



# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2022

## [Joyce: Bowling season concludes with memorable championships in Smyrna](#)

Hardin County sophomore twins Millie and Macy Bromley faced each other in the TSSAA Division I state individual bowling championship match. What's even more unique is that Millie is a righty and Macy is left-handed. Millie Bromley won the title 199-188.

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As the official sports medicine provider of TSSAA, Vanderbilt Sports Medicine will be offering helpful tips and guidance each month on topics benefiting overall health and wellness for you and your family.

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## [The Benefits of Purpose-based Participation are Vast and Powerful](#)

Sports are a valued part of our culture. We value sports because we believe the students that are involved acquire something through their participation. But have we ever looked closely at how they benefit? What do the students who participate in our programs actually get and what is the purpose of education-based sports?

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TeamFunder.com offers a better way to fundraise by providing teams of all sizes with unique, team-branded products that are sure to be crowd-pleasers. Sign-up is free and takes just minutes—we'll handle the fundraising logistics from there. Learn how TeamFunder.com can be your secret weapon to your team's continued success by making it easy to maximize your overall donations.

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## [Division II BlueCross Basketball State Championships to return to Tennessee Tech University](#)

The TSSAA announced today that the TSSAA Division II BlueCross Basketball State Championships will return to Hooper Eblen Center on the campus of Tennessee Tech University in 2022.

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## [Failure is Necessary](#)

A core tenet of education-based athletics is the belief that a student athlete's success isn't defined by the number on the scoreboard at the end of the game, but rather by the fun they had playing, the relationship they made, and the values they learned along the way.

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## Call for Submissions

We want to include your thoughts in the monthly TSSAA Newsletter! Do you have 50-500 words to share on the topic of **empathy in sports**? We welcome submissions from principals, athletic administrators, coaches and students! Consider sharing your thoughts, essays or even poems for an upcoming issue. Please send submissions in Microsoft Word format to [mgillespie@tssaa.org](mailto:mgillespie@tssaa.org).

TSSAA continues its support of the **National SAT/ACT Prep Project** through the NFHS and eKnowledge which allows any Tennessee student to receive a 95% discount on SAT or ACT prep courses. This is a community-service, non-profit project and all student fees are reinvested to improve the program and reach more families. The project has more than 45,000 five-star reviews and has already assisted nearly 300,000 families. Learn more at <https://eknowledge.com/TSSAA>.

## HIGH-SCHOOL

# DCA's Thomas, Lipscomb's Hedgepath, Hardin County's Bromley win state bowling titles



**Cecil Joyce**

Nashville Tennessean

Published 7:42 p.m. CT Jan. 19, 2022 | Updated 7:58 p.m. CT Jan. 19, 2022

SMYRNA - Donelson Christian Academy junior Connor Thomas is quickly racking up state championships.

Thomas played right guard for the football team that captured the Division II-A state title in December's BlueCross Bowl.

On Wednesday he added championship No. 2 by capturing the TSSAA State Individual Bowling Tournament Division II title at Smyrna Bowling Center, defeating Pope John Paul II's Finn Donnelly 224-150 in the finals.

Boyd-Buchanan's Caleb Kelly finished third.

"It feels amazing," said Thomas, who was the No. 2 seed in the finals. "I think the toughest part (of the finals) was the waiting game. Your mind starts to relax and you start to get tired. I had to do some push ups to get myself warmed up."

Other individual winners included Lipscomb Academy's Jenna Hedgepath (DII girls), Hardin County's Millie Bromley (DI girls) and Hixson's Cameron Compton (DI boys).

After semifinalists bowled six games earlier in the day to determine the six seeds for the finals, the championship round was a step-ladder format, with the No. 6 seed against No. 5 and the winner matched against No. 4, and so on.

As Thomas said, that made the waiting game a little tough on higher seeds. But it also helped dry out some of the lanes, which were very oily to begin the day.

"At the beginning, when we bowled our first six games, it was really hard," said Hedgepath, a Vanderbilt signee. She has won the individual title two of the past three years, defeating St. Benedict's Tori Moore 222-168 in her only match of the finals.

"I couldn't get my ball to read whatsoever. This pair actually hooked more, which was way nicer. I could actually get my ball to do something."

Friendship Christian's Landry West finished third.

Hardin County has won a multitude of individual and team titles over the past decade, but having two twin sisters bowling against each other in the finals was unique even for a team with the Tigers' history.

Second-seeded Millie Bromley outlasted twin sister Macy, the No. 1 seed, 199-188 in the championship match. It's the second straight year a Hardin County girl won the title, with Kailee Channell winning last season.

"There were a lot of mixed feelings," Millie Bromley said. "We compete a lot ... every time we bowl. It's about 50/50 (on who wins)."

What's even more unique is that Millie is a righty and Macy is left-handed.

"I get the left-handers advantage (jabs) all the time," Macy said.

Stewarts Creek's Bricey Caudill finished third.

