

# DAY 4 - December 30<sup>th</sup> 2017

All Stats and Stories by Richard Burton



## CONSOLATION CHAMPIONSHIP

**WESTMINSTER ACADEMY 75, WINTER HAVEN 62:** In the consolation final, the Lions outscored the Blue Devils 13-0 to start the fourth quarter and broke open what was a two-point game heading to the final eight minutes. In all, Westminster outscored Winter Haven 23-12 in the fourth. Chase Johnston (20 points), Dudley Blackwell (15 points, nine rebounds), Zach Scott (14 points, nine rebounds) and Sam Griffin (13 points) led the way for the Lions. Keyshawn Bryant scored 21 points to lead Winter Haven, while Dorian James added 17 points and eight rebounds

## 5<sup>TH</sup> PLACE

**ORLANDO CHRISTIAN PREP 57, GAINESVILLE 45:** In the fifth-place game, Little, a North Carolina commit, scored 26 points and grabbed 16 rebounds, as OCP rallied from down 10 in the second half to drop Gainesville 57-45. Little, who scored 11 points and grabbed eight rebounds in the fourth quarter, hit the go-ahead free throws with 5:45 left to play. GHS went over five minutes without a point after its took its last lead with 5:53 remaining, as it missed 18 of 22 shots in the final quarter. In the consolation final,

## 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE

**LAKWOOD RANCH 84, ROCKLEDGE 79:** The third-place game saw Lakewood Ranch place four players in double figures in an 84-79 win over Rockledge. Gordon led the Mustangs with 18 points. Weaver, a USC commit, scored 14 of his game-high 28 points to pace Rockledge.

## 44<sup>TH</sup> CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

**BUFORD (Ga.) 75, VANGUARD 54:** Vanguard ran into one of the top programs and coaches in the Southeast in the finals of the 44th annual Kingdom of the Sun boys basketball tournament.

The Knights fell 75-54 to Buford (Ga.) on Saturday night. It was the first appearance in the finals of the Kingdom for Vanguard since 1993, which was trying to win its first title since 1981. "I thought our effort level in the second half was good," Vanguard coach Phillip Small said. "But you can't say enough about the job that (Buford coach Eddie Martin, who has eight state titles at three different high schools during his career) has done." "That's one of the best programs in the Southeast and it was good for our program to go out there and compete against them." The run to the finals for Vanguard was impressive, as it had just two players back from last year's team who played



Buford's Jonathan Miles (33) is fouled by Vanguard's Andrew Jackson on his way to the basket in the final of the Kingdom of the Sun basketball tournament at Vanguard High School in Ocala on Saturday. Buford won the final. [BRUCE ACKERMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER]

meaningful minutes in last year's Kingdom. "It was a good week for us," Small said. In the finals, Vanguard fell down by 16 points after a quarter of play and would trail by as many as 28 in the loss. Buford was led throughout the tournament by Marcus Watson, the tournament MVP and one of the top juniors in the nation. Watson finished the tournament with 103 points. Against Vanguard, he scored 17 points. David Viti led all scorers with 25 points and was joined by Donnell Nixon (18 points) on the all-tournament team. Viti had 14 in the opening half, as Buford built a 45-23 halftime edge. For Vanguard, Dantwan Grimes scored 15 of his 19 points in the second half to lead the way for the Knights.



Buford's Alex Jones (3) drives to the basket as he is defended by Vanguard's Tony Johnson (25) and Blake Porter (13) in the final of the Kingdom of the Sun basketball tournament at Vanguard High School in Ocala on Saturday. [BRUCE ACKERMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER]