



LOUISVILLE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

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RYAN BRINGHURST, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

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16

May 5, 2017

Dear Committee Members

As the Athletic Director at Central High School, I feel that it is important for me to recognize our former student-athletes and coaches. Throughout the years, Central has had many standout athletes and coaches, including six individuals who have been inducted in the KHSAA Hall of Fame. It is my honor to nominate Margaret Richards as a player, who I hope the committee will recognize as the seventh inductee from Central.

Margret Richards was a standout athlete at Central from 1995-99. While she played multiple sports at Central, the basketball court was where she stood out not only amongst her peers in the 6th region, but throughout the state. Margaret was an All-District and All-Region 1st team selection all four years as a basketball player at Central. As a sophomore, she led the Central girls to a 6th region championship and a quarterfinal appearance in the state tournament. She was named to the All-Tournament team after leading Central with a 16 ppg average in their two games.

Margaret continue her success throughout her high school career. As a senior, she finished second in the state in scoring with an average of 35.5 points per game. She was named the 6th Region Player of the Year, 1st Team All-State by the Courier-Journal and was selected as a Kentucky All-Star.

After leaving Central, Ms. Richards was a 4-year letter winner at Nebraska including being named a captain during her junior and senior seasons. After her playing career, ended Margaret has had a successful career as a college basketball coach and currently represents Central and the Commonwealth of Kentucky as the Head Women's Basketball Coach at Alabama A&M.

There is no more deserving athlete to be included in the KHSAA Hall of Fame than Margaret Richards.

Thank you,

Ryan Bringhurst
Athletic Director
Louisville Central High School

KHSAA
TEAM
STATE
CHAMPIONSHIPS

84

KHSAA
INDIVIDUAL
STATE
CHAMPIONS

6

MEMBERS
KHSAA
HALL OF FAME

5

KHSAL
BASKETBALL
STATE
CHAMPIONSHIPS

3

NHSAA
BASKETBALL
NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS

KHSAL/KHSAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

1932 - BOYS BASKETBALL 1952 - BOYS BASKETBALL 1969 - BOYS BASKETBALL 1977 - GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY 1979 - GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY 2008 - FOOTBALL 2011 - FOOTBALL
1949 - BOYS BASKETBALL 1956 - BOYS BASKETBALL 1974 - BOYS BASKETBALL 1977 - GIRLS FENCING 1980 - GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY 2010 - BOYS TRACK 2012 - FOOTBALL
1951 - BOYS BASKETBALL 1958 - BOYS TRACK 1976 - GIRLS FENCING 1978 - GIRLS TRACK 2007 - FOOTBALL 2010 - FOOTBALL 2013 - GIRLS TRACK

NHSAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

1952 - BOYS BASKETBALL
1955 - BOYS BASKETBALL
1956 - BOYS BASKETBALL

All-Sixth Region

(Players in order of votes received)

Player, school	Ht.	Cl.	Pts.
Christi Hester, Holy Cross	5-10	Sr.	23.0
Sherry Newton, Butler	6-2	Sr.	12.3
Keeshia Evans, Butler	5-9	Jr.	14.7
Jackie Gilbert, Presentation	5-9	Jr.	10.7
Karen Powell, Holy Cross	5-11	Jr.	11.0
Rachel Beasley, Holy Rosary	5-11	So.	16.0
Margaret Richards, Central	5-9	Fr.	16.8
Vette Robinson, PRP	5-9	Sr.	14.5
Michelle Kuntz, Southern	6-2	Jr.	15.7
Brittney Highland, Butler	6-4	Sr.	10.1

Coach of the Year — Joe Voelker, Presentation.

Second team — Robin Livers, Holy Cross; Jill Sansbury, Holy Rosary; Elisha Sarver, Central; Mona Jackson, Iroquois; Shanna Nevils, Western; Kim Hilpp, Holy Cross; Kanedria Wilson, Valley; Jennifer Hollins, Shawnee; Dana Noel, Doss; Kathy Cahill, Presentation.

n teams

GIRLS' ALL-SIXTH REGION

(In order of votes received)

Player, school	Ht.	Cl.	Pts.
Keeshia Evans, Butler	5-8	Sr.	21.9
Rachel Beasley, Holy Rosary.....	5-11	Jr.	14.0
Monnie Elzy, Holy Cross	5-7	Sr.	13.0
Margaret Richards, Central	5-8	So.	*
Marlena Beauchamp, Western	6-3	Sr.	*
Michelle Kuntz, Southern	6-0	Jr.	14.1
Kathy Cahill, Presentation	5-5	Sr.	11.1
Karen Powell, Holy Cross	5-11	Sr.	10.0
Adrienne Everett, Southern	5-8	Sr.	16.4
x-Kim Hilpp, Holy Cross	5-6	Jr.	8.0
x-Sherell McElroy, Doss	5-3	Sr.	18.1
x-Jill Sansbury, Holy Rosary	5-8	Jr.	6.5

*-not available.

Coach of the Year — Tom Knabel, Southern.

Second team — LaToyia Hall, Southern; Jackie Gilbert, Presentation; Au'yana Ferguson, Central; Amy Skrine, Holy Rosary; Audrey Cannon, Butler; Julie Gibson, Butler; Lesley Drury, PRP; Amy Skrine, Holy Rosary; Tiffany Westmoreland, Iroquois; Stephanie Johnson, Central.

Beasley, Benningfield top All-Region teams

By JODY DEMLING
The Courier-Journal

Holy Rosary Academy senior Rachel Beasley and Assumption sophomore Jenni Benningfield have enjoyed a lot of success on the basketball floor this season.

Both are leaders on teams that have good shots to win their regions. Now both have been honored as the top vote-getters for the All-Region teams.

Beasley, who tied as the top vote-getter in the Sixth Region last season, made the team for the fourth consecutive year.

Benningfield, rated the No. 5 player in the state in a preseason poll of coaches, made the Seventh Region team for the second straight year.

Ten coaches from the Sixth Region and 18 from the Seventh voted. Coaches voted for 10 players and could not vote for their own players.

Beasley, who averages 15.6 points a game, was among four repeaters on the Sixth Region team. She garnered eight votes.

The Bellarmine College signee has missed Holy Rosary's past three games with a hand injury but is expected to return to the lineup soon.

Four players tied with seven votes

apiece, including repeaters Margaret Richards of Central, Kim Hilpp of Holy Cross and Jill Sansbury of Holy Rosary. Pleasure Ridge Park's Lesley Drury also had seven votes.

