

2009-10 Area High School Basketball Preview

Fayette High School basketball seniors (l to r) Phillip Brinkley, Amber Hoskisson, Logan Ball, Sadie Powell, Travis Beaman, Tori Eaton and Devonté Graves



Fayette Falcons Boys & Girls

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New Franklin Bulldogs Boys & Girls

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Glasgow Yellowjackets Boys & Girls

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Harrisburg Bulldogs Boys & Girls

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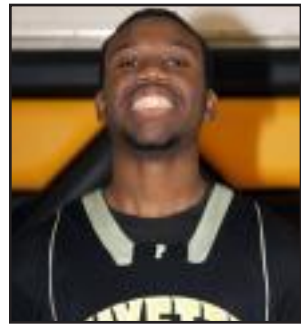


Higbee Tigers Boys & Girls

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High School Basketball Schedules

Fayette Falcons boys basketball



Logan Ball
Senior 6'1" Forward
Parents: Jeff & Lynette Ball

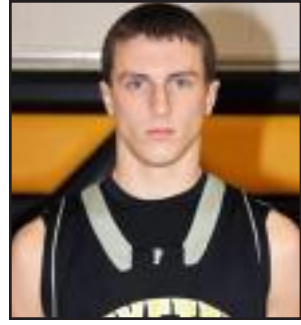
Travis Beaman
Senior 6'2" Forward
Parents: John & Cathy Beaman

Phillip Brinkley
Senior 5'6" Guard
Parents: Nathaniel Brinkley & Anita Allen

Devonté Graves
Senior 6'1" Forward
Parent: Missy Ganaway

Christian Broadus
Junior 5'6" Guard
Parent: Marsha Broadus

Kyron Broadus
Junior 6'0" Guard
Parents: Mike & Mary Lee Barnette



Emoz Burnes
Junior 6'2" Forward
Parent: Stella Burnes

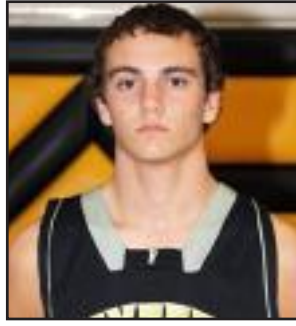
Keenon Chapman
Junior 5'10" Guard
Parents: Troy & Shelia Chapman

Mavrick Frerking
Junior 6'2" Guard
Parents: Brett & Amy Frerking

Spencer Gerald
Junior 6'0" Guard
Parent: Cindy Gerald

Bradley Lyon
Junior 6'0" Forward
Parents: Richie & Christy Lyon

Jonathan Palmer
Junior 6'2" Forward
Parents: Don & Sara Palmer



Krey Cowans
Sophomore 5'7" Guard
Parents: James Williams & Jean Cowans

Brandon Gilmore
Sophomore 5'8" Guard
Parents: Paul & Kim Gilmore

Bruce Marshall
Sophomore 6'8" Guard
Parents: Kent & Deborah Marshall

Roshawn Wilson
Sophomore 5'7" Forward
Grandparent: Mary Petty

Landon Ball
Freshman 5'8" Guard
Parents: Jeff & Lynette Ball

Tre Butner
Freshman 5'3" Guard
Parents: Josh & Megan Williams



Zach Cook
Freshman 5'9" Guard
Parents: Rick Cook & Kelly Beeler

Nickie Foland
Freshman 5'9" Guard
Parents: Novy & Mickie Foland

Ben Harris
Freshman 5'10" Forward
Parent: Rich Harris

Dustin Leaton
Freshman 5'10" Guard
Parents: Larry & Patricia Leaton

Sam Miller
Freshman 5'6" Guard
Parents: Steve & Sue Miller

Jaden Renfro
Freshman 5'11" Forward
Parent: Tonya Reese



Chris Kendrick
Head Coach

Grant Wilder
Freshman 5'8" Guard
Parents: Steve & June Wilder

Kyle Shelton
Assistant Coach



Area High School Basketball Preview

Falcons plan to use speed and defense for offensive output

You could tell Fayette head coach Chris Kendrick that he lost his top three scorers from last season after finishing with a 17-9 record, but to be honest, that doesn't bother him one bit.

