

## 2022-23 HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL PREVIEW: PHILIP SIMMONS GIRLS

# Lady Iron Horses return veteran trio in Class AAA debut



PROVIDED

**PHILIP M. BOWMAN**  
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The conclusion of the 2022-23 high school basketball season will mark the end of an era in Philip Simmons High School girls' basketball.

The program is in its seventh year of existence and three players have been with the program since Day 1: Kennedy Rivers, Zhaire Mack and Kylee Kellermann. Throw in capable coach Dustin Williams, and you have the Mount Rushmore of PSHS girls' hoops.

Williams has built the program into one of the best in the Palmetto State. The team went 5-10 in its first season, 2017-18, but has posted a 58-24 mark since then. The mark would be more glossy, but the 2020-21 season was limited to nine games as the Iron Horses went 7-2 during the COVID-19

pandemic.

The individual accomplishments are just as impressive. Rivers is closing in on 1,200 career points, averaging 13.4 points per contest in 89 career games. Kellermann topped 1,000 points in her career early last season before suffering a season-ending knee injury. She's back and should provide offense and defense. She has averaged 13.3 points in 79 career games.

Mack would be at 1,000 points, but she opted out of the pandemic season.

"This is their last dance," Williams said of his tremendous trio. "They just have to go out and play their best. They helped build the program. They are expected to win, not just show up."

The Iron Horses are coming off a 16-4 season that included an 8-2 record in Region 6-AA, finishing second to Timberland. The Iron Horses reached the third

round of the playoffs, losing to Silver Bluff. The loss marked the second consecutive season that the Bulldogs halted the Iron Horses' season in the third round.

Last season marked the first time the Iron Horses girls defeated perennial hoops power Bishop England, 60-35. Kellermann became the first girl in school history to top 1,000 points, but her season came to a halt shortly after with the knee injury. Rivers reached 1,000 points in February.

"We have the look of a veteran team with some young players," said Williams who opened the season with a victory over Colleton County. "We need to take it a day at a time, and a game at a time. Just get better for region play and the playoffs."

The team embraces the work that is needed to be successful.

"Success starts in the summer," Williams said. "That's when you start paying the

price. The reward for the hard work comes during the season. The kids know what to expect, and they have fun working to become better."

Junior guard Tia Chaney and freshman forward Sophia Wirsing round out the starting lineup.

The Iron Horses will compete at the Class AAA level this fall, competing in Region 7-AAA, which includes some teams with impressive pasts: Battery Creek, Beaufort, Hanahan and North Charleston.

The Iron Horses opened the season Nov. 25 with a 52-29 victory over host Colleton County in the TKC Memorial Tournament. The Iron Horses topped Summerville Nov. 26, 41-35, to reach the championship against Woodmont, but fell short the next day, 53-41.

## GIRLS VARSITY SCHEDULE DATE/TIME HOME/AWAY OPPONENT

12/2 6:30PM VS NORTHWOOD ACADEMY

12/5 6:30PM @ GOOSE CREEK

12/7 6:30PM VS OCEANSIDE

12/9 6:30PM VS BISHOP ENGLAND

12/14 6:30PM VS GOOSE CREEK

12/16 6:30PM @ BISHOP ENGLAND

12/19-21 TBD @ MYRTLE BEACH

12/28-30 TBA CAROLINA INVITATIONAL

1/6 6:30PM @ BEAUFORT \*

1/13 6:30PM VS NORTH CHARLESTON \*

1/17 6:30PM @ HANAHAN \*

1/20 6:30PM @ BATTERY CREEK \*

1/24 6:30PM VS BEAUFORT \*

1/31 6:30PM @ NORTH CHARLESTON \*

2/3 6:30PM VS HANAHAN \*

2/7 6:30PM VS BATTERY CREEK \*

\*REGION GAMES

## 2022-23 HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL PREVIEW: BISHOP ENGLAND GIRLS

# Lady Bishops' lineup to see new slate of starters

## GIRLS VARSITY SCHEDULE DATE/TIME HOME/AWAY OPPONENT

12/2 6:30PM @ CHARLESTON MATH & SCIENCE

12/3 4:30PM VS WANDO

12/5 6:30PM @ HANAHAN

12/7 6:30PM VS SUMMERVILLE

12/9 6:30PM @ PHILIP SIMMONS

12/16 6:30PM VS PHILIP SIMMONS

12/17 NOON @ PINWOOD PREP

12/28-30 TBA CAROLINA INVITATIONAL

1/3 6:30PM @ PINWOOD PREP

1/6 7PM VS LAKE MARION \*

1/7 2:30PM @ WANDO

1/9 7PM VS HANAHAN

1/13 6:30PM @ TIMBERLAND \*

1/17 6:30PM @ OCEANSIDE \*

1/20 6:30PM @ ACADEMIC MAGNET \*

1/24 6:30PM @ LAKE MARION \*

1/26 6:30PM @ PALMETTO CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

1/31 6:30PM VS TIMBERLAND \*

2/3 6:30PM VS OCEANSIDE \*

2/7 6:30PM VS ACADEMIC MAGNET \*

\*REGION GAMES



PROVIDED

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The Bishop England High School girls' basketball team already has one tournament championship under its collective belt for the 2022-23 season.

