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Mainland's
Dennis King III

ALL-AREA ELITE

The News-Journal's high school football, volleyball and boys and girls swimming teams are unveiled for 2025



DeLand's
Victoria Stoltzfus



Seabreeze's
Laurel Carson



DeLand's
Gavin Thomas

PHOTO OF THE WEEK
Bethune-Cookman's Jakobi Heady makes a layup during game vs. Arizona, **2B**



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PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Bethune-Cookman’s Jakobi Heady (0) makes a layup while Arizona’s Dwayne Aristode (2) fails to block him during the first half Dec. 22 at McKale Memorial Center. No. 1 Arizona won 107-71. ARYANNA FRANK/IMAGN IMAGES

SPORTS ON TV SUNDAY, JAN. 4 (ALL TIMES EASTERN)

- COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN’S)**
12 p.m.
PEACOCK — Creighton at Seton Hall
USA — Richmond at Fordham
1 p.m.
ESPN2 — Florida Atlantic at Tulane
ESPNU — UAB at South Florida
2 p.m.
NBC — Marquette at UConn
5 p.m.
ESPN2 — Bradley at Murray State
8 p.m.
BTN — Washington at Indiana
- COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN’S)**
12 p.m.
ACCN — Notre Dame at Duke
BTN — Illinois at Michigan State
CBSSN — George Mason at VCU
SECN — Missouri at Kentucky
1 p.m.
ESPN — Stanford at North Carolina
2 p.m.
ACCN — Virginia at Florida State
BTN — Rutgers at Ohio State
CW — California at N.C. State
SECN — South Carolina at Florida
3 p.m.
ESPN — Baylor at Iowa State
ESPN2 — Mississippi at Texas
4 p.m.
ACCN — Virginia Tech at Louisville
BTN — Penn State at Wisconsin
PEACOCK — Villanova at Marquette
SECN — Tennessee at Auburn
5 p.m.
ESPN — LSU at Vanderbilt
6 p.m.
ACCN — Pittsburgh at Boston College
BTN — Indiana at Maryland
- COLLEGE FOOTBALL**
8 p.m.
ESPN — NCAA Division III, National Championship, Stagg Bowl, Wisconsin-River Falls vs. North Central (Ill.) College, Canton, Ohio
- HOCKEY**
4:30 p.m.
NHLN — IIHF World Juniors, Semifinal 1, Teams TBD, St. Paul, Minn.
8:30 p.m.
NHLN — IIHF World Juniors, Semifinal 2, Teams TBD, St. Paul, Minn.
- HORSE RACING**
2:30 p.m.
FS1 — America’s Day at the Races
- NFL FOOTBALL**
1 p.m.
CBS — Regional coverage, Cleveland at Cincinnati, Indianapolis at Houston or Green Bay at Minnesota
FOX — Regional coverage, New Orleans at Atlanta, Tennessee at Jacksonville or Dallas at N.Y. Giants
4:25 p.m.
CBS — Regional coverage, N.Y. Jets at Buffalo, L.A. Chargers at Denver, Kansas City at Las Vegas or Washington at Philadelphia
FOX — Regional coverage, Detroit at Chicago, Arizona at L.A. Rams or Miami at New England
8:20 p.m.
NBC — Baltimore at Pittsburgh
- SOCCER (MEN’S)**
6:30 a.m.
CBSSN — Serie A, Napoli at Lazio
7:30 a.m.
USA — Premier League, Manchester United at Leeds United
10 a.m.
CBSSN — English Championship, Wrexham at Derby County
USA — Premier League, Liverpool at Fulham
12:15 p.m.
FS2 — Saudi Pro League, Al-Hilal at Damac FC
- TENNIS**
6 a.m.
TENNIS — United Cup, Group Stage; ATP/WTB Brisbane Early Rounds
6:30 p.m.
TENNIS — United Cup; ATP/WTB Brisbane; WTA Auckland; ATP Hong Kong

Florida softball's Reagan Walsh



COLLEGE SPORTS COVERAGE ONLINE



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Bethune-Cookman football's Cam'Ron Ransom



HEY, WILLIE!



Keep up with Daytona Beach News-Journal sports columnist Ken Willis by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by submitting questions to his mailbag column at ken.willis@news-jrnl.com



DeLand's Marceles Carey makes his way down the field against Lake Mary in the Region 1-7A finals Nov. 28 at Spec Martin Stadium.
PHOTOS BY NADIA ZOMORODIAN/NEWS-JOURNAL

Meet The News-Journal's 2025 All-Area Football Offense Team

Zach Allen
Daytona Beach News-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Volusia-Flagler area had an undefeated team in the DeLand Bulldogs, and their offense was the catalyst.

Head coach Rick Darlington's single-wing offense scored 48.3 points per game, breaking the school record set in 2023. DeLand had two players with more than 1,400 rushing yards and 20 rushing touchdowns — each. The Bulldogs were eventually stopped in the Region 1-7A finals against eventual state champion Lake Mary, but not before they scored 135 combined points in the opening two rounds.

