

PANTHERS



2025 - 2026

SOUTH MEDFORD

B A S K E T B A L L

Undefeated SWC Champions:

2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017,
2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

Final 8 State Tournament:

2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019,
2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025

6A Oregon State Champions:

2012, 2020, 2021, 2024



2025 - 2026
MEDIA GUIDE



WELCOME

Welcome, Lady Panthers basketball fans!

It's a new season! On behalf of our coaches, we are really excited for numerous reasons.

First, it's a finale for four seniors who have truly made an impact over their high school basketball careers. For them, it has culminated into not only some incredible on-the-court successes but also the ultimate reward of being offered full scholarships to play basketball at the NCAA level.

Mayenabasi Akpan will be moving on to the Pac-12 to play for San Diego State. Jordan Barlow and Dyllyn Powell carry on last year's tradition of two seniors signing at the same school — both players headed to play for Sacramento State. And Malia Taulani will be headed to Denver to play for Metro State University. It's an incredible achievement for all of them.

It's also gratifying to see our program add a third team this year, which hasn't happened in nearly five years, also marking the return of one of our alumni (class of 2017), Hannah Washington, who joins our coaching staff. Coach Ted Curtius is back for year 17, and varsity assistant, Yaremi Mejia — also an alumna — is in her third year. Among our team of coaches, there is well over two decades of experience. It's truly special to see the full evolution of time and tradition.

In a recent pre-season interview, I was asked what our season's goals were. The first: stay healthy. After that, it is our goal to win a conference championship and be meaningful in March.

This season's schedule includes a brutal road stretch playing every weekend away from home for our first 13 games. That stretch includes participating in the highest brackets of some very prominent national tournaments between Portland, Hawaii and the Bay Area. Learning to adapt to travel is nothing new to our season, but this year is the first time we won't see a home game until mid-January.

This year's team is anchored by our four senior team captains: Malia Taulani, Jordan Barlow, Dyllyn Howell and Mayenabasi Akpan. These four have shown tremendous growth since their freshman years. All of them were All-Conference players last year, with Mayenabasi and Dyllyn

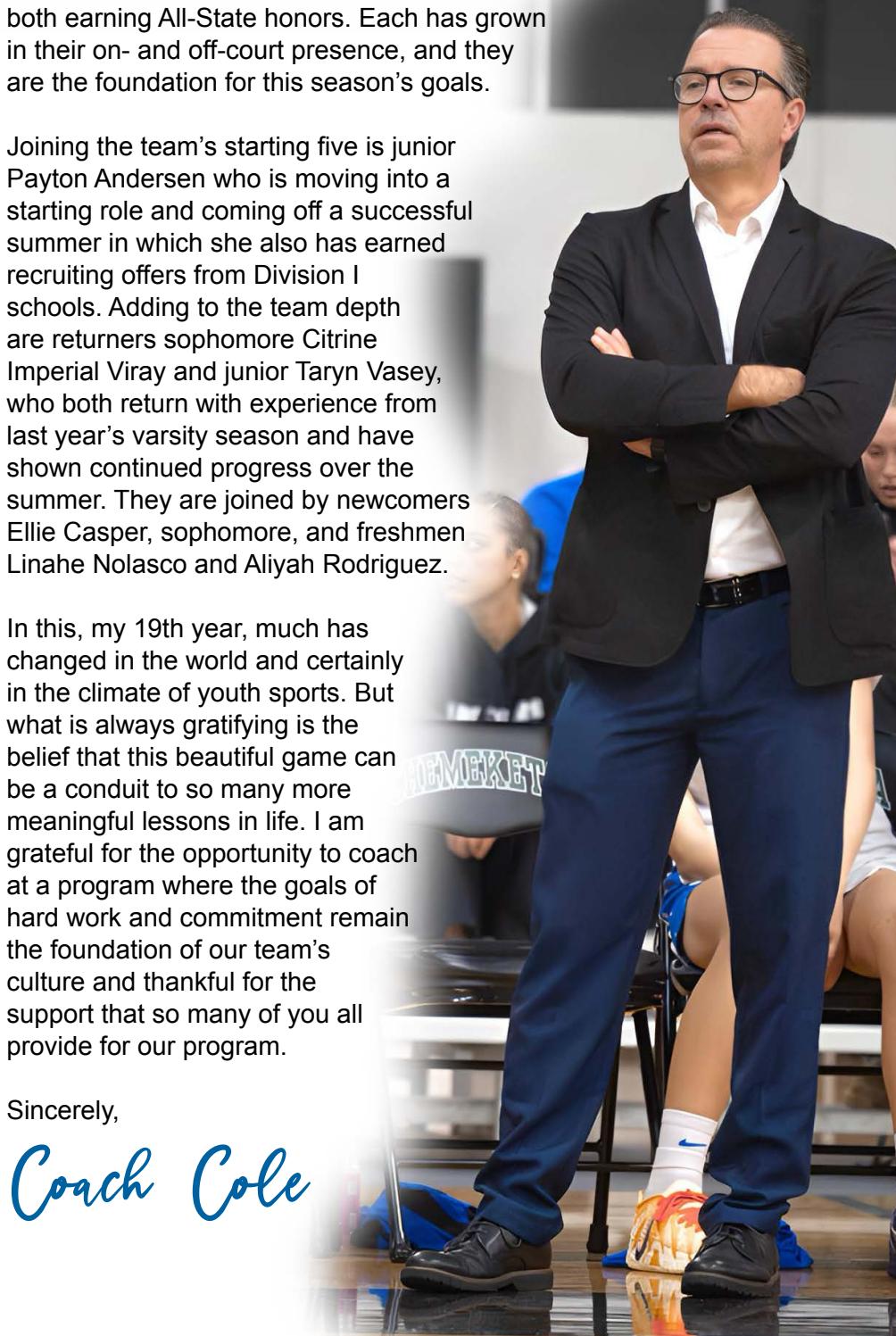
both earning All-State honors. Each has grown in their on- and off-court presence, and they are the foundation for this season's goals.

