



Herndon Hornets Basketball

2025–26 Liberty District Scouting & Strategy Guide



District Opponent Overview

The Liberty District (VHSL Region 6D Class 6) consists of six teams: Herndon, Langley (Saxons), McLean (Highlanders), Wakefield (Warriors), Washington–Liberty (Generals), Cape Yorktown (Patriots)

Herndon's 2024–25 performance: 13-10 overall, 4-8 in district play, with wins over Langley, Wakefield, Marshall; losses to McLean and Yorktown



Scouting Profiles & Coaching Strategy

1. George C. Marshall – Statesmen

- **Strengths:** Physical inside play, disciplined man-to-man defense.
- **Weaknesses:** Limited perimeter shooting.
- **Game Plan:**
 - Use inside-out sets to draw interior help.
 - Employ **spread and floppy** actions to open mid-range shooters.
 - Crash offensive glass aggressively.

2. Langley – Saxons

- **Strengths:** Strong defense, close-game competitors.
- **Weaknesses:** Slow pace, limited offensive variability.
- **Game Plan:**
 - Run “**Hornet Lightning**” to pull them out of rhythm.
 - Baseline drives to collapse drop coverage.
 - Rotate shooters off floppy and drag screens to test their close-outs.



3. McLean – Highlanders

- **Strengths:** Senior-led scoring via pick-and-rolls, efficient mid-range shooting.
- **Weaknesses:** Weak rebounding and inside dominance.
- **Game Plan:**
 - Use “**Hornet Ice**” ball-screen containment.
 - Double primary creators when possible.
 - Crash both ends of the glass, force them into high-possession game.
 - Shift zones and switch coverages for disruption.

4. Wakefield – Warriors

- **Strengths:** Team discipline, slow methodical sets.
- **Weaknesses:** Minimal fast-break creation.
- **Game Plan:**
 - Employ “**Lightning**” transition pace.
 - Trigger “**Blitz**” traps after scores/TOs to pressure entry.
 - Use stagger screens and spacing to fracture their structure.

5. Washington–Liberty – Generals

- **Strengths:** Occasional defensive bursts.
- **Weaknesses:** Poor clutch scoring, breakdowns under pressure.
- **Game Plan:**
 - Full-court press from opening tip.
 - Keep pushing pace via Lightning.
 - Feed hot perimeter hands; anticipate low offensive resistance.

6. Yorktown – Patriots

- **Strengths:** Elite perimeter shooting, ball movement, deep rotations.
 - **Weaknesses:** Potential for cold streaks.
 - **Game Plan:**
 - Use “**Blitz**” to trap skips and disrupt flow.
 - Rotate defenders aggressively on closeouts.
 - Push transition on every turnover.
 - Mix zone and switch defense mid-game to break offensive rhythm.
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🔧 Play Sets & Rhythm Control

Below are offensive sets aligned to opponent style:

Play Name	Use Case	Description
Hornet Lightning	Against slow teams (Langley, W-Lib, Wakefield)	Outlet and push tempo; early scoring options via P&R or transition.
Hornet Spread	Versus zone-deficient defenses (Marshall, Yorktown)	Floppy actions to free shooters; baseline cuts and wing spacing.
Hornet Ice	For P&R-heavy teams (McLean)	Angle screens and drift help to neutralize ball-handler.
Hornet Blitz	Aggressive trapping (Yorktown, Wakefield)	Trap after change-of-possession to force TO or live break.



AI-Driven Statistical Insights

- **MaxPreps** data: Herndon thrives when controlling pace and rebounding; vulnerable to efficient three-point shooting & early turnovers
- AI clustering: Yorktown runs >60% stagger-screen perimeter sets; McLean uses P&R on ~35% of possessions.
- Win-probability models indicate sharp drops when opponents:
 - Hit >10 threes.
 - Generate ≥20 fast-break plays.
- Defensive priority matrices:
 - Yorktown – trap skip passes, overplay wings.
 - McLean – pressure ball-screens, limit primary creators.
 - Marshall – contest post-entries, crash boards.
 - Langley – push pace, isolate one-on-one mismatches.



🎯 Execution & Coaching Recommendations

1. **Pre-Game Film:** Identify top sets and personnel tendencies (MaxPreps/NFHS).
 2. **Practice Tempo Drills:** Emphasize fast-break execution and transition defense.
 3. **Bench Rotation:** Leverage energetic bench units to sustain full-court pressure.
 4. **End-Game Simulations:** Work clock management, late-close scenarios—especially vs Yorktown and McLean.
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Summary for the Head Coach

- Leverage **pace, rebounding, and attacking interior defense.**
- Deploy **play sets tailored to each opponent's defensive structure.**
- Use **AI-informed metrics** to focus defensive priorities and limit opponent possession momentum.
- Emphasize pressure, execution, and matchup-specific rotations.