



# JUNIOR FINAL FOUR

29 & 30 APRIL 2023

NATIONAL BASKETBALL PERFORMANCE CENTRE





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# CEO WELCOME

I'm delighted to welcome you to one of the highlights of the Basketball England season – the National Basketball League Junior Final Fours here at the National Basketball Performance Centre in Manchester.

Across the weekend we've got two days of games that are sure to showcase the best that the Jnr. NBL has to offer. I want to congratulate all our semi-finalists and those who make it to the finals, and I wish them the very best of luck.

This season marks a new era for English basketball, after Team England won historic gold and silver medals at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

There's no two-ways about it, love for the game is in the ascendancy and our mission is to make it more visible and more accessible.

The young athletes competing this weekend are the cream of our junior basketball community and it is fantastic to have the opportunity to see them on this great stage at the NBPC.

Through Basketball England's #GameTime campaign, we will continue to raise awareness about basketball and inspire more people to engage with, play and support the game.

Stay up to date with everything in the game by visiting [basketballengland.co.uk](https://basketballengland.co.uk) and by following our social media channels.

Last but by no means least, I would like to thank our fantastic sponsors and partners Wilson, Sure Shot, Sportserve and Dynamik Sport Flooring, the facility staff at the NBPC, plus the North West Region and their team, for hosting us, and our team of officials for helping to put on what is sure to be a great weekend.

Enjoy the Finals and thank you for joining us.

**STEWART KELLETT**  
BASKETBALL ENGLAND CEO

# SCHEDULE

SEMI-FINALS | SATURDAY

10:00AM

**COURT 1**

**UNDER-16 GIRLS**

MANCHESTER MYSTICS vs  
COLA SOUTHWARK PRIDE

**COURT 2**

**UNDER-16 GIRLS**

IPSWICH vs  
RICHMOND KNIGHTS

**COURT 3**

**UNDER-14 BOYS**

MANCHESTER MAGIC vs  
LONDON ELITE

12:00PM

**COURT 1**

**UNDER-16 BOYS**

MANCHESTER GIANTS vs  
BAL TIC STARS

**COURT 2**

**UNDER-16 BOYS**

SUSSEX STORM vs  
LONDON LIONS

**COURT 3**

**UNDER-14 GIRLS**

MANCHESTER MYSTICS vs  
SHEFFIELD HATTERS

2:00PM

**COURT 1**

**UNDER-18 WOMEN**

MANCHESTER MYSTICS vs  
IPSWICH

**COURT 2**

**UNDER-18 WOMEN**

COLA SOUTHWARK PRIDE vs  
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
ROCKETS

**COURT 3**

**UNDER-14 BOYS**

BAL TIC STARS vs  
LONDON WARRIORS

4:00PM

**COURT 1**

**UNDER-18 MEN**

MANCHESTER MAGIC vs  
HARINGEY HAWKS

**COURT 2**

**UNDER-18 MEN**

COLA SOUTHWARK PRIDE vs  
LONDON ELITE

**COURT 3**

**UNDER-14 GIRLS**

MILTON KEYNES BREAKERS vs  
RICHMOND KNIGHTS

# SCHEDULE

FINALS | SUNDAY

10:00AM

**COURT 1**

**U16 GIRLS' FINAL**

Team 1 vs  
Team 2

**COURT 2**

**U16 GIRLS' 3RD PLACE**

Team 1 vs  
Team 2

**COURT 3**

**U14 BOYS' 3RD PLACE**

Team 1 vs  
Team 2

12:15PM

**COURT 1**

**U16 BOYS' FINAL**

Team 1 vs  
Team 2

**COURT 2**

**U16 BOYS' 3RD PLACE**

Team 1 vs  
Team 2

**COURT 3**

**U14 GIRLS' 3RD PLACE**

Team 1 vs  
Team 2

2:30PM

**COURT 1**

**U18 WOMEN'S FINAL**

Team 1 vs  
Team 2

**COURT 2**

**U18 WOMEN'S 3RD PLACE**

Team 1 vs  
Team 2

**COURT 3**

**U14 BOYS' FINAL**

Team 1 vs  
Team 2

4:45PM

**COURT 1**

**U18 MEN'S FINAL**

Team 1 vs  
Team 2

**COURT 2**

**U18 MEN'S 3RD PLACE**

Team 1 vs  
Team 2

**COURT 3**

**U14 GIRLS' FINAL**

Team 1 vs  
Team 2

# U14 GIRLS

# PREVIEW

In what might be the most loaded field of any age group in Manchester this weekend, the U14 Girls look set for an incredibly competitive two days of basketball.