In total, the Volusia-Flagler area had five players eclipse the 1,100-yard rushing mark, and three exceeded 1,400 yards.

Here are the nominees for the 2025 All-Area offensive team, including the coach and player of the year.

First Team

Sebastian Johnson, QB, Mainland: Johnson led the Volusia-Flagler area with 2,872 passing yards and tied for the area lead with 22 passing touchdowns. Mainland was able to reach the 5A regional semifinals behind Johnson's signal-calling.

Cole Walker, QB, Matanzas: Walker led the area with 222 completions, which he turned into 2,387 yards and 22 touchdowns. Walker's passing output helped Matanzas to a 7-4 record and an invitation to the Florida Invitational Tournament at the end of the season.

Todd Cutler Jr., RB, New Smyrna Beach: Cutler was one of the Volusia-Flagler area's most accomplished running backs. The sophomore ran for 1,416 yards and 12 touchdowns, both of which placed him third locally.

Taijh Moore, RB, DeLand: Moore ran for 1,427 yards and an area-best 25 touchdowns on just 134 carries in DeLand's run-heavy scheme. Moore's efforts charged the Bulldogs to an undefeated regular season and 48 points per game.

Braylyn Simmons, RB, Mainland: Simmons transferred to Mainland from Flagler Palm Coast and transitioned from wide receiver to bellcow running back for the Buccaneers. His 1,129 rushing yards and 11 rushing touchdowns were the fourth-most locally.

Chris Butler, WR, Mainland: The Bucs had four players with at least 350 receiving yards, and Butler led them all. The junior receiver hauled in 45 catches for 947 yards and eight touchdowns. His yards and touchdowns placed second in the area.

Kadin Flores, WR, Mainland: Flores wasn't far behind Butler as one of a few deep threats the Bucs possessed. His 744 receiving yards was the third-most locally, and his eight touchdowns were good for second. Flores led Mainland with an average of 21.3 yards per reception.

Cameron Oxendine, WR, Spruce Creek: Oxendine caught 57 passes for 1,116 yards and 14 touchdowns to be the Volusia-Flagler area's touchdown-reception leader and only receiver to reach 1,000 yards. His 57 catches were the second-most in the area.

Jordan Schendorf, WR, Matanzas: Matanzas' offense had four players with at least 30 catches and 400 yards, and Schendorf was one of the Pirates' primary options. He led the area with 62 receptions, which he turned into 571 yards and five touchdowns.

Chevin Davis, OL, Mainland: Davis led a Mainland offensive line that protected the area's leading passer and paved the way for a 1,000-yard rusher.

Gerald Logan, OL, DeLand: The Bulldogs' offense is complex but efficient thanks to its offensive line. Logan navigated pre-snap motions to help DeLand be one of the best rushing offenses in Florida.

Gavin Petty, OL, Flagler Palm Coast: Petty set the edge for a Flagler Palm Coast team that ran for 1,826 yards and 16 touchdowns.

Kenneth Roberts, OL, Matanzas: Roberts

stands at 6-foot-2, 275 pounds and frequently moved his opposition out of the way. He was utilized as a blocker on screen plays frequently and had several pancakes doing so.

Tucker Wilson, OL, DeLand: The tackle on the opposite side of Logan, Wilson was another piece of the puzzle that helped DeLand be as successful as it was on the ground.

Ladarien Baker, ATH, Matanzas: Baker led Matanzas with 692 yards and seven touchdowns on 56 receptions. He also served as a starting cornerback for the Pirates.

Marceles Carey, ATH, DeLand: Carey led the Bulldogs with 1,479 rushing yards on only 113 carries. The senior also paced DeLand with 693 yards on 27 receptions. His 2,172 scrimmage yards turned into 28 touchdowns.

PJ Miller, ATH, Spruce Creek: Miller passed for 1,602 yards, 13 touchdowns and five interceptions as the Hawks' starting quarterback. He also spearheaded the Spruce Creek rushing attack with 571 yards and four touchdowns on 110 carries.

Declan Botting, K, New Smyrna Beach: Botting went 9-for-10 on field-goal attempts and 32-for-33 on extra points.

Second Team

Colt Davis, QB, Father Lopez: Davis threw for 1,179 yards, 11 touchdowns and eight interceptions to lead Father Lopez to its first playoff berth since 2022.

Gardner Nordman, QB, DeLand: Nordman's number wasn't called as often as most quarterbacks because of his run-heavy offense, but he made the most of his opportunities. The junior completed 70 of his 107 attempts for 1,369 yards and 11 touchdowns to just three interceptions.

Wiley Conner, RB, Matanzas: Despite the Pirates' frequent pass attempts, Conner eclipsed 1,000 yards on the ground. His 213 carries led the area, and he ran for 1,108 yards and nine touchdowns.

Nikko Dozier, RB, Taylor: Dozier rumbled for 753 yards and seven touchdowns.

Javonte Kennedy, RB, Atlantic: Kennedy accumulated 868 yards and four touchdowns on just 85 carries.

Andrew Bass, WR, Matanzas: Bass caught 48 passes, good for fourth in the area, for 483 yards and two touchdowns.