There is one other junior on the team — Butler's Audrey Cannon — and one sophomore — Southern's La-Toyia Hall.

The team also includes Central's Au'Yana Ferguson, Iroquois' Tiffany Westmoreland, Presentation's Shelley Kaufman and Valley's LaChae Churn.

Benningfield, who averages 16.9 points, collected 16 votes. Manual's Emily Roberson is on the team for the third year in a row and got 15 votes.

Assumption guard Genny Heavrin and Sacred Heart junior sharpshooter Lauren D'Ambrosio each had 14 votes.

Heavrin, who tore a knee ligament in last month's Louisville Invitational Tournament, is expected to return for next week's 25th District Tournament. She is averaging 12.6 points a game.

"I didn't want my senior year to end this way," said Heavrin, who was given the OK by her doctor on Monday. "I'm determined to play and hopefully help my team in the post-season."

Two other players — Highview Baptist's Denisa Tolle and Waggen-

Girls' All-Sixth Region

(In order of votes received)

Player, school	Ht.	Cl.	Pts.
Rachel Beasley, Holy Rosary	5-11	Sr.	15.6
Margaret Richards, Central	5-9	Jr.	10.8
Kim Hilpp, Holy Cross	5-5	Sr.	9.7
Jill Sansbury, Holy Rosary	5-8	Sr.	7.2
Lesley Drury, PRP	5-8	Sr.	n/a
Au'Yana Ferguson, Central	5-10	Sr.	12.5
LaToyia Hall, Southern	5-6	So.	16.0
Audrey Cannon, Butler	5-10	Jr.	19.0
x-Tiffany Westmoreland, Iroquois	6-1	Sr.	n/a
x-Shelley Kaufman, Presentation	5-6	Sr.	9.3
x-LaChae Churn, Valley	5-6	Sr.	13.2

Coach of the Year — Maria Paschal, Valley.

Second team — Yvette Taylor, Shawnee; Heather Bowman, Holy Cross; Ann Hutchins, Presentation; Michelle Kuntz, Southern; Chara Peterson, Fairdale; Tanisha Hickerson, Central; Kelly Cozzens, Holy Rosary; Amy Eaton, Butler; x-Latrice Cole, PRP; x-Rachel Fowler, Valley; x-Jennifer Jackson, Holy Cross.

x-tie in voting

Girls' All-Seventh Region

(In order of votes received)

Player, school	Ht.	Cl.	Pts.
Jenni Benningfield, Assumption	6-1	So.	16.9
Emily Roberson, Manual	5-10	Sr.	16.9
Genny Heavrin, Assumption	5-8	Sr.	12.6
Lauren D'Ambrosio, Sacred Heart	5-6	Jr.	20.0
Maria Starks, Jeffersontown	5-6	Sr.	13.5
Michelle Irwin, Eastern	6-2	Sr.	14.0
Kanedria Wilson, Waggener	5-5	Jr.	22.0
Denisa Tolle, Highview Baptist	5-7	Sr.	26.9
Nneka Irons, Manual	5-8	Jr.	13.4
Michea Embry, Mercy	5-7	Sr.	18.2

Coach of the Year — Joe Lyons, Waggener.

Second team — Brook Winstead, Jeffersontown; Evelyn Archie, Waggener; Kawana Neal, Ballard; Cindy Lea Gonzalez, Assumption; Kim Brohm, Mercy; Kelly Logsdon, Male; Christina Frank, Sacred Heart; x-Heather Gerlack, Sacred Heart; x-Nadia Craft, Brown; x-Shanta Bowers, Jeffersontown; x-Vikki Johnson, Eastern.

x-tie in voting

er's Kanedria Wilson — made the team for the second straight year.

The team also includes Maria Starks of Jeffersontown, Michelle Irwin of Eastern, Nneka Irons of Manual and Michea Embry of Mercy.

Central coach agrees: His is the team to beat

By MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM
Special to The Courier-Journal

Central girls' basketball coach Bill White thinks his team should defend its Sixth Region title, and he doesn't get many arguments from other coaches in the region.

"They made it to state last year, and they've got all five starters back," Butler coach Stephanie Greathouse said. "It's hard not to pick them."

The Yellowjackets are stacked with talent, size and experience, but that doesn't mean they won't be challenged.

"I think there's a lot of parity with Butler, Holy Cross, Southern, Central and us," Holy Rosary coach Karen Sweazy said. "One team really doesn't stand out from the rest."

Still, the Yellowjackets appear the clear favorites.

"We're stronger than last year," White said. "... There's no question in our minds that we are No. 1 in the region."

CENTRAL (21-12)

The Yellowjackets boast two of the region's top players in junior guard Margaret Richards (16.1 ppg, 9.8 rpg) and senior forward Au'vana Ferguson (9.7 rpg), although the latter isn't expected to play until late December after dislocating a kneecap playing field hockey.

"We have no depth, but it shouldn't matter," White said. "The young girls are coming around and starting to challenge the starters. Six or seven players will be able to play, and we shouldn't miss a beat. We still are going to play the way we like to play: pressing and continuously bringing players in and out."

White said sisters Camille and Rebecca Lee, both 5 feet 11, didn't play on weekends last season for religious reasons but have worked out the situation for this year. Those two — plus Richards, Ferguson and Tanisha Hickerson (9.9 rpg) — should help Central again rank among the state leaders in rebounds.

COACHES' RATINGS

Top teams

1. CENTRAL

2. Holy Rosary, 3. Butler, 4. Southern, 5. Presentation, 6. Holy Cross, 7. Pleasure Ridge Park, 8. Doss, 9. Fairdale, 10. Iroquois, 11. Valley, 12. Shawnee, 13. Western, 14. Portland Christian, 15. Evangel, 16. Beth Haven.

Top players

1. MARGARET RICHARDS, Central
2. (tie) Kim Hilpp, Holy Cross
Rachel Beasley, Holy Rosary
4. Jill Sansbury, Holy Rosary
5. Au'vana Ferguson, Central
6. Michelle Kuntz, Southern
7. Audrey Cannon, Butler
8. Lesley Drury, PRP
9. Amy Eaton, Butler
10. Shelley Kaufman, Presentation
11. LaToya Hall, Southern
12. Stephanie Johnson, Central
13. Tanisha Hickerson, Central
14. Latrice Cole, PRP
15. (tie) Amy Skrine, Holy Rosary
Tiffany Westmoreland, Iroquois

Sweazy said. "She was our top rebounder last year, but she can go out and shoot from the outside."

