



For Immediate Release

March 6, 2020

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Media Release

Cougars crowned as state champions

North Charleston High School

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Columbia, SC - North Charleston High School has had one of the top girls' basketball programs in the Lowcountry for the past few decades. However, the Cougars had not claimed a state title since 1984. That stretch ended Friday, March 6, 2020 as they rallied past defending state champion Christ Church in the South Carolina High School League AA state finals, 38-34. North Charleston (22-9) got it done with defense, holding the Cavaliers to just four points in the fourth quarter.

Appearing in their first state championship game since 2007, the Cougars struggled to score points early and trailed by seven at halftime at Colonial Life Arena in Columbia. The defense remained constant, though, forcing 22 turnovers and recording 12 steals, and kept the Cougars in the game.

Eventually, senior guard Ca'Vashia Johnson put NCHS ahead in the fourth quarter with three of her game-high 17 points, and the Cougars held on for the victory. Junior forward Tranell Mitchell-Small added 10 points and 12 rebounds. This is the third state title overall for the North Charleston girls, who are led by fourth-year head coach Haley Weed.

"We are just so proud of our girls and all of their hard work and sacrifices that they have made throughout the season," said Weed. "They are the true definitions of student-athletes and deserve this state championship! It is going to be something that they never forget and I am so blessed that I was able to be part of this journey with each and every one of our players."

Charleston County School District congratulates the North Charleston Cougars, the 2019-2020 SCHSL AA Girls' Basketball State Champions! They are set to be honored at the next Board of Trustees meeting, scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2020.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 87 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning

Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.