The semi-final line up sees Manchester Mystics take on Roses rivals Sheffield Hatters in a cross-Pennines battle, and Milton Keynes Breakers taking on the Richmond Knights.

None of the four teams fighting it out this weekend has a loss to their name this season, with all four sides heading to Manchester off the back of perfect regular seasons.

Milton Keynes won the East 1 conference with a 14-0 record, whilst Manchester conquered the North 1 standings at 18-0. The Hatters also dominated, claiming the North 2 division with a 16-0 record. That left Richmond to take on all comers in South 1, coming out on top with 10 wins to their name.

How you try and pick out a favourite from four teams who haven't lost all season is quite the task, though the Mystics may have the edge if history is anything to go by.

The North West programme beat Richmond 58-51 in last year's final, and success this weekend would make it three in a row after previous success in 2018/19.

With players coming and going and moving through the age groups each year though, past success doesn't always count for much in junior basketball. One thing is for certain though, someone is going to cap a perfect season with a win on Sunday afternoon, and three teams are going to taste defeat for the first time in quite a while.

**Mystics coach Joe Andrew said:** "It's a great achievement to get to this stage of the competition. We know that this weekend will be a challenge, but one we've been working hard towards and we're ready."

# U14 GIRLS

# PREVIEW

**Mystics' Anya Williams said:** "Sheffield are a tough team and a team that doesn't stop fighting until the end. It's a battle that we'll be ready to bring the hustle to!"

**Hatters coach Georgia Gayle said:** "I'm excited for the girls to be able to play at the Final Fours. I am so proud of them and what they have achieved this year. We have reached our goal. But we now have a new goal of going home with a trophy in hand."

**Hatters player Ella Wright said:** "It is exhilarating to be a part of this Hatters family. It will be hard but if we stick together like a family and work together then we can win a trophy at the end of all our hard work, sweat and tears."

**Milton Keynes head coach Bjorn Westman said:** "I'm really proud of the girls and their hard work to make it to the Final Fours. They are a young group and have shown great improvement over the season. We welcome the challenge."

**Milton Keynes captain Faith Deakin said:** "Reaching the finals weekend is an amazing achievement for the team, topping off an unbeaten run in our league and shows all our hard work has paid off. We are expecting two tough matches as any team in the Final Four will be a tough opponent, but we are looking forward to the weekend and experience."

**Richmond Knights coach Chanel Mubeen said:** "The success from this team comes from their togetherness, attitude and trust for one another. I hope the girls enjoy the opportunity and we hope to demonstrate an exceptionally high-level performance throughout our time at the Final Fours."

**Richmond player Neve Rugette said:** "It's been great playing with these girls for three years and it has been great watching all of us grow and develop. We got to the finals last year as a team of Year 8s and came second but with all the improvement, I think we have a really good chance of winning."

# MANCHESTER MYSTICS



NO	NAME	POSITION
1	Akaela Daniel	-
2	Amiyah Warburton	-
3	Jessica Jenkins	-
5	Katie Smith	-
6	Molly Barton	-
7	Myah Barton	-
8	Mojan Malek	-
9	Maia Carnes	-
10	Annabelle Wright	-
11	Anya Williams	-
12	Tiana Walker	-
13	Maani Friday	-
15	Azeezat-Folake Adebayo Lawal	-
16	Isobelle Grace Aldcroft	-

**COACH** Joe Andrew



# SHEFFIELD HATTERS



NO	NAME	POSITION
1	Yuki Gu	Forward
3	Ella Wright	Guard
5	Joy Zhang	Guard
7	Deremi Ajagbe	Guard
10	Amari Johnson	Centre
11	Lydia Unwin	Forward
12	Katie Hancock	Forward
13	Ophelia Larder-Lee	Forward
17	Freya Creswick	Forward
22	Emilia Sawicka	Forward
31	Millie Lowe	Centre
32	Kerry Bukena	Forward

**COACH** Georgia Gayle  
**ASST COACH** Ben Lowe

# MILTON KEYNES BREAKERS



NO	NAME	POSITION
4	Faith Deakin	Guard
7	Lune Etienne	Guard
9	Chine Ibegbulam	Forward
10	Sofia Elnur	Guard
11	Alyssia Felton	Forward
13	Eleanor Lau	Guard
14	Ella Rolfe	Guard
15	Chantelle Okoli	Guard/Forward
21	Kelly Munyaviri	Forward
22	Alessia Dinu	Guard/Forward
23	Bianka Felton	Guard
24	Uzezi Ononeme	Forward