Compton, the No. 3 seed, defeated Bartlett sophomore Gavin Robertson, the No. 1 seed, 211-164 in the DI boys title match. Lebanon's Jackson McRae finished third.

The state team tournaments will begin Thursday at 9 a.m. The semifinals (9 a.m.) and finals (1 p.m.) are Saturday.



# THE BENEFITS OF PURPOSE-BASED PARTICIPATION ARE VAST AND POWERFUL

**JODY REDMAN**

Sports are a valued part of our culture. We value sports because we believe the students that are involved acquire something through their participation. But have we ever looked closely at how they benefit? What do the students who participate in our programs actually get and what is the purpose of education-based sports?

In a recent message to his school community, Brainerd High School Activities Administrator Charlie Campbell shared:

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## ARCHIVES

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“The high school sports experience is squeezed between two models that challenge school communities on the purpose of education-based programs. It’s easy to be confused. On one end of the continuum, the media, through their constant focus on professional and ‘big-time’ collegiate sports, continually tells us that sports, and the athletes that participate in them have value if they win and only if they win.

The end of each season brings about the firing and hiring of coaches, and players are traded, demoted, or drafted in hopes of winning more games. And, of course, in this entertainment-based system of sport there is one primary objective and that is to make money. On the other end of the continuum, well-intentioned youth, traveling and club programs are creating teams for 8-, 9-, and 10-year old children and trying to ‘win’ a myriad of weekend tournaments, creating all-star teams, vying for national championships, and generally, reinforcing the notion that if you’re good (at age 8, 9, or 10), you have value.

For athletics to be education-based, whereby we are developing better people and not just better athletes, we must be intentional—we must be awake and understand the purpose. Purpose must resonate with us in our human condition. If you Google ‘purpose’ the first hit (after the definitions) is Rick Warren’s best-selling book, *The Purpose Driven Life*. Wikipedia says that as of 2007, over 30 million copies have been sold and that *Purpose Driven Life* is the second most translated book after *The Bible*. It seems purpose is something we are all searching for. Webster would say Purpose is, ‘The reason for which something is done, or for which something exists.’ To put it more simply, it is the *WHY*.”

The great call of a coach is to be awake—mindful of what students in our programs are really getting. Our main role as a coach in education-based athletics is the human development of every student on our team. Winning is the by-product of something bigger, an awareness in us that transforms a game of throwing a ball through a hoop into an opportunity to create caring, empathetic, responsible members of society. When coaches are awake, they take the student’s learning of physical skills and X’s and O’s to the next level.

They concurrently teach them the *WHY*’s, the lasting values acquired through the learning of those same physical skills. For this to happen, coaches must understand their purpose and *WHY* they coach. Campbell continues:

“Though most coaches are fiercely competitive, and they work tirelessly to help young athletes win and find success, when you ask them about their purpose, you will hear them talk about instilling discipline, developing mental and physical toughness, teaching students to dream big, demanding accountability, creating a positive family culture where every student belongs, cooperation, passion, the necessity of intense preparation, sportsmanship and perseverance.

“And so this is our platform in education-based athletics: To teach core values and qualities that transcend the outcome on the scoreboard and contribute to the well-being and human growth and development of the student-athletes we serve.”

Consciously creating a game plan is necessary to transform a student’s experience from only X’s and O’s to value-filled *WHY*’s. Asking the right questions, creating awareness, and providing experiences with greater depth are keys to lasting success. When this happens, success will no longer be measured only by the outcome on the scoreboard or the acquisition of a new physical skill. Instead, the true measurement of success will be seen in the students who learn the valuable life lessons that participation in education-based athletics provides.



Sports News

Championships News

# Division II BlueCross Basketball State Championships to return to Tennessee Tech University

Tournament to be held March 3-5, 2022

December 17, 2021

The TSSAA announced today that the TSSAA Division II BlueCross Basketball State Championships will return to Hooper Eblen Center on the campus of Tennessee Tech University in 2022. Division II Class AA will play first with semifinals on Thursday, March 3rd and finals on Saturday, March 5th. The Division II Class A tournament will take place on Friday, March 4th and Saturday, March 5th.

Tennessee Tech stepped in as the host in 2021 after county-wide COVID restrictions prevented the tournament from remaining at Lipscomb University.

“TSSAA has had a long-standing working relationship with Tennessee Tech and the city of Cookeville, and their efforts to step up at the last minute to pull off the 2021 championships did not go unnoticed,” said Emily Crowell, TSSAA Assistant Executive Director. “We received nothing but positive feedback from participating teams and spectators alike, and we are excited to continue to work with Cookeville as a host of our state championships.”

Game times and ticket details will be published in January 2022. As always, the NFHS Network will provide live video streaming of every game through [NFHSNetwork.com](http://NFHSNetwork.com) and the NFHS Network apps. TSSAA Network audio coverage and live stats will be available at [TSSAAsports.com](http://TSSAAsports.com). Championship games will also be carried on a statewide network of television stations which will be announced at a later date.