

## **Inland Sports Small Schools Girls Basketball Rankings: Elite Eight 12/31/18**

With all but a couple of leagues underway and the 2018 tournament season over it's time to begin unveiling the Inland Sports elite eight Small School boys & girls basketball teams. These rankings will be updated bi-weekly till season's end.

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1. Linfield Christian (12-1): The Lions after a tough campaign a season ago are on a 12 game winning streak after dropping their season opener to Murrieta Mesa by 3 points. Notable wins on their resume include @ Hemet (5 pts in Overtime), @ Ontario Christian (#7-4A by 3 points), Aquinas (5 time defending Ambassador League champions by 28 just before break), Paloma Valley (So Cal Classic Championship game by 13), and Western Christian (#T2-5A by 28). Sydney Moran and Keslyn Henson are a dynamic duo offensively that average nearly 35 PPG. Upcoming: Tuesday Jan 8 @ Woodcrest Christian 6pm & Thursday Jan 10 @ Desert Christian Academy 6pm

2. Bloomington Christian (14-1): Currently ranked T2 in Division 5A the Ravens have not for the most part been significantly challenged but do have a 2 pt win over Orange Vista (Loma Linda Academy tournament final) & 6 pt win over Mesa Grande Academy on their resume thus far. A rematch against the Cardinals looms next Thursday at 5pm.  
Upcoming: Tues Jan 8 v Palm Valley 5pm & Thurs Jan 10 v Mesa Grande Academy 5pm

3. Western Christian (11-2): The Lancers are off to a great start in this early part of a young season. Notable wins include Ambassador League triumphs @ Ontario Christian (37-29), and @ Loma Linda Academy (58-43). A pivotal stretch of 3 games at home vs Arrowhead Christian and Loma Linda Academy plus a road trip to Aquinas will be telling for the Lancers title ambitions. Hope Weber and Mayanie Kakish combine to average 22 PPG.  
Upcoming: Fri Jan 4 v Arrowhead Christian 6pm & Tues Jan 8 @ Aquinas 6pm

4. Ontario Christian (12-5): A lot of people, myself being one of them, probably wrote the Lady Knights off as a forethought after graduating Annie Osman & Renae Bruinsma from last year's quarterfinal team. Coach Danielle Jorgenson's squad (currently ranked #7-4A) made it to two of the three tournament title games in which they appeared (Calvary Chapel Downey & Hesperia Christian) winning the Grizzly Classic. Trailing undefeated Linfield Christian by 2 games in the Ambassador League standings a huge two week stretch awaits them including home dates against Loma Linda Academy (who they previously beat in Hesperia Christian tournament action) & Woodcrest Christian along with a back to back on the road at Aquinas and Linfield Christian. Cassandra Gishwiller averages 10 PPG and there's a lot of balance behind her.  
Upcoming: Tues Jan 8 v Loma Linda Academy 6pm & Fri Jan 11 v Woodcrest Christian 6pm

5. Notre Dame/Riverside (7-8): It took three overtimes against Perris for the Titans to get their first win in Sunbelt League play but from that point forward the Titans have won six of their last eight. The most notable of those six were a 68-32 victory against Elsinore in Sunbelt League play where they held the Tigers to 15% FG shooting & a 43-39 win over Jurupa Valley in Ramona tournament play last week. A four way tie for first currently exists in the Sunbelt League standings and the Titans play two of those other teams this week. Alyssa Serna leads Notre Dame at 13 PPG although Claire Giraudo recorded 22 points in that win against Elsinore. Upcoming: Thurs Jan 3 @ Poly/Riverside 615pm & Sat Jan 5 @ Orange Vista 130pm

6. Rancho Christian (10-2): The Eagles, under first year head coach David Hall, have continued to experience early success in their second year of fielding girls basketball. Most notable of their ten wins so far were a 9 point victory over Tahquitz, 7 point victories over Notre Dame/Riverside & Palmdale, along with an 8 point win over Hesperia Christian. Upcoming: Mon Jan 7 @ Santa Rosa Academy 5pm & Thurs Jan 10 v Carnegie/Riverside 5pm

7. Sherman Indian (8-4): A solid start to the season which includes tournament wins over Rim of the World & Webb along with Arrowhead League victories by 14 against CSDR & 12 against California Lutheran has the Braves sitting at #7 in our initial rankings. Upcoming: Tues Jan 8 @ La Sierra Academy 6pm & Thurs Jan 10 v Hamilton 6pm

8. California Lutheran (10-2): The C-Hawks have wins against Arrowhead Christian & Calvary Murrieta (both quarterfinalists a season ago) of note along with a win over #8-5A Hamilton in Arrowhead League action. Anna Treder averages right at 22 PPG and Kassi Aguilar is at just under 10 PPG to lead Cal Lutheran. Upcoming: Tues Jan 8 @ United Christian Academy 430pm & Thurs Jan 10 v La Sierra Academy 530pm

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1. Rancho Christian (12-1): After the Eagles took care of business against Corona/Centennial in a Classic at Damien Platinum Division final they get a 12 day layoff until January 11. If they're not pulled to the Open Division I'll be astonished.

2. Notre Dame/Riverside (12-6): The Titans have not been afraid to take on anyone as evidenced by their schedule outside of Ivy League play. They went 3-1 at the Trevor Ariza Tip Off & split at the Sierra Canyon Invitational in addition to reaching Westminster's Charlie Wilkins tournament before falling to Mater Dei. Competing in the Platinum Division they also posted a 2-2 mark. In Ivy League play their average margin of victory is currently 20.7 PPG.

3. Ontario Christian (17-1): Coach Mike Fischer's team is three for three in tournament titles after Saturday's 68-63 victory over Patriot. So far in Ambassador League play they've gone entirely unchallenged winning every game by 25 or more points. A four game stretch consisting of Loma Linda Academy & Woodcrest Christian at home plus Aquinas and Linfield Christian away will be

telling for the Knights. Last year against LLA the Knights fell at home in overtime & they also fell at Aquinas in overtime.

4.Aquinas (12-5): There are some pretty solid out of league wins on this resume including Xavier Prep by nine out in the desert, a twenty point win against Carter, a twelve point win against Arrowhead Christian, and thirteen point win against Loma Linda Academy. A rematch with the Eagles along with an encounter with the Knights loom in the next couple of weeks.

5.Loma Linda Academy (12-3): Under first year head coach Mark Willis the Roadrunners have some pretty solid wins including nine point victories against Grand Terrace & Bloomington Christian. Coming up on January 8th is a showdown with currently undefeated Ontario Christian as first place is on the line coming down the stretch in round 1 of Ambassador League play.

6.Arrowhead Christian (9-7): The Eagles have a So Cal Classic title on their resume along with a 2-2 mark at the Covina Tournament. In league play they're 2-3 and face a pivotal matchup against Western Christian on Friday night in Upland.

7.Nuview Bridge (12-2): The Knights are in Las Vegas for a tournament this week and have notable wins against Hemet West Valley along with Santa Rosa Academy early on in addition to a 10 point loss against Arrowhead Christian.

8.Calvary Murrieta (10-5): After consecutive six win seasons coach Brian Shifflett's squad is already at ten wins as they break for the new year. Their most notable wins were against Mesa Grande Academy & Hamilton very early on. Coming back from the break they face Nuview Bridge with first place on the line in South Valley League play January 7th.