**COACH** Bjorn Westman

**ASST COACH** Gareth Taylor, Kim Thompson

# RICHMOND KNIGHTS



NO	NAME	POSITION
2	Neve Rugette	-
5	Elsie Fraser	-
6	Precious Godwin	-
10	Bade Isik	-
11	Anya Scruton	-
15	Arifa Abu	-
16	Misca Leroy	-
19	Rosie O'Connell	-
23	Harper Bonnett-Taylor	-
25	Nahlia Laycock	-
28	Chanaya Collins-Foster	-
31	Poppy Lawson	-
48	Freya Geaney	-
85	Ada Akyol	-

**COACH** Chanel Mubeen  
**ASST COACH** Isaac Omirin

## U14 BOYS

# PREVIEW

The cream of the crop in the U14 Boys competition will do battle this weekend for the honour of being named Playoff champions.

Four teams, Manchester Magic, London Elite, London Baltic Stars and London Warriors, are all the mix and know that just two good performances stand between them and the season's ultimate prize.

Defending champions Richmond Knights are out of the competition after Baltic Stars defeated them 75-68 in the opening round of the Playoffs, revenge for last season's Final Fours when the Knights beat the Stars at the semi-final stage.

Manchester Magic also made it to this stage last season before being bested by the Knights, and like their London rivals they'll no doubt be hoping for a better fate this time around.

The Saturday line-up sees the Magic taking on London Elite, while London Baltic Stars face off with London Warriors in South vs South clash.

Magic come into this weekend riding a 15-game win streak, closing the regular season at 14-0 before a narrow 58-54 playoff success against Ipswich two weeks ago.

Elite were no pushovers, going an impressive 18-3 and only trailing eventual South West Premier champs London Warriors (19-3) by three points.

That leaves London Baltic Stars as the lone representatives from the South East Premier, a league they won with a near-spotless 15-1 record before that statement win against Richmond.

NBPC's back hall is sure to be rocking once again this year, but who will be able to conquer that atmosphere to grab a playoff title?

**Baltic stars coach Lucio Semedo said:** "It is great feeling to

# U14 BOYS

# PREVIEW

be back at the Final Fours. Being amongst the top teams in the country is always exciting and an accomplishment we are all very proud of. We look forward to facing the top U14 teams in the country."

**Stars players Domas Martinkus said:** "We worked really hard to reach this stage. We had ups and downs, but we never gave up. It only made us stronger as a team. We will compete until the end, trying to become NBL 2023 U14 champions."

**London Elite coach Aleksandar Blagoevski-Trazoff said:** "The Final Fours tournament is a fantastic experience for all the players and parents, and one they will hopefully cherish their whole life! Good luck to the other teams and coaches!"

**Elite player Kaya Birsen said:** "It has been a phenomenal journey throughout this season and coming into this Final Four, my team and I are locked into lifting the trophy."

**Warriors coach Rudolph Harriett said:** "We set three goals, to win the regional league, to get to Manchester and also to bring back the trophy to London Warriors."

**Warriors' Jeremi Dutka said:** "Great team effort - it took a lot of work."

**Magic coach Tom Paraskeva said:** "It's exciting to play against the best in the country. We've improved a lot as the season has gone on, so I'm looking forward to seeing how we compete at the Final Fours."

**Magic player Oliver Brunt said:** "Getting to the Final Fours was tough but as a team, group of friends and a family we got there and there isn't a better feeling."

# MANCHESTER MAGIC



NO	NAME	POSITION
3	Oliver Brunt	-
4	Braedyn Whitfield	-
7	William Qian	-
8	Kayden Litchmore	-
9	Jack Styczen-O'Keefe	-
10	Camran Hanson	-
12	David Allotey	-
13	David Akhidime	-
14	Shivam Nayar	-
15	Luca Boothe	-
17	Ege Cakmakkaya	-
18	Dylan Panton	-
Res	Ashton Blissett, Theo Westwood, Dylan Deans	-

**COACH** Tom Paraskeva

**ASST COACH** Gareth Westwood, Jason Parr-Hilton, Adeleke Osinaike

# LONDON ELITE



NO	NAME	POSITION
0	Rudy Blue	Guard
1	Ata Charles Refioglu	Guard
2	Quentin McKelvey	Guard
3	Logan Addison	Guard
5	Daniel Olyswana	Guard
7	Jordan Franck	Forward
11	Berkay Adala	Guard
12	Kaya Birsen	Guard
17	Nikolai Sagiryan	Forward
21	Omer Zardok Shemer	Guard
34	Aleksander Milovidov	Forward
45	Kye Jn-Louis-Thomas	Forward

