


# REPUBLIC TIGER SPORTS

FINAL FOUR EDITION



## *Flying High*

The experienced Tigers are headed back to state for a 2nd straight year.

## **Inside...**

The Class 4 playoff bracket  
A preview of the competition  
A look back at the historic season

Dylan Bekemeier flies to the hoop in a sectional win over Carl Junction.

# Flying HIGH

**I**t took 50 years for the Republic Tigers to win a second boys state basketball championship. One year later, they're trying to win a third.

The Tigers are back in Columbia for the second straight season. It's the first time ever that Republic has been to State in consecutive years. And it's the third time in five seasons that the Republic boys have loaded the bus for Mizzou Arena and a shot at the state title.

"You never take it for granted. I know this is the second time in two years, but you never know when you're going to get back, so you've got to cherish it, you've got to enjoy the experience," says coach Trevyor Fisher, who has been at the helm for two of the Tigers' three trips.

"But at the same time, we're going up there to win two games. We're not just satisfied to get up there again. We want to finish it off," says Fisher.

The Tigers return to Columbia with a very different team than the one that qualified last year. The 2013 Tigers were big, with Grant Hancock (6'6") and Marcus Miller (6'7") inside. They patiently probed defenses for an opening before taking a shot, and they often won games despite scoring fewer than 50 points. (The score of their semifinal win over Liberty North was 39-38.)

This year's Tigers average nearly 70 points per game, with a high-flying offense that comes at opponents from all over the court. Cody Geiger's quickness and body control make him a match-up nightmare for opposing coaches. And when defenses collapse on Geiger inside, Republic fires away from the perimeter.

Dylan Bekemeier can penetrate off the dribble, or hit an open three, as he did twice in the opening minutes of the Tigers' quarterfinal win over St. Francis Borgia.

If Bekemeier is covered, he has no problems finding someone else to score, as evidenced by his 6.1 assists per game.

A prime target for Bekemeier is senior shooter Canyon Smith, whose quick-release jumper has only gotten quicker over the past year. Smith not only hits a lot of threes, he hits them in bunches -- like in Republic's blowout win over Willard, when Smith rained down seven treys on the Tigers. He followed that up with six more bombs in a road win at Ozark -- that time, all in the 1st half.



Sharpshooter Canyon Smith knocked down 72 3-pointers during the regular season, and shot 55% from beyond the 3-point arc. He averages just over 14 points per game.





Cody Geiger leads the Tigers in scoring with 16.8 points per game, and in rebounding with 5.3 per game. He also makes 60% of his shots from the floor.

Coming on strong down the stretch is another guard, junior Brock Yocum. With defenses keying on Smith, the Tigers have increasingly relied on Yocum's outside shot to give them another weapon in the arsenal. He hasn't disappointed.

Yocum led all scorers with 24 points in Republic's sectional victory over Carl Junction. That performance included four three-pointers, and maybe more impressively, a 12-for-12 4th quarter at the free throw line.

"That's what he can bring to our team, is another guy who can stretch the defense," says Fisher.

With three players averaging in double figures in scoring, plus Yocum heating up during the final weeks of the season, it's hard for opponents to know where to concentrate.

"When you've got that many offensive weapons, you can't take everything away, for the most part, when we're locked in and playing the right way," says Fisher. "We're hard to guard when we're clicking on all cylinders."

Despite their offensive prowess, though, defense remains a key to the Tigers' success. They allow

fewer than 50 points a game, and they have often used defensive pressure to speed the tempo of the game and turn the momentum. The Tigers average more than eight steals per game, and force more than 15 turnovers.

Alongside Geiger in the frontcourt, senior Chase Hoffmann provides a defensive spark as well. He's the program's unofficial record-holder for most charges taken in a season. Dillen Ramsey comes off the bench to contribute offensively as well as defensively. He led the team with 19 blocked shots in the regular season.

Seniors Jordan Kerr and Dakota Fortner have contributed significant minutes in the backcourt as well, helping round out the Tigers' rotation. With nine seniors on the roster, Fisher says their leadership has been a key to Republic's success.

"This group of seniors is very driven," says Fisher. "We really haven't talked about the whole 'state thing' this year. We've done a good job of not even talking about that."

"We haven't talked about last year. But I'm sure in the back of their minds it's something they've wanted to accomplish."



