

# Season Opener presented by RCS Sports | Preview Part I

## **Eisenhower vs St Thomas Catholic, 9am MO Campbell Center**

St Thomas is entering this contest with as solid of a team as we have seen in a long time for this program. % 2023 P Michael Oaks is by far the most improved player in the area. He gives them solid defensive anchoring and a legitimate low post scoring threat. % 2024 G J'Mar Franklin gives this team a shifty dynamic ballhandling guard that is a welcomed edition. If % 2023 W Jake Pike can be his athletic rebounding self, this game might get out of hand early. Eisenhower as we all know is led by % 2023 Sam Houston ST commit Keylon Dorsey. He is easily one of the best open court players in the whole state. Don't be surprised if he drops 30+ points in this contest. The thing to watch about this game will be who will step up to help Dorsey carry the load.

*Predicted Score: **St Thomas 65** Eisenhower 49*

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## **Fort Bend Elkins vs Episcopal, 10:30am MO Campbell Center**

Episcopal is entering their season not looking like the team we thought we would see from last year. With that being said, all is not lost. Coach Jones returns one of the top guards in this city in % 2024 Justin Begg. A heady point guard with high IQ, good defensive skill set and an above average outside shot. Who will step up to fill the void left by some big time players. Elkins also is not the team that we thought we would see this year, but they still have some top players in the fold. % 2024 SF Jae'coby Osborne checks off all of the boxes as far as measurables. Long arms, quick feet and a fast leaper. He will be looked upon to lead the Knights this year. % 2024 G Todd Woods is his backcourt mate and will be needed to handle the point guard responsibilities this season. % 2023 F Kris Barnett will be the low post scorer that Coach Thomas looks for when buckets are hard to come by.

*Predicted Score: **Elkins 51** Episcopal 44*

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## **Strake Jesuit vs Bellaire, 12pm MO Campbell Center**

Bellaire has four % 2025 players that are as talented as any team has in the whole city. W Shelton Henderson is a physical specimen that has come back from injury with above average play. Kholman Dutton is an athletic point guard with great defensive abilities. F Anthony Andrews is a swiss army knife player that gives Coach Glover a little bit of everything. Last, but not least, Noah Neumann is a sharp shooting wing guard that has a history of knocking down big time shots. Strake Jesuit will be led by % 2023 TCU commit Jace Posey an UBER athletic wing with great defensive instincts and an improved jump shot. % 2023 6/7" F Aiden McKee will be counted on heavily down low to take pressure off of Posey. % 2023 G Trevor Lombard must keep his assist to turnover ratio at a good level and hit his open shots. Will the Crusaders get enough scoring and defense to negate the young guns of Bellaire?

*Predicted Score: **Bellaire 75** Strake Jesuit 60*

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## **Cypress Creek vs Barbers Hill, 1:30pm MO Campbell Center**

This game will be billed as the battle of the point guards and both teams have above average players at that position. Barbers Hill is led by a smooth and unique point guard % 2023 Bryce Smith. He is the unquestioned leader of this team. They go as he goes. Transfer % 2023 G Peyton Whittington looks to be a solid addition with his defense and three point ability. If they can get anything from their % 2023 P Hunter Bunn, this could be a closer than expected game. On the other side, you have one of the top % 2023 guards in PFW commit Corey Hadnot. He has a track record of taking over big games like this. I more than expect him to be one of the leading scorers in the whole event. % 2023 W Southern Nazarene commit Noah Martin will be an asset coming back from injury. The Cougars are really going to need his shooting ability going forward. I truly expect this to be one of the more physical games as both teams do a good job of playing team defense. Rebounding will be at a premium in this contest.