**COACH** Aleksandar Blagoevski-Trazoff

**ASST COACH** Daniel Szatkowski

# LONDON BALTIC STARS



NO	NAME	POSITION
25	Domas Martinkus	Guard
30	Martynas Paulauskas	Guard
87	Naglis Micka	Guard
21	Rokas Simaitis	Forward
27	Aronas Keturakis	Guard
9	Oskaras Visockas	Forward
3	Aiden Girdzevicius	Forward
94	Deimontas Jokubauskis	Forward
7	Vincent Dabrila	Guard
55	Jenson Green	Guard
24	Aronas Narijauskas	Guard
62	Lloyd Uwadiae	Forward
0	Dylan Saman Ameen	Guard

**COACH** Lucio Semedo  
**ASST COACH** Audrius Valaitis



# LONDON WARRIORS



NO	NAME	POSITION
1	Ronnie Wise	Guard
3	Emanuel Woldgaber-Alazar	Guard
4	Enze Santangelo Dos Santos	Forward
5	Jeremi Dutka	Guard
8	Jordan Ting	Guard
13	Rafael Gideon Tesfay	Guard
17	Dominic Czepukowicz	Guard
18	Keane Alfred Angels	Guard
20	Isaiah Dilubenzi	Wing
21	Michael Gregorio	Forward
24	Eugen Tatunciac	Centre
34	Gregorios Alexandros Kallergis	Forward

**COACH** Rudolph Harriet

**ASST COACH** Jin Way Cheung, Raeem Leavy

# U16 GIRLS

# PREVIEW

The U16 Girls' competition mirrors the formation of their male counterparts this season, with three Southern teams all making it to Manchester alongside another hometown side.

This time the North West is represented by the Mystics, while Ipswich, CoLA Southwark Pride and Richmond Knights have all progressed from the Southern Premier after a highly competitive regular season.

Ipswich eventually ran out as winners with a 17-3 record, with CoLA needing a head-to-head tiebreaker to pip Richmond as both teams finished at 16-4.

That suggests all three sides are evenly matched, though how defending champions Manchester will stack up against that trio following their perfect 16-0 campaign could determine this season's eventual winners.

The Mystics will get their title defence underway against CoLA on Saturday, no doubt eager to draw upon plenty of fond memories at the NBPC following their Sure Shot National Cup win in the same venue last January.

The Mystics beat Ipswich 93-66 then, offering a possible insight into their credentials for success this weekend, though plenty of basketball has been played between mid-January and this weekend.

In the other semi-final Ipswich will take on Richmond, who Mystics overcame 58-51 in last year's final.

Both teams won their home tie during the regular season to leave their season series evenly poised. The Suffolk programme prevailed 70-67 on the opening day of the season way back on October 1, whilst the Knights won 82-58 on the last day of the season.

**CoLA coach Brian Nguru said:** "To still be playing at this point in

# U16 GIRLS

# PREVIEW

the season is a great privilege. We are thankful to be recognised as one of the top U16s in the country, which is an amazing achievement for our girls and is the reward of all their hard work."

**CoLA player Kabirah Adetunji said:** "Reaching the Final Fours is a blessing, as we worked really hard and invested so much this season."

**Ipswich coach Kevin Manning said:** "We've been determined to secure our ticket back to Manchester, after our National Cup Final experience back in January. The girls have put in the work."

**Ipswich captain Maia Wiseman said:** "This is a brilliant end to what has, already been such a great season. I'm sure we will give it our best."

**Mystics coach Rob Fairley said:** "It is one of the most exciting dates in the BE calendar and being part of it will be a great memory for all players involved. We are aware the challenge facing us as last year's winners, so there will be added pressure there and considering the quality of opposition."

**Mystics captain Maisie Keyes said:** "We've achieved so much as a team this season and are very excited to reach this point to fight for back-to-back titles. I'm so proud of everyone and Final Fours will be an amazing experience for everyone."

**Richmond coach Isaac Omirin said:** "Super-proud of this group of girls. They have sacrificed a lot to achieve this. We will play our hardest as a team and see what happens. Exciting time."

**Richmond captain Madi Warren said:** "I'm so proud of our team. We've developed so much, individually and as a team. We're here together to play our hardest and to enjoy every moment."

