The 2016-17 Courier-Tribune All-County Basketball Teams

Samantha Burgess  
Eastern Randolph  
Senior  
One of the most underrated players in the county, she excelled for the Wildcats on both ends of the floor. She had a tremendous pull-up jumper and could find it from long distance.

Madison Dake  
Prevedore Grove  
Sophomore  
She became a go-to threat for the Patriots, averaging 10.7 points and 5.8 assists per game. She has good quickness and was able to get her hands on a lot of steals.

Jade Earmhardt  
Trinity  
Junior  
She made 100% of her free throws and was a force to be reckoned with on the inside for the Bulldogs.

Taylor Gantt  
Randolph  
Freshman  
She stepped on the floor for her first game and proved she would be a leader. She started every game, averaging 6.8 points. She also averaged 5 rebounds, 3 assists, and 2 steals.

Rachel Hunt  
Trinity  
Senior  
She simply dominated inside all season long. The Bulldogs’ strategy was to get the ball inside to her and she didn’t disappoint. She averaged 17 points and 12 rebounds.

Kayla Long  
E. Randolph  
Junior  
She was as feisty as a competitor any team had in the county. She was full of energy and was a key contributor on both ends of the floor. She provided the team with plenty of energy.

Rachel Luna  
Ashabro  
Sophomore  
She was able to show the rocket, e-mail, and handle the ball for the Blue Comets while providing solid defense.

Heaven Maness  
SW Randolph  
Freshman  
One of the most exciting players in the county with the ball in her hands, she scored 425 points in her first prep season, an average of 17.5 per game. She also shot 75 percent from the free throw line.

Kenzie Whiston  
SW Randolph  
Sophomore  
She seemed to mistrust when the going got tough this season, finishing with an 8.2 ppg average and better than a 2-0 record in four games.

Hayley Williams  
Wheatmore  
Sophomore  
She was a very versatile player that could do it all; pass to the hoop, shoot a 3-point or a fight a game. She was quick with the ball and solid on both ends.

Dana Conte  
Trinity  
Junior  
Coach of the Year  
A game changer for the Trinity Comets, her versatility and intelligence on both ends of the floor made her a valuable asset to the team.

Dezmin Austin  
Eastern Randolph  
Senior  
He could hit from anywhere and usually did. He averaged 25.6 points, but showed his accuracies with 6 rebounds and 3.3 assists per game. He connected on 12 of 23 shots this season, a school record.

Zach Bailey  
Randolph  
Senior  
One of the most dangerous long-distance shooters in the county, he averaged 13 points and 8 rebounds a game, and he averaged a double-double during the PAC season.

Nate Byers  
Trinity  
Senior  
One of the most outstanding inside players in the area, he was a finalist for player of the year. He averaged 20.7 points, 15 rebounds and nearly 3 blocks per game.

Seth Heglar  
Wheatmore  
Junior  
No one provided more of a spark for his team. He averaged 14.7 points and 6.5 assists, while adding 3.1 rebounds and 3.2 assists per game. He was quick, strong and well-liked.

Malik Herbert  
Eastern Randolph  
Senior  
A versatile performer, he averaged 16 points and 10 rebounds per game for the Eagles. He played four different spots and his artillery caused mismatches at every position.

Corey Hughes  
Wheatmore  
Senior  
A leader by example, he averaged 14.7 points and 5.6 rebounds per game. He worked very well around the rim and could shoot from afar. He was an all-conference selection.

Elijah Manley  
Uwharrie Charter  
Senior  
A leader by example, he averaged 14.7 points and 5.6 rebounds per game. He worked very well around the rim and could shoot from afar. He was an all-conference selection.

Connor Smith  
Providence Grove  
Senior  
The leading scorer on the team — 14.2 average — he had to take over the role of point guard because of an injury. A solid outside shooter, he averaged more than 2.3 points per game. He also shot 75 percent from charity stripe.

Taylor Wade  
Ashabro  
Senior  
The most considered player on the team that had the ball up, he averaged a high 13.5 points while adding 4.1 rebounds and 3.9 assists per game. He was named All-District and to the NCHCA All-District team.

Tim Kelly Jr.  
Wheatmore  
Coach of the Year  
In his first year as assistant coach, he led the Warriors to a second-place finish in the conference and the conditional tournament. RWH, which were just six games last year, finished 19-8 this season.

A GREAT SEASON — ER’s Dezmin Austin led the county in scoring and was named the county player of the year.

THS’ Hunt, ER’s Austin lead the Courier-Tribune All-County Basketball Team

THS’ Conte, WHS’ Kelly top coaches

From staff reports

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