

2011 CAPITAL CITY HOOPS CHALLENGE RECAP

The 2nd Annual Capital City Hoops Challenge was highlighted by a trio of games featuring the top teams in the state, boys and girls. The headliner of the day was a match-up between the No. 1 ranked Yellowjackets of Starkville and the No. 3 ranked Chargers of Jackson Callaway.

SATURDAY – NOVEMBER 26, 2011 - @ Forest Hill High School

Game 1 - Murrah 82 Raymond 73 OT

The Mustangs of Jackson Murrah fought off a strong comeback from the Rangers, converting a late steal into a layup to force overtime and outscoring Raymond 14-5 in the overtime period to give the Rangers their first loss of the season. Junior Guard **Josh Carroll** scored a game high 32 for Murrah followed by **Marcus Love** with 18 points. Senior guard **Kaylon Paige** scored 17 points, all in the first half, for the Mustangs as Murrah raced out to a 41-29 halftime lead. The Rangers were led by **Jonathan McGee** with 24 points followed by **Brandon Moore** with 18 points and **James Jordan** with 15 points.

Game 2 - South Jones 47 Murrah 40

The No. 5 ranked Lady Braves overcame the first quarter loss of leading scorer **Keoshya Wilson** to hold off the Lady Mustangs of Murrah. Senior guard **Khadejah Buxton** led South Jones with 12 points followed by sophomore post **Shania Perry** with 11. Senior guard **Sarah Blackmore** led Murrah with 11.

Game 3 - Meridian 57 Canton 45

Leading by one point at the half the Wildcats outscored the Tigers 31-20 in the second half to break away for the win. Meridian placed three players in double figures, **Antonio Finley** with 18, **Johnny Thompson** with 15 and **Lakendrick Sims** with 12. **Deundrel Carson** led Canton with 12 points.

Game 4 - Jackson Lanier 55 H. W. Byers 40

Dandy Dozen forward **Kierra Jordan** (12 points, 15 rebounds) overcame first half foul trouble to dominate the second half as the No. 1 ranked Lanier Lady Bulldogs broke away from a 27 all tie at the half to defeat the No. 6 ranked Lady Lions. Joining Jordan in double figures for Lanier was **Shaquillia Manuel** with 14 points, **Cortney Epting** with 10 points and **J'Shunlyn Deloach** with 10 as the Lady Bulldogs depth proved to be too much for the Lady Lions to overcome. H. W. Byers was led by sisters **Abria and Kyra Gullede** with 12 and 11 points respectively. Dandy Dozen senior **Alexis Hardaway** was held to 6 points by the Lady Bulldogs stifling defense.

Game 5 - Jackson Lanier 62 Wayne County 58

The unranked, but not for long, Bulldogs avenged their loss in last year's 5A state championship game, knocking off the No. 2 ranked War Eagles. Down 37-29 at the half Lanier outscored Wayne County 33 to 21 in the second half to take home the hard fought win. Lanier placed four players in double figures, **Lawrence Tillman** 15 points, **Andrew Riley** 12 points, **Christopher Chandler** 12 points and **Andre Funches** 10 points, as the Bulldogs teamwork overcame the outstanding play of the War Eagles Dandy Dozen Duo of **Avery Woodson** (24 points, 5 three pointers) and **Raeford Worsham** (17 points).

Game 6 - Starkville 70 Jackson Callaway 58

Behind Dandy Dozen guard **Jacolby Mobley** (21 points, 4 steals 2 assist)) the Yellowjackets roared out of the gate, opening up a 10 point lead after one quarter and never took their foot off the pedal, opening as much as a 18 point lead in the second half before coasting home to the 12 point win. The inside duo of **Gavin Ware** (15 points, 11 rebounds) and **Tory Rice** (13 points) combined for 28 points as the Yellowjackets left little doubt that they deserve their No. 1 ranking. Fab freshman **Malik Newman** led the Chargers with 27 points. No one else scored in double figures for the Chargers, who played without 6-7 Murray State signee **Terron Gilmore**, who is out with an injury.

Game 7 - Jackson Jim Hill 49 S. V. Marshall 45

Ben Seals (12 points) led a trio of players in double figures as the Metro Tigers earned a hard fought win over the Tigers from the Delta. Joining Seals in double figures for Jim Hill were Dandy Dozen wing **Fred Thomas** with 11 points and up and coming junior guard **Trishunn White** with 10 points. Dandy Dozen forward **Marquise Vance** led S.V. Marshall with 13 points.

Game 8 - Pearl 55 Forest Hill 52

Dandy Dozen forward **Twymond Howard** scored 16 points to lead the upstart Pirates to the win and preserving their unbeaten record. Howard was supported by **Jeremy Reddy** with 11 points and **D. J. Thompson** with 10 points. The only double figure scorer for the No. 5 ranked Patriots was forward **Patrick Banks** with 15 points.