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Girls hoops Super 25: St. Mary's (Calif.) starts out as No. 1 team

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St. Mary's starts at No. 1: California school looks to repeat as state champs



Super 25 rankings: California schools St. Mary's, Mater Dei open up season 1-2 in rankings | Regional rankings



Rankings are done in consultation with various coaches and media and compiled by USA TODAY's Jim Halley.

Schools are ranked based on a team's strength of schedule and quality of players. First regular-season rankings run Dec. 9.

1. St. Mary's, Stockton, Calif. (31-3)

Returning starters: Five. Outlook: The defending state Division III champion has 14 players returning, led by senior 5-11 Gs Chelsea Gray, who has signed with Duke. And Cal signee Afure Jemerigbe. Alle Moreno, a 5-4 G, has signed with

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Sacramento State.

2. Mater Dei, Santa Ana, Calif. (32-1)

Starters returning: Three. Outlook: Monarchs were No. 1 last season but stumbled in the state Division II playoffs. With three players who were on the USA's under-16 squad — 6-0 junior G Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis, 6-1 sophomore G Jordan Adams and 6-1 junior F Alexyz Vaiioletama — Mater Dei is poised for another title run. Senior Fs Shayla Batson (Northern Arizona) and Alexandria Thomas (Cal State-Fullerton) signed with Division I teams last week.

3. Bolingbrook, Ill. (25-4)

Returning starters: Four. Outlook: Raiders were young last season but still won the 4A state title. They are led by 6-2 sophomore C Morgan Tuck (19.0 ppg, 11.7 rpg), who is recovering from a knee injury, and junior G Ariel Massengale (15.6 ppg, 7.0 rpg), who played on the USA's under-16 team. Senior G Nicosia Henry, a Seton Hall recruit, and senior G Mercedes Griffin are also big contributors.

4. Ben Davis, Indianapolis (30-0)

Returning starters: Three. Outlook: Defending Indiana 4A and USA TODAY national champ stocked with Division I players, led by senior G Bria Goss (11.3 ppg, 6.5 rpg), Purdue signee G Dee Dee Williams and senior G Jordan Huber, a Ball State recruit.

5. Irving MacArthur, Irving, Texas (35-4)

Returning starters: Three. Outlook: Senior PG Odyssey Sims, a Baylor signee (16.9 ppg, 9.9, 7.8 apg) is the top returnee, along with sophomore G Alexis Jones (13 ppg, 7.0 rpg), niece of former NBA player Andrae Patterson, and junior 6-1 F Karmyn Jackson (8.0 ppg, 6.0 rpg). Sophomore F Khorra Newman is also expected to be a key contributor.

6. Brea Olinda, Brea, Calif. (33-2)

Returning starters: Three. Outlook: Wildcats won the state Division II title last season and can rely on Justine Hartman, a 6-2 junior F who averaged 18 points and 9 rebounds last season and played on the national under-16 team over the summer. Iowa State recruit Kelsey Harris, a PG, is joined by three other potential all-state players in PG Alexis Perry, F Jeanier Olukeyi and G-F Kaitlin Wallace.

7. St. Michael Academy, New York City (25-3)

Returning starters: Three. Outlook: Won Federation AA title last season and has plenty of talent again, led by Kentucky signee G Jennifer O'Neill, South Carolina signee 6-4 C Brittany Webb and junior G Allysia Rohlehr. Starr Breedlove, a transfer from Paterson (N.J.) Catholic, is considered one of the quickest junior guards in the country.