Jill Sansbury (7.4 ppg, 5 apg), Amy Skrine (11.5 ppg, 5.9 rpg) and Evie Brohm (6.8 ppg, 6.5 rpg) complete the nucleus.

BUTLER (19-10)

Butler, the region's runner-up last season, lost star Keeshia Evans to graduation, but Greathouse warns against taking the Bearettes lightly.

"I know a lot of people think we are not as good because we lost Keeshia," Greathouse said. "And we'd just as soon they thought that. The way we are right now, we'll always be competitive."

Greathouse has a talented one-two punch with Amy Eaton (10 ppg, 6 rpg) and Audrey Cannon (13 ppg, 8 rpg).

their own" in a loss to state po Montgomery County in the summ

SOUTHERN (17-8)

Last year's leaders, Adrienne Elett and Jamika Johnson, are at No. eastern Oklahoma A&M and Tennessee State, respectively. But the jans still have 6-0 forward Mich Kuntz (14 ppg, 9 rpg), mentioned ten by the region's coaches as a p er who can dominate.

Eight of Southern's 12 players underclassmen, so Kuntz and gu Latoyia Hall (17 ppg, 5 rpg) will counted on heavily.

"The team has been working ha and great things are expected fr Kuntz and Hall," coach Tom Kna said. "... We expect to be a top te by season's end, but we will young."

PRESENTATION (17-12)

Although Presentation has se seniors, coach Joe Voelker thinks Toppers won't reach their poten until later in the season.

"We can contend to win the regi but it will take time," he said. "We got some young players that need develop."

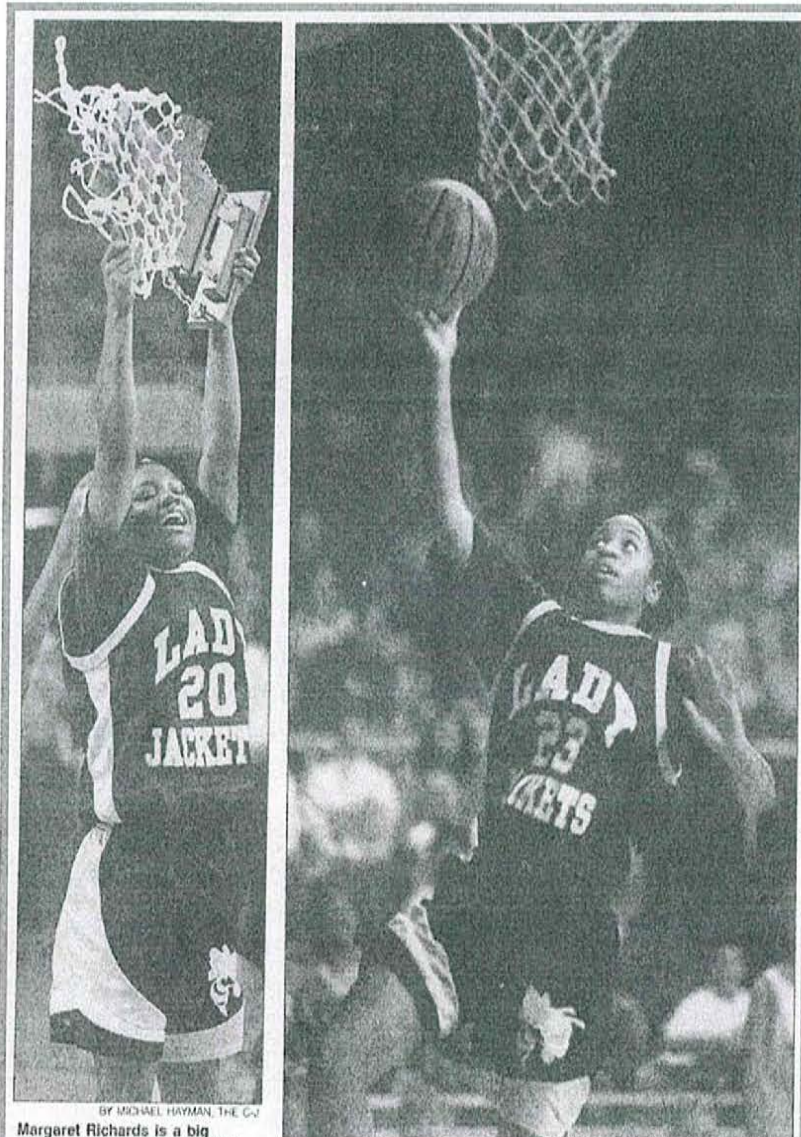
The frontcourt features 5-7 M Gross (5.4 ppg, 6.8 rpg), 5-10 A Furlong and 6-2 Stacey Mer Voelker said the guard play needs be more consistent, with senior St ley Kaufman (5.0 ppg) leading way.

HOLY CROSS (16-14)

The Lady Cougars were hit hard graduation, with seven players parting. Only three players with va ty experience return.

"How well we play will depend how quickly the young players lea the system," coach Rick Powell sa

Senior guard Kim Hilpp (8 ppg apg), an All-Region selection the p two years, will pick up much of slack left by departed stars Mon Elzy and Karen Powell. Hil Heather Bowman and Amy Bur will try to lead the young team.



BY MICHAEL HAYMAN, THE C-J
Margaret Richards is a big reason Central is the coaches' preseason pick to repeat as Sixth Region champion.

BY MICHAEL HAYMAN, THE COURIER-JOURNAL
Central senior forward Au'vana Ferguson dislocated her kneecap playing field hockey and isn't expected to play until late December.

SIXTH REGION GIRLS AT A GLANCE

School	Coach	'96-'97 Enroll.	Top Returning Scorer	Top Returning Rebounder	Last Year
BETH HAVEN	Nathan Havens	73	Beth McLean	Beth McLean	0-19
BUTLER	Stephanie Greathouse	1809	Audrey Cannon, 13	Cannon, 8	19-10
CENTRAL	Bill White	902	Margaret Richards, 16.1	Tanisha Hickerson, 9.9	21-12
DOSS	Bill Jackson	1145	Tricia Bunnell, 5	Bunnell, 3.2	11-14

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SIXTH REGION GIRLS

Butler could make Cannon fodder of foes

By GEORGE BARKER/DK
Special to the Courier-Journal

With eight of its nine previous championships from last year's retooling, Butler High School is the favorite pick to win the Sixth Region title this season.