Joining the team's starting five is junior Payton Andersen who is moving into a starting role and coming off a successful summer in which she also has earned recruiting offers from Division I schools. Adding to the team depth are returners sophomore Citrine Imperial Viray and junior Taryn Vasey, who both return with experience from last year's varsity season and have shown continued progress over the summer. They are joined by newcomers Ellie Casper, sophomore, and freshmen Linahe Nolasco and Aliyah Rodriguez.

In this, my 19th year, much has changed in the world and certainly in the climate of youth sports. But what is always gratifying is the belief that this beautiful game can be a conduit to so many more meaningful lessons in life. I am grateful for the opportunity to coach at a program where the goals of hard work and commitment remain the foundation of our team's culture and thankful for the support that so many of you all provide for our program.

Sincerely,

Coach Cole





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VARSITY SCHEDULE

2025 - 2026 SOUTH MEDFORD BASKETBALL

DATE:	OPPONENT/LOCATION:	START TIME:
12/5/2025	@ Beaverton HS	5:15 PM
12/11/2025	@ Campbell HS, HI	TBD
12/12/2025	vs. St. Mary's Academy	8:30 PM
12/13/2025	@ Lolani HS, HI	TBD
12/20/2025	@ West Albany	5:30 PM
12/21/2025	vs. Nelson	6:00 PM
12/22/2025	@ West Linn	4:00 PM
12/27/2025	vs. Century	10:30 AM
12/29/2025	@ AC Davis (WA)	Noon
12/30/2025	vs. Faith Family (TX)	5:00 PM
1/3/2026	@ Salesian Academy, CA	TBD
1/9/2026	@ Sheldon	5:30 PM
1/13/2026	vs. Grants Pass	7:30 PM
1/16/2026	vs. Willamette	6:00 PM
1/20/2026	@ North Medford	TBD
1/23/2026	@ South Eugene	6:45 PM
1/27/2026	@ Roseburg	6:45 PM
2/3/2026	vs. North Medford	6:00 PM
2/6/2026	vs. Sheldon	6:00 PM
2/10/2026	@ Grants Pass	6:00 PM
2/13/2026	@ Willamette	6:00 PM
2/14/2026	@ Jesuit	Noon
2/17/2026	vs. Roseburg	6:45 PM
2/20/2026	vs. South Eugene	6:45 PM
2/27/2026	@ Jefferson, Portland	6:00 PM

HOME GAMES Check www.osaa.org/teams/64411 for the latest schedule and updates

VARSITY ROSTER



#0 ALIYAH RODRIGUEZ

Guard - 9th



#1 MALIA TAULANI

Guard - 12th



#2 ELLIE CASPER

Forward - 10th



#3 CITRINE IMPERIAL-VIRAY

Guard - 10th



#5 LIANHE NOLASCO-GARCIA

Guard - 9th



#11 JORDAN BARLOW

Guard - 12th



#12 DYLLYN HOWELL

Guard/Forward - 12th



#15 MAYENABASI AKPAN

Center - 12th



#24 PAYTON ANDERSEN

Forward - 11th



#32 TARYN VASEY

Guard/Forward - 11th



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CLASS OF 2026



National Letter of Intent Signing Day
with Mayenabasi Akpan, Malia Taulani,
Dyllyn Howell and Jordan Barlow