# MANCHESTER MYSTICS



NO	NAME	POSITION
-	Maisie Keyes	Guard
-	Irene Oboavwodu	Guard
-	Elizandra Costa	Guard
-	Carina Costa	Guard
-	Maria Bianco	Guard
-	Ruvimbo Chinamasa	Guard
-	Alexandra Hernandez	Guard
-	Molly Finn	Guard
-	Arafa Dadi	Guard
-	Mia Bennett	Forward
-	Brooke Noden	Forward
-	Ayishat Mashaun-Rasaki	Forward
-	Rose Piskorska	Forward
-	Sara Blake-Smith	Forward
-	Farida El-Howily	Forward
-	Dominique Feurtado	Guard

**COACH** Rob Fairley

**ASST COACH** Hannah Alty, Natalie Fuertado

# IPSWICH BASKETBALL



NO	NAME	POSITION
4	Clara Majeed	Guard
5	Julien Bacabag	Point Guard
6	Esther Cushing	Forward
7	Issy Roberts	Guard
8	Maia Wiseman	Point Guard
9	Ella Heard	Guard
10	Cerys Leach	Point Guard
11	Mia Johannes	Guard/Forward
12	Sophia Sahota Lucas	Guard
13	DeAnna Carrington	Forward/Centre
14	Kara Bassil	Centre
15	Inez Manning	Forward

**COACH** Kevin Manning  
**ASST COACH** Ava Battese

# CoLA SOUTHWARK PRIDE



NO	NAME	POSITION
4	Aishat Adepoju	Guard
5	Kabirah Adetunji	Forward
6	Rose Sarr	Guard
7	Dajah Chapman	Guard
8	Phoebe Kanu	Forward
9	Taliyah Coley-Carridice	Guard
10	Chayya Baker	Guard
11	Cecile Ideh	Guard
12	Zafirah Seisey	Guard
13	Divine-Gift Moses	Forward
14	Mahalia Morgan	Guard
15	Eri Bukoye	Forward
	Kaosarat Adetunji	Guard

**COACH** Brian Nguru

**ASST COACH** Jackson Gibbons

# RICHMOND KNIGHTS



NO	NAME	POSITION
1	Sana Chomoko	Guard
2	Neve Rugette	Guard
3	Chloe Vella	Forward
4	Bade Isik	Guard
5	Amy Duffey	Forward
6	Precious Godwin	Guard
10	Madi Warren	Guard
12	Elise Hans	Guard
16	Mischa Okada-Leroy	Guard
21	Tia Latim	Guard
31	Carmen Price	Forward
35	Tia Fom	Forward
47	Sophia Dixon	Forward
85	Ada Akyol	Guard

**COACH** Isaac Omirin

**ASST COACH** Chanel Bubeen

## U16 BOYS

# PREVIEW

The U16 Boys' competition is a mostly Southern affair this year, with London Lions, Sussex Storm Blue and London Baltic Stars all making a trip to the North West where rivals the Manchester Giants are on home soil.

Defending champions Manchester Magic crashed out of the post-season after winning the Northern Premier, with Giants getting one over on their cross-town rivals after a thrilling 95-93 OT win.

To go one better than their semi-final loss a year ago the Giants will need to find their way past London Baltic Stars, who went 20-2 in the Eastern Premier, eventually coming in second spot on the head-to-head tiebreaker with London Lions.

That means the Lions entered the Playoffs as league winners and they've advanced to the National Basketball Performance Centre to face Western Premier champs Sussex Storm, who also went 20-2 this season.

The Lions lost to Magic in January's U16 Sure Shot National Cup final, but with the Manchester side now out of the way the Londoners will no doubt be hoping for big things from their weekend.

That won't be easy against the 2018/19 champs, who were led to glory that day by NCAA standout Cameron Hildreth. The rising star may have moved on but a winning legacy remains that Storm would love to extend.

If some partisan support can carry the 15-5 Giants to a title it will no doubt be one to watch, if not the U16 title will be heading back down South come Sunday evening.

**Baltic Stars coach Kelvin Facey said:** "We are over the moon to be going to the tournament. It's breath-taking and this is what makes the event special. It is one of the most amazing days for the four strongest teams to compete in Manchester."



## U16 BOYS

# PREVIEW

**Stars captain Kai Trunca said:** "I'm incredibly proud of the team for making it this far. Our hard work is most definitely paying off and throughout the journey, a brotherhood has been formed."

**Lions coach Stephron Andrew said:** "I believe the loss in the Cup Final in Manchester in January was a learning curve and made our team stronger as we have not lost a game since the defeat. The improvements that have been made individually and as a team has been amazing to see. The bond I have with these boys will last a lifetime."

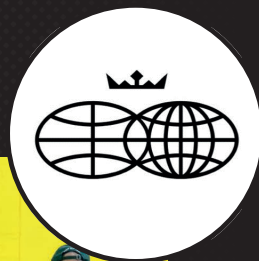
**Giants coach Daniel James said:** "Our belief in the relentless pursuit of excellence has led us all the way to the Finals. Expect to see plenty of fighting spirit and great basketball from our players."

**Giants' Jayden Evora Gomes said:** "This team are really looking forward to it. To play at the Final Fours in our home town will be fantastic. We are hungry for victory and determined to win!"

