

RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Knights

Location: Williamston

Colors: navy blue and silver

Conference: Two Rivers

Principal: James Guard

Athletic Directors: Kirby Maness

Head Coach: Kirby Maness

Record: 23-5

Riverside in Martin County makes its second consecutive appearance in an NCHSAA women's basketball state championship game under this school's name...Williamston High School was also known for excellent women's basketball...lost last year in 1-A final to perennial power Bishop McGuinness 61-58 on midcourt shot at buzzer...Knights knocked off Rosewood for second consecutive year, this time 67-47, to win Eastern Regional championship in Fayetteville...soph **Kayla Jones** pumped in 26 points, pulled down 10 rebounds and blocked three shots in final and earned regional MVP honors... Jones is averaging 20.7 ppg to go with 8.8 rpg, 3.1 steals and 4.0 assists and is two-time conference Player of Year... senior **Takwana Bland** contributes 10.9 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 5.3 steals and 4.8 assists... **Remi Simmons** averages 9.1 ppg and 9.0 rpg...Riverside loves uptempo pace, scoring better than 65 points per game...Knights lost to River Mill in first round of regionals in 2013 to finish 28-2...Riverside ranked number 10 this year in final 1-A women's regular season poll by NCPreps.com and was sixth seed in 1-A East bracket...Kirby Maness 79-8 at Riverside since becoming head coach.

WINSTON-SALEM PREP ACADEMY

Phoenix

Location: Winston-Salem

Colors: red, black and white

Conference: Northwest

Principal: Richard Watts

Athletic Director: Rick Holt

Head Coach: Eugene Love

Record: 23-3

Winston-Salem Prep has emerged as a men's 1-A basketball power, but this will be the first visit for the women's team to an NCHSAA state championship...Phoenix raced past Cherokee 63-34 in convincing fashion to win Western Regional championship...Prep beat number-one ranked (by NCPreps.com) Hiwassee Dam 52-39 in regional semifinals, with Phoenix quickness forcing total of 31 turnovers...**Mychala Wolfe** was named the Western Regional MVP...it was the second consecutive regional trip for Prep women's team, which returned four starters from last year's club...lost to eventual state champion Bishop McGuinness 49-46 in last year's Western semifinals to finish 22-7 overall...very balanced scoring attack, paced by **Jada Craig** (10.7 ppg), but scoring also comes from **Wolfe** (10.0 ppg), **Kayla Robinson** (9.1 ppg) and **Dominique Claytor** (8.9 ppg)...**Chrisalyn Boston** tops team on the boards with 9.0 rpg...defensive ace **Christina Caesar** (9.4 ppg) often defends opponents' top scorer...third-ranked team in final 1-A women's regular season NCPreps.com poll and was also seeded third in women's 1-A West bracket.