

RECOGNIZE

CENTRAL FLORIDA

TEAMS THAT DEMAND ATTENTION

BOYS' BASKETBALL • TAMPA PREP

When a team loses in overtime of the state semifinals, then returns seven of eight top players, there's a natural assumption they'll be pretty good the following season. Tampa Prep is OK with that. "The expectations are always high here," says coach Joe Fenlon, who has more than 500 career wins. "The goal every year is to get to Lakeland." This year's incarnation of the Terrapins is an intriguing mix of youth and experience. It starts with All-State seniors Jamal Cherry and Jay Bowie. Cherry (6-4/185), a four-year starter, is one of the state's top shooters, pouring in 17 points per game last year. Bowie (6-5/190) averaged 17 points and 11 boards and led the team in assists in his first season at Tampa Prep. "He's probably the hardest-working kid I've had in 26 years," says Fenlon. Then

there's the youth movement. Devontae Morgan (6-3/170) started as a freshman last year, and like new arrival Quincy Mitchell (6-6/230), he is considered one of the top sophomores in the state. Jordan Heath (6-0/170), son of USF coach Stan Heath, is an efficient point guard who shoots at a high percentage. Heath (knee) and 6-foot-6, 210-pound senior Tyler Raquet (back), were expected to miss time at the beginning of the season with injuries. Seniors David Fletcher and Ben Sever round out the rotation for a team that can score in a variety of ways. "The more diverse you can be," says Fenlon, "the harder you are to guard." After a controversial last-second foul call sealed Tampa Prep's fate in the Class 2A semifinals last year, the Terps are looking to win any way they can this season.

Girls' Soccer • Berkeley Prep

With Bryane Heaberlin in net and Taylor Richardson leading the offense, the Buccaneers could be even better than last year's team, which advanced to the Class 3A regional finals before falling to St. Andrew's. Heaberlin, a sophomore keeper who allowed less than a goal per game, and Richardson, who found the back of the net 27 times, both earned All-Hillsborough first team honors from the *St. Pete Times* last year. The Bucs also boast senior forward Samantha Newhaller and senior midfielder Taylor Batye.

Wrestling • Kissimmee Osceola

After finishing second to South Dade last year and third behind Oviedo and South Dade the year before, the Kowboys got their revenge last season, topping both squads to take home the Class 3A state title. They are led this year by senior state champs Joe Locksmith, who won a state title at 130 pounds last year, and Levi Clemmons, who struck gold at 171. Osceola also returns Pete Baldwin, a junior who went 51-0 during the regular season before finishing second at state, and Gabriel Bird, a senior who took third.

Girls' Basketball • Tampa Catholic

The Crusaders earned a trip to the Class 3A semifinals last season, capping the best season in the program's history. Tampa Catholic, which had its run at the Class 3A crown halted with a 69-48 loss to Parkway Academy in the semis, finished the season at 24-2, earning head coach Nancy Kroll Hillsborough County Coach of the Year honors. Reigning County Player of the Year and leading scorer Colette Eule and All-Hillsborough forward Sarah Brennan, both seniors, hope to lead the Crusaders back to Lakeland this winter.

breakoutteams

BOYS' SOCCER - GEORGE JENKINS

Junior Kevin Pahl leads a team trying to rebound from last year's first-round playoff loss.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL - EAST RIDGE

Selena Archer, a 6-5 senior post, averaged 19 points per game for last year's 18-6 team.

BOYS' BASKETBALL - WEST PORT

Junior Jason Pimentel, a 6-foot-8 forward, can score down low or from the wing.

GIRLS' SOCCER - ORANGWOOD CHRISTIAN

Florida-bound senior Kelsey Affolter is one of the state's best players.