Nolan Caliendo, WR, Flagler Palm Coast: Caliendo secured 43 catches for 515 yards and six touchdowns as the Bulldogs' No. 1 option.

Christian Cooper, WR, Mainland: Cooper is the third of a trio of Mainland receivers to earn an All-Area spot. He finished with 34 catches for 485 yards and four total touchdowns.

Thomas Larywon, WR, Matanzas: Larywon caught 34 passes for 428 yards and six touchdowns.

Zach Farrell, OL, Flagler Palm Coast: Farrell was a lynchpin for a Flagler Palm Coast team that liked to run in heavy formations often, racking up more than 1,800 yards on the ground.

Tre Gaines, OL, Taylor: At 320 pounds, Gaines was a problem for opponents when he got momentum going. And like a few other members on this list, his greatest skill was run blocking, where he often pulled or was set in the backfield. The Wildcats rushed for more than 1,600 yards.

Jeremiah Hall, OL, Spruce Creek: Hall found success in run blocking and pass protection. He was able to pancake opponents either way, with the Hawks picking up 1,800 yards through the air and nearly 2,000 on the ground.

Amarion Lane, OL, Mainland: Lane blocked the blindside edge for Sebastian Johnson, the area's leading passer.

Braden Olsen, OL, Spruce Creek: Olsen was a part of a Spruce Creek offensive line that held up against Avon, a back-to-back state champion in Ohio, along with the top local teams. He stands at 6-foot-4 and 276 pounds.

La'Darius Simmons, ATH, Flagler Palm Coast: Simmons was the Bulldogs' leading passer with 551 yards. He also topped the team leaderboard with 741



Mainland's Sebastian Johnson looks for an open player down the field during the game against Mosley on Nov. 21 at Daytona Stadium.

rushing yards and finished second with six rushing touchdowns.

Logan Smith, ATH, Seabreeze: Smith led Seabreeze with 528 yards and nine touchdowns on the ground.

Deandre Weston, ATH, Pine Ridge: Weston led Pine Ridge with 545 rushing yards and eight rushing touchdowns. He was also the Panthers' quarterback, passing for 463 yards, two touchdowns and five interceptions.

David Aponte, K Mainland: Aponte made 10 of his 12 field-goal attempts and finished 22-for-29 on extra points.

Coach of the Year

Rick Darlington, DeLand: One year ago, the Bulldogs wrapped up a 5-6 season with a young roster. Fast forward to the end of 2025, DeLand went 10-0 in the regular season, made the Region 1-7A finals averaging 48.3 points per game and were ranked the No. 1 team in Florida late in the campaign. The Bulldogs' defense gave up 19 points per game, nearly cutting 2024's average of 35.9 points allowed per game in half.

Honorable Mention

DeLand: Ryan Joseph
Deltona: Aaden Baldwin, AJ Baldwin
Father Lopez: Rylan DeMarsh
Flagler Palm Coast: Ehimen Ajede, Darwin Harris

Halifax: Marcus Brown Jr.
New Smyrna Beach: Vance Murray, Jace Payne
Pine Ridge: Cole Darling
Seabreeze: Jeremias George, Matthew Wells
Spruce Creek: Trell Edwards, Keenan Nephew
Taylor: James Thomas
University: Christian Maheu, Magnum Rojas, Cassidy Maldonado

Offensive Player of the Year

Marceles Carey, DeLand: A shorter list would be what Carey didn't accomplish in 2025. The senior had five games of at least 200 total yards, including two in playoff contests against Creekside and Boone. His 2,172 scrimmage yards and 28 offensive touchdowns led every player in the area, and he did it in the highest classification of Florida high school football. There were multiple occasions where Carey was rested for entire halves because DeLand was already leading by several possessions, otherwise he could've added to his totals. And although it didn't count toward his nomination as the 2025 Offensive Player of the Year, it's worth noting he also led the Volusia-Flagler area with six interceptions.

Chris Boyle and Chris Vinel contributed to this story.



Deltona’s Kamron Walker (8) and Trevor Davis (1) sack Seabreeze’s Jayce Gainer (12) during the Oct. 10 game against Seabreeze at Deltona.
NADIA ZOMORODIAN/NEWS-JOURNAL

Meet The News-Journal’s 2025 All-Area Football Defense Team

Zach Allen
Daytona Beach News-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

As the saying goes, “defense wins championships.” And although the Volusia-Flagler area didn’t win a state title, there wasn’t a shortage of defensive prowess.

Mainland allowed a little over 15 points per game en route to an appearance in the Region 1-5A finals. Spruce Creek had two Division I commits and a three-star prospect on its defensive line. Even DeLand, which surrendered nearly 36 points per game a season ago, cut down to approximately 19 per game.

There was notable talent across Volusia and Flagler counties. Here are the nominees for the All-Area defensive football team.

First Team

Ricknomar Campos, DL, Deltona: Campos had six sacks which was the fourth-most in the area. He also had 12 tackles for loss and 19 quarterback hurries.

Chadwicke Cannon, DL, Spruce Creek: Cannon anchored Spruce Creek’s defensive line with 80 tackles, 20 tackles for loss and seven sacks. The Duke signee also caused four fumbles.

