABETH SALGADO

## Brittany sked now finalized

From Staff Reports

WILSON -- One of the East Coast's most prestigious girls soccer events continues to grow -- and it will include six schools from Nash County.

The 20th Annual Brittany Girls Soccer Showcase will feature a record 89 entrants when the annual event takes place March 13-14 at Gillette Park

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## BRITTANY

in Wilson.

Six of those entrants will be from Nash County -- Nash Central, Northern Nash, Southern Nash, Rocky Mount, Faith Christian and Rocky Mount Academy.

Southern Nash, coached by the legendary Robbie Kennedy, will play both Friday and Saturday -- Friday at 1:30 p.m. against DASH United and Saturday at 4 p.m. versus North Johnston.

All of the other county schools will play once:

- Nash Central will tangle with West Carteret on Saturday at 4 p.m.

- Rocky Mount will square off against Sallie B. Howard on Friday at 1:30 p.m.

- Rocky Mount Academy will play North Raleigh Christian on Friday at 1:30 p.m.

- Faith Christian will take on Goldsboro on Friday at 1:30 p.m.

- Northern Nash will meet up with Currituck High School on Saturday at 9:30 p.m.

All-day tickets will be available at the gate. Donations will also be accepted.

All proceeds from the event will go to The Brittany Willis Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Here is the complete schedule:

## The Brittany 2026

March 13

1:30 p.m.

- Field One -- Sallie B. Howard vs. Rocky Mount

- Field Two -- Northside Jacksonville vs. Bunn

- Field Three -- Community Christian vs. Ledford

- Field Four -- Rocky Mount Academy vs. North Raleigh Christian

- Field Five -- Epiphany New Bern vs. Wilson Beddingfield

- Field Six -- Dash United vs. Southern Nash

- Field Seven -- Roanoke Rapids vs. East Carteret

- Field Eight -- Faith Christian vs. Goldsboro

3:30 p.m.

- Field One -- CB Aycock vs. Clinton

- Field Two -- Wilson Greenfield vs. Ambassador Christian

- Field Three -- JPIII Catholic vs. Smithfield-Selma

- Field Four -- Swansboro vs. Ravenscroft

- Field Five -- Richlands vs. Durham Jordan

- Field Six -- Franklin Academy vs. Jacksonville White Oak

- Field Seven -- West Carteret vs. South Central

- Field Eight -- First

## TENNIS

Rocky Mount was represented by Arabella Davenport.

The complete 2025 All-Big East Conference Girls Tennis Team is as follows:

## 2025 All-Big East

## Conference

## Girls Tennis Team

- Holland Ellis, Wilson Fike

- Emory Skinner, Wilson Fike

- Kensley Hill, Wilson Fike

- Sarah Garrett Lamm, Wilson Fike

- Esther Edgerton, Northern Nash



NORTHERN'S ANNALIESE FREEMAN

Flight vs. Riverside

5:30 p.m.

- Field One -- Raleigh Broughton vs. TC Rober-

- son

- Field Two -- Wilson Fike vs. Manteo

- Field Three -- Ardrey Kell vs. Heritage

- Field Four -- Chapel Hill vs. AC Reynolds

- Field Five -- Charlotte Catholic vs. Apex

- Field Six -- Cardinal Gibbons vs. Hough

- Field Seven -- DH Conley vs. South Point

- Field Eight -- Currituck vs. West Iredell

7:30 p.m.

- Field One -- Sander-

- son vs. Hopewell

- Field Two -- Cape Fear vs. Wilson Hunt

- Field Three -- Marvin Ridge vs. Millbrook

- Field Four -- Middle Creek vs. Jacksonville High School

- Field Five -- Myers Park vs. Wake Forest High School

- Field Six -- Croatan vs. Clayton

- Field Seven -- North Brunswick vs. Cleveland High School (Johnston County)

9:30 a.m.

- Field One -- Bunn vs. Sallie B. Howard

- Field Two -- Swansboro vs. Pinecrest

- Field Three -- Manteo vs. Clinton

- Field Four -- Northern Nash vs. Currituck

- Field Five -- Ambassador Christian vs. JPIII Catholic

- Field Six -- East Carteret vs. West Iredell

- Field Seven -- White Oak vs. DASH United

- Field Eight -- Epiphany New Bern vs. Eden-

- ton Holmes

11:40 a.m.

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NASH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL'S JAYVIN BRITT

## NC BOYS

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free throw and go-ahead basket from sophomore Ur'Hynus Pierce in the contest's final two minutes.