Some opponents afraid to be seen, however, because of a Valley wrestler from Heaven and an up-and-coming sophomore who hasn't received much publicity.

Butler has just three seniors, but its seven juniors are among the most talented in the region.

"We were very young last year," said coach Steve Cannon. "We were very young last year," who also played her best on the line. "We played a lot of freshmen, and they played a lot of experience."

At Butler, Ashley Cannon, who played 12.5 points, and KJ Brown, who played 12.5 points, and KJ Brown, who played 12.5 points, and KJ Brown, who played 12.5 points.

COACHES' RATINGS

- Best teams**
- 1 Butler
 - 2 Presentation
 - 3 Pleasure Ridge Park
 - 4 Crest
 - 5 Holy Family
 - 6 Fairdale
 - 7 Sturgis
 - 8 Holy Cross
- Top players**
- 1 Margaret Phillips, Central
 - 2 April Gentry, Butler
 - 3 Ashley Cannon, Butler
 - 4 Laura Johnson, Holy Family
 - 5 Amy Johnson, Presentation
 - 6 Sara Kim, Butler
 - 7 Courtney Madison, Holy Family
 - 8 Kelli Johnson, Presentation
 - 9 Hillary Allison, Holy Cross



Butler coach Stephen Gresham, left, talks right of the top nine players with a 19.8 team, including Ashley Cannon and Margaret Phillips.



Ashley Cannon, Butler's top wrestler, in action during a match.

BUTLER (19-0)

The franchise will look to the 2000 Championship to build a team that can win the state.

Coach Steve Cannon has "three or four" years to build a team that can win the state.

"I want to see this team win the state," Cannon said. "I want to see this team win the state."

HOLY CROSS (14-1)

Several coaches picked Central as the favorite to win the region.

Coach Steve Cannon has "three or four" years to build a team that can win the state.

"I want to see this team win the state," Cannon said. "I want to see this team win the state."

PLEASURE RIDGE PARK (22-0)

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"I want to see this team win the state," Cannon said. "I want to see this team win the state."

PRESENTATION (17-10)

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FAIRDALE (8-11)

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Coach Steve Cannon has "three or four" years to build a team that can win the state.

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WESTERN (5-17)

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Coach Steve Cannon has "three or four" years to build a team that can win the state.

"I want to see this team win the state," Cannon said. "I want to see this team win the state."



Margaret Phillips, Central's top wrestler, in action during a match.



Ashley Cannon, Butler's top wrestler, in action during a match.



Laura Johnson, Holy Family's top wrestler, in action during a match.



Amy Johnson, Presentation's top wrestler, in action during a match.



Courtney Madison, Holy Family's top wrestler, in action during a match.



Hillary Allison, Holy Cross's top wrestler, in action during a match.



Kelli Johnson, Presentation's top wrestler, in action during a match.



Sara Kim, Butler's top wrestler, in action during a match.

Team	Coach	WHS	Top Wrestler	Top Wrestler Points	Losses
BUTLER	Steve Cannon	88	Ashley Cannon	19.8	0-0
CENTRAL	Steve Cannon	100	Margaret Phillips	21.1	1-10
BUCKLE UP	Steve Cannon	100	Ashley Cannon	19.8	0-0
FAIRDALE	Steve Cannon	100	Ashley Cannon	19.8	0-0
HOLY CROSS	Steve Cannon	100	Ashley Cannon	19.8	0-0
HOLY FAMILY	Steve Cannon	100	Ashley Cannon	19.8	0-0
PRESENTATION	Steve Cannon	100	Ashley Cannon	19.8	0-0
PLEASURE RIDGE PARK	Steve Cannon	100	Ashley Cannon	19.8	0-0
STURGIS	Steve Cannon	100	Ashley Cannon	19.8	0-0
WESTERN	Steve Cannon	100	Ashley Cannon	19.8	0-0



Ashley Cannon, Butler's top wrestler, in action during a match.



Ashley Cannon, Butler's top wrestler, in action during a match.

COACHES' RATINGS

Top teams

- 1. Butler**
2. Presentation
3. Pleasure Ridge Park
4. Central
5. Holy Rosary
6. Valley
7. Southern
8. Holy Cross

Top players

- 1. Margaret Richards, Central**
2. Audrey Cannon, Butler
3. LaToyia Hall, Southern
4. Laura Whitenack, PRP
5. Rachel Fowler, Valley
6. Anne Hutchins, Presentation
7. Sarah Drury, PRP
8. Courtney Mazzoni, Holy Rosary
9. Joleen Phillips, Presentation
10. Natalie Atzinger, Holy Cross



BY PAT McDONOGH, THE COURIER-JOURNAL

Central senior Margaret Richards, right, who averaged 20.1 points and 8.2 rebounds last season, was voted the region's top player.

CENTRAL (19-10)

Several coaches picked Central to win or finish second in the region.

The main reason is returning senior guard Margaret Richards, who averaged 20.1 points and 8.2 rebounds last season.

And she could have done more, coach Bill White believes, if she hadn't been on a senior-dominated ball club.

But she has a strong supporting cast that should make Central a power, he said.

"I look to go to state," he said. "That's what I'm shooting for."

Sisters Camille and Rebecca Lee, who averaged 6 and 3 points, respectively, are back. Camille grabbed 5.7 rebounds a game last year.

White is also looking to 6-1 La'Keta Wales.

"She's quick," he said. "She can run the floor."

Point guard Kirstie Crenshaw also can run the floor and shoot from the outside, he added.

SIXTH REGION GIRLS AT A GLANCE

School	Coach	'97-'98 Enroll.	Top Returning Scorer	Top Returning Rebounder	Last Year
BETH HAVEN	Nate Havens	88	Lillian Schulten, 7.9	Corrine Collier, 9.3	1-14
BUTLER	Stephanie Greathouse	1624	Audrey Cannon, 17.3	Cannon, 8.7	19-8
CENTRAL	Bill White	1926	Margaret Richards, 20.1	Richards, 8.2	19-10
DOSS	Bill Arthur	1165	Geanese Clayborn, 14	Alicia Crabtree, 6	7-18
EVANGEL	Bill Weller	122	April Henderson, 13	Cindy Cullen, 11	6-7
FAIRDALE	Larry Bruner	1115	Charna Peterson, 12.5	Kelli Rowe, 5	8-11
HOLY CROSS	Rick Powell	333	Jennifer Jackson, 9	Colleen Smith, 5.2	12-11
HOLY ROSARY	Karen Sweazy	201	Courtney Mazzoni, 10.4	Mazzoni, 5.5	21-7
IROQUOIS	Leonard Coulter	1255	Billisia Sullivan, n/a	Jamie Hanifen, n/a	6-16
PLEASURE RIDGE PARK	Charles Shipley	1865	Laura Whitenack, 8	Sarah Holbert, 5	22-8
PRESENTATION	Joe Voelker	401	Anne Hutchins, 11	Stacey Mercer, 9	17-10
SHAWNEE	Stuart Wilson	725	Nikita Nathan, 10.1	Nathan, 5.6	8-12
SOUTHERN	Michelle O'Shea	1650	LaToyia Hall, 20	Hall, 7	15-16
VALLEY	Marla Paschal	1038	Rachel Fowler, 11.2	Deana Wade, 6.6	18-11
WESTERN	Willie Jackson	808	Tihara Slemmons, 7.3	Chanda Perkins, 6.5	3-17