8. Redan, Stone Mountain, Ga. (27-0)

Returning starters: Four. Outlook: Raiders won the state 5A title and return mostly intact, led by F Nia Evans (Virginia Tech signee) and junior G Kierra Paige, though they have a new coach, Jerry Jackson. Yahoo! Buzz

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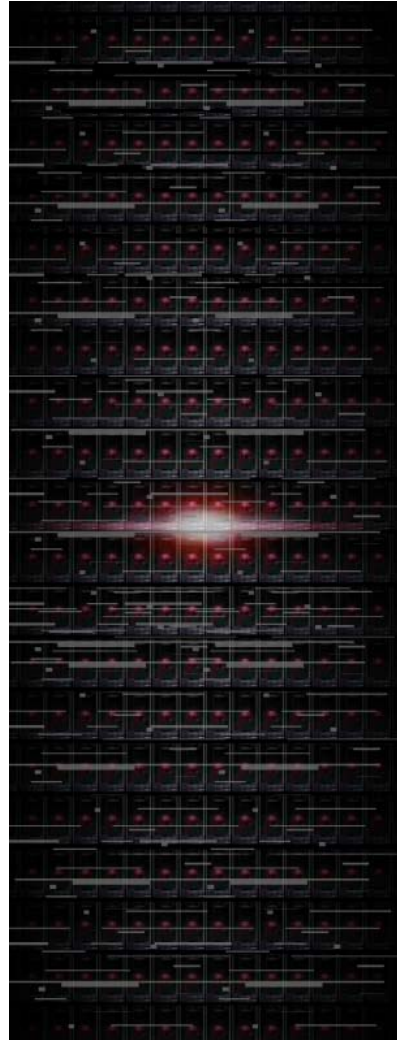


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**9. Mount Lebanon, Pittsburgh (31-0)**

**Returning starters:** Four. **Outlook:** Reigning 4A champion had two players sign with Central Connecticut, G Jess Babe (5.2 apg, 3.1 spg) and Lauren Arbogast (8.1 ppg).

**10. Potter's House Christian, Jacksonville (37-4)**

**Returning starters:** Four. **Outlook:** Lions are young but very talented. Sophomore G Antoinette Bannister (23.2 ppg) leads a solid group that includes junior G Brittany Rountree (19.2 ppg), junior F Loliya Briggs (10.2 ppg), Shaletia Stringfield (13.2 ppg) and junior PG Alexis Brown (9.3 ppg).

**11. Murry Bergtraum, New York City (24-2)**

**Returning starters:** Four. **Outlook:** With the nucleus back of a team that fell to St. Michael Academy in the state Federation final, Murry Bergtraum is in better shape to grab the title this season. Senior F Shukurah Washington (13 ppg, 14 rpg), senior G Doris Ortega (12 ppg, 10 rpg) and G Cece Dixon, who averaged 18 points in five playoff games, are expected to be big contributors.

**12. Cy-Fair, Cypress, Texas (35-4)**

**Returning starters:** Three. **Outlook:** Bobcats are accustomed to reaching the state tournament, having done so three times in a row. This season, they have the top post player in the country, 6-2 Stanford signee Chiney Ogwumike. Other producers include junior G Cassie Peoples, who has committed to Texas, junior F Aarika Reyna and junior G Tara Warren.

**13. Dillard, Fort Lauderdale (27-2)**

**Returning starters:** Four. **Outlook:** Panthers made it to the state semifinals last season and are led by PG Dawnn Maye (12.9 ppg, 7.9 apg), who has signed with Georgia Tech, Delaware State signee G Kianna Conner (9.0 ppg, 3.0 apg) and 6-2 C Candace Parson (9.0 ppg, 9.0 rpg), who has signed with Tennessee Tech.

**14. LeFlore, Mobile, Ala. (25-2)**

**Returning starters:** Two. **Outlook:** Rattlers are reigning 5A champions and again are led by 6-4 C Shanece McKinney, an LSU signee. Ashley Myles and Jacquese Brooks will also have big roles.

**15. Mount Notre Dame, Cincinnati (27-1)**

**Returning starters:** Two. **Outlook:** Cougars going for an unprecedented fifth consecutive state Division 1 title. Junior PG Kathryn Reynolds (9.7 ppg) and sophomore G Raashaun Gaffney (5.2 ppg) are the only returning starters, but sophomore C Jasmin Hayes should also contribute.

