

Ladies' Roster

Boys' Roster

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<u>Zach Aird</u>

Zay Webber

Bryson Steele

Marquez Taylor

Martez Teague

<u>Hayden Garret</u>

Drew Chappel

Evan Norman

Stafford Roditis

25 Christopher Beck

MANAGERS

Landyn Smith

Carlton Townes

Myles Beeler

Tobey Brooks

Gracie Henderson

Eli Vinson

Tate Surber

Carter Kee

#	NAME	GR
1	Katie Chesser	12
1 3 4 5	Sophie Pate	10
4	Hannah Dillingham	12
5	Ally Gibson	10
10	Morgan Little	<u>10</u> 9 9 12
11	Charli Weatherford	9
12	Briley Auvenshine	12
14	Savannah Davis	11
15	Gracie Aird	<u>11</u> 9 9
20	Molly French	9
22	Mikaela Reynolds	11
23	Kylie Reynolds	12
24	Sarah Luci	<u>12</u> 9 12
32	Madison Gilbert	12
	MANAGERS	

2	Madison dibert	
	MANAGERS	
	Allie Mansfield	
	Jaleah Moore	
	Gracie Henderson	

Allie Manstield	
Jaleah Moore	10
Gracie Henderson	12
Carli Beeler	9
Jaycee Pinson	10
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2022–23 Lady Rebels Record

DATE		DEOUUT
DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
11/15	Greenfield	(W) 65-39
11/19	University School of Jackson	(W) 69-53
11/29	Huntingdon	(W) 82-58
12/1	Westview	(L) 55-48
12/6	@ Greenfield	(W) 69-54
12/9	Henry County	(W) 70-59
12/10	Middle Tennessee Christian @TCA	(L) 66-64
12/13	Gibson County	(L) 76-71
12/16	@ Huntingdon	(L) 86-59
12/19	@ Milan	(W) 66-29
12/29	Clarksville @ Stewart Co.	(W) 76-73
12/30	Montgomery Central @Stewart Co.	(W) 68-21
1/3	@ Jackson South Side	(L) 82-56
1/6	Big Sandy	(W) 62-35
1/7	@ Henry County	(W) 47-44
1/12	@ Gleason	(W) 53-41
1/13	@ McEwen	(W) 67-52
1/17	Jackson South Side	(L) 72-48
1/20	Houston County	(W) 73-62
1/24	@ Gibson County	(W) 75-73
1/27	McEwen	(W) 85-65
1/30	Gleason	(W) 53-41
2/3	@ Houston County	(L) 82-65
2/6	@ Big Sandy	(W) 78-41
2/7	Milan	(W) 64-30
	11-A Semifinal	
2/13	McEwen	(W) 72 - 49
	11-A Championship @ Bethel University	1
2/17	Houston County	(W) 66-44
	6-A Quarterfinal	
2/24	Clarksburg	(W) 95-34
	6-A Semifinal @ Bethel University	
2/27	McEwen	(W) 71-50
	6-A Championship @ Bethel University	
3/1	Perry County	(W) 75-49
	Sectional	
3/4 Nace 1/	Huntland A State Quarterfinal @ MTSU	(W) 67-57
3/8	Peabody	(W) 63-44
	A State Semifinal @ MTSU	(₩) 03-44
3/10	Van Buren County	(W) 84-59
	A State Championship at MTSU	(11) 01 00
3/11	Wayne County	(W) 71-54
	OVERALL RECORD 26-7	(,

2022-23 Rebels Record

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
12/6	Greenfield	(W) 59 - 54
12/9	Henry County	(L) 86 - 66
12/13	Gibson County	(W) 73 - 68
2/16	@ Huntingdon	(W) 71 - 53
12/19	@ Milan	(L) 58 - 41
12/29	@ Stewart County	(W) 61 - 48
12/30	Montgomery Central	(W) 65 - 37
1/3	@ Jackson South Side	(W) 64 - 58
1/6	Big Sandy	(W) 82 - 50
/7	@ Henry County	(L) 76 - 62
1/12	@ Gleason	(W) 78 - 55
1/13	@ McEwen	(W) 50 - 42
1/17	Jackson South Side	(W) 58 - 54
1/20	Houston County	(W) 65 - 55
1/24	@ Gibson County	(L) 52 - 44
1/26	Westview	(L) 62 - 57
1/27	McEwen	(W) 81 - 71
1/31	@ Big Sandy	(W) 84 - 53
2/3	@ Houston County	(W) 58 - 48
2/7	Milan	(W) 46 - 41
Distric	t 11-A Semifinal	
2/14	Big Sandy	(W) 79 - 60
District	t 11-A Championship @ Bethel Un	iversity
2/17	Houston Co.	(W) 60-55
Region	6-A Quarterfinal	
2/25	@West Carroll	W 75-55
Region	6-A Semifinal @ Bethel Universit	у
2/28	Perry County	(W) 78 - 53
Region	6-A Championship @ Bethel Univ	versity
3/1	Frank Hughes	(W) 56 - 46
Class A	A Sectional	
3/6	Moore County	(W) 55 - 36
Class 1	A State Quarterfinal @ MTSU	
3/15	University School	(L) 66 - 53
	OVERALL RECORD 21-6	

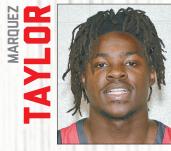




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Mckenzie Lady Rebels





Left, Savannah Davis led McKenzie with 31 points in the championship game. Above, McKenzie Lady Rebels Basketball team proudly displays the Gold Ball surrounded by cheerleaders, coaches and managers. Right, Mikaela Reynolds was the second-highest scorer on Saturday with 16 points. Photos by Erin Douglas/The Banner

Lady Rebels Earn Back-to-Back State Championships

BY ERIN DOUGLAS erin@mckenziebanner.com

MURFREESBORO (March 11) — The McKenzie Lady Rebels defended their state title by defeating the Wayne County Lady Wildcats 71-54. The Lady Rebels took a quick lead in the first quarter and added onto that throughout the night.