**Storm coach Daniel Hildreth said:** "It's the most prestigious competition in junior basketball and an experience that can never be taken for granted. Half of this year's team were in Manchester last year and want to make amends for the losses."

**Storm player Sean Mackey said:** "We have stuck together and with the hard work everyone has put in over this year and with the guidance and support of our coach Danny, who gives up a lot of his free time to help guide us during this season."

# LONDON LIONS



NO	NAME	POSITION
11	Khyle Capanzana	Point Guard
0	Harvey Smith	Forward
1	Micael Filho	Point Guard
33	Larry Clark	Guard
8	Eric Leo Pasuquin	Point Guard
24	Darius Kankam-Adu	Guard
13	Ally-Jairen Bernardo	Point Guard
00	Dylan Joshua Koffi	Centre
12	Chamberlain Okwuchi Nilemoha	Forward
99	Oluwatobiloba Aina	Forward
10	Montel Roberts	Forward
23	Kade Holland	Guard

**COACH** Stephron Andrew

# SUSSEX STORM



NO	NAME	POSITION
1	Nate Watson	Guard
3	Jamaul McAllister	Guard
4	Tyler Muttick	Guard
5	Ancel-Gerrard Torres	Guard
7	Rafi Jalloh	Guard
10	Isaiah Alakiu	Forward
12	Jake Wakeham	Guard
13	Keanu Mcintosh	Guard
18	Dylan Siage	Guard
23	Sean Mackey	Guard
33	Raffy Connolly	Forward
44	Rex Barrett-Berry	Forward

**COACH** Daniel Hildreth  
**ASST COACH** Freddie Winton

# MANCHESTER GIANTS



NO	NAME	POSITION
16	Cole Inglis	Point Guard
17	Aaron Shivarasan	Point Guard
19	Keshan Jalota	Guard
20	Thomas Andrews	Guard
21	Jayden Evora Gomes	Forward
22	Daniels Belinskis	Guard
24	Kelvin Aigbogun	Forward
25	Rock Sumner	Guard
26	Alex Perez	Guard
27	George Pastor	Guard
28	Harry Sheehan	Guard
29	Arnas Rutkauskas	Centre

**COACH** Daniel James

**ASST COACH** Jordi Pastor, Rob Park

# BALTIC STARS



NO	NAME	POSITION
3	Kai Trunca	Guard
1	Kajus Sinkevicius	Guard
99	Nojus Zajankauskas	Guard
11	Vytis Peckys	Guard
7	Linas Petkus	Centre
22	Simas Kondziliauskas	Forward
17	Amari Maitland	Guard
65	Lukah Mckenzie	Forward
12	Zayne Adeshokan	Forward
24	Aliou Lo	Centre
40	Nathaniel Kajus Sowah	Forward

**COACH** Kelvin Facey

**ASST COACH** Jordanas Mejeras

# U18 WOMEN

Two wins stand between CoLA Southwark Pride and claiming an incredible sixth straight U18 Women's title in Manchester this weekend.

The London programme claimed four straight victories between 2015/16 and 2018/19, plus the 2021/22 crown once the sport returned from the COVID-19 lockdowns.

It's been an unprecedented level of success for Coach Gibbons' teams, but this year the competition will be as stiff as ever, with Manchester Mystics, Ipswich and City of Birmingham Rockets all looking to take the champions down.

CoLA's Saturday opponents will be the Rockets, with the West Midlands side finishing as runners-up in the Northern Premier division with an 11-4 record.

CoB have been on a tear as a club this year, with their senior teams both making a trip to Manchester for last weekend's Senior Playoff Finals so it's no surprise to see the club's junior section following suit.

The other semi-final sees the hometown Mystics putting their perfect season on the line against Ipswich, who went 7-3 in the South. Manchester reeled off 15 straight wins in the regular season, plus a 75-41 success over Reading to reach the Final Fours.

Despite going 10-0 in the South this season, it hasn't all been plain sailing for CoLA this year. They lost the U18 Sure Shot National Cup back in January, with Ipswich coming through as 83-54 winners.

If those two sides can enjoy a rematch on Sunday remains to be seen, but this is an U18 Women's field packed full of quality.

**CoLA coach Jackson Gibbons said:** "After our heavy Cup defeat in January it means, for the first time in a long time, we enter the Final Four as underdogs. We are a young team this year and the

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# U18 WOMEN

# PREVIEW

chance for our group to compete on the big stage is going to provide great experience.”

**CoLA vice-captain Glory Kabia said:** “Our group is proud of our journey so far this season. We managed to win our league beating some good teams and we feel blessed to be at the Final Fours with a title to compete for.”