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C 11

1998 COURIER-JOURNAL GIRLS' ALL STATE BASKETBALL TEAM

FIELD

BETH VICE

Montgomery County/Guard



nd Sharon Garland, long player, and she f to anybody," Asmer said. "Elzy was and Walz a better. But I think you give years and she'll be

17.6 points, 11 rehots per game. She bints in the district

sive average when vn," said Creamer, n tore a knee liga- invitational Tourna-

ed mostly with her freshman when she seventh Region title, eter this year. et better," Creamer couple of years you in all-around game. whole lot more."

NGTON



The Alabama signee played just half of the season but still has a good shot at winning Miss Basketball.

"Beth's the complete player," Montgomery County coach Mike Kindred said. "From a coach's point of view, her work ethic has got her where she is."

Vice started playing on the varsity as a seventh-grader and hit a game-winning shot against Harrison County.

"That was a sign of things to come," Kindred said.

Her breakout game came as an eighth-grader when she scored 32 points against Nicholas County in the 10th Region final.

"That set the tone for her career," Kindred said.

As a sophomore, Vice averaged 21 points a game while helping lead the Lady Indians to the school's first 10th Region title. During her junior season, the Lady Indians repeated as region champs, and she scored 18.3 points a game and was a first-team All-State selection.

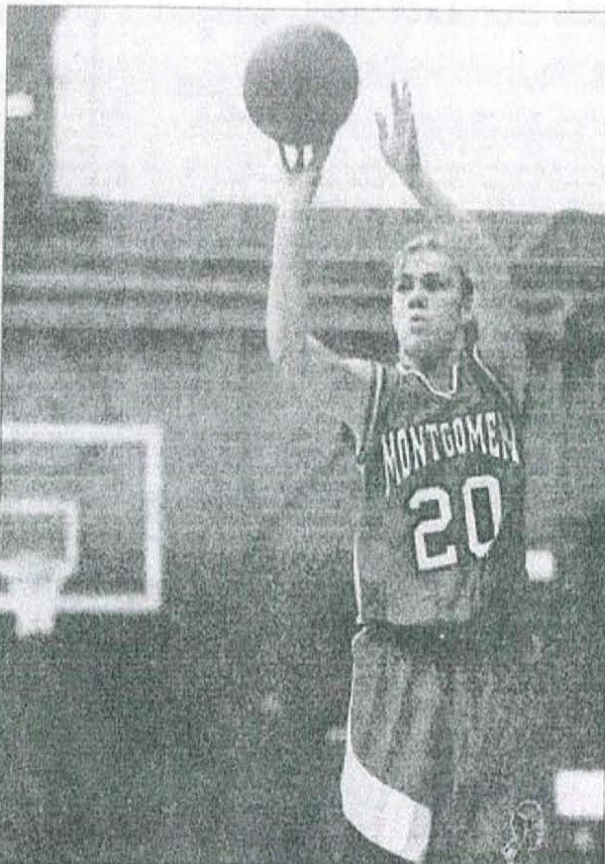
As a senior she was averaging close to 25 points a game when she went down 18 games into the season with a "hot spot" on her leg.

After missing five games, Vice returned and scored 12 points against Lexington Bryan Station. The next game, on senior night, she tore a knee ligament and was out for the season.

"It was the worst way possible to end her career," Kindred said. "And it couldn't have happened on a worse night."

Vice had surgery the week of the State Tournament and was inserted for the final 9.3 seconds of the loss to Elizabethtown in the state final.

Kindred said she is ahead of schedule on rehabilitating the knee. She's already off crutches and might be able to play in this summer's Kentucky-Indiana All-Star Game.



BY MICHAEL CLEVENSER, SPECIAL TO THE COURIER-JOURNAL

Montgomery County guard Beth Vice, a front-runner for Miss Basketball, is "the complete player," according to coach Mike Kindred.

FIRST TEAM

Beth Vice, Montgomery County
5-11 Senior 23.6 ppg

Carolyn Alexander, Hazard
5-11 Senior 26.8 ppg

Kelly Pendleton, Webster County
5-8 Senior 25.4 ppg

Jenni Benningfield, Assumption
6-1 Sophomore 17.6 ppg

Kristina Covington, Elizabethtown
5-10 Senior 15.5 ppg

Emily Roberson, Manual
5-10 Senior 17.4 ppg

Veronica Carter, Monroe County
5-8 Senior 14.5 ppg

Heather Kruger, Highlands
6-4 Senior 21.0 ppg

Michelle Cottrell, Boone County
5-11 Senior 17.3 ppg

Jody Sizemore, Leslie County
6-0 Junior 32.6 ppg

SECOND TEAM

Kelli Stamper, Lexington Catholic 6-0 Jr

Jennifer Jatacz, South Oldham 5-11 Sr

Lauren D'Ambrosio, Sacred Heart 5-6 Jr

Dana Schubeler, Elizabethtown 6-3 Sr

Holly Roberts, Gallatin County 5-8 Sr

Travece Turner, Madison Central 5-8 Sr

Suzie Smith, Boone County 5-6 Sr

Margaret Richards, Central 5-8 Jr

SeSe Helm, Warren Central 6-4 So

Falesha Robertson, Elizabethtown 5-10 Jr

KENTUCKY PROFILE: Margaret Richards

High-scoring Central star 'really awesome'

By JODY DEMLING
The Courier-Journal

Some high school girls' basketball fans and even college coaches might not have known the name Margaret Richards before this season.

But they should now. The Central High senior has turned in some of the most scintillating performances of the year.

The 5-foot-9 guard, whose vertical leap allows her to almost touch the rim, has scored 337 points in the Lady Yellow-jackets' first 10 games.

She has scored 35 points or more five times and has had four triple-doubles.

"Margaret is really awesome," Butler coach Stephanie Greathouse said. "At the high school level, she's one of the best in the state."

While being named Miss Basketball might be a long shot for Richards, she is posting better numbers than anyone else in the state. She was rated the 18th-best player in The Courier-Journal's preseason coaches' poll, but Louisville-area players typically have a hard time winning the state's top award.

"When I looked and saw me 18th, it hurt my feelings so bad," Richards said. "I know that nobody will give me nothing, so I have to work hard this year. Miss Basketball would be the greatest thing."

Central coach Bill White said he thinks Richards is the best player in the state and could be the best to come out of Louisville in several years.

"She can play the Tennessee-style ball," White said, referring to the three-time national champion. "She can get it off in transition and cross over and go around people. She can play the type of ball the pro women want to play, and I don't think no other girl can do that."

Richards doesn't seem to have a weakness. She showed her versatility during one sequence of a game at the Male

Holiday Classic last weekend.

She was posting up and took a pass from a teammate on the low block. She looked to the left, turned to her right and hit a fadeaway jumper. Then she stole a pass and blew past two defenders for an easy layup. Before the opponent could get to midcourt, she came up with a loose ball, turned and drilled a three-pointer.

"She can do it all," White said. "There's nobody around here who can play like she plays."

Richards, who grew up in the Cotter Homes, attributes her mastery on the court to playing pickup games with boys.

"I used to be a cheerleader, and I had a friend (Sherell McElroy) who played basketball," she said. "I called her a tomboy, but then being so close I started playing with her."

By age 13 Richards was playing on boys' teams and going out late at night to shoot baskets.

"She's a legend in her community," White said.

She started as a freshman at Central, then the next season helped lead the Lady Yellow-jackets to the Sixth Region title. They lost to Apollo in the quarterfinals of the State Tournament.

As a junior, Richards paced Central with a 20.1-point scoring average, but the team was upset by Pleasure Ridge Park in the first round of the regional tournament.

"Sophomore year, going to the State was the greatest thing in my life," she said. "And last year was the most disappointing."

This season she has been surrounded by young players, and Central has gotten off to just a 5-5 start.

After scoring 20 points in the opener against Shawnee, Richards collected 40 points and 23 rebounds in a loss to highly regarded Lexington Bryan Station.



BY STAN DEARY, SPECIAL TO THE COURIER-JOURNAL
Margaret Richards is averaging 33.7 points, but scoring is just part of her game. She's had four triple-doubles this season.

"I hate to lose," Richards said. "I don't care about points, but I know we're young and it's just going to take time. I'm trying to be a leader."

Richards finished the Male Classic with 155 points in four games.

She scored 38 in a loss to Nelson County, 37 in a victory over Sacred Heart, 42 in a win over defending Seventh Region champion Jeffersontown and 38 in a loss to Warren East.

"There's no doubt in my mind, she's the best player to come out of here in a long, long time," White said. "She can do everything."

And White said she "has a beautiful personality. You could take her into the mountains and into an all-white community and they'll love her. She's

just that type of kid."

During her free time, Richards coaches boys' basketball at Baxter Community Center, and she also tutors children.

As far as college goes, Richards said she has talked with Memphis, Indiana, Nebraska and several other Division I schools.

White said Richards is a good student and is working on her American College Test scores.

"I don't understand these coaches," he said. "If the colleges aren't looking for a type of basketball player like Margaret, I don't know what they're looking for."

"She can do everything, and she's a winner. She's going to play her hardest until the last second no matter what."

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Manual's Todd, Southern's O'Shea Coaches of Year

By JODY DEMLING
The Courier-Journal

Manual's Mina Todd already was one of the more respected coaches in state. Southern's Michelle O'Shea is an up-and-comer.

Todd has taken a Manual team with a boatload of talent and guided it to a 23-4 record and No. 3 ranking in The Courier-Journal's Litkenhous Ratings.

O'Shea — the former Michelle Burden — has Southern (15-6) in contention for a Sixth Region title in her first year of coaching.

Todd was voted Seventh Region Coach of the Year, and O'Shea got Sixth Region honors.

"This is such a great honor, but I'm only as good as the people I work with," said Todd, in her third year at Manual and 10th year of coaching.

Todd received six votes and beat out Alherton's Bill Yates and Jeffersontown's John Kyser, who each had two.

Manual started the season ranked behind Assumption. But the Lady Crimsonns have beaten the Rockets twice and made it to the final of the Louisville Invitational Tournament before losing to No. 1 Montgomery County. Manual won the Central Hardin Invitation-



Todd O'Shea

"This has been more of a team than the last two years," Todd said. "But we're not satisfied. We want to keep improving and win the regional."

O'Shea, who starred on Southern's 1989 state-title team, has Southern back to its winning ways in her first season. The Lady Trojans were 15-16 last season.

"It's a big honor," O'Shea said. "But it would not have been possible if I didn't have such a good group of girls with a positive attitude."

O'Shea collected four votes and beat Presentation's Joe Voelker and Valley's Marla Paschel each by two votes.

O'Shea said the team started slowly at 7-5 because the players were trying to adjust to her style.

"I knew we had a good group of players coming back," said O'Shea, who was an assistant at Southern last season. "My biggest thing was them adapting to my style of

basketball, pressure defense and pushing the ball up and down the floor."

Assumption's Jenni Benningfield was named Seventh Region Player of the Year, and she was joined on the first team by teammate Jeannette Franken.

Manual and Sacred Heart also placed two on the first team: the Lady Crimsonns had Nneka Irons and Chelsey Thompson; Sacred Heart had Lauren D'Ambrosio and Christina Frank.

Benningfield, Irons and D'Ambrosio are joined by Waggener's Kanedria Wilson as repeaters on the first team.

Central's Margaret Richards was named Sixth Region Player of the Year. Butler's Audrey Cannon was the only other player to be named on as many ballots — nine.

Richards, Cannon and Southern's LaToya Hall were on the first team last year.

Presentation and Valley both had two players on the squad. The Toppers sent Joleen Phillips and Anne Hutchens, while Valley placed Rachel Fowler and Hawaiian transfer Li Li Liu.

Pleasure Ridge Park's Sarah Drury, whose sister Lesley was a first-teamer last year, made the squad this year. Her teammate and cousin, Laura Whitenack, also made first team.