This season, he has a wide variety of players to choose from his arsenal of 25 athletes that came out for the 2009-10 season. With that many players, Kendrick likes his chances this season.

"We like to get up and down the floor, whether it's JV or varsity," Kendrick said. "Having 10 guys we feel comfortable with coming in and out of the ballgames at both levels is going to be a huge plus for us to continue to try to institute our philosophy."

Despite losing the hot hands and speed of Ryan Sherman and the size of Xavien Crump down in the paint, Kendrick's group was able to come away with a 62-41 road victory against New Franklin on Nov. 24 to begin the season. The Falcons' fast-pace tempo kept their opponent off-balance for a majority of the game.

Leading some of that tempo for Fayette was senior guard Phillip Brinkley, a player Kendrick said expects to be one of his leaders this season. Primarily spending time at point guard, Brinkley led the Falcons in assists last season with 113, but Kendrick would like for Brinkley to get more shooting opportunities.

"He got a little trigger-shy and that was a kid I was telling to shoot the basketball," Kendrick said. "We're going to need him to shoot the ball and he shoots it really well. But he's a pure point guard and

he sees the floor really well."

Senior Logan Ball is the other player Kendrick is looking to for leadership. Ball provides the perfect height to move back and forth as a post player and a perimeter guard. But it's his defense that Kendrick wanted to focus on.

"We've talked among ourselves about what his strengths are on the offensive game for us, but what he can bring to us rebounding-wise and effort on the defensive end is going to contribute to a lot of success," Kendrick said. "We're going to be able to put him on a bigger guy, we're going to be able to put him on a smaller, quicker guard, because he is a very athletic basketball player."

Despite having very little playing time last season, another senior making the jump to the starting lineup is senior Devonté Graves. His size is comparable to that of Ball, but Kendrick would like to keep Graves primarily around the paint.

"Devonté's strengths are from 15 feet and in," Kendrick said. "He'll like to shoot the outside jumper occasionally, if somebody gives him space, but offensively his strength is to be inside."

However, Kendrick said his team will run a continuity offense, meaning that no player will be given a set position for the season. In order to play for Kendrick, he said a player must have the ability to play any position from one through five, whether they're 6-foot-8 or 5-foot-6.

"That makes us very diverse and hopefully difficult to guard and match up against," Kendrick said.

The Falcons also have a class of juniors that will see substantial playing time. Spencer Gerald is the leading returning scorer from last season at just over five points per game, but Kendrick said he will be a vocal leader this season as well.

"When he keeps from getting down on himself, he's going to be able to lead by example," Kendrick said. "He's a very good shooter and gets to the rim. We're going to put him in some crucial spots and really need him to step up and fill the spot of what we lost from Ryan's offensive output last year."

Other juniors that will see substantial time on the court include Christian Broadus, a player Kendrick said could play anywhere from the one to a three guard, as well as the backup point guard. Kendrick also said Keenon Chapman is a player who has improved his game dramatically from his freshman year and will be a shooter for this year's team.

But Kendrick also talked about Mavrick Frerking, a player he considered to be the most improved on the team defensively from last season. Kendrick said he'll come off the bench and play a similar style to Ball defensively.

"He's another one of those guys that's about 6-foot-1 or 6-foot-2, long and lanky and can play inside and outside," Kendrick said.

Other players looking to see varsity minutes for the Falcons include Kyron Broadus, a player Kendrick said who brings a defensive mentality where he's not afraid to go diving on the floor. Jonathan Palmer is another junior that will

be another threat off the bench as well, while senior Travis Beaman could see some minutes this season, like he did in the opener against New Franklin.

