



2021 WINTER SPORTS Preview

SPORT: BOYS BASKETBALL



2019-2020 CHAMPION - WILBUR CROSS

TENTATIVE PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

First Round – Thursday, March 18

Quarterfinals – Saturday, March 20

Semifinals – Tuesday, March 23

Championship Game – Friday, March 26

Note: If you lose in the first round/quarterfinal, you will be scheduled additional games the week of March 22-26.

Division 1 Teams:

Amity, Fairfield Prep, Hamden, Hillhouse, Law, Notre Dame, Shelton, West Haven, Wilbur Cross, and Xavier

Division 2 Teams:

Branford, Career, Cheshire, East Haven, Foran, Guilford, Hand, Lyman Hall, North Haven, and Sheehan

Division 1 Team Previews:



SCHOOL NAME: Amity Regional

SPORT: Boys Basketball

SCHOOL NAME: Amity Spartans

Head Coach (# of years coaching): Jeff Nielsen (22 years)

2021 Captains: To Be Determined

Top Returners:

Sebastian Holt – Sr forward, 1 year starter.

2021 Season Outlook: Stay safe, follow health and safety protocols. Have fun playing basketball, enjoy being on the court and in the gym. Each day that we are allowed to play is a gift and we should make the most every opportunity.



SPORT: Basketball

SCHOOL NAME: Fairfield Prep

Head Coach (# of years coaching): Mike Papale

2021 Captains: Tim O'Leary, Finn Donelan, Conner Moore

Top Returners:

Tim O'Leary, Sr Captain;

Finn Donelan, Sr Captain;

Conner Moore, Sr Captain;

Logan Carey, Jr, Leading scorer as a sophomore;

Max Manjos, Jr, All SCC as Sophomore;

Jack Petrafesa, Jr, 6th man as a sophomore.

2021 Season Outlook:

A young Prep team from last year is a year older now and brings back a ton of experience. The Jesuits finished the last 12 games of the regular season 9-3 and won the opening round of the Division 1 State Tournament before it was canceled due to COVID. The Jesuits are looking to build on the progress that they made last year with their strong core group of returning players.



SPORT: Boys Basketball

SCHOOL NAME: Hamden High

Head Coach (# of years coaching): Jarrad Beck

2021 Captains: TBA

Top Returners:

Joe Williams sophomore guard;
Elijah Holder sophomore forward;
Deandre Coardes junior guard;
Emanuel Boles junior guard.

2021 Season Outlook:

Our goal is to be competitive during the regular season and improve for tournament play.



SCHOOL NAME: James Hillhouse High School

Head Coach (Number of Years coaching): Renard Sutton (11th year)

2021 Captains: Mathew Gibbs and Emmanuel Brown

Top Returners: Mathew Gibbs and Emmanuel Brown

2021 Season Outlook: We want to continue to establish a competitive mindset and maintain a high-level program. "We're young, but resilient."



SPORT: Boys Basketball

SCHOOL NAME: Jonathan Law

Head Coach (# of years coaching): Jamie Anderson (4th year)

2021 Captains: Brian Felag, James Marino, Noah Tutlis

Top Returners: Brian Felag Sr Forward, Noah Tutlis Sr Forward

2021 Season Outlook: These are difficult times we're in and we are extremely pleased to be playing at all. This is crucial for the development of these young men. Our goal, as always, is to put a good product on the floor that consistently competes and grows as a unit.



Sport: Basketball

School Name: Notre Dame West Haven

Head Coach: Jason Shea, 8th Year

2021 Captains: Ben Carroll, James Rawlins III, Robbie Oliverio, Tevis Blount

Top Returners:

Ben Carroll, 1st Team All-SCC 2020, Senior

2021 Outlook:

I'm just excited to be back in the gym with my players preparing to play meaningful games and competing for an SCC Championship. We graduated a lot of scoring and experience, but the talent and toughness on our roster will allow us to compete for an SCC Championship.



SPORT: Boys Basketball

SCHOOL NAME: Shelton

Head Coach (# of years coaching): Brian Gardiner (13th year)

2021 Captains: Gavin Rohlman and Jay Cimmino

Top Returners:

Gavin Rohlman - Sr., 6-3 Forward. 3 ppg, 4 rpg, 3 apg, 1 spg;

Jay Cimmino - Sr., 5-10 Guard;

Vinny DeFeo - Jr. 6-4 Guard. 4 ppg, 3 rpg, 1 spg;

Randy Mones - Jr. 6-2 Forward. 3 rpg;

Robert Correia - Sr. 5-9 Guard;

Tim Hilser - So. 5-10 Guard

2021 Season Outlook:

We have a young team that is excited to get on the court and prove themselves. Our two best players, Brian Belade and Melvin Kolenovic, transferred to prep schools because they were worried we wouldn't have a season, but the remaining Gaels are ready to fill in the gaps.



SPORT: Boy's Basketball

SCHOOL NAME: West Haven High

Head Coach: Ty Sullivan (3rd year)

2021 Captains: Malcolm Duncanson, Javaun Calhoun, Manny Belcher

Top Returners:

Malcolm Duncanson 6'0 Senior PG 17ppg, 8rpg, 4apg; All-League and All-State in 2020.