That's a nice accomplishment. But what motivates the team are the championships that are earned later in the season, namely region and state championships.

The Bishops won the Riptide Invitational, hosted by Charleston Science and Math, to tip off the season with a 2-0 record.

Now the Bishops focus on the bigger prizes. The Bishops have been one of the best of the best programs in the Palmetto State since winning their first state crown to cap the 2011-12 season.

Since then, the team has added five more state titles while compiling a 249-37 record

during the stretch. The Bishops went 19-7 last winter and reached the Class AAA Lower State Championship before losing to Camden.

"The girls come in and want to win," said coach Paul Runey. "They want to win, not because of what their sisters accomplished or what the team did the season before. They want to win because it's their time to make a contribution. I don't think all the success adds pressure. These kids just want to do the best they can."

This winter, the Bishops will compete at the Class AA level minus 10 seniors and four starters from the successful squad. The team averaged 56 points a game last winter, but the players responsible for 39 of those points have graduated. Among those graduates, Ally Dominiak, Ella Schar and Princess Scott combined for 29 of those 39 points a game.

Runey welcomed back five players from last year's team. The quintet has varied experience, but all five are athletes who play at least two sports. That should help offset a height issue. It could be Runey's smallest team as he begins another chapter in his storied career. He enters this week's game with a career mark of 759-208, which is third all-time among girls' coaches in South Carolina.

The most experienced player returning is junior Izzy Woods, a standout lacrosse player whose sister, Lilly, was one of the all-time girls' tennis players in BE history. Izzy Woods averaged 5.6 points and 2.2 steals per contest last season.

Junior Lizzy Tompkins is the other guard. She's only 5-3, but also shines as a member of the state champion LAX team.

The Bishops will count on senior Evelyn Kitchin inside. In this case, getting re-

bounds might be just as important as points because rebounds lead to those patented fast-break points, a common occurrence during Runey's tenure.

Junior Madison Riley, who competes in cross country and soccer, has hoops skills as well and should be a point contributor.

Junior Lilly Hodge will complement Kitchin inside.

The Bishops' top reserves include three promising sophomores: Hanna Rosato, Lis-sie Van De Erve and Jordan Ingram.

The Bishops will compete in Region 6-AA, and the Bishops' challenger for the region crown should be Timberland. Oceanside Collegiate Academy should be much improved and present a challenge.

"We just have to stay healthy and get better every game," Runey said.

## 2022-23 HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL PREVIEW: BISHOP ENGLAND BOYS

# Bishops height factor poses big advantage in Class AA



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Bishop England High School boys' basketball coach Bryan Grevey gave his team Thanksgiving Day – and Black Friday – off. He gave them the option of practicing Saturday, but with so much college football on the television and so little time, the team opted to practice on Sunday.

There the Bishops were, focusing on fundamentals on the seventh day, a day of rest. There's plenty of work for the Bishop England team as they prepare for the 2022-23 season. And one of the biggest areas of concern already is free-throw shooting. The Bishops went 1-1 in the recent Riptide Invitational that tipped off the season. But they might have been 2-0 if not for a 13-of-35 effort from the line in the two games.

Still, Grevey is excited about his team's chances as they prepare to play Stratford this week. The team has four seniors, eight juniors and a sophomore on the roster, so the next two years could be memorable.

"We have a group of guys who can play," said Grevey, who begins his 13th season at the school with a 165-126 record. "We can go big. Or, we can go small. We have the players."

The Bishops have dropped down to Class AA and the roster includes three players who are 6-5. That should be ample size for the Bishops. The three players are Andrew Puckhaber, Oliver Barnwell and Will Mazur. Barnwell was the only one of the three who played at the varsity level last winter.

The focus early in the season has been finding the right rotation and chemistry –

and finding replacements for departed stars Cole Alexander and Elliott Sanders. Alexander averaged 12.3 points and 4.9 rebounds per game while Sanders scored at a 10.0 clip per game as the Bishops posted a 13-12 record, including 7-3 in Region 8-AAA, which was good for third place in the league.

The starting lineup includes front court players Jack Van De Erve, Charlie Ranney and Puckhaber.

Van De Erve is a junior who was solid in 2021-22 with 6.8 points and 6.0 rebounds per game. Ranney, a senior, averaged 4.1 rebounds last winter and that number should rise this season.

Junior Andrew Pride and senior Jack Raup are the starting guards. Raup attended Bishop England, but his family moved out west only to return in time for his final

season.

The top three players off the bench – for now – include Zach Rooney, Ellis Rollins and Will Tarrant. Rooney and Rollins are juniors while Tarrant is the lone sophomore on the squad.