GIRLS' ALL-SIXTH REGION

Player, school	Ht.	Cl.	Avg.
Margaret Richards, Central	5-9	Sr.	34.5
Audrey Cannon, Butler	5-11	Sr.	18.5
LaToya Hall, Southern	5-7	Jr.	26.0
Sarah Drury, PRP	5-3	Sr.	13.5
Joleen Phillips, Presentation	5-9	Jr.	14.9
Anne Hutchens, Presentation	5-9	So.	13.3
Rachel Fowler, Valley	5-9	Sr.	15.8
Charna Peterson, Fairdale	5-6	Sr.	17.0
Li Li Liu, Valley	5-11	Jr.	9.5
Laura Whitenack, PRP	5-1	Sr.	10.2

Player of the Year — Richards, Central.

Coach of the Year — Michelle O'Shea, Southern.

Second team — Kelly Cozzens, Holy Rosary; Nikita Nathan, Shawnee; Kristie Mayes, Butler; Jeanise Clyburn, Doss; Chanda Perkins, Western; Tawana Freeman, Butler; Courtney Mazzoni, Holy Rosary; Julie Gillespie, Holy Cross; Jennifer Jackson, Holy Cross.

GIRLS' ALL-SEVENTH REGION

Player, school	Ht.	Cl.	Avg.
Jenni Benningfield, Assumption	6-3	Jr.	22.9
Nneka Irons, Manual	5-8	Sr.	17.0
Shanta Bowens, Jeffersontown	6-0	Sr.	16.6
Lauren D'Ambrosio, Sacred Heart	5-6	Sr.	17.5
Christina Frank, Sacred Heart	5-10	So.	14.5
Kawana Neal, Ballard	5-6	Sr.	15.9
Kanedria Wilson, Waggener	5-4	Sr.	23.3
Cindy Burks, Male	5-7	Jr.	10.9
Chelsey Thompson, Manual	5-8	So.	9.5
Jeannette Franken, Assumption	5-10	Sr.	7.8

Player of the Year — Benningfield, Assumption.

Coach of the Year — Mina Todd, Manual.

Second team — Lisa McMillan, Jeffersontown; Jennifer Patterson, Manual; Shannon Lewis, Eastern; Kim Hindman, Eastern; Megan Mineer, Male; Kara Looney, Mercy; Jenny Schultz, Manual; Colleen Munro-Leighton, Brown; Jeanie Boshart, Christian Academy; Jessica Bolduc, Sacred Heart.

1999 COURIER-JOURNAL ALL-STATE BASKETBALL TEAM

GIRLS

JENNI BENNINGFIELD

Assumption/Assumption

Benningfield was voted the state's top player in a tournament of 16 counties and finished as the top scorer.

She is the perfect blend of size and skill. Benningfield stands 5'11" and has been recruited by several colleges, including Louisville, Georgetown, and Eastern Kentucky. She is a versatile player, capable of scoring, rebounding, and playing defense.

"I have a great sense of humor and am very outgoing," Benningfield says. "I love playing and am always looking for ways to help my team."

Benningfield averaged 22.1 points, 11.1 rebounds, and 3.8 blocks per game. She is a team captain and a role model for her teammates.



Assumption junior Jenni Benningfield looked up for precision coming as the state's top player.

FIRST TEAM

Jenni Benningfield, Assumption
6-8 Junior 22.1 ppg
Hermosa King, Montgomery County
6-7 Senior 19.8 ppg
Jody Sizemore, Letcher County
6-6 Senior 18.7 ppg
Whitney Lee, Montgomery County
6-6 Senior 18.0 ppg
Felicia Robertson, Elizabethtown
6-10 Junior 18.0 ppg
Kelli Stamper, Lexington Catholic
6-6 Senior 17.9 ppg
Sasha Helm, Warren Central
6-4 Junior 16.1 ppg
Leslie Logsdon, Hart County
6-10 Junior 15.1 ppg
Margaret Richards, Central
6-6 Senior 15.0 ppg
Neska Roberts, Marshall
6-6 Senior 14.0 ppg

SECOND TEAM

Players, School, Ht., Yr.
Kim Crain, Boone County 5-11, Jr.
Janae Smith, Boone County 5-10, Jr.
Kelli Smith, Boone County 5-11, Jr.
Lacey Crain, Boone County 5-11, Jr.
Katie Anderson, Boone County 5-10, Jr.
Haley Smith, Boone County 5-10, Jr.
Ashley Smith, Boone County 5-11, Jr.
Whitney Lee, Boone County 5-11, Jr.
Lisa Walker, Boone County 5-11, Jr.

THIRD TEAM

Stephanie Decker, Boone County 5-10, Jr.
Amanda Gilpin, Boone County 5-10, Jr.
Stephanie Smith, Boone County 5-11, Jr.
Janae Smith, Boone County 5-11, Jr.
Christina King, Boone County 5-10, Jr.
Leslie Logsdon, Boone County 5-11, Jr.
Stephanie Smith, Boone County 5-11, Jr.
Lisa Walker, Boone County 5-11, Jr.
Marta Smith, Boone County 5-11, Jr.
Lacey Crain, Boone County 5-11, Jr.

HONORABLE MENTION

Stephanie Decker, Boone County 5-10, Jr.
Amanda Gilpin, Boone County 5-10, Jr.
Stephanie Smith, Boone County 5-11, Jr.
Janae Smith, Boone County 5-11, Jr.
Christina King, Boone County 5-10, Jr.
Leslie Logsdon, Boone County 5-11, Jr.
Stephanie Smith, Boone County 5-11, Jr.
Lisa Walker, Boone County 5-11, Jr.
Marta Smith, Boone County 5-11, Jr.
Lacey Crain, Boone County 5-11, Jr.

HARMONIE KING

Montgomery County/Boone

King averaged 19.8 points per game. She is a versatile player, capable of scoring, rebounding, and playing defense.

"I love playing and am always looking for ways to help my team," King says.

FALESHA ROBERTSON

Elizabethtown/Elizabethtown

Robertson averaged 18.0 points per game. She is a versatile player, capable of scoring, rebounding, and playing defense.

"I love playing and am always looking for ways to help my team," Robertson says.

SENE HELM

Warren Central/Warren Central

Helm averaged 16.1 points per game. She is a versatile player, capable of scoring, rebounding, and playing defense.

"I love playing and am always looking for ways to help my team," Helm says.