The Lady Rebels chalked up 20 points in the first quarter. Savannah Davis led the team with nine points from the 3-point arc. Mikaela Reynolds drove to the paint twice drawing a foul for a three-point play. Kylie Reynolds made a single free throw, then made a 3-pointer. She then drove to the basket for two points.

The Lady Wildcats had 14 points to start the game. Jacqueline Keaton drove the basket for four points. Lauren Bryant and Anniston Lee drained 3-pointers. Blair Baugus tacked on two points in the paint. The Lady Wildcats trailed the Lady Rebels 20-14 at the end of the first quarter.

The Lady Rebels increased their lead during the second quarter to take a ten-point lead at halftime. Kylie Reynolds chalked up five points. Mikaela Reynolds had four points, Davis drained two 3-pointers and Briley Auvenshine muscled her way to the basket for to the rim for two points. two points.

The Lady Wildcats were held to 13 points in the second quarter. Baugus chalked up seven points. Alexis Maghielse made her way to the paint for four points. Bryant drove to the rim for two points. Wayne County trailed McKenzie 37-27 at halftime. The Lady Wildcats added 12 points to their side of the board during the third quarter. Maghielse had a threepoint play in the paint to start the second half. Baugus drove to the basket for four points. Keaton tacked on three points. Kylee Brewer worked her way

The Lady Rebels added to their lead over the Lady Wildcats. Davis made two 3-pointers and had two points in the paint. Kylie and Mikaela Reynolds had two points from the free-throw line. Auvenshine tacked on two points in the paint. McKenzie held a 51-39 lead over Wayne County going into the final quarter.

The Lady Wildcats tacked on 15 points during the fourth quarter. Maghielse made two shots from the foul line, then made a shot from the 3-point

See CHAMPS on Page 3





Kylie Reynolds is a Miss Basketball Finalist 2022–23

MURFREESBORO (March 13) — Kylie Reynolds of McKenzie is one of two finalists for the Class 1A, Division I Miss Basketball 2022-23. She has committed to play collegiate ball at Bethel University. Kylie and her sister, Mikaela are both starters for the Lady Rebels and helped

the team earn the Class 1A basketball championship in Murfreesboro in March 2022 and 2023. She averaged 16.6 points per game during her 2022-23 season. Kylie is the daughter of Stephanie Mc-Clerkin and the late Roscoe McClerkin.

Blair Baugus, Wayne

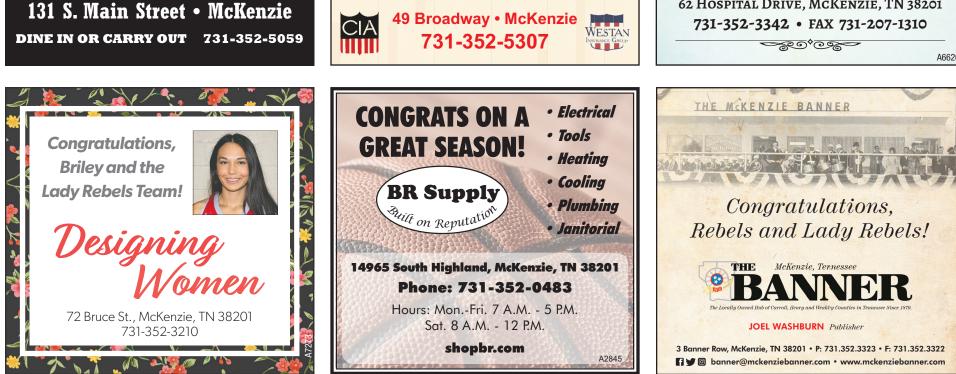
County was named Miss Basketball. The other finalist was Lyndie Ramsey, Unaka.

The Mr. and Miss Basketball Awards were presented to the top girls and boys in six classifications of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association on the floor of Murphy Center on the campus of MTSU on Monday, March 13 at 5 p.m. A statewide committee of sportswriters selected winners based on performance during the 2022-2023 regular season. Academics and character were also taken into consideration. High school head basketball coaches

and members of the media nominated the finalists. This is the 38th year that the Mr. and Miss Basketball Awards have been presented to Tennessee's best high school basketball players.

McKenzie's Savannah Davis was the 2021-2022 Class 1A Miss Basketball and Jackson Cassidy was the 2022 Mr. Football.









McKENZIE LADY REBELS

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Above Left, McKenzie students cheer on the Lady Rebels. Above Right, Lady Rebels lift the trophy high. Below Left, Head Coach John Wilkins accepts the coach's plaque from TSSAA Official Dexter Williams. Below Center, Lady Rebel Briley Auvenshine. Below Right, Kylie Reynolds drives towards the basket. *Photos by Erin Douglas/The Banner*



Champs

...From Page 2

arc. Kenzie Griggs drained a 3-point shot as well. Baugus tacked on two points from the free-throw line. Lauren Bryant had a 3-point play in the paint. Keaton chalked up two points under the net.