**16. Germantown Academy, Fort Washington, Pa. (31-0)**

**Returning starters:** Three. **Outlook:** Patriots should again be competitive because of all-state players G Maggie Lucas and F Tory Thierolf. Lucas has signed with Penn State and Thierolf (14.0 ppg, 8.0 rpg) has committed to Drexel. Junior F 6-1 Alexa Gallagher will be expected to contribute, along with junior G Monica Schacker.

**17. Sacramento High, Sacramento (24-10)**

**Returning starters:** Three. **Outlook:** Dragons have plenty of height with 6-3 F Kyra Dunn, who has signed with Pitt, and Arizona signee 6-2 F Erica Barnes. G Brittany Shine, a Florida signee, is another key starter.

**18. Shabazz, Newark (30-2)**

**Starters returning:** Three. **Outlook:** Plenty of talent, led by senior G Ka-Deidre Simmons, a Seton Hall signee, and her twin, G Desiree Simmons, who has signed with Long Island. Junior 6-0 F Alysha Lovett and sophomore G Aliyyah Handford were big contributors last season.

**19. Marian Catholic, Chicago Heights, Ill. (30-5)**

**Returning starters:** Three. **Outlook:** After losing in the playoffs to eventual 4A champion Whitney Young (Chicago), Spartans are ready for another run. Backcourt is strong, led by junior Jasmine Matthews and seniors Valerie Finnin and Emily Kobel. Junior F Simone Law will be a big contributor underneath.

**20. Fort Wayne Elmhurst, Elmhurst, Ind. (25-2)**

**Returning starters:** Four. **Outlook:** Trojans won the 3A title last season and return mostly intact. Junior 6-2 F Liza Clemons, who has committed to Purdue, is a big presence underneath. Junior G Lacia Gorman, who has committed to Wisconsin, is another key returnee.

**21. Long Beach Poly, Long Beach (32-3)**

**Returning starters:** Three. **Outlook:** After four consecutive Division I titles, you can't count out the Jackrabbits. Underneath, 6-3 C Thadesia Southall has committed to Southern California. Twins Brittany and Ashley Wilson, both Colorado signees, anchor the backcourt.


**22. Central Dauphin, Harrisburg, Pa. (29-2)**

**Returning starters:** Four. **Outlook:** Maryland signee G Alyssa Thomas (19.5 ppg, 12.8 rpg) leads team that will challenge for the state title. Senior 6-1 F Caitlyn Bassett, senior G Karyn Purcell and senior G Sarah Dowhower were key players and return. Senior G Sam Noss, a transfer from Middletown, also should contribute.

**23. Butler, Matthews, N.C. (30-2)**

**Returning starters:** Two. **Outlook:** Team reached 4A semifinals and has the firepower to return with 6-3 F Cierra Burdick. One of the country's top juniors, Burdick has committed to Tennessee and played for the national under-

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16 team this summer. She's flanked by 6-4 senior F Clair Watkins, nearing 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds for her career.

#### 24. Warren Central, Indianapolis (17-7)

**Returning starters:** Three. **Outlook:** Has a strong backcourt, led by seniors Taylor Ford and Brandi McKinney (12.3 ppg, 7.3 rpg), who stayed behind for her final season after her family moved to Ohio. Senior F Jordan Barton (9.4 ppg, 5.4 rpg) and BreAnn Denny (7.9 ppg) should also be big contributors, along with Manual transfer C Natasha Moss.

#### 25. H.D. Woodson, Washington, D.C. (22-6)

**Returning starters:** Four. **Outlook:** Warriors couldn't stay healthy last season but won the D.C. city title for the second consecutive year. Georgia signee G Ronika Ransford leads the team, but sophomore F Jephany Brown and sophomore G Chanel Green are also elite players. The team's depth will allow it to continue its pressing style.

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