

# DAY 1 - December 27<sup>th</sup> 2017

All Stats and Stories by **Richard Burton**



**GAINESVILLE 59, WILDWOOD 55:** Dallas Tealer (20 points) hit a free throw with 11.6 seconds left, as the Hurricanes held off the Wildcats. Gainesville was up by 15 at the 6:54 mark of the fourth quarter, but saw Wildwood close to within three. The Wildcats (8-2) had a chance to tie, but turned the ball over with 38.8 seconds on the clock. From there, GHS would miss a pair of front end of one-and-ones, but grabbed the offensive rebound on each. After that, the Hurricanes reached the double-bonus with the 10th foul being called on Wildwood. Tealer missed his first attempt, but calmly made the second to give GHS the breathing room it needed. Wildwood, Class 1A's top-ranked team, was trying to match the largest successful fourth quarter rally of 15 points in the Kingdom set by Toldeo St. John vs. Canada's Cathedral in 1997. Christian Miller-Caldwell (12 points) and J'Len Wilson (eight points) backed Tealer in the win for the Hurricanes. Darion Wilson (20 points), Marcus Niblack (18 points) and Shemar Rose (10 points) led the way for Wildwood. The Wildcats forced six turnovers in the final quarter to battle back. For the game, Wildwood made 9-of-23 from 3-point range, but turned the ball over 18 times and were outrebounded 38-32. The Wildcats will face Winter Haven on Thursday at 9:30 a.m. GHS will face Buford (Ga.) on Thursday at 4 p.m.

**BUFORD (Ga.) 83, WINTER HAVEN 64:** Marcus Watson had a monster game with 32 points and eight rebounds, as the Wolves (7-2), ranked No. 2 in Georgia's Class 5A rankings, routed the Blue Devils (5-4). Watson made 12-of-21 shots and posted the most points by a Georgia player in the Kingdom since 2007 when Trae Golden scored 36 for McEachern in the title game against Tampa Berkeley Prep. David Viti (16 points) and Donnell Nixon (13 points) also contributed for Buford, who made 29-of-57 shots. Keyshawn Bryant (23 points), T.J. Anglin (13 points) and Bryan Birdsong (12 points) led Winter Haven, who was down 44-30 at halftime.

**LAKWOOD RANCH 75, VICTORY CHRISTIAN 57:** The Mustangs (6-2), ranked No. 6 in Class 8A, has no trouble with the Storm (7-4), the No. 9 team in Class 2A. Lakewood Ranch led by 13 after a quarter of play and were never threatened. Christian Laneyfelt (18 points, seven rebounds), Jack Kelley (15 points, six rebounds), Kenny Buckley (11 points), Joshua Young (11 points) and Damien Gordon (nine points) paced the Mustangs. Lakewood Ranch made 32-of-54 shots overall. The Mustangs were up 42-24 at halftime. Kostas Altinis (17 points), Jackson Fitzgerald (14 points), Wilfredo Rodriguez (12 points) and Bulldog Harrison (11 points) paced the Storm.

**ROCKLEDGE 77, WESTMINSTER ACADEMY 57:** The Raiders (9-0), ranked No. 7 in Class 6A, started the second half with a 13-0 run and blew open what was a five-point edge at halftime. Rockledge saw the Lions get as close as eight later in the third quarter, but was never seriously challenged the rest of the way. Carlos Jones (20 points), Elijah Weaver (19 points), Dorain Josey (12 points), D.J. Richardson (nine points) and Robbie Hicks (nine points) led the way for the Raiders. Zach Scott paced Westminster Academy (4-4), the No. 3 team in Class 4A, with 23 points. Sam Griffin added 15 points for the Lions.

**MOUNT CARMEL (Md.) 50, APOPKA 48:** Jordan Jones hit the go-ahead three-point play with 1:03 left, as Mount Carmel (6-6) rallied past the Blue Darters (4-5). Jones (16 points, seven rebounds) helped Mount Carmel rally from down 12 points in the fourth quarter. After Jones put his team in front, Apopka got a free throw from Maliek Jackson after an exchange of possessions. From there, Mount Carmel got a free throw from Brandon Watson with 10.8 seconds remaining to go ahead by two. Apopka, who led by 11 at halftime, was unable to get shot off and Mount Carmel stole the ball away with 2.4 seconds left and ran out the clock. Rahseed Brown scored eight of his 14 points in the fourth quarter for Mount Carmel, while Watson finished with eight rebounds. Nathan Louis led Apopka with 17 points. The Blue Darters made just one field goal over the final quarter and relied on 9-of-14 free throw shooting to keep the lead until the closing minute. Mount Carmel will face Lakewood Ranch on Thursday at 6 p.m. Apopka falls into the consolation bracket against Victory Christian on Thursday at 11 a.m.