JODY SIZEMORE

Letcher County/Carter

Sizemore averaged 18.7 points per game. She is a versatile player, capable of scoring, rebounding, and playing defense.

"I love playing and am always looking for ways to help my team," Sizemore says.

KELLI STAMPER

Lexington Catholic/Lexington Catholic

Stamper averaged 17.9 points per game. She is a versatile player, capable of scoring, rebounding, and playing defense.

"I love playing and am always looking for ways to help my team," Stamper says.

LESLIE LOGSDON

Hart County/Hart County

Logsdon averaged 15.1 points per game. She is a versatile player, capable of scoring, rebounding, and playing defense.

"I love playing and am always looking for ways to help my team," Logsdon says.

WHITNEY LEE

Montgomery County/Carter

Lee averaged 18.0 points per game. She is a versatile player, capable of scoring, rebounding, and playing defense.

"I love playing and am always looking for ways to help my team," Lee says.

MARGARET RICHARDS

Central/Central

Richards averaged 15.0 points per game. She is a versatile player, capable of scoring, rebounding, and playing defense.

"I love playing and am always looking for ways to help my team," Richards says.

NESKA ROBERTS

Marshall/Marshall

Roberts averaged 14.0 points per game. She is a versatile player, capable of scoring, rebounding, and playing defense.

"I love playing and am always looking for ways to help my team," Roberts says.

1999 COURIER-JOURNAL ALL-STATE BASKETBALL TEAM GIRLS

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FIRST TEAM

- Jenni Benningfield, Assumption
6-3 Junior 22.2 ppg

- Harmonie King, Montgomery County
5-7 Senior 15.2 ppg

- Jody Sizemore, Leslie County
6-0 Senior 35.7 ppg

- Whitney Lee, Montgomery County
6-0 Senior 18.0 ppg

- Falesha Robertson, Elizabethtown
5-10 Senior 19.0 ppg

- Kelli Stamper, Lexington Catholic
6-0 Senior 19.0 ppg

- SeSe Helm, Warren Central
6-4 Junior 28.1 ppg

- Leslie Logsdon, Hart County
5-10 Junior 22.1 ppg

- Margaret Richards, Central
5-9 Senior 35.5 ppg

- Nneka Irons, Manual
5-8 Senior 18.0 ppg

MARGARET RICHARDS

Central Guard

The very athletic Richards led the state in scoring most of the season but finished second with a 35.5-point average. She also averaged 12 rebounds a game for the 13-12 Lady YellowJackets.

"She's the best athlete in the state," Central coach Bill White said. "... She's the Tennessee-type athlete."

The 5-foot-9 guard, who plays more like a power forward with her powerful build, was named Sixth Region Player of the Year by the coaches.

Starting the season rated 18th in the state, she made up a ton of ground with some impressive performances and vaulted into contention for Miss Basketball.

Richards scored in double figures in all but one game and scored more than 30 points on 19 occasions.

"We'll see who the best player is in the next four or five years," said White, who added that Richards is thinking of attending Western Kentucky or Nebraska.



HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Louisvillians proved they are All-Stars

By JODY DEMLING
The Courier-Journal

The three girls from Louisville on the Kentucky All-Star basketball roster have a lot in common.

Central's Margaret Richards, Manual's Nneka Irons and Jefferson-town's Shanta Bowens all played for winning programs, scored a lot of points and are going on to play college ball despite being underrated in high school.

Only one of the three was even ranked among the state's top 20 players in a preseason poll of coaches — Richards was 18th. But all three have proved their worth and are vying for starting spots on the Kentucky All-Star team that will face Indiana tomorrow in Indianapolis.

"They're showing they each deserved to be ranked a lot higher," said All-Star coach Jeff Haile of Henderson County.

The Louisville connection backed up Haile's observations earlier this week in a scrimmage against the Metro Junior All-Stars. Richards led the team in scoring with 22 points. Irons added 20 and Bowens chipped in nine points and about a dozen rebounds (rebounding stats weren't kept) in a 118-67 victory.

"They can all play," Haile said.

Richards was the Sixth Region Player of the Year and was named first-team All-State in The Courier-Journal. She helped lead Central to

the regional title her sophomore season.

"She's the best athlete on this team," Haile said. "She brings a lot of versatility; she can just take over."

The very athletic Richards led the state in scoring most of the season but finished second to Miss Basketball Jody Sizemore with a 35.5-point average. She also averaged 12 rebounds a game for the 13-12 Lady Yellowjackets.

"This year has been an experience for me," she said. "I've just been coming out playing hard, and everything has fallen into place. It's paying off at the end."

The powerful 5-foot-9 guard, who has signed to play for Paul Sanderford at Nebraska, should give the All-Stars a scoring threat.

"I'm just going to go out, play hard and have fun like always," Richards said. "I know I can score, but if I don't have to, then I'll do whatever it takes for us to win."

Irons, who also made first-team All-State, was the Seventh Region Player of the Year and comes from a Manual program that has placed a player on the All-Star team three years in a row.

"Nneka's solid," Haile said. "I'm very impressed with Nneka's abilities. She can shoot the three, has a great first step and can play defense."

Irons was the MVP at the prestigious Lady Invitational of the South



BY MICHAEL HAYMAN, THE COURIER-JOURNAL
Manual's Nneka Irons, left, J'town's Shanta Bowens, center, and Central's Margaret Richards are on the Kentucky All-Star team.

and the leader of a Manual team that was highly ranked each of her four seasons. She averaged 18 points a game and was one of the top three-point threats in the state as a senior.

Irons, who has signed with Chattanooga, said she got motivated when she wasn't ranked in the preseason poll.

"I was disappointed," she said. "I feel like I always belonged here with these other girls. It just took me a little longer to make it."

Bowens led Jeffersontown to the Seventh Region title as a junior and was named All-Region and honorable-mention All-State this year. She has signed with the University of Louisville.

"She just came on so strong at the tryouts," Haile said. "... She helps give us a lot of depth inside."

Bowens, who watched former

J'town teammate Maria Starks play on the All-Stars last season, said this was her No. 1 individual goal for the year.

"I didn't make junior all-stars last year, but I wanted to play so bad," she said. "I just kept working hard."

Being from the same city, the three have played against and seen each other in gyms for the past few seasons. Richards and Bowens also played on an AAU team together.

"We did see each other, and me and Shanta did work out a little with each other this summer," Irons said. "So I've always considered all of us good friends."

Said Richards: "If we would have all been on the same team, we could have given some people a lot of trouble."

That's what Haile is hoping will happen this weekend.