But Kendrick has a best-kept secret with sophomore Bruce Marshall to round off his varsity squad. Coming into this season as one of the area's tallest players standing at 6-foot-8, Marshall started the season opener as the Falcons' shooting guard.

And no, that's not a typographical error. Despite his youth, Marshall possesses traits similar to that of former Missouri basketball player Matt Lawrence. While he has the size to play inside, his shot resides with the three-pointer, creating a mismatch for most of his defenders this season.

"I've got a lot of expectations on him," Kendrick said. "He's the kind of individual that spent at least three days in the weight room all summer long, trying to get bigger and stronger, on top of the fact that he grew five inches in the offseason. He's an individual that wants to play basketball after high school and because of that, he has the drive to excel."

With his arsenal of players to choose from, Kendrick said the hardest decision won't be finding a way to rotate his players into the lineup. Instead, it will come as how he enters them into the ballgame, whether it's bringing in one or two players at a time or refreshing the court with a whole new group of five players.

"We really just try to look at playing

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Fayette Falcons girls basketball



Tori Eaton

Senior 5'6" Forward
Parents: Fred & Sheri Eaton



Amber Hoskisson

Senior 5'4" Guard
Parents: Jeff & Christie Hoskisson



Sadie Powell

Senior 5'7" Forward
Parents: Jeanne Babboni-Banks



Emily Moore

Junior 5'1" Guard
Parents: David & Sheri Moore



Hayleigh Brunkhorst

Sophomore 5'6" Forward
Parents: Neal & Karen Brunkhorst



Jessie Garrett

Sophomore 5'3" Guard
Parents: Allen & Cindy Garrett



Shariah Hill

Sophomore 5'5" Guard
Parents: Darren Tindall & Pamela Hill



Courtney Leaton

Sophomore 5'5" Guard
Parents: Larry & Trish Leaton



Maggie O'Connell

Sophomore 5'4" Guard
Parents: Brian McMillan & Peggy O'Connell



Taylor Rice

Sophomore 5'3" Guard
Parents: Tim & Tina Rice



Sam Strodman

Sophomore 5'7" Forward
Parents: Kevin Strodman & Shannon Johnson



Nazow Tarakai

Sophomore 5'5" Forward
Parents: Ashraf & Satarow Tarakai



Yahshima Brinkley

Freshman 5'6" Guard
Parent: Nate Brinkley



Tyrae Bush

Freshman 5'2" Forward
Parents: Cara Bush & Deon Jones



Kenya Johnson

Freshman 5'3" Guard
Guardians: Elsie Johnson & Marita Harris



Kennzie Thornton

Freshman 5'3" Guard
Parents: Pete Thornton & Micki Polson



Caitlin Wells

Freshman 5'9" Forward
Parents: Marc & Janet Wells



Mike James

Head Coach



Emily Ringen

Assistant Coach



Lady Falcons hope to show good mix of veterans and youth

Fayette girls basketball head coach Mike James just assumes to put last season in the past after a 2-22 campaign, in which Fayette only picked up wins against Pilot Grove and Westran.

James said that's over and done with. However, what he will take away from last season was that plenty of girls got some much-needed varsity experience at a younger age and will be very beneficial to the Lady Falcons' performance this

season.

"We were able to get a lot of players some experience last year," James said. "We knew last year was going to be a building year, so hopefully those growing pains we went through last year will pay dividends this year because we'll have more experience.

"I think we're OK. We've got some decent experience coming back and then the new players we've got have some

ability. Hopefully we'll get a good mix of young and old."

The Lady Falcons lost one senior from last year's team in Kaitlyn Bailey, so James is excited about the experience he returns. Bailey was the leading scorer for Fayette last season, averaging 10 points per game on a team that averaged just over 30 per ballgame.

This season, he'll have three seniors suit up for the varsity squad with Tori

Eaton, Amber Hoskisson and Sadie Powell. James says all three players display leadership qualities. Eaton returns to this year's team as a two-year starter, while Powell started last season as well.