The Lady Rebels topped off the state championship with a 20-point quarter. Mikaela Reynolds drove to the basket for four points and made one free throw. Davis made three 2-point shots for McKenzie. Chesser made two back-to-back 3-point shots. She then made a foul shot. Auvenshine drove to the basket for two points. The Lady Rebels defeated the Lady Wildcats 71-54.

McKenzie shot 78.6% from the 3-point line and 56.5% from the floor. The Lady Rebels went 8-for-11 from the free-throw line.

The Lady Rebels gave the Lady Wildcats their only

McKenzie forced 14 turnovers and had five blocks. McKenzie was crowned the 1A State Champions for the second year in a row. Coach John Wilkins gave credit to the girls for them buying into the process.

"We will go home and enjoy this tonight," Wilkins said. "It's credit to them though."

Wilkins mentioned the shooting machines that the girls practiced on every day throughout the year to make them better.

The Lady Rebels sported four all-tournament team players: Kylie and Mikaela Reynolds, Savannah Davis and Briley Auvenshine.

Savannah Davis commented on being a state champion two years in a row. "It's great to be champs two years in a row. That doesn't really happen a lot. The amount of adversity we faced or I faced at the beginning of the year makes it feel amazing to finish out being a champ, and I feel like we faced so much. We had to change roles and de what we neverally don't

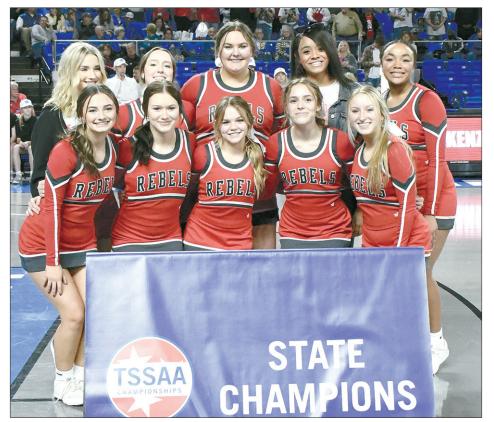


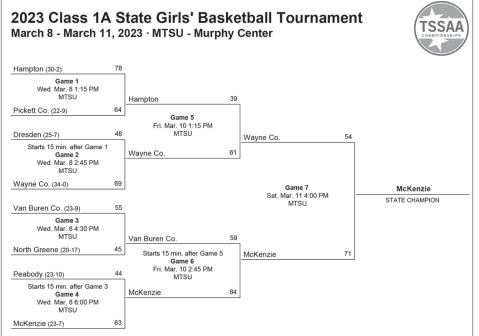
Left, State All-Tournament Team — Kylie Reynolds, Briley Auvenshine, Savannah Davis and Mikaela Reynolds. Right, Savannah Davis was named State Tournament MVP. *Photos by Erin Douglas/The Banner.*

do. It just feels amazing to finish like this."

After the game, Wilkins gave thanks to the McKenzie community for their support of him, his family and his teams.

The Lady Rebels finished their season with a record





Left, The final Class 1A State Girls' Basketball Tournament bracket. Above, McKenzie's cheerleaders are all smiles after the ladies' state championship win. (L to R) Front Row: Abbie Young, Kaida Walton, Laila Scott, Lydia Pate and Kamryn Brewer. Back Row: Emmy McMullin, Reece Carroll, Reese Gallimore, Alajah Gilbert and Taniyah Diggs. Not Pictured: Janai Tabada. *Photo by Erin Douglas/The Banner*



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McKENZIE LADY REBELS



Above Far Left, Lady Rebel Mikaela Reynolds shoots for two points. Above Left, Savannah Davis takes the ball down court. Above Right, Mikaela Reynolds shoots against Eaglette Emily Allen #23. Above Far Right, Lady Rebel Kylie Reynolds picked up 19 points in the semifinal round. Below Left, Briley Auvenshine had six rebounds in the game. Bottom Left, Lady Rebel Savannah Davis led the team in scoring with 25 points. Below Right, Lady Rebels move on to the final round. Photos by Erin Douglas/The Banner

Round of State Championship





Lady Rebels Clip Eaglettes McKenzie Heads to the Final

BY ERIN DOUGLAS erin@mckenziebanner.com

MURFREESBORO (March 10, 2023) — The McKenzie Lady Rebels defeated the Van Buren Eaglettes 84-59 to head to the state championship for the second consecutive year.

The Lady Rebels started the game off with a 10-0 lead a minute and thirty seconds into the first quarter. Savannah Davis and Mikaela Reynolds had the first ten points of the game. Davis drove to the paint for two points, then made a shot from the arc for three points. Mikaela Reynolds made one shot from the foul line, then drove to the basket for four points before the Eagelettes scored. Davis made two free throws and another two 3-pointers after Van Buren scored their first points. Mikaela Reynolds made one 3-point shot during the first quarter. Kylie Reynolds tacked on five points. Katie Chesser and Briley Auvenshine had two points each

Emily Allen started off the scoring for the Eaglettes with a 3-pointer. Cara Mills chalked up eight points in the first quarter. Layla Bouldin made two shots from the line and one shot under the net. Kaytlin Crain drove to the rim for two points. The Eaglettes trailed the Lady Rebels 30-17 after the first quarter.

The Eaglettes chalked up ten points in the second quarter. Allen had five points. Bouldin drove to the basket for two points. Greta Rigsby had two points under the net. Mills tacked on one shot at the foul line.

The Lady Rebels added 15 points to their lead before halftime. Mikaela Reynolds chalked up four points in the paint. Kylie Reynolds drove to the basket for two points, then made two shots at the line. Auvenshine and Davis had two points each. Chesser made a 3-pointer. McKenzie held a 45-27 lead over Van Buren to end the first half.

