

SPORTS

Mega makes a statement in D-II debut; Eagles fly past defending state champs; Tigers, Panthers both pounce

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There weren't a lot of teams in Division I that could stop East Greenwich's Alex Mega. If Wednesday's was any indication, there won't be many in Division II that will be either.

Mega, the state's leading scorer the last two seasons, made her presence known early and often Wednesday. She scored in transition, in the lane and from deep, pouring in 32 points as the Avengers' rolled to a 57-31 win over Cumberland.

The senior didn't waste much time. She scored 12 points in the first quarter and had 10 in the second as EG took a 29-14 lead into halftime. Two quick 3-pointers and a layup later she hit the 30-point mark and she exited the game for good after an early bucket in the fourth quarter.

Other Avengers did some scoring as well. Gabi Jackson put up weight in the win and Meghan Pagliaro and Sophia Schwarzman both had five in the win.

East Greenwich's relentless pressure made it hard for Cumberland to get into an offense and limited the Clippers' chances to outside the arc. Bridgitt O'Sullivan-Van Etten led Cumberland with eight points in the loss.

Division I

Cranston West 49, East Providence 37

Powered by **Maia Riccio's** game-high 19 points, the Falcons ran out to a seven-point lead at the break and never looked back in a 49-37 win over the Townies.

Kyle Buco helped Cranston West cause with eight points - all in the first half - and **Maddie Cournoyer** chipped in with six.

East Providence was led by **Mya Lambert's** 18 points, including going 9 of 12 from the line.

Here are 10 Division 1 high school girls basketball players to watch this season

Rogers 44, Bay View 41

The 1-2 punch of **Maeve Crowley** and **Danaysha Cherry** proved to be too much for the Bengals to handle as the Vikings came away with 44-41 win.

Crowley, a second-team All-State selection last season, led the way with 19 points to go with six rebounds. Cherry was also all over the stat sheet, scoring 10 points to go with six rebounds and four steals. Syndey Newsome had a solid game as well, scoring nine points to go with six rebounds.

Ahtiana Benway - an All-Stater herself - did everything she could in the loss, burying four 3-pointers in a 17-point night.

Barrington 45, Ponaganset 40

The Eagles jumped out to a 15-point lead at halftime and held on down the stretch to get their season off to a flying start with a 45-40 win over Ponaganset.

After missing last season with a knee injury, **Lindsay Lemay** looked terrific in her return to Barrington, scoring 14 of her game-high 20 in the first half that saw the Eagles take a 24-9 lead into the locker room.

Isys Dunphy scored 11 in the win and Providence Country Day transfer **Janaya Prince-Baquero** had 10 to help the cause.

Ponaganset All-Stater **Jaina Yekelchik** led the team with 15 points and Giana DeCesare added 10.

Portsmouth 62, Westerly 46

The Patriots saw four scorers reach double figures as they tamed the Bulldogs, 62-46.

Kaitlin Roche led the Portsmouth with 13 points and **Ava Hackley** was right behind her with 12 points. **Olivia Durant** scored 11 points to go with four assists and **Maeve Tullson** scored 10 points and had nine rebounds in the win.

Julianna Voisinet reached double figures in the loss, scoring 14 to pace Westerly.

DIVISION II

Tiverton 54, Mount Pleasant 30

Abigail Monkevicz and **Jenna DelDeo** led the Tigers' offensive attack as they pounced on the Kilties, 54-30.

Monkevicz led the way with 15 points while DelDeo scored 14 for Tiverton. **Amya Perry** led Mount Pleasant with 11 points.

Who will lead their team to glory in Division II girls basketball? Here are 10 players to watch this season

Mount St. Charles 48, Chariho 40

The Mounties defense went to work in the second half, holding the Chargers to 15 points in their 48-40 win.

Casey Stores led the way for Mount St. Charles with 17 points, including three buckets from behind the arc. Emma Roberts came through with 12 points in the win and Bella Mencarini scored eight.

Keira Frias scored 14 points for Chariho and **Tori Babineau** had 11 and **Jules White** added 10.

Coventry 46, Prout 44

The Oakers and Crusaders missed basketball so much they decided to play an extra period, where Coventry came through and pulled out the 46-44 overtime win.

Victoria Healy led the Oakers with 12 points. **Sara Sacchetti** had eight of her own and **Ella Voelker** scored seven.

Molly Green was the top scorer for the Crusaders with nine points.

Division III

Toll Gate 41, Narragansett 37

Trailing by as much as 13 points in the game, the Titans went on a 21-6 run in the fourth quarter and came away with the victory over the Mariners.

Brianlys Simono led the way for Toll Gate with a game-high 17 points, all in the second half, and **Amanda Preston** added 12 more in the Division III season opener.

Brooke Caffrey had a team-high 10 points for the Narragansett

North Providence 43, Middletown 35

Lusine Hagopian put together a career night, guiding the Cougars to a 43-35 win over the Islanders.

The North Providence sophomore was dominant, scoring 28 points and pulling down nine rebounds in the win. **Rihhdi Mistry** helped the cause, scoring seven and grabbing five rebounds of her own.

Lily Sokol led the way for Middletown with 11 points and Ginnie Hamilton scored seven points while grabbing 10 rebounds.

Lincoln 48, North Smithfield 41

Lauren Cipriano started her season off with a bang, hitting everything she took in the Lions' 48-41 win over the Northmen.

Cipriano made six 3-pointers, including going unconscious in the third quarter when she made four in a 21-point performance. **Tayla Valentin** helped out inside the arc and scored nine while **Alaina Bourquin** chipped in with seven.

Sam Ledger had her way in the paint, scoring 15 in the loss for North Smithfield.

Pilgrim 37, Exeter-West Greenwich 36

Gianna Ramos hit two clutch fourth-quarter free throws, helping the Patriots pull out a 37-36 win over the Scarlet Knights.

Ramos spent most of her night at the free-throw line, hitting 8 of 12 in the game as part of her 12-point performance. **Faith Meade** joined her with a dozen points and **Kiera Maher** added nine in the win.

Emma Mears had it working from deep for EWG, burying four 3-pointers in a 17-point performance. **Ella Johnson** joined her in double figures with 13.

DIVISION IV

Johnston 32, Lincoln School 30

The Panthers took a lead into the fourth quarter but nearly didn't end the game with one, holding on for a 32-30 win.

Things got interesting late for Johnson in the fourth, but a big 3-pointer by **Hannah Lavergne** and a pair of free throws from freshman **Bella Gesualdi** helped it grab the win. Lavergne and **Steph Bruno** led the Panthers with seven points apiece while **Ava Waterman** scored six.

Freshmen **Susannah Duggan** and **Sarah Berube** did most of the scoring for the Lynx, with Duggan posting a game-high 13 and Berube putting up 12.

Home team coaches did not report scores to the Journal for the following games (home team in bold). Players on these home teams will be ineligible for Journal Player of the Week honors.

La Salle 54, South Kingstown 41

Moses Brown 56, Cranston East 33

Davies at **Providence Country Day**