*Predicted Score: **CyCreek 55** Barbers Hill 52*

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## **Beaumont United vs Cypress Falls, 3pm MO Campbell Center**

Cypress Falls boasts one of the biggest teams in the area. % 2024 6'8" P transfer Brayden Young gives them a presence down low that allows % 2023 6'7" University of Houston commit Joseph Tugler to actually guard the other team's best perimeter player. % 2024 W Daylon Porter has to play well and handle the pressure that the Timberwolves will throw his way. Beaumont United is led by the consensus #1 player in % 2023, University of Washington commit, Wesley Yates. He is a do it all player on the offensive end, a great leader and winner. They also have two % 2024 players that should ease the load on Yates. CG Kade Dotson is a streaky shooter with a knack for getting to the free throw line. SF Clarence Payia will be looked upon to rebound and play good post defense. I'm intrigued to see what kind of defenses Coach Flores and Coach Green deploy against each other. If United can't keep Tugler off the boards, it will be a long night. On the other hand, if the Timberwolves are making shots, the Eagles could be in trouble.

*Predicted Score: **BU 72** CyFalls 66*

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## **Atascocita vs Mayde Creek, 4:30pm MO Campbell Center**

Mayde Creek comes into this game having some big question marks. What they don't have to worry about is where the scoring will come from. That will be taken care of by % 2023 G Lloyd "Angel" Sonnier. He is a bully of a guard, who can shoot it from deep and get downhill to cause havoc in the paint. % 2025 sharp shooter Jamal Chretien had a phenomenal summer and looks to bring his hot shooting into the high school season. If they can get anything from % 2023 P Caleb Davis, that would be a valuable addition to take some pressure off of those talented guards. Coach Martinez will be looking at a whole different squad than the one that carried him to the state semi-finals. % 2024 WG Jerrell Barron, Jr is the only returning varsity player that played significant minutes. His leadership and timely three point shooting is essential for the team's success. Atascocita also has two diaper dandy guards that should be an added bonus. % 2026 Jachai Cantave is a top prospect in his class that has already garnered an offer from the University of Houston. % 2025 SG Derrick Buckner, Jr is a flat out SHOOTER. % 2024 P Jordan Maddox handles the inside.

*Predicted Score: **Atascocita 70** Mayde Creek 56*

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## **St Francis Episcopal vs San Antonio Wagner, 6pm MO Campbell Center**

Young talent versus young talent, this game will be oozing with it. St Francis comes into this game with the top player in the country and two top players in the city. % 2025 C Nigel Walls is not your average big man. He's agile enough to start a fast break and athletic enough to finish one. % 2025 PG John Laboy is one smooth operator. His high basketball IQ mixed with his defensive tenacity makes him a bright spot on this team. Rounding out the trio, % 2025 SF O'Marion Harvey, has opened my eyes every time I've seen him. I think, with his natural instincts and abilities, he will be a prospect to keep an eye on. San Antonio Wagner takes a familiar trip down I-10, this time with a lot of fresh faces. % 2026 P Trevaun Clark is where it all starts with the T-Birds. If they want to win, he has to play well. % 2026 CG Damian Ramirez is a good ball handler and must keep his turnovers down in order to secure the victory. % 2026 PG Jaylen "Redd" Crittendon is the straw that stirs the drink. He must get the ball to Clark in good positions to score and play well opposite Laboy.

*Predicted Score: **St Francis Episcopal 59** San Antonio Wagner 51*

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## **Clear Falls vs Houston Christian, 7:30pm MO Campbell Center**

Clear Falls has finally gotten what they have been asking for...a shot in prime time. % 2023 PG Orlando Horton is a supreme shot maker. You don't score 2000 points in high school without being able to put the ball in the hole. His pesky defense will be needed to contain Houston Christian's talented guards. % 2023 F Javon Murray will be looked upon to dominant the key. He has to box out and rebound. Any added points that he gives will be icing on the cake. Houston Christian is led by, talented lead guard, % 2025 Montana Wheeler. Unlike his older brother, he is more of a scorer than facilitator. His high basketball IQ helps his play look older than he actually is. % 2023 Colorado Christian commit CJ Barnes is a huge inside presence. If his defense is able to intimidate the Knights, this could be a no contest game. % 2024 G Christopher Adlam is an under the radar prospect that I believe will open a lot of eyes in this game.

*Predicted Score: **Houston Christian 58** Clear Falls 53*