Van Buren chalked up 10 points in the third quarter. Bouldin had nine points. Rigsby and Mills had four points each. Allen tacked on one point from the foul line. McKenzie added 26 points

McKenzie added 26 points to their side of the board during the third quarter.



Kylie Reynolds had ten points and Mikaela Reynolds had eight points. Davis made a 3-pointer, then made two shots from the foul line. Chesser made one shot from beyond the arc for three points. The Lady Rebels held a 71-45 lead going into the final quarter.

The Eaglettes ended the game with 14 points. Bloudin drove to the basket for four points. Mills chalked up two points at the line and two points in the paint. Allen put the ball through the rim for two points. Ally Gibson made two shots at the foul line, and Julia Bell made four shots at the line.

The Lady Rebels secured their victory with 13 points in the final quarter. Davis drove to the basket for four points, then made a shot from the foul line. Auvenshine had four points in the paint. Mikaela Reynolds laid the ball into the basket for two points. The Lady Rebels defeated the Eaglettes 84-59.

The Lady Rebels shot 47 percent overall and 48 from the 3-point line. McKenzie was 10-14 from the foul line. The Lady Rebels had 17 steals during the game.

McKenzie will have a rematch with Wayne County in the Class 1A TSSAA State Championship. During the 2022 championship, McKenzie defeated Wayne County 46-42. The Lady Rebels will look to defend their state title at 4 p.m. at Middle Tennessee State University's Murphy Center.





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McKENZIE LADY REBELS

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Top Left, (L to R) Mikaela Reynolds, Sophie Pate and Katie Chesser cheer on their teammates from the sidelines. Top Center, Lady Rebel Briley Auvenshine controls the ball. Top Right, Kylie Reynolds posts up the jumper against a Peabody defender. *Photos by Erin Douglas/The Banner*

Lady Rebels Roll Over Tide in Quarterfinals

BY ERIN DOUGLAS erin@mckenziebanner.com

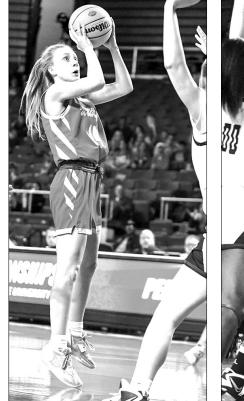
M U R F R E E S B O R O (March 8, 2023) — The McKenzie Lady Rebels advance to the state semifinals after defeating the Peabody Golden Tide 63-44.

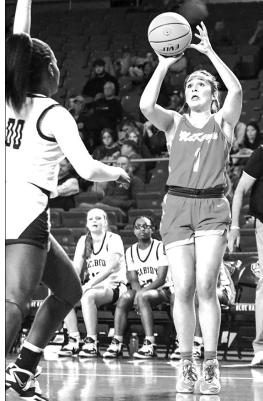
McKenzie worked to hold a first half lead over the Golden Tide. The Lady Rebels gained almost half of their first quarter points from the free throw line. Savannah Davis led the Lady Rebels with 11 points. Davis was 4-for-4 from the free throw line and chalked up four points in the paint. She then made a 3-pointer to top off the first quarter. Kylie Reynolds had five points in the first quarter. Reynolds drove to the basket for two points and made the other three at the foul line.

The Golden Tide held close to the Lady Rebels with a one point difference in the first quarter. Kyla Wofford had two shots in the paint. Myricle Johnson, Montiera Cliff and A'nyah Ross had three points each from the arc. Ja'myia Carter tacked on two points from the free throw line. Peabody trailed McKenzie 16-15 after the first quarter.

The Golden Tide was held to single digits during the second and third quarters by the McKenzie defense. Peabody chalked up nine points in the second quarter. Ross drained a 3-pointer. Mari'yah Cliff, Montiera Cliff and Carter all had two points under the net.

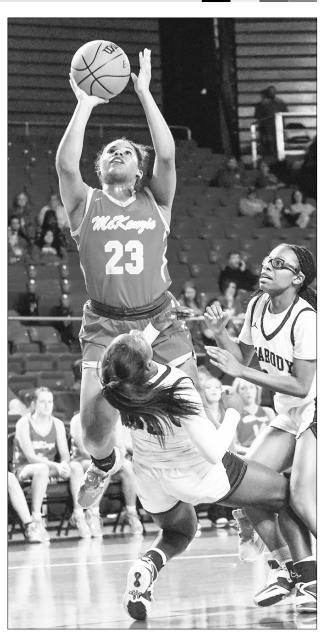
The Lady Rebels added 14 points to the board during the second quarter. Mikaela Revnolds nd Davis four points each. Katie Chesser and Briley Auvenshine had two points each under the net. Kylie Reynolds tacked on two points as she muscled her way to the net. McKenzie held a 30-24 lead over Peabody at halftime. By halftime, McKenzie's Davis had chalked up 15 points to have the most points on the floor. The Lady Rebels held the Golden Tide to just seven points during the third quarter. Johnson drove to the basket for two points. Travia Brooks had





Above Left, Lady Rebel Savannah Davis shoots. Above Center, Katie Chesser shoots just outside the paint. Left, Kylie Reynolds #23 drives inside the paint for two points. Right, Mikaela Reynolds was the second highest scorer in the game with 12 points. *Photos by Erin Douglas/The Banner*

olds and Davis had four points each. Auvenshine and Chesser drove to the





The Lady Rebels had 44 points in the paint. McKenzie had a total of 13 steals



two points under the net. Mari'yah Cliff made a shot from behind the arc for 3-points.