Joe Johnson, DL, DeLand: Johnson finished third in the Volusia-Flagler area with seven sacks and led DeLand with 13 tackles for loss. He also forced a fumble.

Jeremiah Smokes, DL, DeLand: Smokes recorded 10½ tackles for loss and four sacks on a DeLand defense that allowed fewer than 20 points per game. Smokes forced and recovered a fumble.

Freddie Wilson, DL, Spruce Creek: Wilson, a Georgia State signee, recorded 66 tackles, eight tackles for loss and two sacks.

Ladamion Bletcher, LB, DeLand: Bletcher led DeLand with 86 tackles, seventh in the area, and 9½ tackles for loss. He had three passes defended, 2½ sacks, two forced fumbles and an interception.

Dafino Devega, LB, University: Devega led the Volusia-Flagler area with 128 tackles. He also had a forced fumble.

Dennis King III, LB, Mainland: King’s 117 tackles put him second in the area. The South Florida signee had 78 solo tackles, five tackles for loss, two interceptions, two fumble recoveries, a forced fumble and a sack.

Mason Moore, LB, Spruce Creek: Moore led Spruce Creek with 106 tackles, including five for loss. He had two sacks and an interception as well.

Tamaj Woodard, LB, Mainland: Woodard finished with 108 tackles, 72 solo tackles, 9½ tackles for loss and a team-high 3½ sacks.

Marcus Day, DB, Mainland: Day started the season with three interceptions in a kickoff classic against Kissimmee Osceola, but those don’t count toward his season total. He recorded five passes defended and two interceptions to go with his 49

tackles.

Jaden Dormevil, DB, Matanzas: Dormevil paced Matanzas with four interceptions, five passes defended and two defensive touchdowns. He racked up 46 tackles and 2½ tackles for loss.

Nalin Rogers, DB, DeLand: Rogers had a whopping 17 passes defended. He also posted two interceptions, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery.

Jhavin Westbrook, DB, Mainland: Westbrook had the best statistical season of any Mainland defensive back. The senior led the Bucs with three interceptions and tied the team lead with seven passes defended. He also had 52 tackles.

An’tario Wright, DB, DeLand: Wright was a jack of all trades for DeLand. The junior was second on the Bulldogs with 80 tackles, including 8½ for loss. He recorded six passes defended and recovered a team-high three fumbles.

Malcolm McArthur, ATH, Mainland: McArthur led a Mainland defense that allowed 15.2 points per game with 11 tackles for loss and three forced fumbles. The sophomore defensive end finished second on the Bucs with three sacks.

Brison Sullivan, ATH, New Smyrna Beach: Sullivan finished fifth in the Volusia-Flagler area with 101 tackles as a defensive end. Sullivan, who also plays on the Barracudas offensive line, was one of five New Smyrna Beach players to tally three sacks.

Gio Padrino, P, Deltona: Padrino averaged a Volusia-Flagler area best 43.2 yards per punt. His season long was an 80-yard punt with 4.8 seconds of hang time.

Second Team

Jordan Banks, DL, DeLand: Banks compiled 69 tackles, five tackles for loss and three sacks.

TJ Bostick, DL, Mainland: Bostick had 10 tackles for loss, which ranked second on the team. He added two sacks.

Corey Evans, DL, Pine Ridge: Evans led Pine Ridge with 12 tackles for loss and 5½ sacks. He also blocked a punt.

Anthony Pollock, DL, Atlantic: Just a freshman, Pollock blitzed for 10 sacks to lead all local players. He also made 71 tackles, including 19 for loss.

Kaden Woodie, DL, Spruce Creek: A three-star prospect according to 247Sports, Woodie registered 51 tackles, six sacks and six tackles for loss during his junior campaign.

Troy Bergmann, LB, Spruce Creek: Bergmann had 64 tackles, including four for loss.

Jack Ferguson, LB, Matanzas: Ferguson led Matanzas with 10½ tackles for loss and 4½ sacks. The junior also contributed 61 tackles and an interception.

Tristan Miller, LB, Seabreeze: Miller led a sturdy Seabreeze unit with 67 tackles.

Lane Roberts, LB, DeLand: Roberts collected 69 tackles, a sack, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery.

Kamron Walker, LB, Deltona: Walker led Deltona with 69 tackles and tied for the team lead with two interceptions. He also caused and recovered a

fumble.

Daniel Blake, DB, Spruce Creek: Blake was third on Spruce Creek with 73 tackles and had four passes defended.

Kameren Giddens, DB, Spruce Creek: Giddens grabbed five interceptions for Spruce Creek, which was the second-most in the area.

Kenneth Robinson, DB, Flagler Palm Coast: Robinson led Flagler Palm Coast with four passes defended and three interceptions.

Kiarin Sullivan, DB, Mainland: Sullivan turned in 66 tackles and four passes defended. He also had a fumble recovery.

Tres Walton, DB, New Smyrna Beach: Walton led New Smyrna Beach with four passes defended and tied for the team lead with three interceptions. He made 41 tackles.

