

CYO Parish Champions Crowned

Five state champions were crowned at the annual CYO parish basketball tournament finals held at NHTI in Concord on March 13th. The day started with an overtime thriller between St. Elizabeth Seton and St. Anne's in the boy's 5th and 6th grade division. Colby Gendron's long three-pointer with 7 seconds left in overtime lifted St. Elizabeth Seton to their victory and a berth in the New England Regional tournament in Bridgeport, Ct. St. Anne's jumped out to an 11-7 first quarter advantage and led 15-14 at the half. The teams went back and fourth in the second half and Seton held a two point lead with under 10 seconds remaining in regulation. St. Anne's initial attempt to tie the score was unsuccessful, but Malo Roumraj secured the rebound and scored on an acrobatic jumper as time expired, sending the game to overtime. Gendron finished with 12 points for St. Elizabeth Seton while Josh Koehler chipped in with 6. Jonathan Makori led St. Anne's with a game-high 13 points supported by Roumraj with 9 and Matt Smith with 7.

In the 5th and 6th grade girl's division, St. Christopher's outscored Parish of the Resurrection 14-1 in the second and third quarters to secure their championship game victory. Lauren Dubois's game-high 9 points led St. Chris while Izzy Piercey, Emma Williams, and Victoria D'Anthony contributed 4 points each. Resurrection was led by Sara Cordova's 7 markers and 5 from Sydney Brackett.

In the boy's high school final, Sam Graham's long, off-balance, three-pointer with less than 10 seconds remaining tied the score for St. Catherine's and it appeared the game was headed for overtime. However, on the ensuing inbounds play, Seton's Kevin White moved the ball to half court and was fouled with 4.2 seconds left. He made one of two free throws and St. Catherine's called time out to set up their inbounds play. Graham's half court attempt fell short as time expired and St. Elizabeth survived with a one point victory. Graham and Sean Burke led St. Catherine's with 13 points each. Game high scoring honors went to Seton's Mike Skilton with 18, while Jeff Gancarz and White chipped in 14 and 13 points, respectively.

The cadet girl's championship featured another overtime contest with Parish of the Resurrection outscoring St. Elizabeth Seton 7-1 in the extra frame to earn the berth in the New England regional tourney. The game was close throughout, but Seton seemed to be in control with less than two minutes to play in regulation. However, missed free throws gave Resurrection a chance to tie, and Rachel Zuerchur's only field goal of the game found the bottom of the net as regulation time expired, knotting the score at 24. Lucia Lansing contributed 3 of her game-high 14 points in overtime as Resurrection pulled away to the championship victory. Kara Upton and Zuerchur supported Lansing's efforts with 6 and 4 points, respectively. Chandler Lake led Seton with 7 points, followed by Rebecca Foti with 5 and Julia Elmendorf and Kristin Barnett with 4 points each.

The cadet boy's final saw St. Anne's hang tough in the first half, trailing 22-16 after 14 minutes of play. However, St. Francis used a 12-2 third quarter to pull away and cruise to a 38-20 victory and the trip to Bridgeport for the regionals. Tyler Kelly of St. Francis led all scorers with 13 points, while John Cook and Vince Ortalano chipped in 9 and 8 points respectively. Elijah Skinner led St. Anne's with 6 points, while Julio Rincon scored 5 for St. Anne's.

The New England regional tournament will be held March 26th – 28th in Bridgeport Connecticut. Complete state and New England tournament results can be found by visiting WWW.NHCYO.ORG.