After the first half, the Lady Rebels realized that they had to drive to the basket. The McKenzie defense had seven steals during the third quarter and scored 16 of their 22 points off of turnovers. Mikaela Reynolds chalked up eight points in the paint. Kylie Reynbasket for two points each. Chesser then made two shots from the free throw line. The Lady Rebels held a 21 point lead over Peabody going into the final quarter.

McKenzie Head Coach John Wilkins commented on how the team opened up the third quarter with a different mindset. "I thought we took care of the ball a little bit better in the third quarter, and we started attacking more with them not pressuring us. First half we were settling back in and settling down on the floor," Wilkins said. "The The Golden Tide followed the Lady Rebels 52-31 going into the fourth quarter. Johnson chalked up seven points. Oleisia Stewart had four points. Carter drove to the basket for two points.

kids made an adjustment

and realized they could get

to the rim."

The Lady Rebels secured their victory with 11 points in the final quarter. Auvenshine had five points from the foul line. Davis and Chesser had four points each. Sarah Luci drove to the basket for two points to top off the scoring for the Lady Rebels.

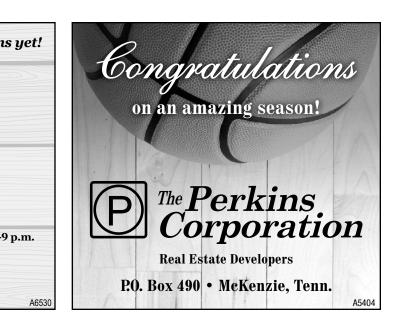
McKenzie topped the Tide 63-44.

and four blocks. The Lady Rebels forced Peabody to turn over the ball 25 times.

Junior Savannah Davis commented on how the team was feeling after their first game of the tournament. "We did come out nervous, but I think that was just first game jitters. After we came back in the third and fourth quarter, I feel a lot more confident that we are ready for this next game."

McKenzie takes on the Van Buren Eagles on Friday, March 10. Tipoff is slated for 2:45 p.m.







MCKENZIE LADY REBELS

STATE BOUND Lady Rebels Headed to State Championship Tourney

BY ERIN DOUGLAS

erin@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (March 4) The McKenzie Lady Rebels punched their ticket to the TSSAA Blue Cross State Championship Tournament after defeating the Huntland Lady Hornets 67-57. The Lady Rebels and Lady Hornets were neck and neck throughout the first three periods, but McKenzie took a large lead during the final quarter to secure the victory.

The Lady Hornets chalked up 18 points in the first quarter. Logan McLennan had ten points. Ashtyn Danley drove to the basket for four points, and Jocy May had two points in the paint. Aysia Ŵilliams tacked on two points at the free throw line.

The Lady Rebels had a committee effort during the first quarter to score 20 points. Kylie Reynolds drained two shots from the foul line. Mikaela Reynolds and Savannah Davis had five points each. Katie Chesser made a shot from beyond the arc for three points. Briley Auvenshine muscled her way to the basket for two points. The Lady Rebels took the lead when Sophie Pate made a 3-pointer. McKenzie held a 2 point edge over Huntland at the end of the first quarter.

The Lady Hornets were stumped by the McKenzie defense during the second quarter. Huntland scored 15 points during the quarter. Morgan Sanders drove to the basket for two points. then drained a 3-pointer. Yareli Avalos and Danley had two points each. Mc-Lennan drove to the basket for two points, then made one shot at the foul line. May made a shot from arc for three.

The Lady Rebels went on a 20-4 score run during the final three minutes of the second quarter to gain a ten points lead at halftime. Davis led the rally with nine points all from the three point line. Chesser made two 3-pointers, and two free throws. Mikaela Reynolds drove to the basket for two points, then drew a foul to match those two points at the foul line. Kylie Reynolds drew a foul and made both of her shots at the free throw line. The Lady Rebels held a 43-33 lead over the Lady Hornets at halftime.



Savannah Davis hugs Mikaela Reynolds after the clock ticks down to 0 punching their ticket to the State Tournament. Photo by Erin Douglas/The Banner

After the break, the Lady Hornets were eager to earn the lead back. Avalos had four points in the paint and two from the line. McLennan had four points in the paint. Williams drove to the rim for two points. May and Danley both tacked on one point from the free throw line.

The Lady Rebels cooled off during the third quarter, but were able to maintain their lead. Mikaela Reynolds and Davis had two points each. Kylie Reynolds drained a 3-pointer to keep the Lady Rebels ahead. The Lady Hornets trailed the Lady Rebels 50-47 at the end of the third quarter.

The Lady Hornets chalked up 10 points in the final quarter but were unable to hold off the Lady Rebels. May and McLennan had four points each. Danley drove to the basket for two points.

McKenzie held their lead with the help of Davis' ten points in the fourth quarter. Davis made a shot from the arc, then drove to the basket twice for four points, and had another three points at the free throw line. Chesser had a shot from the 3-point line. Mikaela Reynolds had three points from the foul line, and Kyle Revolds tacked on one point from the line.

The Lady Rebels defeated the Lady Hornets 67-57 to punch their ticket to the Glass House.

"It's been quite a sea-Coach John Wilkins. son," "[The Lady Hornets] are tough. Every time we would get them down or we would get a little run, they would answer back with a run. The kids were saying 'their good coach' and they

are good. Everyone at this stage of the year is good. It is going to take all four quarters for the rest of the year."