## Republic Tigers

1	Dylan Bekemeier	12	6'0"
2	Brock Yocum	11	5'11"
3	Chase Hoffmann	12	6'0"
4	Josh Vaughn	12	6'0"
5	Dillen Ramsey	12	6'4"
10	Dakota Fortner	12	5'10"
12	Tim Brazeal	11	6'6"
13	Canyon Smith	12	6'0"
15	Jordan Kerr	12	6'0"
20	Cory Lafferty	11	6'7"
22	Cole Hurst	12	5'11"
24	Cody Geiger	12	6'4"

Coaches Trevyor Fisher, Dan Stander,  
Cale Ramsey



## Helias Crusaders

1/11	Isiah Sykes	11	5'10"
4	Adam Bax	10	6'5"
5	Brock Gerstner	12	6'0"
10	Sam Husting	10	6'1"
14	Weston Porter	10	6'1"
15	Alex Barton	11	5'10"
20	Kale Gerstner	10	5'11"
23	Chase Bexten	11	6'3"
24	Collin Caywood	11	6'2"
30	Mason Field	10	6'0"
33	Michael Tannehill	12	6'2"
34	Casey McCollum	11	6'5"
35	Alex Brandt	10	6'0"
44	Trevor Koelling	10	6'5"
50	Hale Hentges	11	6'5"

Coaches: Josh Buffington, Joe Rothweiler



## St. Joe Lafayette Fighting Irish

2	O'Shaye Kirby	11	6'3"
3	Chester Goudeau	11	5'10"
5	Gary Wilkinson	10	5'10"
11	Xavier Kurth	12	6'3"
14	Cody Massey	12	6'3"
20	Drew Cortez	11	5'10"
22	Caleb Bennett	9	6'3"
24	Bryson Searcy	10	5'10"
30	Cole Lehman	10	6'4"
33	Malik Hughes	11	6'4"
34	Nick Hubbard	10	6'0"
55	Billy Cook	12	6'2"

Coaches: Chris Neff, Daryl Williams,  
Chad Rucker



## Farmington Knights

0	Grant Waddell	10	5'8"
1	Jonah Barnes	12	6'1"
2	Connor Gaige	11	6'8"
3	Justin Boehm	12	6'0"
4	Logan England	12	5'10"
10	Michael Pinkley	11	5'11"
12	Devin Nagel	12	6'4"
20	Eli Pratte	12	6'3"
21	Brett Mann	12	6'2"
23	Aaron Hargiss	11	5'10"
24	Garrett Callahan	12	6'0"
25	Jordan Ankrom	11	6'4"
32	DJ Hardy	12	6'0"
34	Jordan Pfister	11	5'11"

Coaches: Justin Callahan, Lance Miller, Larry  
Peterson, Todd Varhalla



# MSHSAA CLASS 4 BOYS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

CAPE GIRARDEAU CENTRAL (17-10)

FARMINGTON (19-9)

FARMINGTON (20-9)

AFFTON (20-5)

BAYLESS (18-9)

BAYLESS (19-9)

FARMINGTON (21-9)

March 21 6 pm

HARRISONVILLE (17-10)

GRANDVIEW (22-5)

GRANDVIEW (23-5)

LIBERTY NORTH (17-10)

LAFAYETTE (22-4)

LAFAYETTE (23-4)

LAFAYETTE (24-4)

Championship Game  
March 21 8:10 pm

JENNINGS (17-7)

NORMANDY (15-13)

NORMANDY (16-13)

ST. CHARLES (23-4)

JEFFERSON CITY HELIAS (20-7)

JEFFERSON CITY HELIAS (21-7)

JEFFERSON CITY HELIAS (22-7)

3rd Place Game  
March 21 12:50 pm

ST. FRANCIS BORGIA (18-8)

MARSHFIELD (16-12)

ST. FRANCIS BORGIA (19-8)

REPUBLIC (23-4)

CARL JUNCTION (19-8)

REPUBLIC (24-4)

March 21 7:45 pm

REPUBLIC (25-4)







The Tigers celebrate their 57-44 victory over St. Francis Borgia in the state quarterfinals. Cody Geiger had 18 points and Dylan Bekemeier had 14 to lead the Tigers back to the state semifinals in Columbia for a second consecutive season. It's the third trip to state in five years for the Republic boys basketball program.



# THE COMPETITION

Jefferson City Helias, St. Joseph Lafayette, and Farmington stand in the way of Republic's quest for a repeat title.



## Helias Crusaders

Record: 22-7  
Coach: Josh Buffington

The Helias Crusaders boast the kind of roster that has sometimes posed problems for this year's Republic team. With four players listed at 6'5", the Crusaders have the size to give the Tigers trouble inside.

But it's junior guard Isiah Sykes who's been the biggest offensive force for the Crusaders. Sykes will launch the three from anywhere at any time. He's averages about 20 points per game and is responsible for distributing the ball in the Crusaders' half-court set.

6'4" junior Hale Hentges, a highly touted football tight end, gives the Crusaders a physical scoring threat in the paint. He averages nearly 11 ppg. Hentges and sophomore Adam Bax combine for about 13 rebounds.