Javaun Calhoun 6'6 Jr F- 6ppg, 7rpg, 4bpg;

Manny Belcher 6'3 Jr G 10ppg, 4rpg;
Eli Blackwell 5'8 PG

2021 Season Outlook:

Expectations for the year are to compete for a Conference championship.



SPORT: Boys Basketball

SCHOOL NAME: Wilbur Cross High School

Head Coach (Number of Years coaching): Kevin E. Walton, Sr. (9th year at Cross/24th Overall)

2021 Captains: Dereyk Grant

Top Returners:

Dereyk Grant, Sr. Guard, 2 year starter, All SCC (1st Team), 2020 New Haven Register All-Area, New Haven Tap-Off Club, SCC Tournament MVP;
Jayvon Taylor, Sr. Guard, 2 year starter – 10 ppg, 3 spg;
Ja'Don Thomas, Junior Guard;
Noah Rainge, Sophomore Forward;
Christian McCleave, Sophomore Guard;
Jarel Delgado, Sophomore Guard;
Jamel Lee, Sophomore Guard.

2021 Season Outlook:

This team will always be remembered for their perseverance and how they handled the adversity of the pandemic and the subsequent quarantine. They have not been in school since March 2020 yet they have continued to thrive academically and have managed to stay above the fray. Since we began practice last week they have done everything that is asked of them. I didn't realize how much I missed them until we were back in the gym together. My expectations for this season are the same as every year. We will compete night in and night out and when the dust settles, we expect to be right in the mix for the SCC Championship. "Adversity doesn't build character; it reveals it."



SPORT: Boys Basketball

SCHOOL NAME: XAVIER

Head Coach (# of years coaching): Michael Kohs (22nd year)

2021 Captains: Ryan Gazzillo and Parker Hunter

Top Returners:

Parker Hunter - Sr. 6-1 G

Justin Menard - Soph 6-1 G

Anthony Parker - Soph 6-2 G

2021 Season Outlook:

Having graduated 4 starters from last year's team means not a lot of experience going into this season. Our guard play should be a strength of our team and we have the potential to be a good shooting team from the perimeter. Team rebounding, great team defense, and development of depth with our younger players will be a must in order to have a successful season.

***** SCC DIVISION 1 BASKETBALL *****

SEE BELOW FOR SCC DIVISION 2 PREVIEWS

Division 2 Team Previews:



SPORT: Boys Basketball

SCHOOL NAME: Branford

Head Coach (# of years coaching): Chris Burnham (25th overall; 20th as head HS coach)

2021 Captains: Tucker Jacobsen

Top Returners:

SR Justin Elpi G 3 years as starter

SR Tucker Jacobsen Cpt F/C 2 years starter

SR Jack Van Gelder F/C 2 year starter

SR Dominc Bonanno G/F 2 year starter

SR Nick Volpe G

2021 Season Outlook:

Expectations: Continued progress and continue to build Branford Boys Basketball program.

Team has 6 seniors that have played extensive minutes the last 3 years. The team added some promising young players to the roster this season and some much improved juniors.

Team goal is to accomplish a postseason experience for a senior class that deserves a shot.

Coaches quote: I believe in this team and I believe they have something to prove. I am looking forward to watching them put it all together.



SPORT: Boys Basketball

SCHOOL NAME: Hill Regional Career Magnet

Head Coach (Number of Years coaching): Larry Kelley (23rd year)

2021 Captains: Jose Guzman, Chris Colon, Mark Roman, Trevor Fairman

Top Returners:

Jose Guzman 15 ppg;
Chris Colon 8 ppg;
Mark Roman 11 ppg;
Trevor Fairman 7 rpg

2021 Season Outlook:

Our outlook is bright. We have a great nucleus of returners who played significant minutes in the past so experience is where it needs to be. We will be very scrappy, and will look to compete in every game this year. We would like to make a nice run in the tournament this year.

Quote: Sweat equity will yield the fruits of your desires.



SPORT: Boys Basketball

SCHOOL NAME: Cheshire High School

Head Coach (# of years coaching): Dan Lee (14 Years)

2021 Captains: Conner DeLaubell, Cole Feinauer, Yasha Laskin

Top Returners:

Conner DeLaubell	Sr.	Forward
Cole Feinauer	Sr.	Center
Yasha Laskin	Sr.	Guard
Sincere Myers	Sr.	Guard
Charles Fei	Sr.	Guard
Brandon Mai	Sr.	Forward
Shea Cronin	Sr.	Guard

2021 Season Outlook:

After graduating 8 seniors/4 starters from last year's team, we are hoping to gain some experience as the season progresses.



SPORT: Boys Basketball

SCHOOL NAME: East Haven

Head Coach (# of years coaching): Ricky Naracci (20th year)

2021 Captains: Nicky Furino and Ian Reynolds

Top Returners:

Alias Ford 5-11 senior guard;
Nicky Furino 6-1 senior forward;
Ian Reynolds 5-9 senior guard.