James said that Eaton will be one of the team's best shooters this season, as well as being an inside threat, especially after being one of the team's top

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rebounders last season with 6.4 rebounds per game.

"She's got a little bit of clutch shooting ability in her as well," James said. "She's made some big shots over her three previous years, sending one game into overtime. We kind of look to her when the game gets tight to give us that big shot we need. She's one of our best defenders and she rebounds the ball pretty well."

James said that since Eaton returns to the team with the most experience, he will look for all-around good play from his senior. For the Lady Falcons to be successful, he said, she'll need to do some scoring and rebounding, with hopes of her improving from her scoring average of 5.2 points per game last season.

Powell comes to the Lady Falcons as their leading returning scorer (6.8 points per game) and rebounder (7.0 rebounds per game). James said Powell is the most athletic player on the team this season and will be a prized asset on this year's team.

"She does some things that other players don't have," James said. "She has the ability to shoot the ball from the outside, she has the ability to post and she has the ability to take it off the dribble. She's kind of a triple threat player, so we need her to really step her game up."

James said that last year through the first 10 or 11 games, Powell had a bit of a struggle, but by the 12th game she

turned things around, including a time when she scored a season-high 15 points. In the Lady Falcons' season opener against a tough New Franklin team on Nov. 24, Powell led her team with eight points, but it was in a 52-19 losing effort. James said if Fayette can get more consistency out of her, he thinks she can average scoring in the upwards of 15 to 18 points per game.

Hoskisson, the third senior, is one of the players with heart and soul on this year's team, James said, because of how hard she plays.

"She doesn't put up the big numbers scoring-wise," James said, "but she'll dive for balls, she'll tie somebody up, she'll dive into the stands for a ball. She does all of that hard-nosed gritty stuff. She's quicker than she looks and I just like the way she plays. She'll help some of the younger players by showing if you play hard, good things will happen. You can always count on Amber playing hard."

Hoskisson played in 23 of the Lady Falcons' 24 games last season. While her numbers were fairly low last season, James said the things Hoskisson contributes to this year's team won't show up in a box score, but rather through her hustle that will help her teammates this season.

After his seniors, James said that anything is up for grabs when it comes to the underclassmen. He plans on mixing three young players at both guard spots with Kenya Johnson, Kennzie Thornton and Taylor Rice.

"I like the fact that if we play all three of them together, we can do some different things defensively," James said. "We can probably get out and pressure a little more full court and probably get out and trap a little more. That gives us a different dimension that we didn't have last year and gives us depth at the guard spot."

James said all three players worked really hard on shooting over the summer and that fans will see much improved guard play from his team this season.

As for the post position, while Eaton and Powell can spend time at either the guard or forward position, James said that he will have a true post player for the first time since he took over as head coach. That player is freshman Caitlin Wells, who is the tallest person on the team at 5 foot 9 inches tall.

"I've been really excited about her strength," James said. "She has long arms and has learned how to post up. I think we're going to have an inside presence this year. I think she's going to be able to do that for us. I look for her to get a lot of playing time and hopefully do some of that inside work for us."

If that's the case, the Lady Falcons have not had a true post player since the departure of Jessra Johnson back in 2006. However, James said that because of her youth, Wells still has plenty of learn. Plus, he looks for it to be a challenge the first time she faces players who are bigger or stronger than her, but as the season goes along, James looks for her to improve with time.

James said he also looks for sophomore Sam Strodman to spend some time at the post position this season, but like Eaton and Powell, he said she's a player that kind of falls in between the guard and forward positions.

Other players that will be looking for

playing time at the varsity include junior Emily Moore, sophomore Courtney Leaton and two freshman, Tyrae Bush and Yahshima Brinkley.

Because the Lady Falcons will typically run with one post position, James said their offense will have one-post looks rather than forcing a second player down at the other post position.

During preseason practice, James had his girls work on up-and-down-the-floor transition, shooting in transition and attacking the basket. While he'd like to play as a transition team, James said he would also slow the game down at times.

