

SEASON PREVIEW: LONG ISLAND LUTHERAN (NATIONAL)

Long Island Lutheran, always an elite team, has been New York's #1 team for the past two seasons and finished the regular season ranked #4 in the nation, per Sports Illustrated.

All-American VJ Edgecombe has graduated and is now at Baylor. Also lost through graduation were Godswill Erheriene (Seton Hall), Alier Maluk (Florida State), Ben Michaels (Buffalo), and Tajae Jones (Siena).

Kayden Mingo, along with Nigel James, Kiyan Anthony, and Dylan Mingo return to form a fine nucleus for this year's team.

Joining them are Michael Madison, 6-9 F: strong, aggressive, a skilled forward with offers from Georgia and Penn State. Nick Onyekwere, 7-1 C: a true post presence who is committed to Florida State and expected to compete for a starting role. Moussa Kamissoko, 6-8 W: is the top-ranked player in NY for the 2027 class per ESPN. Moussa can play multiple positions, has a high IQ, is extremely skilled for his size, and is a high major prospect. Omar Essam, 6-10 F: a top player from Egypt, comes to the US a skilled finisher and shot blocker. Peyton Howell: 5-10 G: he led Baldwin to a Nassau County championship last season, will support an older backcourt with reserve minutes, and has impressed in the preseason.

Once again LuHi has a strong national schedule, competing in the prestigious Nike EYBL Scholastic League, and playing tough non-league opponents such as Sierra Canyon (CA), Columbus (FL), and John Marshall (VA).

With this array of talent, Coach John Buck has every reason to smile:

“This year's LuHi squad is a deep and talented group. With returning guards Nigel James, Kayden and Dylan Mingo, and Kiyan Anthony, there may not be a better returning backcourt in the country. Size up front will help the Crusaders match up with some of the bigger teams in the country, including a challenging Nike EYBL Scholastic league. An exciting schedule has been planned to match up with the talented roster in Brookville.”

We look for LuHi to once again top the polls in NY and challenge for the National Championship.