The Lady Rebels defense was a huge part of their victory tonight with multiple steals in their full court press and a few blocks in the paint.

We know what [our full court press] is just how we have to play in order for us to have a chance to win. We have to make it full court all night long. We talked a lot about getting deflections and I thought our girls got their hands on a lot of passes tonight even if we didn't steal it .

Wilkins tipped his hat to Huntland for their effort against his team, and looks to the next opponents even though the bracket hasn't been drawn yet.

'We will be happy to just be there and play with anybody. Ultimately we want to find a way to play on Saturday," Wilkins said. "I'm proud of the girls for hanging with the process and finding a way to win tonight. We have a bunch of winners on this team. When they came and threw some havmakers at us, we had kids just respond and make plays. I'm really proud of them and their effort.'

The McKenzie Ladv Rebels will head to Middle Tennessee State University on Wednesday, March 8 to start the state tournament. The state tournament games will take place at MTSU's Murphy Center.

On Wednesday, March 8, McKenzie Schools will dismiss at 2 p.m. so students and faculty can attend the opening round as the McKenzie Lady Rebels face-off against Peabody.



The All-Tournament team included McKenzie Lady Rebels Mikaela Reynolds, Briley Auvenshine, Kylie Reynolds and Savannah Davis. Photo by Erin Douglas/The Banner

McKenzie Lady Rebels Crowned Region Champs, Host Sectionals

BY ERIN DOUGLAS

erin@mckenziebanner.com McKENZIE (March 1) The McKenzie Lady Rebels defeated McEwen 71-50 on Monday night to move to the regional championship. The Lady Rebels defeated the Perry County Lady Vikings 75-49 to be crowned region champions.

During Monday night's game at Crisp Arena at Bethel University, Briley Auvenshine led McKenzie with 19 points. Mikaela Reynolds chalked up 14, Savannah Davis had 13 points and Kylie Reynolds had 12 points all under the basket. The Lady Rebels held the McEwen Lady Warriors to single digits through the first half.

Wednesday night, the Lady Rebels secured their home advantage in the sectional round with their 75-49 victory over the Lady Vikings.

The Lady Rebels took a 22-14 lead over Perry County in the first quarter. Mikaela Reynolds chalked up eight points. Kylie Reynolds drove to the basket for six points. Savannah Davis had four points with two jump shots in the paint. Katie Chesser and Auvenshine tacked on two points each.

The Lady Vikings held a 10-6 lead, but the Lady Rebels had a 10-0 scoring streak to take a 16-10 lead. The Lady Vikings trailed by eight points at the end of the first quarter. McKinnah Jackson chalked up six points. Alayna Thornton drained a 3-pointer, then drove to the basket for two points. Kaylee Byrd made a shot from behind the arc for three points.

The Lady Vikings added 13 points to their side of the



Left, Katie Chesser drives towards the basket. Right, Savannah Davis was named MVP of the Region tournament. Photos by Erin Douglas/The Banner

board. Byrd chalked up six points. Cianna Wilson had four points in the paint to break her 1,000 career point mark. Jackson drained a 3-pointer. The Vikings fell further behind the Lady Rebels after McKenzie added 26 points to their lead. Davis had nine points. Mikaela Reynolds had seven points, and Auvenshine had six. Kylie Reynolds tacked on four points. At halftime, the Lady Rebels dominated 48-27.

The Lady Vikings were held to nine points in the third quarter. Byrd chalked up five of the nine. Maddi Wright and Jackson had two points each.

The Lady Rebels knocked down another 26 points in the third quarter. Davis had 11 points in the quarter. Chesser drained two 3-pointers. Auvenshine had five points and Reynolds had four points in the paint. McKenzie had a running clock to end the third quarter and headed to the final quarter with a

74-36 lead.

The Lady Vikings added 13 points to their score during the fourth quarter. Jackson led with ten points. Byrd collected the other three points behind the arc. Jackson led the Lady Vikings with 21 points, and Byrd had 17 points.

Molly French added the only point from the free throw line in the final quarter for the Lady Rebels. The Lady Rebels defeated the Lady Vikings 75-49.

Davis led the Lady Rebels to victory with 24 points. Mikaela Reynolds had 19 points, and Auvenshine had a total of 13 points.

The Lady Rebels host the sectional round at Bethel University. McKenzie hosted the Huntland Lady Hornets on Saturday, March. 4. The winner of this game will punch their ticket to the glass house and state tournament which will be hosted at Middle Tennessee State University starting Tuesday, March 7.





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McKENZIE REBELS



Above Left, All Tournament Region 6-1A — Frank Hughes: Weston Lineberry, Aiden Dicus and Ethan Nance. McKenzie: Zach Aird, Bryson Steele, Tate Surber and MVP Marquez Taylor. Not Pictured: Houston County — Logan Medders and Carson Conwell. Perry County — Lachlan Matthews and Linden Brown. Above Right, McKenzie Rebels are the 2022-23 Region 6 1A Champions. Below Left, Marquez Taylor makes a dunk for the Rebels. Below Right, Marquez Taylor was honored to be named MVP of the tournament. Photos by Erin Douglas/The Banner



Rebels Two-Time Region Champions, Host Sectionals

BY ERIN DOUGLAS erin@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (March 1) — The McKenzie Rebels defeated the Frank Hughes Lions 56-46 to be crowned Region 6-A champions for the second consecutive year. The Rebels took a lead during the second quarter and didn't look back.