"We are also working on slowing it down, especially against zone looks," James said. "We're working on getting the ball inside. I still believe that you've got to get the ball inside, even if for nothing else, to prove that you'll do it so that (the opposing team) will respect that."

Defensively, James said he felt having a shorter team might hurt the Lady Falcons, especially if they come up against an opponent with a 6-footer. He said defensively, his team is going to have to be a matchup zone team, using the guards to pressure the perimeter and keeping his rebounders in position for the longer shots.

"We're going to have to work really hard as a unit in order to try to stop the dominance of the inside game," James said. "It helps having Wells because even though she's about 5-foot-9, she plays taller than that."

"Every day we've worked on rebounding this year. We've talked about one shot and done, one and done, one and done, because I think if we can do that, even as short as we are, then we're going to have very good success. That's what got us last year, was the putbacks."

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New Franklin Bulldogs boys basketball



Garth Baker
Senior 6'2" Forward
Parents: Tim & Michelle Baker



Graham Powers
Senior 5'10" Forward
Parents: Art & Vinita Powers



Kris Woods
Senior 5'8" Guard
Parents: Jeff & Sam Woods



Nate Brown
Junior 6'3" Forward
Parents: Mike & Connie Brown



Travis Crowley
Junior 6'1" Forward
Parents: Steve & Mellissa Crowley



Seth Oser
Junior 6'2" Forward
Parents: Mark & Lisa Oser



Koddie Schumaker
Junior 5'9" Guard
Parents: Kevin & Ann Schumaker



Ethan Shipp
Junior 5'9" Guard
Parents: Steve & Dawn Shipp



Austin Baker
Sophomore 5'10" Forward
Parents: Tim & Michelle Baker



Rusty Greenlaw
Freshman 6'1" Forward
Parent: Russell Greenlaw



Zach McGee
Freshman 5'8" Guard
Parents: Cliff & Jaque McGee



Jordan Reimer
Freshman 5'10" Forward
Parents: Eva Painter



Jim Schlotzhauer
Head Coach



Evan Storjohann
Freshman 5'7" Guard
Parents: Scott & Joyce Storjohann



Jared Wyatt
Freshman 5'10" Forward
Parents: Darrin & Marlene Wyatt



Chris McGowan
Assistant Coach



Bulldogs hope to return to winning tradition this season

After having a subpar season during the 2008-09 campaign with a 9-17 record and 6-6 finish in the Central Activities Conference, New Franklin boys head coach Jim Schlotzhauer hopes this year's squad can make the Bulldogs a force to be reckoned with in the area once again.

"Oh, I'd say it's similar to last year," Schlotzhauer said of his team's goal. "The goal last year was to get back to .500, but we didn't quite make it. Obviously, that's our goal for this year though, is to bring the winning tradition back to New Franklin."

What appeared to be the big struggle for the Bulldogs last year was their nonconference schedule. Despite facing the likes of Glasgow, Keytesville and Sturgeon — each team handed New Franklin two losses last season, their only losses in conference play — the Bulldogs finished 3-11 during the nonconference portion of their schedule. In fact, their nonconference wins came against Slater,

Bucklin and Cairo (considered nonconference because it was during the Glasgow Tournament).

However, Schlotzhauer will have 14 players suited up for the 2009-10 season. The Bulldogs only lost two key players, but that includes their top scorer from last season with Dylan Maupin, who averaged 9.6 points per game, along with Austin Orton, a player who did a little bit of everything for New Franklin.

"We lost two seniors, one who was a starter and one who was a backup post," Schlotzhauer said. "Our point guard moved to Alabama, so we'll miss a little bit of his defensive presence and taking care of the ball. Other than those two players, it was more of a lot of role players that we lost, so we have other players that we think are going to step up."

Of the 14 players this season, seven saw action at the varsity level last season. One player in particular that Schlotzhauer will be looking to as a leader

will be junior Travis Crowley, who averaged 7.8 points per game last season to go along with a team-high 6.0 rebounds per game. Crowley returns to the Bulldogs after earning first-team All-Conference honors as a sophomore.