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2025 - 2026

SOUTH MEDFORD

B A S K E T B A L L

UNDEFEATED SWC CHAMPIONS 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

FINAL 8 STATE TOURNAMENT: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

6A OREGON STATE CHAMPIONS 2012, 2020, 2021, 2024

Photography by Ezra Marcos Ayala | Poster Design by www.EmpowerPrintUnlimited.org



COACHES

Tom Cole

Varsity Head Coach

Tom Cole is in his 19th season as Lady Panthers varsity head coach. South Medford is recognized as a perennial state and nationally recognized program, earning South Medford Lady Panthers basketball the distinction as a Nike Elite High School program.

Prior to Cole's arrival, the Lady Panthers had gone 1 and 48. Within five years, the program won its first state championship, finished nationally ranked and became the only team in Oregon large-school classification history to finish a perfect 30 and 0.

Coach Cole's record over 18 seasons is 395 and 105, which includes winning four state titles, while also leading the Lady Panthers to the final eight state championship tournament in 15 of the past 16 seasons. The Lady Panthers have accomplished 12 undefeated Southwest Conference championships with a conference record of 196 and 30.

Cole was most recently named 2024 Section 8 National coach of the year by the National Federation of High Schools. He has been SWC Coach of the year 11 times, OSAA coach of the year in 2012 and 2024 and Oregon Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 2012, 2013, 2020 and 2024.

The South Medford Lady Panthers have celebrated nearly 40 student athletes moving forward with college scholarships during his tenure, with many of them at the highest NCAA levels.

Coach Cole's true passion is the empowerment work of Kids Unlimited, a nonprofit youth development organization he helped to start nearly 28 years ago. Kids Unlimited today provides more than 1,200 students, many from vulnerable communities, with preschool, charter school, afterschool and summer programs.



Ted Curtius

JV Coach

Coach Ted has been a dedicated coach and mentor to kids for over 19 years coaching AAU and high school teams for the South Medford High School girls' basketball program. He's coached Frosh, JV2 and JV at the high school level for 18 years.



Ted's commitment to kids has made a huge impact on the success of the program at all levels. Ted continues to coach at the AAU and development levels for younger kids. Ted's imprint on the program has been immeasurable over decades of coaching Panthers teams during which he has given both time and financial resources to ensure kids have no barriers to participation. Ted's teams are always competitive, and he has provided a strong foundation for fundamentals for our younger teams.

Ted is the owner of Curtius Plumbing, and both have been generous contributors to Panthers sports for nearly two decades.

Yaremi Mejia

Varsity Assistant Coach

Yaremi Mejia is in her third season as assistant coach with her alma mater, South Medford High School's Lady Panthers.



Yaremi previously assisted the Lady Panthers basketball team in the 2021 season, when South Medford finished the season undefeated and won a state championship.

Yaremi was a two-time All State point guard at South Medford, helping South win its first state championship in 2012, finishing a perfect 30-0 season and earning South its first top-10 national ranking. Yaremi became the first Latina in Oregon history to receive a Division I basketball scholarship, playing at Portland State University before transferring to Southern Oregon University in her senior season, where she was recognized with All-American honors.

She completed her master's degree at Eastern New Mexico University, where she also was an assistant coach at the NCAA Division II level. Yaremi is the afterschool program manager at Kids Unlimited Academy, working with students in grades K-5. Yaremi also is a member of the Rogue Valley Basketball Officials Association.



JV 1 SCHEDULE

2025 - 2026 SOUTH MEDFORD BASKETBALL

DATE:	OPPONENT/LOCATION:	START TIME:
12/3/2025	vs. North Medford	8:15 PM
12/5/2025	@ Beaverton	5:45 PM
12/9/2025	@ Grants Pass	4:15 PM
12/20/2025	vs. Caldera	3:30 PM
12/22/2025	vs. Del Norte	Noon
12/22/2025	vs. Caldera	1:45 PM
1/9/2026	@ Sheldon	4:00 PM
1/10/2026	vs. Cascade Christian	3:00 PM
1/13/2026	vs. Grants Pass	4:30 PM
1/16/2026	vs. Willamette	4:30 PM
1/20/2026	@ North Medford	4:30 PM
1/23/2026	@ South Eugene	5:15 PM
1/27/2026	@ Roseburg	5:15 PM
2/3/2026	vs. North Medford	4:30 PM
2/6/2026	vs. Sheldon	4:30 PM
2/10/2026	@ Grants Pass	4:30 PM
2/13/2026	@ Willamette	4:30 PM
2/17/2026	vs. Roseburg	5:15 PM
2/20/2026	vs. South Eugene	5:15 PM
2/24/2026	@ Crater	4:30 PM
2/27/2026	@ Jefferson, Portland	4:30 PM