Playing at Bethel University's Crisp Arena, the Lions took a 14-11 lead during the first quarter. Aiden Dicus drove to the basket and drew a foul for three points. Dicus drove to the basket for another two points. Malaki LeGrande had a shot under the rim for two points, then matched that with two shots at the free throw line. Weston Lineberry chalked up four points. Alex Shamer tacked on one point. The Rebels trailed the Li-

ons during the starting quarter. Zach Aird and Carter Kee had three points each. Marquez Taylor drove to the basket for four points. Zay Webber tacked on one point at the foul line. The Rebels trailed 14-11.

Lineberry chalked up three points. Alex Ronchetti drove to the basket for four points. LeGrande had two points in the paint, and Shamer had one at the line. The Lions chalked up ten points in the second quarter, but that wasn't enough to hold off the Rebels.

McKenzie took the lead during the second quarter. Bryson Steele led the team with seven points. Taylor had two points in the paint and three from the free throw line. Webber drove to the basket for two points, then made one free throw. Tate Surber and Stafford Roditis had two points each. The Rebels took a 30-24 lead at halftime.

The Lions were held to ten points during the third quarter. Ethan Nance drove to the basket for two points, then made a 3-pointer. Lineberry had two points in the paint. Shamer drained two free throws, and Dicus made one.

The Rebels held the lead and added 15 points to their side of the board. Webber and Taylor had four points each. Aird and Surber had two points in the paint. Kee drained a 3-pointer. McKenzie held a 45-34 lead over Frank Hughes at the end of the third quarter.

The Lions added another 12 points to their side of the board. Lineberry added eight points to the board before he fouled out. Carson Beckham and Rochetti had two points each.

The Rebels topped off the game with 11 points in the final quarter. Surber had

four points in the paint, then made a foul shot. Kee and Aird made two free throws each. Steele tacked on two points under the net. The Rebels defeated the Lions 56-46 to gain home advantage in the sectionals round.

Following the conclusion of the game, McKenzie Principal and Athletic Director Kelly Spivey awarded the Region All-Tournament Team awards. Tate Surber, Bryson Steele, and Zach Aird were all chosen for the award. Marquez Taylor was awarded the Region 6A All-Tournament Most Valuable Player award.

McKenzie will play host to the Moore County Raiders on Monday, March 6. Tip-off is 7 p.m. at Bethel University's Crisp Arena.

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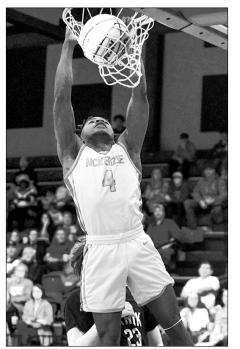
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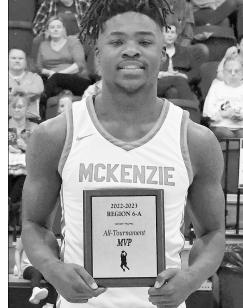
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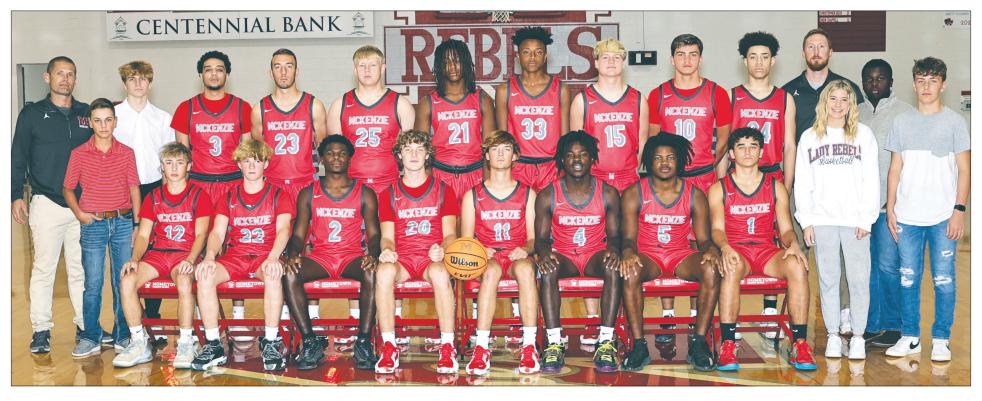
on a great season!





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Mckenzie Rebels



Rebels Rout Raiders, Head to State

BY ERIN DOUGLAS erin@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (March 6) — The McKenzie Rebels are headed back to state after they punched their ticket with a 55-36 victory over the Moore County Raiders. The Rebels started the game off with a ten-point lead and added to that throughout the night.

The Rebels held the Raiders to five points in the first quarter. Alex Copeland drove to the basket for four points. Peyton Martin tacked on the other point from the free throw line.

McKenzie came out hot, draining three 3-pointers and chalking up 15 points to start the game. Zach Aird had six points from beyond the arc. Tate Surber made a 3-pointer, then drove to the basket for two points. Marquez Taylor and Zay Webber had two points each. The Rebels led 15-5 at the end of the first quarter.

The Raiders put up ten points in the second quarter but still trailed the Rebels at halftime. Will Baker drove to the basket twice for four points. Keller Morey and Copeland each had a shot in the paint for two points. Martin muscled his way to the basket for two points.

McKenzie took a 32-15 lead at halftime. Aird had two shots in the paint and one from the arc. Surber drove to the basket for two



Top, The McKenzie Rebels 2022-23 team photo taken at the beginning of the season. *Photo By Joel Washburn/The Banner*. Left, Marquez Taylor drives the lane. Center, Zay Webber helps cut down the net. Right, Zach Aird trims a piece of the net as a souvenir of the Rebel victory. *Photos By Erin Douglas/The Banner*

points, then drew a foul for a 3-point play in the paint.