"He's one of the best athletes around," Schlotzhauer said. "He needs to work on some of his skills, but he's a pretty good athlete."

Other than mentioning the fact that he's a good athlete, Schlotzhauer said that Crowley likes to defend, but he needs to learn to score more and needs to make himself do it.

Aside from Crowley this season, the Bulldogs' coach is also looking for production out of senior Graham Powers, a player who possesses the height and build that can make him versatile all around the court, both offensively and defensively.

"On defense, I like the way he plays defense," Schlotzhauer said. "He's quick. Our whole team's quick. Now whether

we use our heads and use that quickness is a whole different story."

Schlotzhauer won't have to worry about the size factor either this season. He'll have three players at 6-foot-2 or taller. Among those players to head the post position will be junior Nate Brown. Schlotzhauer anticipates his numbers will increase this season after averaging 5.3 point per game a year ago, along with 4.6 rebounds per game.

"The same as Travis, he needs to step up and have a bigger role this year," Schlotzhauer said. "Last year we looked to Dylan Maupin quite a bit to do the scoring and Nate didn't really score with his back to the basket. This year, he's going to have to do that. He can do it, but it's him stepping up and doing that for us."

Another player expected to see minutes at the forward position for the Bulldogs will be 6-foot-2 senior Garth Baker.

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"He didn't play a lot last year either, but he's grown quite a bit. He's a big guy and he'll be able to play quite a few minutes as well."

Schlotzhauer said this season's team will consist of five or six guards to complement their height down low. Two guys who didn't get as much playing time last season but are expected to see increased minutes will include junior Ethan Shipp and senior Kris Woods. The two players combined for 28 points, 19 steals and 15 assists last season, but that number is expected to grow this season.

"Those two guys didn't play (much) last year because Austin Orton played so much, but now they're going to have to play a lot," Schlotzhauer said.

Along with his guards, Schlotzhauer said that junior Koddie Schumaker will take over the duties as New Franklin's point guard. Schlotzhauer said Schumaker is a guy who like to play hard, and while it's obvious his players work hard, they're going to have to work at their skills to achieve their goals.

However, Schlotzhauer said losing the starting point guard from last season is going to be one of the toughest things to overcome. At this point in the early going, Schlotzhauer said his team's biggest weakness resides in their ball handling.

"Losing our point guard is a big deal," Schlotzhauer said. "Of the 32 minutes, he probably played 25 or 28 minutes per game. Koddie's going to have to do that

now. That's the biggest change. Really, for the most part, we have three other starters back, so a lot of them are the same. But it's all about handling the ball and that was our problem last year. Hopefully it's not our problem this year, but we'll see."

However, Schlotzhauer said his team has been working hard over the preseason to improve on this, as well as facing quickness and pressure that could force his team into turnovers. He said his team has worked quite a bit on fast break drills to conquer any press his team might face this season.

"On our ball handling, we're trying to put Travis on (Koddie) to try and get more pressure, to really make sure we're ready for that," Schlotzhauer said. "Koddie playing against Travis everyday has to help him, it can't hurt him."

Junior forward Seth Oser is also expected to see some varsity minutes for the Bulldogs, but freshman Rusty Greenlaw, who transferred from Fayette, has the possibility of being the lone freshman that gets to see some varsity minutes in his first year of high school. He's also spent the past month playing with the Bulldogs' ninth grade basketball team against CAC opponents and was often his team's leading scorer.

"He played junior high for me and he's got the size to do it, but he's got to adjust to the high school level before he can do that."

While the Bulldogs have a good mix of both guards and post players,

Schlotzhauer said all of his players will essentially play the same spot with the offense that they run.

"For the most part, we're going to try to move it around and try to get the best shot that we can get," Schlotzhauer said. "You would hope that your better players will get most of the shots, but once again, we're going to have to find out who can step up and that's kind of a common theme this year."

