

KINSTON HIGH SCHOOL

Vikings

Location: Kinston
Colors: forest green and Vegas gold
Conference: Eastern Carolina
Principal: Tina Letchworth
Athletic Director: Perry Tyndall
Head Coach: Chris Bradshaw
Record: 19-10

Kinston makes its second trip to the NCHSAA women's basketball championship game, and second visit in the last three years...Kinston beat Canton Pisgah 51-40 in '13 state final...Vikings are an seven seed but have put it together at the right time, rolling past previously undefeated North Pitt 63-52 in Eastern Regional championship game and winning all but one playoff game by double digits...injuries have hurt Kinston, as it wasn't until February 6 that the team's expected starting lineup was able to play together...**Lydia Rivers** and **Jada Faison** lead Kinston attack each with 10 ppg, with Rivers also getting 7 rpg and blocking 3 shots...Rivers was MVP of '13 state championship and had nine blocks in that one...Faison was named Most Valuable Player of Eastern Regional with 20 points and 11 boards in title game and Rivers also made all-tournament...**Malaysia Lancaster** is also key player (9 ppm, 5 rpg, 4 steals) and **Dashieka Mason** scores 8 ppg in balanced attack...Vikings won Eastern Carolina Conference regular season crown and have made five straight trips to Eastern Regional...Kinston not ranked in final 2-A women's regular season poll by NCPreps.com

WILKES CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Lady Eagles

Location: Wilkesboro
Colors: green and gold
Conference: Mountain Valley
Principal: Michelle Sheppard
Athletic Director: Greg Davenport
Head Coach: Scott Waugh
Record: 25-4

Wilkes Central makes second trip all-time to NCHSAAA women's championship, but second trip in last four years...lost to Siler City Jordan-Matthews 56-39 in 2-A title game in 2012 and finished 30-2 overall...Lady Eagles upended perennial power and 2014 state runner-up Bandys in Western Regional title game 49-40...had three non-conference regular season wins over playoff teams (Surry Central, South Iredell and North Iredell) and won MVC regular season crown...balanced attack led by senior **Laken Blackburn**, who leads in points (12.3 ppg) and gets 8.8 rpg...she will continue her career at Emory & Henry...senior **Amber Godfrey** scores 9.6 ppg and pulls down 8.7 rpg to go with team-high 4.2 assists; she was selected as MVP of Western Regional...those two were among four Lady Eagles making first team all conference, along with **Kailey McNeill** (8.9 ppg, team-high 10.3 rpg), who comes off the bench, and sophomore **Kamre Gibbs** (8.2 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 33 percent FG from 3-point line)...Wilkes Central was honorable mention in NCPreps.com final 2-A regular season poll and fifth-seeded in 2-A West bracket.