

## **Top 5 seniors to watch**

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**STEVE ZAZURI, Masuk** — The 6-1 Sacred Heart recruit is the only member of last year's Super 15 returning. His smooth play at guard makes Masuk a contender.

**ROB HARRIGAN, St. Joseph** — Versatile 6-6 forward will be one of the FCIAC's top forwards as St. Joseph looks for its first FCIAC title since 2000.

**JOHNNY STOVALL, Harding** — After an inconsistent junior year, the 6-5 forward and teammate Cornelius Brown are being counted on to help Charlie Bentley's team win one more title.

**ANDRAE BECKFORD, Kolbe Cathedral** — Kolbe Cathedral is hoping he can assume the leadership and scoring role vacated by graduated star T.J. Robinson.

**GREG MANGANO, Notre Dame-WH** — A 6-10 versatile center, the Yale recruit is what makes the Green Knights a dark horse contender to Hillhouse's crown.

## **Top 5 juniors to watch**

**DOMINIQUE LANGSTON, Kolbe Cathedral** — Lightning-quick 6-3 guard will be counted on to help his team bring the SWC trophy back to Bridgeport.

**GREG DESANTIS, Notre Dame Fairfield** — Guard took a year off to transfer from St. Joseph to Notre Dame. Lancers will get to see how much they missed him.

**MARK HARRISON, Bunnell** — Athletic 6-4 forward has already impressed everyone in the SWC. Now it's time for the state to see what he's all about.

**TERRELL COWARD, Bunnell** — The 6-4 forward should render those Mark Harrison double-teams nonexistent with his frontcourt play.

**PHIL GENSICKI, Notre Dame-WH** — The 6-5 forward should play a strong supporting role alongside teammate Greg Mangano.

## **Top 5 sophomores to watch**

**GREG LANGSTON, St. Joseph** — The 6-1 guard primed for a breakout year as a freshman. A knee injury postponed the breakout to this year.

**JASON PIERRE, Christian Heritage** — A 6-1 guard and Bridgeport native is already drawing serious Division I looks.

**RONNIE UNDERWOOD, Kolbe Cathedral** — Coach John Pfohl believes this 6-1 guard and newcomer will take the SWC by storm this year.

**BRANDON SHERROD, Stratford** — A lanky, 6-4 post player has shown promise among young post players in the region.

**LAQUAN MENDENHALL, Harding** — With Charoy Bentley gone, he suddenly becomes the floor general of Harding's full-court attack.

## 5 can't miss games

**BASSICK at HILLHOUSE, Dec. 27** — The Lions didn't just fill a 20-game schedule, they did it with a road game at the defending Class LL champions.

**CENTRAL at HARDING, Jan. 18** — Word is this game will be at Miska Gymnasium and not the Arena at Harbor Yard for the Bridgeport Basketball Classic. Get your tickets early.

**HARDING at ST. JOSEPH, Jan. 22** — This could be the last time regional coaching legends Charlie Bentley and Vito Montelli go head-to-head on the same court.

**ST. JOSEPH at TRINITY CATHOLIC, Feb. 11** — This has become one of the league's most exciting and intriguing matchups recently. The top FCIAC seed may be on the line.

**KOLBE CATHEDRAL at BUNNELL, Feb 15** — The only regular-season meeting between the two potential SWC heavyweights shouldn't be missed.

## Top 5 conference favorites

**FCIAC: ST. JOSEPH** — Armed with legit starters in G/F Rob Harrigan and G Nick Gerrity, a potential sensation in G Greg Langston and a deeper bench than most, coach Vito Montelli could have his best team in years, and Trinity Catholic's prime rival.

**SWC: KOLBE CATHEDRAL** — Bunnell, Stratford and Masuk will have their say this season, but ultimately Dominique Langston and Andrae Beckford will make Kolbe Cathedral the team to beat.

**SCC: HILLHOUSE** — Lost two of the state's best players from last year's Class LL championship team. But returns a top senior in Ty Samuels, and a strong junior class led by Hassan Toler, T.J. McKiver and Jeremy Moore

**NVL: CROSBY** — The Bulldogs return almost everyone, including 6-5 senior B.J. Montiero and guard Anthony Ireland, from last year's semifinalist and is the favorite. But with at least four others hot on their trail, it's a tenuous edge

**CSC: BULLARD-HAVENS** — The CSC has expanded to 22 teams. But some things never change and with several powers in rebuilding mode, Corderol Williams and the Tigers are favored to win a third straight crown.

— SEAN PATRICK BOWLEY