**Ipswich coach Nick Drane:** “This is the most exciting weekend of basketball in the National League calendar. The girls have worked incredibly hard to get to this point and we look forward to the challenge of going up against some of the best teams in the country.”

**Ipswich player Olivia Manning:** “This is our third Final Fours. We finished second in 2019 as U14s, and obviously didn’t get the chance as U16s to come back in 2020 or 2021 due to COVID. Last year, we again finished second, so we are hoping to go one better this year.”

**Rockets captain Preccila Ocrach said:** “We are really excited about the final fours weekend – everyone on the team has worked hard to get us to this point. Hopefully, we can get the results this weekend!”

**Rockets coach Marcellus Elfrey said:** “It has been a fantastic first season for us at this level. The girls should be very proud of what they have achieved this season – it has been a pleasure to coach them and we will be prepared for an exciting weekend!”

# CoLA SOUTHWARK PRIDE



NO	NAME	POSITION
4	Aaliyah Clarke	Forward
5	Glory Kabia	Guard
6	Shay-Marie Oyewole	Guard
7	Jasmine Pusey	Guard
8	Lovelle Green	Guard
9	Felicia Jacobs-Abiola	Guard
10	Zara Duffey	Forward
11	Violet Stutz	Guard
12	Rhia Saggar	Guard
13	Lovelle Green	Guard
14	Esther Kursite	Forward
15	Freya Hawkings	Guard

**COACH** Jackson Gibbons  
**ASST COACH** Brian Nguru



# MANCHESTER MYSTICS



NO	NAME	POSITION
5	Alejandra Escriva Gay	Guard
6	Yue Yan Natalie Lam	Guard
8	Irene Oboavwodu	Guard
9	Lola-Mae Whittle	Guard
10	Maise Keyes	Guard
11	Saffron Erving-Murphy	Guard
12	Esha Nayar	Guard
13	Josephine Vourliotis	Forward
14	Daisy Bryan	Forward
15	Favour Elabour	Guard
Inj	Isobel Robinson	Forward
Inj	Rose Piskorska	Guard

**COACH** Rob Fairley

**ASST COACH** Hannah Alty, Natalie Fuertado

# IPSWICH BASKETBALL



NO	NAME	POSITION
4	Ella Hawes	Guard
5	Yazmin Edwards	Guard
6	Olivia Forster	Guard
7	Katie Yorke	Guard
8	Anna Cartwright	Guard
9	Holly Heard	Guard
10	Olivia Manning	Guard
11	Eliza Bartholomew	Guard
12	Christabel Osarobo	Forward
13	Lauren Liddamore	Forward
14	Cerys Leach	Guard
15	Louisa Gibbins	Forward
INJ	Hannah Gray	-

**COACH** Nick Drane

**ASST COACH** Danny Manning, John Yorke, Josh Carson

# CITY OF BIRMINGHAM ROCKETS



NO	NAME	POSITION
4	Annalise Mills	Wing
5	Bethany Parnell-Lea – <i>Saturday</i>	Wing
5	Eva-Rose Gabrielle Joannette – <i>Sunday</i>	Guard
6	Rhianna Schackleton	Wing
7	Danielle Wallis	Guard
8	Sarah Elfrey	Forward
9	Queency Ogua	Forward
10	Preccila Ocrach	Forward/Centre
11	Mateya-Yonna Georgieva	Guard
12	Fatoumatta Sarr Sarr	Guard
14	Luna Ferreira	Forward
15	Teodora Georgieva	Guard
16	Ciara Shackleton	Forward

**COACH** Marcellus Elfrey  
**ASST COACH** Zaina Mistry

# U18 MEN

# PREVIEW

The U18 Men's competition contains three Premier conference winners with strong records, plus a Haringey programme that knows how to win the big games.

Saturday's match-ups pit Northern Premier winners Manchester Magic against Haringey Hawks in a North vs South battle, whilst there's an all-London affair in the other semi-final between CoLA Southwark Pride and London Elite.

With defending champs London Westside Rangers failing to make the post-season, there will be a different name on the U18s trophy for 2022/23, though who that team could be will need two days of high-quality basketball action to resolve.

Magic went through the regular season with a spotless 21-0 record, whilst Haringey went 18-4 in the Eastern Prem, finishing just behind CoLA at 20-2.

That left London Elite to take the Western Prem at 19-2, with all four regular-season records showing the quality that these teams possess.

Manchester will want to go one better than last year, losing out in the Final 73-66 to the Rangers, whilst CoLA also made the Final Fours before a Saturday defeat against Magic.