HOME GAMES Check www.osaa.org/teams/64411 for the latest schedule and updates

JV 1 ROSTER

(Alphabetical:) Aliyah Barney 10, Meg Bell 11, Caity Brassell 11, Sienna Flory 10, Sophia Flory 10, Addison Hayes 9, Keili Martos 11, Hailey Peters 10, Priscilla Reagan 10, Natalia Thornton 9



JV 2 SCHEDULE

2025 - 2026 SOUTH MEDFORD BASKETBALL

DATE:	OPPONENT/LOCATION:	START TIME:
12/3/2025	vs. Cascade Christian	7:00 PM
12/5/2025	vs. Crater	TBD
12/11/2025	@ Phoenix	4:30 PM
12/19/2025	@ Eagle Point	4:00 PM
1/10/2026	vs. TBD	TBD
1/10/2026	vs. TBD	TBD
1/13/2026	vs. Grants Pass	6:00 PM
1/17/2026	vs. Crater	3:30 PM
1/27/2026	@ Roseburg	5:15 PM
2/4/2026	@ North Medford	7:00 PM
2/6/2026	vs. Sheldon	7:30 PM
2/10/2026	@ Grants Pass	7:30 PM
2/17/2026	vs. Roseburg	5:15 PM
2/20/2026	vs. South Eugene	5:15 PM
2/24/2026	@ Crater	4:30 PM
2/27/2026	vs. Eagle Point	4:00 PM

HOME GAMES Check www.osaa.org/teams/64411 for the latest schedule and updates

JV 2 ROSTER

(Back row left to right:) Avery Boguslawski 9, Evelyn Haddock 9, Ryleigh Estrada 11, Isabella Diaz 9, Neomi Vallee 11, Tyler Trivers 9

(Front row left to right:) Yoselyn Colin Ordonez 9, Gabriela Mendoza-Rosales 9, Tenley Prins 9, Sunni Inda 9, Serina Morones Aguirre 9, Coach Hannah Washington



NEXT LEVEL ALUMNI

Alumni	Class	Division	Location
Alana Stevens	2008	II	Santa Cruz
Brittney Newcomb	2009	I	Webber State, UT
Hannah Curtis	2011	II	Chaminade University, HI
Leilani Morris	2012	J/C	Umpqua
Tess Picknell	2012	I	Stanford University
Lupita Vargas	2012	III	Bates College
Yaremi Mejia	2013	I	Portland State University
Luisa Tago	2013	II	Metro State University, Denver, CO
Kylie Towry	2013	III	Willamette University
Ashley Bolston	2014	I	Washington-Portland State
Andee Ritter	2015	I	UC Irvine
Keyari Sleezer	2015	I	Pepperdine University
Julissa Tago	2016	I	University of Hawaii
Jasmin Falls	2016	I	Portland State University
Hannah Washington	2017	II	Chico State University CA
Lauren Orndoff	2017	I	Northern Arizona University
Jonnay Foote	2017	JUCO	College of Siskiyous CA
Ula Chamberlin	2019	I	University of Oregon
Bella Pedrojetti	2020	I	Eastern Washington / Western Oregon University
Kaili Chamberlin	2021	I	Southeastern University
Toni Coleman	2021	II	LSU - Shreveport
Bella Stone	2021	II	Western Florida University
Emma Schmerbach	2021	III	Southern Oregon University
Shakia Teague Perry	2021	NAIA	Southern Oregon University
Laini Dahlin	2021	I	UC Northridge
Sierra Logue	2022	I	University California Riverside
Donovyn Hunter	2023	I	Oregon State/TCU
Tatum Schmerbach	2023	NAIA	Oregon Institute of Technology
Kendall Fealey	2023	NAIA	Oregon Institute of Technology
Kimberly Ceron-Romero	2024	II	Menlo College
Janaya Bullock	2024	JUCO	Central Arizona College
Sara Schmerbach	2025	I	Santa Clara University
Maddy Warberg	2025	I	Santa Clara University
Mayenabasi Akpan	2026	I	San Diego State University
Dyllyn Howell	2026	I	Sacramento State University
Malia Taulani	2026	II	Metro State University
Jordan Barlow	2026	I	Sacramento State University



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