

APRIL 2026

THE SUDA EAST BUTLER HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI
NEWSLETTER

BEAR TRACKS

Butler Boys Basketball – A Season to Remember

The 2025–2026 season will be remembered as a defining chapter in the proud history of the Butler Traditional High School boys basketball—a year marked by resilience, growth, and a thrilling run to the Elite Eight that energized the school community and captured attention across the state of Kentucky.

From the opening tip in November, Butler Traditional established itself as a team built on toughness, discipline, and unity. The coaching staff emphasized defense, ball movement, and unselfish play, creating a roster that thrived on teamwork rather than individual spotlight. Early-season wins against strong regional opponents set the tone and gave the team confidence heading into the demanding district and regional schedule.

As the season progressed, Butler faced its share of adversity, but those challenges ultimately shaped the team's identity. Close games became opportunities to showcase composure and execution, with players stepping into leadership roles at key moments. The team's defensive intensity and ability to control tempo proved to be defining strengths, helping them secure a strong postseason position and build momentum at the right time.

That momentum carried into the KHSAA Boys Sweet 16, where Butler Traditional made a memorable run. Entering the state tournament with confidence and purpose, the team quickly proved it belonged among Kentucky's best. In the opening rounds, Butler relied on disciplined defense, balanced scoring, and clutch performances to knock off talented opponents and advance deeper into the bracket.

The Sweet 16 matchup that propelled Butler into the Elite Eight became a defining moment of the season. Facing a highly regarded opponent, the team executed its game plan with precision—controlling the pace, winning key possessions, and delivering in critical moments. The victory not only secured a spot in the Elite Eight but also cemented this group's place in school history.

Although the journey ultimately ended just short of a Final Four appearance, the Elite Eight run represented far more than a single tournament milestone. It symbolized the growth of a team that bought into a shared vision, the strength of a program rooted in discipline and pride, and the excitement of a community rallying behind its players.

As the season came to a close, one thing was clear: Butler Traditional basketball had delivered a year to remember. The lessons learned, the bonds formed, and the standard set during this remarkable run will continue to shape the program for years to come.



Ke'Ziah Renee 6th Region Player of the Year & JCPS Athlete of the Year

In a season filled with standout performances, Ke'ziah Renee rose above the rest to earn the prestigious title of 6th Region Player of the Year, showcasing elite skill, leadership, and an unmatched competitive drive. She proved to be a complete player, delivering in every phase of the game—whether scoring in crucial moments, creating opportunities for teammates, or shutting down opponents on defense—while consistently stepping up when it mattered most. Beyond her on-court performance, Renee's leadership set her apart, as she brought energy, composure, and confidence to every game, elevating those around her and establishing a standard of excellence recognized by coaches and teammates alike. This honor reflects not only her talent but also her dedication and work ethic, solidifying her reputation as one of the top players in the region and a rising name in the future of Kentucky basketball.



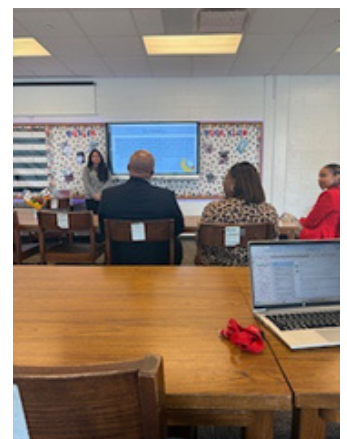
Quinn Drake- JCPS Athlete of the Year

Quinn Drake has been named JCPS Athlete of the Year, a recognition that reflects an outstanding combination of athletic excellence, leadership, and dedication. Throughout the year, Drake consistently performed at a high level, demonstrating skill, competitiveness, and a commitment to team success. Beyond the accolades and achievements, Drake set the standard for what it means to represent a program with integrity—balancing performance, work ethic, and sportsmanship. This honor not only celebrates an incredible season but also highlights Drake's impact on teammates, coaches, and the broader school community.



Butler Students Host Superintendent Dr. Brian Yearwood

Butler Traditional High School students Cesar Garcia, Stephanie Gonzalez, and Jolee Rubano proudly presented their "Journey to Success: Defense of Learning" to Superintendent Dr. Brian Yearwood, showcasing their academic growth, achievements, and future goals. Through thoughtful reflection and confident presentation, they highlighted the skills and knowledge they have gained throughout their high school experience. Their presentations demonstrated not only their dedication and hard work but also Butler's commitment to preparing students for success beyond graduation.