2021 Season Outlook:

Stay Healthy; Be competitive; Have fun and enjoy everyday with teammates!



SPORT: Boys Basketball

SCHOOL NAME: Joseph A. Foran

Head Coach (# of years coaching): Ian Kirkpatrick (4th year)

2021 Captains: TBA

Top Returners:

Trey Deitelbaum – Returning starter. Junior, Guard. Averaged 6 pts/pg as a sophomore.

Charlie Diamantis – Junior, Guard. Was a key contributor off the bench as a sophomore.

Matteo Tonelli - Junior, Guard. Played limited varsity minutes as a sophomore- but will look to take on a much bigger role this year.

2021 Season Outlook:

With one returning starter our team has little experience playing at the varsity level. We have a strong group of underclassmen who will come together and cohesively compete to improve as a team. As the season progresses we will make strides to lay the foundation for a successful season.



SPORT: Boys' Basketball

SCHOOL NAME: Guilford Grizzlies

Head Coach (# of years coaching): Jeff DeMaio (29th year overall, 12th at Guilford)

2021 Captains: Sr. Guard Jake Ciocca & Sr Guard/Forward Jack Stanton

Top Returners:

Jackson Tandler SR Center 6'3";

Cal Bucci JR Guard 6'0";

Theo Freeman JR Guard 6'2".

2021 Season Outlook:

Although we lack some varsity experience, we believe that we can be a very competitive team this year. We believe that we have some players who can shoot it, which always helps. The goal is to stay healthy and to put a quality product out on the floor. Despite the obstacles and modifications, we are approaching this season with the same intensity and commitment as any other one.



SPORT: Boys Basketball

SCHOOL NAME: Daniel Hand

Head Coach (# of years coaching): Jimmy Economopoulos (5th year)

2021 Captains: Nick Donofrio, Scott Testori, Michael Travisano

Top Returners:

Nick Donofrio, SG- 12 ppg, 2 year starter;
Scott Testori, SF- 8 pts, 8 reb, 2 year starter;
Michael Travisano, C- 8 pts 9 reb, 3 blocks, 1 year starter;
Ryan Collins, PG- 5 pts, 5 assists, 4 reb, 1 year starter

2021 Season Outlook:

Let's have some fun!



SPORT: Boys Basketball

SCHOOL NAME: Lyman Hall

Head Coach (# of years coaching): Robert Ruys (7th year)

2021 Captains: Luke O'Reardon and Tyler Voisine

Top Returners:

Tyler Voisine 2021 PG 12 pts, 3 ast, 3 stl per game. 3rd year as a starter. Team MVP last year;
Jayden Collingham 2021 SG 7 pts per game. 40% from 3pt. 2nd year as a starter;
Evan Smith 2021 SG 3 pts, 1 charge taken per game;
Brady Campbell 2022 G/F 2 pts per game.

2021 Season Outlook:

We are very excited about the upcoming season. We have a great group of Seniors, the 3 listed above plus Luke O'Reardon (Capt. F/C), Blake Ennis SG, and Nick Lipka SG. Luke and Nick were not able to participate last year due to injuries. It will be great to have them back out on the floor this year. Luke will help us around the rim, while Blake and Nick can both shoot it. We are also high on our underclassmen, Brady Campbell (listed above) is a jack of all trades type player who can rebound and score. Justin Hackett (F 2022) is a tremendous athlete who will also help us around the rim. Cam Pragano (SG 2023), Tyler Casey (PG 2023), and Julian Carbutti (F/C 2023) are sophomores we feel have the potential to impact the Varsity level this year. We also have some skilled freshmen, Drew Mik, Matt Pallas, and James Lynch. We believe we have a great chance to win a high percentage of our games and be a team to be dealt with in the tournament. Our goal is to win it all!



SPORT: Boys Basketball

SCHOOL NAME: North Haven High School

Head Coach (# of years coaching): Danny Oglesby (1st year)

2021 Captains: JJ Mazzaro

Top Returners:

Ty Rooney – 11 th Grade -Combo Guard;
JJ Mazzaro – 12 TH Grade – Shooting Guard;
Chris Hager – 11 th Grade – Small Forward

2021 Season Outlook:

We have a very young team who will be learning a new style of play. We are looking to get better every game.



SPORT: Boys Basketball

SCHOOL NAME: Sheehan

Head Coach (# of years coaching): Joe Gaetano (26th year)

2021 Captain: Jack McDonnell

Top Returners:

Jack McDonnell, Senior, Guard - 16 points, 8 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals; 4-year starter, All-SCC, All-Area Record Journal (2 years);

Seville Bowleg, Senior;

Juniors - Jaiden Kapoor, Kiron Coviello, Alex Morales, Jelan Kollie, Zack Zubeckis;

Sophomores: Anthony MarkAnthony, Vinnie Carbone, Owen St. Amant, and Chase St. Amont.

2021 Season Outlook:

We graduated eight seniors, but we return Jack McDonnell who is an outstanding leader and player. We hope to build around him with the younger players and be very competitive in our Division.

***** SCC DIVISION 2 BASKETBALL *****