## Farmington Knights

Record: 21-9  
Coach: Justin Callahan

Before this season, Farmington had never won a sectional playoff game. Now they're making up for lost time. The Knights ended an 0-for-9 losing streak in sectional games, and followed that up with a quarterfinal win over Bayless to advance to Columbia.

Farmington's roster includes eight seniors, but 6'4" junior Jordan Ankrom leads the team in scoring at 15 ppg. Coach Justin Callahan says Ankrom can step outside and hit a jumper, but has primarily been an inside presence lately, as the guards taking more of a scoring role.

The Knights won't be the most athletic or the biggest team in Columbia, but they are a group that has played together since grade school and will play a disciplined game offensively and defensively.



## St. Joe Lafayette Fighting Irish

Record: 24-4  
Coach: Chris Neff

Lafayette is on a mission to redeem itself after an early exit from the playoffs last season. Heading into sectionals in 2013, the Irish were ranked #1 in the state, but Liberty North knocked them out. This year, Lafayette got its revenge behind senior Xavier Furth, who's headed to Northwest Missouri State University next year.

Billy Cook, a 6'2" senior, is an outside shooting threat who hit five 3-pointers in the 1st quarter in Lafayette's sectional win over Grandview.

6'3" senior Cody Massey is the "best athlete in our building," according to coach Chris Neff. He can shoot outside and also will be a key defender for the Irish.

Cook and Furth will both be getting their second taste of the State atmosphere. They saw action as freshmen in 2011, when Lafayette went to the semifinals and finished 4th in the state.



*The Tigers swept through their district tournament with a 66-34 win over Aurora, followed by a 54-36 blowout of Rogersville. It was the third time this season the Tigers had beaten the Wildcats.*





Senior forward Chase Hoffmann (above) has started all 25 games for the Tigers. In addition to averaging just over 5 points per game, his willingness to take a charge on the defensive end of the floor has sparked the Tigers in key situations all season.

Coach Trevyor Fisher (below) is in his second season as head coach at Republic. In his first-ever head coaching job, Fisher has taken the Tigers to two straight appearances in Columbia, and will try to make more history by leading Republic to back-to-back titles. Fisher's overall record as a head coach is 53-8 heading into the state semifinals. He joins Leland Brown, Jerry Buescher, and Gary Stanfield among coaches who have led the Republic boys to State.



Dillen Ramsey (above) gives the Tigers a valuable physical presence inside. He averages 7.0 points and 3.0 rebounds per game.

Brock Yocum (below) has developed into another important weapon in the Tigers' offensive arsenal. In addition to his 7.6 points per game, he also averages 3.6 assists and 1.6 steals per game.







Seniors Dakota Fortner, Cole Hurst, Josh Vaughn, Cody Geiger, Dillen Ramsey, Chase Hoffmann, Jordan Kerr, Canyon Smith, and Dylan Bekemeier provide leadership for the Tigers in their second consecutive appearance at state.



# Congratulations, Tigers!

<p>Dbek2...</p> <p>Congrats and Good Luck! We've enjoyed watching you and the Tigers!!! So proud of you!</p> <p>Love, Mom and Dad</p>	<p>Chase,</p> <p>We are so proud of your and the team's hard work and dedication. We wish you and the Tigers the best at State!</p> <p>Love, Dad, Mom, &amp; Carly</p>
<p>Cody,</p> <p>It's truly been a pleasure watching you and the rest of the Tigers play. We're very proud of all the Tigers.</p> <p>Love, Mom and Dad</p>	<p>Timothy,</p> <p>We're proud of you for all your hard work. Congratulations on a great year and good luck to you and the Tigers in Columbia!</p> <p>Love, Mom, Dad and Jessie</p>
<p>Brock,</p> <p>Congratulations on a great year and good luck in Columbia!</p> <p>Nana, Grandpa and Grandma</p>	<p>Congratulations on a great season, Tigers!</p> <p>Meadowview Baptist Church</p>
<p>Dylan,</p> <p>We believe in you and the Tigers! Congratulations, let's go back-to-back!</p> <p>Love, NaNa and PaPa</p>	<p>Jordan,</p> <p>Congratulations on a great season. We're so proud of you! Good luck at State!</p> <p>Love, Mom, Dad, and Kylee</p>
<p>Go Tigers! Congratulations!</p> <p>From RFamily Church</p>	<p>Congratulations Canyon and the Republic Tigers on your 2nd consecutive trip to state! Enjoy the experience and leave it all on the floor! Go Republic Tigers!</p> <p>Mom, Dad, and family</p>



# REPUBLIC TIGER SPORTS

REPUBLIC'S REAL-TIME SPORTS PAGE

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