Moore County struggled to put points on the board during the third quarter due to the Rebels defense. Copeland and Baker scored two points each for the Raiders. The Rebels tacked on

The Rebels tacked on ten points during the third quarter. Bryson Steele had six points in the paint and two points from the free throw line. Surber had two points under the net. The Rebels led 42-19 going into the fourth quarter.

Moore County rallied in the final quarter to score 17 points. Copeland made a shot from behind the arc for three points, then tack on one point from the foul line. Baker had four points in the paint. Brantley Hill and Dawson White drove to the basket for two points each. Tristyn Grey topped off the game with a buzzer-beating 3-pointer.

The Rebels added another 13 points to their lead in the fourth quarter. Taylor chalked up five points, and Surber had four points. Webber and Steele had two points each.

Surber led the Rebels with 16 points. Aird had 13 points, and Steele had 12 points.

McKenzie defeated Moore County 55-36 to move onto the TSSAA state tournament.

The Rebels travel to Middle Tennessee State University on Wednesday, March 15 to start the tournament. McKenzie's first opponent is University High School of Johnson City. Tip-off is set for 6 p.m. at MTSU's Murphy Center.

Rebels Fall Short In Quarterfinals



Above, Head Coach John Wilkins (standing) and Assistant Coach Hunter Herrin. Right, Rebel Zach Aird keeps his eyes on the goal as Buccaneer Andrew Cole #32 defends. *Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner*

BY JASON R. MARTIN jmartin@mckenziebanner.com

MURFREESBORO (March 15) — The McKenzie Rebels were unable to keep up their hot streak Wednesday night. The Buccaneers of University School Johnson City (USJC) ended McKenzie's run at the state basketball championship by a score of 66-53. McKenzie closes the season with a 22-5 record along with district and region championship titles.

The first quarter of play resulted in the Buccaneers taking an early lead and closing the quarter with a 25-15 lead over the Rebels. McKenzie won the tip but was unable to score. USJC was hot from behind the arc hitting their first of six three-pointers in the quarter. Marquez Taylor posted two points from inside following a Tate Surber steal. The Rebels trailed 3-2 with 7:16 on the clock in the first quarter.

USJC's Andrew Cole responded with the trey and Peter Boynewicz added three more points increasing the lead to 9-2 at the 5:39 mark of the opening quarter. Points by Taylor and Surber tied things up at 11-11 but the Buccaneers continued hitting buckets from downtown. At the end of the first quarter, USCJ led 25-15 over McKenzie.

The Rebels were able to make adjustments in the second quarter and outscored the Buccaneers 15-12 narrowing the USJC lead 37-30. McKenzie shot 46% from the floor compared to USJC's 27%. Taylor had seven points, Bryson Steele had two points from a layup and Stafford Roditis and Surber each

See REBELS on Page 9





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Mckenzie Rebels









1. Rebel Marquez Taylor leaps for the goal. 2. Rebel Carter Kee works the ball inside the perimeter. 3. Class 1A State Boys' Basketball final bracket.

Rebels

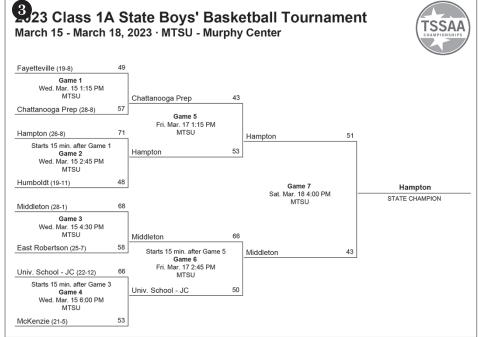
...From Page 8

hit a three-pointer. Scoring for the Buccaneers was Cole, Mason Croley, Andrew Finney and AJ Murphy.

McKenzie continued to work their way back against USJC in the third quarter. The Rebels outscored the Buccaneers 16-13 with a 54% field goal percentage. Towards the end of the quarter, McKenzie was within two points of USJC (46-44) and again (48-46) with 1:20 left in the quarter. USJC's Cole scored the final points of the quarter putting the lead at 50-46.

The fourth quarter proved costly for the Rebels as they shot 27% from the floor going 3 for 11 and were outscored 16-7. The Rebels were forced to turn up the pressure. Missed shots and being out-rebounded were the Achilles heel for the quarter. The final score was 66 USJC, 53 McKenzie.

Final statistics for the night, McKenzie was 23 of 53 from the floor and 3 of 16 from beyond the arc. The Rebels scored four points from free throws going 4 of 10. Taylor was the leading scorer with 22 points followed by Surber with 13, Steele with 10, Stafford Roditis with 5 and Zavier Webber with 3. Leading the



Buccaneers in scoring was Cole with 24 points followed by Murphy with 16.

McKenzie was out-rebounded 33 to 30. Leading in rebounds was Taylor with 4 and Webber with 3. Cole led USJC with 4. Surber had three blocked shots in the game versus the one block for Mason Croley for the Buccaneers.

At the end of the game, Rebels Head Coach John Wilkins commented on how proud he was of the team making it to Murfreesboro. Regarding the loss, he stated that he and the team were obviously disappointed but come Saturday afternoon there will be seven teams disappointed in not taking home the gold.











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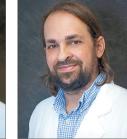
Congratulations, McKenzie teams for making it to State! We are so proud of you!





















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