The loss was Nash Central's second to the Gryphons in as many games, having suffered an 11-point setback to their county foe eight days prior at the John Jacobs Christmas Tournament in Clayton.

Tied at 62-apiece with 1:35 left in regulation, the Bulldogs opted to run more than 50 seconds off the clock before its offense moved into action.

Central senior Maurice Parker then found a hole in the Rocky Mount defense that allowed for an entry pass to Zachary Lynch.

Lynch's shot rattled off the rim but Parker was there for the rebound and putback, seemingly giving the Bulldogs a two-point advantage with 41 seconds remaining.

Those two points didn't stay on the scoreboard for long, though, as Parker was whistled for offensive goaltending resulting in a re-tied score and the ball being handed to the Gryphons.

Pierce then registered the game's final field goal with 19 seconds on the clock, putting Rocky Mount ahead 64-62. The Gryphons then forced the Bulldogs into a missed three-pointer, with Central proceeding to foul and put Zion Harris on the line for Rocky Mount.

Harris made the second of two attempts to extend the Gryphons' lead to three with just under four seconds left, enough time for one last Bulldog shot.

Central fired a triple that was inevitably off the mark, resulting in the Bulldogs falling to 3-6 on the young season.

Despite the loss, it was an improvement for head coach Brian Thomas'

squad, and another close call against a Nash County opponent. It was the second loss of the year for the Bulldogs by one possession, the first coming in a three-point defeat at the hands of archrival Northern Nash.

Strides have definitely been seen and it's easy to be optimistic about where the Bulldogs are headed into Quad County Conference play, however.

Parker, as well as Markell Jasper and Zaccari Allen, have each found their roles within the Bulldog roster and have become key pieces to what could be a breakout year three of Thomas' tenure at Nash Central.

Jasper, a junior, led the way against Rocky Mount with a game-high 17 points, while Parker was the lone other Bulldog to finish in double figures with 12. Both did so in an efficient manner as well, combining for a 13-of-24 (54%) mark from the field.

One night after dropping a loss to the Gryphons, Nash Central bounced back into the win column with a 60-53 victory over Southeast Collegiate Prep Academy, a contest that saw the Bulldogs win a de facto eight-minute ball-game after entering the final period knotted at 38-all.

Allen and Parker each finished with 12 points against the Trojans, while Central saw increased production from Jaice Johnson, Kameron Tucker and Bryson McWilliams, all of whom finished with seven as well.

A pesky Nash Central squad now readies for its conference slate that is set to begin on Friday, with the Louisburg Warriors set to visit the Dawg Pound.

Tipoff of the boys contest between the Bulldogs and Warriors is slated for 7:30 p.m.

## NC GIRLS

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"The press caught us off guard but it showed us what we need to work on."

A ferocious Rocky Mount defense forced the Lady Bulldogs into 22 turnovers, the team's second-most of the year while also limiting Cash's squad to its second-lowest point total of the 2025-26 campaign.

The Lady Gryphons held Central to single digits in scoring in three of the contest's four periods, with the Lady Bulldogs registering seven points in the first quarter, nine in the second, 12 in the third and six in the final frame.

"Their physicality is hard to match position-by-position," said Cash, who was very complimentary of Rocky Mount's roster and head coach Pam Gainey.

The loss bumped Nash Central to 7-3 on the year while Rocky Mount improved to 8-2, and despite dropping a second-straight defeat, it was an opportunity to grow and learn for Cash's group.

"While I prefer winning, I was encouraged with some of what I saw," remarked the Lady Bulldogs' head coach.

"I thought we did a good job of playing hard and not giving up, the effort was there."



NASH CENTRAL'S A'DIA CASH

since her 20-point performance against Northern Nash in the Lady Bulldogs' season opener on Nov. 18.

Dupree's 18 points came in what was undoubtedly her most efficient game of the season, finishing at nine-of-12 from the field at 75% shooting while also recording her third double-double of the season, doing so by snatching a game-high 14 rebounds.

Cash aided Nash Central's impressive offensive performance through distributing also, passing out a game-high 12 assists while matching Dupree with her third double-double of the year as well.

Gay led the way for the Lady Bulldogs with 25 points on an impressive 12-of-13 (92%) from the field against the Lady Trojans, while senior Jayden Baggett also finished with double figures at 12 points.

Central faced Northwood in its penultimate nonconference game of the year, dropping a 55-45 decision in Pittsboro on Saturday afternoon, with Quad County Conference play now the focus for NC.

A perceived favorite in the league, Nash Central tips off its league slate against Louisburg this Friday.

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