**BISHOP SNYDER 61, NORTH MARION 58:** The Colts nearly pulled off a stunning rally, but fell just short



North Marion Colts guard Jacarey Rollerson (3) gets one in the mouth from Bishop Snyder forward Luke Martin (5) during the first day of the Kingdom of the Sun tournament. [ALAN YOUNGBLOOD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER]

against the Cardinals (6-6). North Marion trailed by as many as 14 in the second half and was down 12 in the fourth, before it cut the deficit to three points on three different occasions. After two free throws by James Coleman (13 points) with nine second left, the Cardinals barely pushed the ball across halfcourt and it appeared a traveling violation had occurred, but was ruled an inadvertent whistle. From there Corey Walker (17 points, 10 rebounds, eight blocks) made the first of two free throws and North Marion was unable to get a shot off after the miss of the second attempt. North Marion was led by Marquez Reaves in the fourth quarter. Reaves scored 10 of his 12 points in the fourth quarter and made a pair of shots from three-point range, after

North Marion had made just 1-of-13 entering the fourth quarter. Blake Bradley added 10 points for the Colts and Torey Blue scored nine. North Marion (6-3) fell behind 7-0 to start the game, but did manage to respond with an 8-0 run, however, it struggled for a good stretch after that. From there, Bishop Snyder closed the quarter on an 11-4 run. The Cardinals continued to play well in the second quarter and took a 14-point lead into halftime. During the opening two quarters, Walker scored nine points, blocked four shots and grabbed four rebounds for Bishop Snyder, which made 12-of-20 shots during the opening half.

North Marion struggled to a 9-of-28 mark from the floor and came up empty on all nine of its shots from three-point range over the course of the opening two quarters. The loss drops the Colts into a consolation bracket game against The Vanguard School on Thursday afternoon at 1. Curtis Bailey (13 points) and Gyasi Powell (10 points) backed the 6-foot-7 Walker in the win for Bishop Snyder, which made just one field goal during the fourth quarter and made just enough foul shots to earn the win. Walker's eight blocked shots are the third most in a Kingdom Tournament game. Only Drake Lamont (10), Dyron Nix and Chris Walker (nine each) blocked more in a Kingdom game. Lamont's effort occurred for Plantation American Heritage against Deerfield Beach in 2013, while Walker's total took place for Holmes County against Nease in 2011. Nix was the first player in Kingdom history to nearly swat 10 shots, as he recorded nine in a game for Fort Walton Beach against Pleasure Ridge Park (Ky.) in 1984.

### **VANGUARD 63, THE VANGUARD SCHOOL 36**

Vanguard made it look easy in the opening round of the 44th annual Kingdom of the Sun boys basketball tournament. The Knights never trailed and totally dominated The Vanguard School out of Lake Wales by a 63-36 score. VHS built a 35-point lead early in the third quarter to signal the running clock on the Panthers.

The Knights led 20-5 after a quarter of play, as Dantwan Grimes scored 16 of his game-high 22 points over the opening eight minutes. Grimes hit 4-of-5 shots from three-point range during the opening quarter to set the tone. He scored the game's first 10 points, as the Panthers had no answers on either end of the floor.

The Panthers did not score until the 2:40 mark of the opening quarter and already had seven turnovers by that time. From there, the Knights went up by 21 points at halftime and finished the opening half 6-of-11 from three-point range. Blake Porter added 13 points in the rout for the Knights, while Derrick Brown scored eight. The Knights led by 33 after three quarters and went to their bench throughout the second

half in the blowout. With the win, Vanguard moves into the tournament quarterfinals and will host Jacksonville Bishop Snyder on Thursday night at 7:30.

## **Knights dominate**



Vanguard High School guard Dantwan Grimes (3) runs past The Vanguard School of Lake Wales' Tyler Ebanks (5) during their match on first day of the 44th Annual Kingdom of the Sun at Vanguard High in Ocala on Wednesday. [ALAN YOUNGBLOOD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER]

**ORLANDO CHRISTIAN PREP 62, STRANAHAN 50:** Nassir Little (18 points), Dejuan Lockett (14 points) and Ronaldo Segu (14 points) helped OCP to the win. OCP led 33-16 at halftime and was able to put away the Dragons.

