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Burlington County League 2024 boys basketball Player of the Year & full conference honors

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By [Kevin Minnick](#) | [NJ Advance Media for NJ.com](#)

The 2023-24 high school boys basketball season proved to be packed with exciting moments, standout individual performances and teams that left it all on the floor.

It was a season that started with great expectations and finished in grand style.

As part of our postseason package, the NJ Advance Media boys basketball staff has gone back over the past weeks and done a deep dive into what made this season so special. We scoured the stats, emptied notebooks and made some serious evaluations.

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Take a look below as we present our selections for Player of the Year, Coach of the Year and Team of the Year in the Burlington County Scholastic League. Also included are our final league rankings as well as some other links to BCSL content.



Manny Doku was much improved this season, averaging 18 points and nearly 10 rebounds a game this season for Holy Cross Prep. Photo provided

Player of the Year

Manny Doku, Holy Cross Prep, Jr.

What a difference a year makes. As a sophomore, Manny Doku played a supporting role in 27 games and was relied on more for what he could offer at the defensive end. He'd score a few points here and there, but was mainly a big body in the paint to rebound and alter shots.

At 6-foot-5, Doku took his game to another level this season. He was tasked with the responsibility of being a more dominant player, and he delivered for the Lancers.

"I was extremely excited, especially with the new coaching staff just because of what they've accomplished in their careers," Doku said. "What pushed me the most this season was wanting to put the area, the state on notice of who I was - especially after missing my freshman year. I can't wait for next season."

For his efforts, Doku has been named the [NJ.com](#) Burlington County League Player of the Year.

"Manny was our anchor offensively and defensively this season. He was a tremendous rebounder, especially on the offensive side which helped our scoring as well," coach Marcus Bullock said. "He has worked hard to improve his shooting and touch around the basket, which were very important to his success this season."

Doku averaged 18 points, 9.6 rebounds and 1.5 assists to go along with steal and a block per game. It was a major improvement over the 3.7 points and 3.8 rebounds he averaged a year ago. Doku collected 12 double-doubles in 29 games. He scored a career-high 28 points and grabbed 10 boards in a win over Camden Academy Charter and also recorded a career-high 18 boards against Pennsauken.

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Flanked by juniors Tahmir Dixon (left) and Maleake Kelly, KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy coach Antoine Miller directed the Titans to a berth in the South Jersey Group 1 championship. Kevin Minnick | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

Coach of the Year

Antoine Miller, KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy

In its second season as a program and first in the BCSL, KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy did what most would have never expected. The Titans went a perfect 8-0 en route to winning the Freedom Division title and earned the top seed in the South Jersey Group 1 playoffs.

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Antoine Miller, who's also the Dean of Students at the Camden school, challenged his players this season. The Titans went from 9-10 as an independent to 22-9 overall and reaching the sectional final.

“We were so young and so inexperienced last year, but we got those reps and that’s why we’re having success this year,” Miller said. “I always say this about Camden kids - If you give them structure, they can do anything in this world. They just need a guide. These kids were raw; no one taught these kids basketball. All I had to do was teach them.”

KIPP won five of its first six and later added a stretch of 14 wins in 15 games. The Titans defeated Burlington City, Penns Grove and Wildwood in the postseason before suffering a four-point loss to Pitman in the sectional final.



Sody Gantt (5) of Cinnaminson attacks the rim during a regular-season showdown against Trenton Catholic. Scott Faytok | NJ Advance Media

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Team of the Year

Cinnaminson

While the season didn’t end with a grand celebration, Cinnaminson has plenty to smile about for what it accomplished. The Pirates finished 23-6 overall and won the Liberty Division title with a 9-1 record - a second straight division championship for a team loaded with juniors. After opening the year 6-2, they went on a 12-

game winning streak and established themselves as the team to beat and a group that could compete for the South Jersey Group 2 title. Cinnaminson earned the No. 3 seed in the sectional tournament and posted wins over Pleasantville and Overbrook before falling to eventual state champion Camden in the sectional semifinals. Its top four scorers - Sody Gantt, Drew Harvey, Noah Harvey and Colin Parrish - will all be back next year for another run. Andrew Plaza, the lone senior starter, was also a significant scorer and the second-leading rebounder. The Pirates loved to get up and down the floor, and there was no cooling them off when they got into a rhythm offensively.

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Final rankings

- 1-Cinnaminson (23-6)
- 2-Burlington Township (21-7)
- 3-Medford Tech (19-9)
- 4-KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy (22-9)
- 5-Trenton Catholic (17-11)
- 6-Holy Cross Prep (15-14)
- 7-Bordentown (13-13)
- 8-Pemberton (11-15)
- 9-Pennsauken (15-12)
- 10-Palmyra (14-9)

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