Haringey didn't make a Final Fours trip in 2021/22 but were finalists in 2018/19 before the various COVID-19 lockdowns and interruptions. They beat Manchester 82-47 in the semi-finals on that occasion, creating an extra storyline for Saturday's action.

London Elite will be looking to add further silverware to an already successful season after claiming the U18 Sure Shot National Cup back in January with a 70-53 victory over London Legends.

Rising star Liam Campbell picked up MVP honours after registering a 17-point, 13-rebound and six assist effort that day, he'll be hoping for more of the same this weekend to secure his

# U18 MEN

# PREVIEW

team further glory.

**CoLA coach Jay Williams said:** "I am extremely proud and happy for the boys making it to the Final Fours again, they have all worked hard and showed commitment all season and we hope we can do better than last year."

**CoLA captain Kyle Espiritu said:** "We can't wait to play this weekend and cap off a pretty good season and we hope to end our junior careers at CoLA with a win!"

**Elite coach Kieran Matthews said:** "The boys have done an amazing job to get back to Manchester and we don't want to waste the opportunity."

**Elite's Liam Campbell said:** "This is just a step in the right direction. All our hard work, dedication and preparation will come down to these last two games and we are here for it, together and as a family."

**Haringey coach Antony Distras said:** "It's never easy to get to this stage but the boys have showed that hard work and commitment pays off. Now we just need to keep doing what we've been doing and bring two more big performances."

**Haringey player Michael Osuji said:** "I am grateful for making it to this stage with my team and thank the coaches for being there for us. But our job isn't done - we still have two more wins to go."

**Magic coach Joshua Perkins said:** "All credit goes to the players for the hard work they have put in to get us here. Our competition is three of the capital's best but we are looking forward to representing Manchester."

**Magic's Matthew Goodwin said:** "I am extremely grateful for the opportunity. I'm expecting tough competition and an energetic environment."

# MANCHESTER MAGIC



NO	NAME	POSITION
1	Robbie Wild	Guard
2	Luca Lara-Sanchez	Guard
3	Matthew Goodwin	Guard
4	Zion Clue	Guard
5	Shaquille Furlonge	Forward
6	Darstin Onye	Forward
7	Timur Guc	Forward
8	Francis Bennett	Forward
9	Tom Kelly	Guard
10	Ben Brown	Guard
11	Francis Emejuru	Forward
12	Billy Sullivan	Guard
13	Nii Sam-Quartey	Forward
14	Tyler Wagstaffe-Dawson	Forward
15	Joe Buchanan	Guard
16	Ephraim Udanyi	Forward
17	Nuno Neto	Forward
18	Toby Akinlade	Forward

**COACH** Joshua Perkins

**ASST COACH** Peter Paraskeva, Will Brown, Sergio Lara-Bercial

# HARINGEY SIXTH FORM COLLEGE HAWKS



NO	NAME	POSITION
4	Cesar Sanchez Falette	Wing
5	Claudor Matoko	Wing
6	Obinna Ekufu	Guard
7	Ashja Sempala	Wing
8	Michael Osuji	Guard
9	Abdi Sharif	Forward
10	Chudi Dioramma	Forward
11	Jaquan Byrue	Forward/Centre
12	Daniel Osayande	Guard
13	Isaac Fiagbe	Guard
14	Zuriel Foday	Forward
15	Ronald Agyemam-Duah	Guard

**COACH** Antony Distras

**ASST COACH** Courtney Grant-Allen

# CoLA SOUTHWARK PRIDE



NO	NAME	POSITION
4	Mou Wol	Guard
5	Cyrus Niles	Guard
6	Kyle Espitu	Guard
7	Jaiden Baker	Forward
8	Noah Myers	Guard
9	James Hoare	Guard
10	Josh Mbick	Guard
11	Henry Winton	Guard
12	Bilal Khan	Forward
13	Ben Csernak	Forward
14	Clemson Edomwonyin	Centre
15	Emmanuel Adeniyi Mark Ogbe	Centre

**COACH** Jay Williams

**ASST COACH** Brian Nguru



# LONDON ELITE



NO	NAME	POSITION
1	David Jesubayode	Guard
2	Omon Arifkhanov	Guard
3	Hunter Kelleher	Forward
4	Liam Campbell	Guard
6	Ferdinand Agama	Forward
8	Mudathir Bashir	Wing/Forward
9	Connor James	Guard
13	Jannah Bediako	Guard
14	Devanté Sanusi	Wing
15	Chris Andre	Wing
23	Elisee Guede	Wing
34/45	Louis Abokharoub	Centre

**COACH** Kieran Matthews

**ASST COACH** Daniel Szatkowski

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