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## North Coast Section girls basketball tournament preview

**Staff**  
Posted: 02/22/2010 08:47:05 PM PST  
Updated: 02/22/2010 09:26:18 PM PST

After a long girls basketball regular season, the North Coast Section playoffs are here. Every game has added significance as teams aim for the section championship and beyond. Here's a look at all six divisions.

Division I

WHO'S HOT: Berkeley (23-3), Deer Valley (20-6)

WHOM TO WATCH: **Brittany Boyd** and **Chairese Culberson (Berkeley)**, Corinne Costa (Liberty), Raven Fox (Deer Valley), Kaylie Williams (Monte Vista), Chaunise Powell (Newark Memorial)

INSIDE THE FIELD: Berkeley and Deer Valley have both won eight straight and 14 of 15 heading into these playoffs. ... Berkeley, which beat Carondelet in the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Classic in January, has a lethal inside-outside tandem of Culberson and Boyd. ... Deer Valley, which has an excellent pressure defense, has welcomed Cydnie Mixon back from a knee injury to provide an inside presence both offensively and defensively. ... Monte Vista, the defending champion, would love to shake off a 2-2 record in its past four games and make another run at a section title. ... The UCLA-bound Costa sat out Liberty's regular-season finale for precautionary reasons after tweaking a knee in an earlier game, but she will be playing in tonight's first round, Liberty coach Debbi Weil said.

DARK HORSE: Deer Valley

PREDICTED CHAMPION: Berkeley

Division II

WHO'S HOT: Carondelet

(21-5), Northgate (23-3), Alameda (19-8), Montgomery (22-6)

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WHOM TO WATCH: Erica Payne and Ricki Radanovich (Carondelet), Courtney Hamilton (Northgate), Khyra Conerly (Alameda), **Chereese Thomas (Dublin)**, Anandi Jimenez (Montgomery)

INSIDE THE FIELD: Carondelet, the defending champion and winner of six of the past seven Division II titles, has four starters returning from last year's state finalist team. Just two of those players, Radanovich and center Erin Boettcher, are seniors. ... Northgate doesn't regularly start a player over 5-foot-8, but the guard-heavy team has numerous 3-point threats. ... Dublin has battled injuries to three of its starters, including its top two post players. ... Montgomery eclipsed the 20-win mark for the eighth consecutive year.

DARK HORSE: Dublin

PREDICTED CHAMPION: Carondelet

Division III

WHO'S HOT: Bishop O'Dowd (23-3), Dougherty Valley (24-2), Analy (19-6)

WHOM TO WATCH: **Mikayla Lyles** and Robie Mayberry (Bishop O'Dowd), Rayven Brooks (Dougherty Valley), Stephanie Golden (Miramonte), Annie Ward (Campolindo), Raeshel Contreras (Encinal), **Deanna Calhoun (Albany)**

INSIDE THE FIELD: Three-fifths of Bishop O'Dowd's talented starting lineup will play Division I basketball next season. Lyles and Mayberry have signed with Cal and Pepperdine, respectively, and Alexis Bostick recently gave an oral commitment to Oregon State. The Dragons are the East Bay's only nationally ranked team by ESPN Rise,


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coming in at No. 46, and haven't lost since a 64-55 setback to national No. 3 Brea Olinda on Dec. 30. ... Dougherty Valley won its school's first league title and enters the tournament with a 13-game winning streak. ... Miramonte has won four of the past eight Division III titles but might face a tough road trip in the quarterfinals against Sonoma County League champion Analy. ... The championship game could potentially be a reunion for a former Amador Valley player and coach. Doug VanderHorst, the current Dougherty Valley coach, and O'Dowd's Lyles both left the school after the 2007-2008 season.

**DARK HORSE:** Dougherty Valley

**PREDICTED CHAMPION:** Bishop O'Dowd

Division IV

**WHO'S HOT:** St. Mary's (25-3), McKinleyville (25-2), Justin-Siena (25-3)

**WHOM TO WATCH:** Danielle Mauldin (St. Mary's), Saidah Allen (Piedmont), Sage Romberg (McKinleyville), Janelle Travis and Katherine Lee (Justin-Siena)

**INSIDE THE FIELD:** Both the top two seeds definitely have momentum with double-digit win streaks entering these playoffs. Defending champion St. Mary's has won 12 straight, including two double-digit victories in the Bay Shore Athletic League playoffs, and is led by the talented and versatile Mauldin. McKinleyville hasn't lost since Dec. 30, a streak of 15 games, and is paced by the Washington State-bound Romberg. ... Don't overlook Justin-Siena, which has won 17 of its past 18 games and has a powerful scoring duo of Travis and Lee. ... Piedmont, which has perhaps the find of this season in Allen, is also dangerous. The junior is averaging 25.3 points and 24.1 rebounds per game, according to [MaxPreps.com](#).

**DARK HORSE:** McKinleyville

**PREDICTED CHAMPION:** St. Mary's

Division V

**WHO'S HOT:** St. Joseph Notre Dame (22-5), Convent of the Sacred Heart (24-3), Head-Royce (24-4)

**WHOM TO WATCH:** Geena Serles and **Carmen Lockhart (St. Joseph Notre Dame)**, Scarlett Kirk (Convent of the Sacred Heart), Hillary Streeter (Head-Royce), Olivia Brewer (Bentley).

**INSIDE THE FIELD:** St. Joseph Notre Dame has proved itself in the tough BSAL and is a strong favorite in this division. Senior wing Serles and 6-foot-4 junior post Lockhart are two of the Pilots' weapons. ... Convent of the Sacred Heart-San Francisco has 16 straight victories dating back to late December, and Head-Royce has won 13 of its past 14 games. ... Five-time defending champion Branson is seeded No. 5 with a 14-13 record.

**DARK HORSE:** Convent of the Sacred Heart

**PREDICTED CHAMPION:** St. Joseph Notre Dame

Division VI

**WHO'S HOT:** Rincon Valley Christian (24-4), Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy (17-4), Tomales (19-7)

**WHOM TO WATCH:** Aileen Devlin (Contra Costa Christian), Arianna Hanson (Rincon Valley Christian), Kaitlyn Regli (Ferndale).

**INSIDE THE FIELD:** Rincon Valley hasn't lost since the championship game of its own tournament on Dec. 30 and owns an 18-game winning streak. ... California School for the Deaf was the No. 11 seed in last year's tournament but advanced all the way to the championship game ... Contra Costa Christian, Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy and CSD are the only East Bay schools in the 12-team field.

**DARK HORSE:** Contra Costa Christian

**PREDICTED CHAMPION:** Rincon Valley Christian

— **Phil Jensen and Stephanie Hammon**

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