

GARNER MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL

Trojans

Location: Garner
Colors: blue and gold
Conference: Greater Neuse River
Principal: Carter Hillman
Athletic Director: Nelson Smith
Head Coach: Eddie Gray
Record: 27-1

Garner is in the NCHSAA men's basketball state finals for the second time overall, but the last time was in the Class B championship in 1936, where Garner lost...Trojans knocked off Raleigh Millbrook in exciting 84-81 game to earn Eastern Regional crown, avenging loss to Millbrook in December in Holiday Invitational and rallying from 14 down...power forward **Alex Reed** was selected as Eastern Regional MVP with 24 points (9 of 14 FG) and 12 rebounds in championship...his season averages are 9.8 ppg and 6.0 rebounds...**Thomas Allen** leads scoring at 17.4 ppg and is great shooter who earned all-conference honors...senior point guard **Julius Barnes** (14.2 ppg, team-high 7.1 assists, 2.7 steals is Greater Neuse Player of Year...Allen and Barnes earned all-regional tournament honors...**Jashaun Smith** knocks in 14 ppg and grabs 7.0 rebounds...Garner has won three of last four league titles...team loves to run, averaging 80 ppg while giving up just 58...Trojans were ranked third in state in final 4-A men's regular season NCPreps.com poll and entered playoffs as the top seed in the East...veteran coach Eddie Gray has over 450 career victories in 26 years, with his teams winning 14 league titles and making 21 playoff appearances.

ARDREY KELL HIGH SCHOOL

Knights

Location: Charlotte
Colors: purple and white
Conference: SoMeck 8
Principal: David Switzer
Athletic Director: Brian Knab
Head Coach: Michael Craft
Record: 28-1

Ardrey Kell, a relatively new school which has quickly established an excellent athletic program, makes its first trip to an NCHSAA state men's basketball championship...won a thriller at the buzzer in Western Regional final, nipping West Charlotte 52-50... 6-3 guard **Stephen Santa Ana**, who was the SoMeck 8 Conference Player of the Year, was selected as the regional tournament MVP...he has excellent numbers (15.2 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 3.0 assists, 44% from floor) ...team won SoMeck 8 Conference championship and **Michael Craft** was SoMeck 8 Conference Coach of the Year... Santa Ana, **Devin Cooper** (9.5 ppg), and **Rhyle Scott** (11.1 ppg, 6.9 rpg) each earned all-conference honors... Santa Ana has signed with Elon, Cooper is headed to Radford University and **Josh Freund** (9.7 ppg, team-leading 8.1 rpg) signed with Randolph College....Knights reached the regional semifinals in 2014, finishing 24-7 after losing to Lake Norman....Knight sriding 27-game winning streak, including 2014 Hoodie's House High School Hoops Classic (Rhyle Scott tournament MVP)...Ardrey Kell was the top-ranked team in final 4-A men's regular season poll by NCPreps.com and the number-one seed in the 4-A Western bracket.

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