Maverick Grimm, ATH, Father Lopez: Grimm led Father Lopez with 13 tackles for loss, and his 48 tackles and four sacks were the second-highest totals on the Green Wave.

Dwayne Webb, ATH, Flagler Palm Coast: Webb easily led Flagler Palm Coast with 73 tackles and had two interceptions and a fumble recovery to boot.

Alex Procek, P Matanzas: Procek punted 17 times with a 36.1-yard average. The senior hammered a long of 51 yards and downed four boots inside the 20-yard line. He also converted five of his seven field-goal attempts.

Honorable Mention

Atlantic: James Demski, Jeremiah Felton, Joshua Mansfield, Carlos Smith III

Deltona: Tyrese Grigsby

Father Lopez: Evan Blackburn, Nick Reyes

Flagler Palm Coast: Zaiden Greene

Halifax: Tre’Mari Denis

Matanzas: Cooper May, Javonte Patton

Mainland: Theo Bryant, Shawn Holmes, Denzel Shropshire

New Smyrna Beach: Isaac Fanelli

Pine Ridge: Kaden Boddie, Michael Evans

Seabreeze: Simeon Daffin, Cash Kurz, Owen O’Rourke, Zach Voltaire

Spruce Creek: Davern Cole

Defensive Player of the Year

Dennis King III, Mainland: Mainland arguably had the best defense in the Volusia-Flagler area, and King was the quarterback. His 117 tackles were the second-most locally, and 78 of them were on his own. King’s versatility allowed him to stop the run and drop back into coverage if need be. The South Florida commit stepped up in the postseason, as one of his two interceptions in 2025 helped ice Mainland’s 36-31 victory over Mosley in the regional semifinals. The award came down to King and Spruce Creek’s Chadwicke Cannon, and King’s versatility was the difference.

Chris Boyle and Chris Vinel contributed to this story.

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL



New Smyrna Beach's Mollie Hale (4) spikes the ball over the net during the District 6-5A semifinals against Atlantic hosted by New Smyrna Beach High School on Oct. 14. NADIA ZOMORODIAN/NEWS-JOURNAL

Meet the Volusia-Flagler All-Area Volleyball Team

The best of 2025 along with honorable mentions, coach of the year and player of the year

Zach Allen
Daytona Beach News-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

DeLand won its sixth consecutive district title and made the furthest postseason run in the Volusia-Flagler area in 2025.

The Bulldogs advanced to the Region 1-7A semifinals but had to play Winter Park, the No. 1 team in Florida. DeLand's season came to an end there, but it was still a successful campaign for one of the area's perennial powers.

Outside of the Bulldogs, First Baptist Christian and Taylor were the other local schools that made the playoffs. Both were No. 8 seeds, while DeLand was a No. 4 seed.

Here's a list of the best players from across the area.

First Team

Emma Atkinson, University: Atkinson led University with 536 assists and was third on the team with 171 digs.

Carley Bandell, Seabreeze: Bandell led the Volusia-Flagler area with a whopping 175 blocks. She was second on the Sandcrabs with 137 kills and 34 aces.

Ava Castro, Taylor: Castro led the Volusia-Flagler area with 241 kills. She also had 267 digs.

Emely Cardenas, Taylor: Cardenas led the Wildcats with 490 assists and 63 aces. She also finished second on the team with 270 digs.

Faith-Anne Dailey, Flagler Palm Coast: Dailey led the Volusia-Flagler area with 622 assists, which accounted for 93.5% of the Bulldogs' season total. She also led FPC with 53 aces.

Taylor Fonseca, DeLand: Fonseca led DeLand, who went farther than any other Volusia-Flagler team in the postseason, with 390 digs and 468 serve receptions.

Mollie Hale, New Smyrna Beach: Hale paced the Barracudas with 238 kills. She also had 206 digs.

Bailey Jones, New Smyrna Beach: Jones finished second on New Smyrna Beach with 248 digs, 207 kills and 34 aces.

Emerson Lalashuis, DeLand: Lalashuis assembled quite the freshman season. She topped the Bulldogs with 225 kills.

Logan Milan, Spruce Creek: Milan led Spruce Creek with 474 digs, 536 serve receptions and 55 aces.

Haley Sobin, Flagler Palm Coast: Sobin led Flagler Palm Coast with 231 kills and was second on the team with 211 digs.

Victoria Stoltzfus, DeLand: Stoltzfus was DeLand's primary ball handler with 481 assists. She also led the team with 42 aces and turned



Seabreeze's Carley Bandell sets the ball during the Five Star Conference volleyball tournament match against Pine Ridge on Sept. 15 at Seabreeze High School. NADIA ZOMORODIAN/NEWS-JOURNAL

in 206 digs.

Second Team

Isabella Bosinski, Father Lopez: Bosinski led the Green Wave with 210 kills and 61 aces. She also recorded 227 digs.

Jaelyn Campusano, Taylor: Campusano recorded 202 kills to help Taylor to an 18-10 record.

Annabelle Gentry, Spruce Creek: Gentry led the Hawks with 190 kills and was second with 242 digs.