The Bishops opened the season with a 35-30 loss to Northwood Academy on Nov. 19, but topped Philip Simmons 50-42 on Nov. 20 to claim third place in the Riptide Invitational. The Bishops broke open the game with a 22-14 scoring advantage in the third quarter.

"That was a good win," Grevey said. "I don't want to pour salt in the wound, but we came out with a well-deserved win. When you win by eight against a team like Philip Simmons, that's an accomplishment."

## BOYS VARSITY SCHEDULE DATE/TIME HOME/AWAY OPPONENT

12/2 8PM @ CHARLESTON MATH & SCIENCE

12/3 6PM VS WANDO

12/5 8PM @ HANAHAN

12/7 8PM VS SUMMERVILLE

12/9 8PM @ PHILIP SIMMONS

12/16 8PM VS PHILIP SIMMONS

12/17 3:30PM @ PINEWOOD PREP

12/28-30 TBD HOME TOURNAMENT

1/3 8PM VS PINEWOOD PREP

1/6 8:30PM VS LAKE MARION \*

1/7 TBA @ WANDO

1/9 8:30PM VS HANAHAN

1/13 8PM @ TIMBERLAND \*

1/17 8PM @ OCEANSIDE \*

1/20 8PM @ ACADEMIC MAGNET \*

1/24 8PM @ LAKE MARION \*

1/26 8PM @ PALMETTO CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

1/31 8PM VS TIMBERLAND \*

2/3 8PM VS OCEANSIDE \*

2/7 8PM VS ACADEMIC MAGNET \*

\*REGION GAMES

## 2022-23 HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL PREVIEW: PHILIP SIMMONS BOYS

# Iron Horses look to groom scorers ahead of Class AAA hurdle

## BOYS VARSITY SCHEDULE DATE/TIME HOME/AWAY OPPONENT

12/2 8PM VS NORTHWOOD ACADEMY
12/5 8PM @ GOOSE CREEK
12/7 8PM VS OCEANSIDE
12/9 8PM VS BISHOP ENGLAND
12/14 8PM VS GOOSE CREEK
12/16 8PM @ BISHOP ENGLAND
12/20-21 TBA PSB SHOWCASE @ GOOSE CREEK
12/28-30 TBA COPPERHEAD CLASSIC CATAWBA RIDGE
1/3/23 7:30PM @ LUCY BECKHAM
1/6/23 8PM @ BEAUFORT *
1/13/23 8PM VS NORTH CHARLESTON *
1/17/23 8PM @ HANAHAN *
1/20/23 8PM @ BATTERY CREEK *
1/24/23 8PM VS BEAUFORT *
1/31/23 8PM @ NORTH CHARLESTON *
2/3/23 8PM VS HANAHAN *
2/7/23 7:30PM VS BATTERY CREEK *

\*REGION GAMES



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Philip Simmons high school boys' basketball coach Garrett Campbell is searching for scorers early in the 2022-23 season. Once he discovers the fountain of points, the winning should return.

The Iron Horses lost some bigtime point producers after posting a 25-4 record, averaging 68 points per game last season. This season, the Iron Horses opened with a 1-2 record and averaged only 43 points in the first three games.

"We're still trying to figure out the hierarchy of scoring," said Campbell, whose team beat Porter-Gaud in the season-opener, but dropped games to Bishop England and

Goose Creek. "Who can take control and who can score? With what we have, we just have to continue working hard. We're playing hard and we're playing fast. We just have to have a more concentrated effort when it comes to scoring."

Miles Haight was the team's leading scorer last year, as he averaged 16.3 points and shot over 45 percent from the field. He concluded with a 1,000-point career to join his brother, Marc, and Jaylen Green in the elite fraternity of a program that begins its seventh season of play.

The Iron Horses, who were 6-3 in the COVID-19 pandemic in the 2020-21 season, won the Region 6-AA championship last season, reaching the third round before falling to York Prep, which was undefeated

before losing to Gray Collegiate Academy in the Class AA state championship.

Matthew Lemon was a force last season with 10.6 points and 8.3 rebounds. But he joined Haight at the school's graduation ceremony in May.

The Iron Horses, still a young program in terms of players and history, have made the jump from Class AA to Class AAA this academic year. Still the team has talent and the schedule leading up to the Region 8-AAA race should make the Iron Horses a better team. Powers such as Northwood Academy, Oceanside Collegiate Academy and Goose Creek will present good tune-up tests.

Robert Watson, a 6-1 junior, averaged 12.3 points last winter and is averaging 10 points, 3.5 assists and 2.5 steals per outing.

JacQue "Que" Greene is making a strong contribution early with 7.5 points and 7 rebounds per game.

Other players who have been impressive so far include Titus Petterson, Wilson Brookes and John Brookes.

Petterson is averaging 10 points and 4.5 rebounds per game while Wilson Brookes is scoring 6.5 points a game and 5 rebounds.

The Iron Horses will compete in Region 8-AAA this season, a conference that includes some teams with past success at the state level: North Charleston, Battery Creek and Beaufort. Beaufort began the season ranked in the top 10 of the state coaches' association's preseason poll.