Khalid Sheikh won first place in regional Cyber Security competition

Khalid Sheikh of Butler Traditional High School has earned top honors by placing first in FBLA competition while also excelling in industry certifications, showcasing both academic excellence and real-world readiness. His achievement in FBLA highlights his strong business knowledge, leadership skills, and ability to compete at a high level among peers, while his success in earning industry certifications demonstrates a commitment to developing practical, career-focused skills. Balancing rigorous coursework with competitive preparation, Sheikh has proven himself to be a dedicated and driven student who represents Butler with pride. His accomplishments not only reflect his personal work ethic and determination but also underscore the strength of Butler Traditional's commitment to preparing students for success beyond high school.



Butler Traditional High School Matching Band opened COSSBA

The Butler Traditional High School band proudly showcased its talent on a national stage by performing at the Congress of State Boards of Education (COSBBA). Their performance highlighted the dedication, discipline, and musical excellence of the students, leaving a strong impression on attendees from across the country. Representing their school and community with pride, the band demonstrated both technical skill and passion, reflecting the strength of Butler's fine arts program and the hard work of its student musicians and directors.



Kamion Lockridge Qualifies for State Wrestling

Kamion Lockridge earned a spot at the state tournament in boys wrestling, marking an impressive achievement in a highly competitive sport. His qualification reflects a season of hard work, resilience, and determination on the mat, as he consistently rose to the challenge against tough opponents. Lockridge's success not only highlights his individual talent and discipline but also brings pride to his team and school as he prepares to compete at the highest level in the state.



Girls Wrestling: State Qualifiers

The Butler Traditional High School girls wrestling team continues to make history as multiple athletes punched their tickets to the state tournament, marking a major milestone for a program on the rise. Aria McFarland, Briella Levy, Saniyah Nana competed with determination and grit throughout the postseason, the team showcased the growth, toughness, and resilience that has defined their season.

Throughout the year, Butler's wrestlers have steadily built momentum, competing in tough matches and gaining valuable experience against some of the best competition in the state of Kentucky. That preparation paid off when it mattered most, as the team delivered strong performances in regional competition, earning several state qualifications and proving they belong on the biggest stage.

What makes this accomplishment even more impressive is the unity and support within the team. Each wrestler has contributed to a culture built on hard work, accountability, and belief. Whether it was grinding through practices, pushing through close matches, or celebrating each other's victories, the team has embodied what it means to compete together. Qualifying for state is not just an individual achievement—it's a reflection of the program's continued growth and commitment to excellence. As the Butler girls wrestling team prepares to compete at the state level, they carry with them the pride of their school and the confidence that they can continue to make an impact.

Boys Volleyball New at Butler

The launch of the Butler Traditional High School boys volleyball marks an exciting new chapter for athletics at Butler Traditional. As one of the growing sports across the state of Kentucky, boys volleyball is quickly gaining momentum, and Butler is stepping into that movement with energy and enthusiasm. The creation of the program reflects the school's commitment to expanding opportunities for student-athletes and embracing emerging sports.

In its inaugural season, the team is focused on building a strong foundation rooted in fundamentals, teamwork, and a competitive mindset. Players are learning the game while also shaping the identity of the program—one defined by effort, resilience, and a willingness to grow. Coaches and athletes alike understand that success won't happen overnight, but the early signs of progress and passion are already evident in practices and competition.

Beyond wins and losses, the beginning of Butler boys volleyball is about creating something lasting. The program is giving students a new avenue to compete, connect, and represent their school. As interest continues to grow and experience builds, Butler Traditional is positioning itself to become a strong presence in boys volleyball for years to come.



Valerie Heil and Brent Durbin Qualify for State Bowling

Valerie Heil and Brent Durbin earned spots at the state bowling tournament, representing Butler Traditional High School with excellence and consistency. Their qualification reflects a strong season marked by focus, skill, and dedication on the lanes. Both athletes have demonstrated impressive performances under pressure, and their achievements highlight not only their individual talent but also the strength of Butler's bowling program.



Butler Mock Trial Program Wins at KY High School Mock Trial Competition

The Kentucky High School Mock Trial Association Remote Regional competition was a strong showing for Butler Traditional, as the team earned an impressive 4th place finish against tough statewide competition. Highlighting the team's success, Halima Shaban was recognized with the Butler Top Attorney Award for her exceptional courtroom performance, while Isaac Eichenberger earned Butler Top Witness Award honors for his compelling and confident role portrayal. These achievements reflect the team's dedication, preparation, and growing excellence in mock trial competition.

Obits

Norma	Fletcher	Hoffman	1970
Patricia	Watkins	Maier	1972

Come support:

SEBAA Bingo Nights

Jtown Bingo Hall

9125 Galene Drive

Every Sunday, games start at 7:00pm

Pull tab sales start at 5:30pm

Paper sales start at 6:00pm