Joslean Gonzalez Garcia, University: Gonzalez Garcia led University with 202 kills and was second on the Titans with 192 digs.

Jackie Leon, Warner Christian: Leon led the Volusia-Flagler area with 82 aces.

Teagan Lux, New Smyrna Beach: Lux led the Barracudas with 328 assists and 44 aces.

Sofia Mackin, New Smyrna Beach: Mackin

was first among New Smyrna Beach players with 342 digs.

Sarah McManama, Trinity Christian: McManama led Trinity Christian with 266 digs, 160 kills and 35 blocks.

Haven Price, Seabreeze: Price finished second in the area, and coincidentally second on Seabreeze, with 133 blocks. She also had 112 kills.

Alyssa Reedy, University: Reedy had 196 kills and 155 digs for the Titans.

Kenadie Suarez, Deltona: Suarez recorded 431 digs and 43 aces.

Anna Vandell, DeLand: Vandell finished second on DeLand in kills (175) and blocks (42).

Coach of the Year

Rhea Simon, DeLand: Simon is the Volusia-Flagler area's volleyball Coach of the Year for the second consecutive season. The Bulldogs finished 18-10, a slight step back from their 25-3 season in 2024, despite a young roster and a harder schedule. DeLand went further into the postseason than any other local program before losing in the Region 1-7A semifinals to Winter Park, the 7A state champs and Max-Preps' No. 1 team in Florida.

Honorable Mention

DeLand: Eden Knapp, Leni Young, Kohen Kazmierczak

Deltona: Giana Sanz

Father Lopez: Mia Bruno Lodwig

Flagler Palm Coast: Marina Carlisi, Kaitlyn Ebding

Matanzas: Sanigh Arneaud, Haley Stewart

New Smyrna Beach: Emma Jandrew

Seabreeze: Alexandria Dingman, Isabella Tedesco, Baylee Brown, Olivia Chase, Brianna Dicks

Spruce Creek: Tamera Williams, Sadie Van-Brocklin, Rachel Smith, Evelyn Webb

Taylor: Taylor Lane, Autumn Sampson

Trinity Christian: Charlee Phillips

University: Keira Dickens

Player of the Year

Victoria Stoltzfus, DeLand: Stoltzfus was the primary catalyst for the Region 1-7A semi-finalists. Stoltzfus led DeLand with 481 assists en route to the Bulldogs' sixth consecutive District 2-7A title and ensuing postseason run. Stoltzfus, a senior, was one of DeLand's most experienced players on an offense that lost three Division I-caliber starters to graduation last season. Stoltzfus eclipsed the 1,500-assist mark this season and closed her career with 1,598 assists.



DeLand's Samantha Mott competes in the girls 500-yard freestyle event at the 2024 Five Star swim meet at the YMCA pool in Port Orange. NIGEL COOK/NEWS-JOURNAL

Meet the Volusia-Flagler All-Area Girls Swim Team

The best of 2025 along with honorable mentions, coach of the year, girls swimmer of the year

Zach Allen
Daytona Beach News-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

DeLand and Seabreeze's girls swim teams both made it to states.

The Sandcrabs placed 13th at the 3A meet, while the Bulldogs finished 21st in the 4A event. Those were also the only schools to have individual swimmers place inside the top 10 in their respective events.

DeLand's Alexis O'Keefe finished eighth in the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyles. Laurel Carson and Noelle Dragstedt finished seventh for Seabreeze in their respective events — Carson in the 50-yard freestyle and Dragstedt in the 100-yard butterfly.

There were plenty of nominations to go around, so here is the Volusia-Flagler All-Area girls swim team.

First Team

Jovi Anderson, Spruce Creek: Anderson finished third with a 1:11.74 in the 100-yard breaststroke at the District 2-4A meet.

Gisele Bianco, Atlantic: Bianco finished third at the District 5-2A meet with a 2:07.61-second 200-yard freestyle. She added a second-place finish in the 500-yard freestyle.

Laurel Carson, Seabreeze: Carson finished seventh at the 3A state meet with a 24.54-second time in the 50-yard freestyle. She finished fifth in Region 1-3A in the same event with a 25.02.

Noelle Dragstedt, Seabreeze: Dragstedt placed seventh in the state at the 3A level with a 59.15-second time in the 100-yard butterfly. She placed third at the Region 1-3A meet in the same event.

Emma Gilbert, Flagler Palm Coast: Gilbert won the 100-yard breaststroke at the Five Star Conference meet. She finished fourth in the same event at the District 2-4A meet.

Piper Jemison, DeLand: Jemison finished sixth in the 100-yard butterfly at the Region 1-4A meet with a 58.6-second swim. She nabbed a fourth-place finish in the 100-yard backstroke at the same meet with a 58.05-second swim.

Keegan Malone, Spruce Creek: Malone placed seventh at the Region 1-4A meet with

a 59.3-second 100-yard backstroke.

Matilda Noble, Flagler Palm Coast: Noble finished fourth in the 100-yard butterfly at the District 2-4A meet after swimming a 1:03.15.