Defensively, the Bulldogs have typically run a man-to-man, but Schlotzhauer said they will throw in some more zone defense as well. His hopes are to put a little more pressure on the opponents this

year, using the Bulldogs' quickness to their advantage.

Aside from their quickness as a strength, Schlotzhauer also feels his team displays a type of toughness that will force opposing teams to play hard the entire game. "We can get after them to play hard," he said. "Our problem right now is probably more so the mental toughness. If we can conquer that, then we'll be pretty hard to play against."

Taking a look at the CAC, New Franklin took a fourth place finish with a 6-6 record. The Bulldogs were swept,

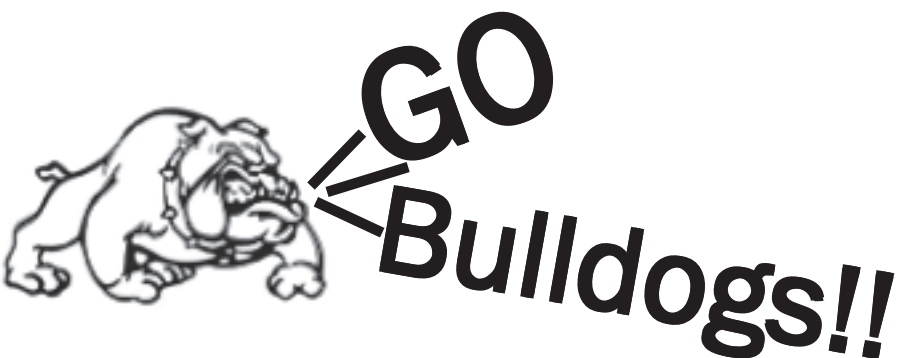
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New Franklin seniors, from left: Kris Woods, Garth Baker and Graham Powers.



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New Franklin Bulldogs girls basketball



Stephanie Greenlaw
Senior 5'7" Forward
Parent: Russell Greenlaw



Abby Kircher
Senior 6'1" Forward
Parents: Kendall & Lisa Kircher



Sydney Lee
Senior 6'0" Forward
Parents: Rodney & Nicole Lee



Kelsea McClellan
Senior 5'6" Guard
Parents: Rick & Teresa McClellan



Courtney Reimer
Senior 5'5" Guard
Parent: Eva Painter



Melanie Wilmsmeyer
Senior 5'8" Forward
Parents: Donnie & Kathy Wilmsmeyer



Valerie Dobson
Junior 5'7" Forward
Parents: Dan & Pat Dobson



Sam Kircher
Junior 5'9" Guard
Parents: Randy & Gayle Kircher



Shelby Lee
Junior 6'1" Forward
Parents: Rodney & Nicole Lee



Amanda Cook
Sophomore 5'8" Forward
Parents: Larry & Brenda Cook



Taylor Warren
Sophomore 5'8" Guard
Parents: John & Vicky Warren



Lauren Burnett
Freshman 5'9" Forward
Parents: Nelson & Shelia Burnett



Ryan Lyons
Head Coach



Olivia Harvey
Freshman 5'10" Forward
Parents: Richard & Susan Harvey



Emily Hendrix
Freshman 5'9" Forward
Parents: Kenneth & Tami Hendrix



Kourtney Brawner
Assistant Coach



Lady Bulldogs hope for another trip to state playoffs

Making a move up to Class 2 didn't turn out to be much of a concern for the New Franklin girls basketball team last season, garnering a third-place finish at the Final Four in March with a victory over Couch to cap off a 28-3 season.

Starting his first season with the storied program, head coach Ryan Lyons was quick to talk about some of the players he'd be missing, such as Sam Ginter, Katie Chitwood or Lindsay Hendrix.

But at the same time, he knew he was lucky to have the returning players he has for this season, a luxury very few first-year coaches are able to encounter.

"That's where I'm really lucky," Lyons said. "A number of coaches' and friends' comments said, 'How'd you do it?' How lucky can you be to inherit such a good returning group?"