Alexis O'Keefe, DeLand: O'Keefe placed second in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 51.54 seconds and third in the 50-yard freestyle with a 23.87-second swim at the Region 1-4A meet. She placed eighth in both events at the 4A state meet.

Annabelle Power, New Smyrna Beach: Power finished one spot behind Kohany at the District 3-3A meet in the 200-yard IM with a 2:26.42 time.

Lily Rollins, Father Lopez: Rollins finished fourth in the 200-yard individual medley at the District 3-1A meet with a time of 2:43.91.

Addie Smurdon, Seabreeze: Smurdon won the District 3-3A 100-yard freestyle title over Carson with a 53.69-second swim. She also finished fifth in the 500-yard freestyle.

Second Team

Paige Beaty, DeLand: Beaty finished fifth in the District 2-4A 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:30.61.

Molly Brock, New Smyrna Beach: Brock finished eighth at the District 3-3A meet with a 25.64-second 50-yard freestyle.

Summer Craig, Spruce Creek: Craig finished eighth in the 50-yard freestyle and ninth in the 100-yard freestyle at the District 2-4A meet. She was also part of a Hawk relay team that took second at the Five Star meet.

Katelyn Denigan, DeLand: Denigan was a member of the Bulldogs' 200-yard medley relay that placed second at the District 2-4A meet.

Stella Guymon, Flagler Palm Coast: Guymon finished fifth at the District 2-4A meet with a 57.03-second swim in the 100-yard freestyle.

Eppie Kohany, Seabreeze: Kohany swam a 2:23.21 at the District 3-3A meet to finish eighth in the 200-yard individual medley.

Mattie Lindemann, DeLand: Lindemann placed eighth at the District 2-4A meet in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:35.7.

Bella Logan, Spruce Creek: Logan swam a

2:03.89 to finish seventh at the District 2-4A meet in the 200-yard freestyle.

Samantha Mott, DeLand: Mott earned a 10th-place finish in the 200-yard freestyle at the District 2-4A meet.

Julianne Suekell, DeLand: Suekell earned a top-10 finish in the 200-yard individual medley at the District 2-4A meet.

Riley Weitzel, Atlantic: Weitzel finished sixth in the District 5-2A 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:21.32.

Barbora Zdanska, Atlantic: Zdanska swam a 1:20.21 to finish seventh at the District 5-2A meet in the 100-yard butterfly.

Coach of the Year

Kati Kaye, DeLand: Kaye is both the boys and girls swim coach of the year. The Bulldogs won the Record Breaker meet but lost to Spruce Creek by half a point at the Five Star meet. But DeLand beat Spruce Creek at the Region 1-4A meet and finished 21st as a team at the 4A state meet.

Honorable Mention

DeLand: Samantha Mullins, Jaidyn Lott

Father Lopez: Vanda Va'helyi, Harper Hack

Flagler Palm Coast: Jade Hreib

Matanzas: Aurora Purdy, Carmella Cuccinello

New Smyrna Beach: Samantha O'Brien, Paige Conlan

Seabreeze: Maren Beck

Spruce Creek: Phoenix Malloch, Lily Carlton, Sofia Leschitz, Riley Gurucharri, Sage Medders, Mia Miller, Mariah Calderon, Alana Harris

University: Malina Palumbo, Janelle Olson

Girls Swimmer of the Year

Alexis O'Keefe, DeLand: O'Keefe was the fastest freestyler in the Volusia-Flagler area. She won everything in the 50- and 100-yard freestyles, from the Record Breaker meet in September to the Five Star meet in October. She placed eighth in both events at the state level, and her 23.87-second swim in the 50-yard freestyle at the Region 1-4A meet was the fastest by a local swimmer.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SWIMMING



Seabreeze senior Kai McMeeking competes during the Class 3A state championship swim meet Nov. 15 at FAST in Ocala. CHRIS WATKINS/GAINESVILLE SUN

Meet the Volusia-Flagler All-Area Boys Swim Team

The best of 2025 along with honorable mentions, coach of the year, boys swimmer of the year

Zach Allen
Daytona Beach News-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Seabreeze’s boys swim team was the only club from the Volusia-Flagler area to make it to the state meet, doing so at the 3A level.

The Sandcrabs also had two finishers in the top six of their respective events, brothers Kai and Reef McMeeking. Reef earned a spot on the podium with a third-place finish in the 200-yard individual medley.

But DeLand swept every local competition, beating Seabreeze, Spruce Creek, Flagler Palm Coast and a handful of other local squads at the Record Breaker and Five Star meets.

Here are the nominees for this year’s Volusia-Flagler All-Area team, complete with honorable mentions, coach of the year and boys swimmer of the year.

First Team

Matthew Alvarez, Father Lopez: Alvarez placed second with a 49.53-second 100-yard freestyle at the District 3-1A meet. He finished seventh at the Region 1-1A meet with a 48.85-second 100-yard freestyle and also got seventh in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Timothy Dobyns, DeLand: Dobyns finished third in the District 2-4A meet with a time of 1:51.02 in the 200-yard freestyle.

Gavin Hardy, Atlantic: Hardy won the 500-yard freestyle and placed second in the 200-yard freestyle at the District 5-2A meet. He also won the 500-yard freestyle at the Five Star Conference meet.

Ricky Kaneaster, Spruce Creek: Kaneaster swam a 5:03.33 to place 11th in the 500-yard freestyle at the Region 1-4A meet. He placed second at the District 2-4A meet in the same event.

Keaton Lasicki, Matanzas: Lasicki finished fourth at the District 3-3A meet with a 1:02.99 in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Johnathan Lusk, Seabreeze: Lusk finished seventh in the 500-yard freestyle at the District 3-3A meet with a 5:01.97.

Kai McMeeking, Seabreeze: McMeeking finished sixth in the 100-yard breaststroke at the 3A state meet.

Reef McMeeking, Seabreeze: McMeeking placed third in Florida in the 200-yard individual medley with a 1:49.59. He finished second at the Region 1-3A meet in the same event, just with a slightly slower time of 1:51.25.

Jake Naumovitz, DeLand: Naumovitz won the Five Star 50-yard freestyle before placing seventh in the same event at the District 2-4A meet. Naumovitz also placed seventh in the 100-yard freestyle.



Spruce Creek’s Noah Arazashvili competes in the boys 100-yard butterfly during the 2024 Record Breaker Invitational swim meet at the YMCA pool in Port Orange. NIGEL COOK/NEWS-JOURNAL

Leo Peters, Matanzas: Peters finished sixth in the District 3-3A meet with a 22.85-second 50-yard freestyle. He also finished fifth in the 100-yard butterfly.

Alexander Rudik, Flagler Palm Coast: Rudik swam a 2:06.81 to finish second in the 200-yard individual medley at the District 2-4A meet.

Gavin Thomas, DeLand: Thomas finished seventh in the Region 1-4A meet with a 21.92-second 50-yard freestyle. He finished third at the District 2-4A meet in the 100-yard backstroke.

Second Team

Elijah Alvarez, Father Lopez: Alvarez swam a 2:18.88 to place third at the District 3-1A meet in the 200-yard individual medley. Alvarez also finished fifth in the 100-yard butterfly.

Noah Arazashvili, Spruce Creek: Arazashvili swam a 55.86-second 100-yard butterfly to finish fourth at the District 2-4A meet.

Devin Davidson, DeLand: Davidson earned a top-10 finish in the boys 200-yard individual medley at the District 2-4A meet.

Chase DeCarli, Spruce Creek: DeCarli swam a 50-second 100-yard freestyle to finish fourth at the District 2-4A meet. The freshman also finished third in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Obadiah Dexheimer, DeLand: Dexheimer swam a 2:09.84 in the 200-yard individual medley to finish fifth at the District 2-4A meet.

Paul Dobyns, DeLand: Dobyns was a member of DeLand’s second-place boys 200-yard individual medley relay at the District 2-4A meet.

He finished sixth in the 100-yard butterfly at the same meet.

Dawson Gramling, DeLand: Gramling finished fifth in the District 2-4A 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:54.04. He also finished sixth in the 100-yard freestyle at the same meet.

Grayson Haynes, Spruce Creek: Haynes swam a 1:58.02 to finish seventh in the District 2-4A 200-yard freestyle.

Owen O’Neil, DeLand: O’Neil finished eighth at the District 2-4A meet in the 50-yard freestyle.

Alan Schultz, Father Lopez: Schultz earned top-10 finishes at the District 3-1A meet in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle.

Tyler Smith, Seabreeze: Smith earned top-10 finishes in the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard freestyle at the District 3-3A meet.

Rocco Wilson, Spruce Creek: Wilson swam a 22.72 in the 50-yard freestyle to place sixth at the District 2-4A meet.

Coach of the Year

Kati Kaye, DeLand: You name it, DeLand’s boys swim team won it. The Bulldogs won the Record Breaker meet in September, the Five Star meet and were the highest local finishers at the Region 1-4A meet.

Honorable Mention

DeLand: Stephen Lin, Cayden Sloan, Riley Williams, Michael Tramuta, Declan Pickren

Father Lopez: Jordan Stonaker, William Schultz, Andre Lafleur, Ian Lafleur

Flagler Palm Coast: Noah Roznos, Esias Roznos

Matanzas: Alexander Demers, Reece Der- ringer, Oliver Morris, Nelson Rojas

New Smyrna Beach: Worldley Frye, Korbin Wyss

Seabreeze: Arthur Simpson, Carter Eby, Bro- dy Smurdon

Spruce Creek: James Nelson, Lucas Jaku- bec, Matheus Day, Landon Kramer, Silas Carlton

University: Caiden Thompson, Vincent Bos- co, Kevin Pari

Boys Swimmer of the Year

Reef McMeeking, Seabreeze: McMeeking’s third-place finish in the 200-yard individual medley at the 3A state meet was the highest state finish by any Volusia-Flagler swimmer in any classification. In the same event, he was a runner-up at the Region 1-3A meet and won it during the Five Star meet. McMeeking was also the Five Star champion in the 100-yard back- stroke.