Lyons takes over as head coach after former head coach Benji Dorson stepped down to take the administrative position as the high school principal. This season he'll have five returning seniors and adds

another one with the addition of senior transfer Stephanie Greenlaw from Fayette.

After running through the state playoffs last season, Lyons said he doesn't need to worry about where to look for leadership this season, saying that it will all be placed with his returning seniors.

"As far as leaders, I couldn't ask for a better group, and I'm not just saying that," Lyons said.

The team selected seniors Kelsea McClellan, Sydney Lee and Courtney Reimer as their captains for the season, which according to Lyons said a lot his team. Lyons said he also has about three or four girls who are considering playing at the next level, something he takes pride in because it means his players are taking things very seriously.

"They're kind of an inspiration to the underclassmen," Lyons said. "That's what I'd like to do. I'd like to have it be the norm, like Mr. Dorson has done, where we've got girls going to play some

college ball."

One of those three or four players Lyons said is looking to play basketball beyond high school is McClellan, who was selected to the Class 2 All-State team and was the team's leading scorer last season with 10.7 points per game.

"She's better already than last year, even better than she was in the summer," Lyons said. "One of the things we've been working on is a lot of agility workouts, and she's one of about five or six that were there every day, trying to improve her quickness."

McClellan will spend time at the No. 2 position as the Lady Bulldogs' shooting guard. She wasted no time in showing why she belonged on the All-State team last season, racking up a team-high 19 points in New Franklin's season opener against Fayette on Nov. 24 in a 52-19 victory.

Taking a look at some of the other seniors on this ballclub, Lyons will also have plenty of height and depth at the post po-

sition, primarily with Lee and Abby Kircher, both standing at 6-foot-1-inches tall. Lee returns to the team as the leading rebounder from last season with 243 boards (130 coming on the offensive end), which comes to 7.6 rebounds per game, and was also the second-leading scorer with 7.8 points per game. Kircher finished last season with 4.6 points per game and 3.8 rebounds per game.

Lyons said he didn't want to give away many secrets, but he said he doesn't believe many teams will run a man-to-man defense against his Lady Bulldogs because of the height advantage. While he'd like the team to run a man defense and create plenty of mismatches, he believes many will go with the zone defense.

"I'd like to create switches on screens to get a smaller player on some of our taller players," Lyons said. "It's a real advantage. Those two girls (Lee and Kircher) are really good in the post, in

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Area High School Basketball Preview

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my opinion, and as long as they stay out of foul trouble, I think we're really going to be able to hurt teams on the block."

Another player that will get playing time as a forward includes senior Melanie Wilmsmeyer. While her numbers were low last season with just 15 points and 49 rebounds on the year, Lyons expects her to be an impact player as well.

Lyons said his main concern was the loss of Ginter at the point guard position, saying that she was a person who did everything. While the position remained one that is untested of the Lady Bulldogs' returning players, he has currently filled the position with senior Courtney Reimer. She was a player that Lyons said he understood why she was voted as one of the team's captains.

"I think the girls chose Courtney because she has a lot of natural leadership ability," Lyons said. "It kind of goes without saying. She doesn't necessarily bark a lot of orders. There's just something about her, probably just being that point guard, the quarterback of the team."

Looking ahead to the future as well, Lyons said having a junior behind Reimer at the position gives him a couple of years with the same person bringing the ball up the court, something he's invested with junior Sam Kircher. During the first game against Fayette, the two combined for 10 assists in the ballgame

"I'd like to get Sam comfortable at that spot and help us next year, being only a junior," Lyons said. "I'll possibly need her to do a little bit of point guard next year."

Other players to get varsity minutes include sophomore Amanda Cook, who Lyons said is working hard on her agility and is a great shooter. Along with Cook, junior Valerie Dobson will be included in

the mix.

While Lyons understands this group of girls is used to winning, he also knows that they know victories won't come to them on a silver platter.

"If I summed this group up right now, I'd say they're used to winning and they're willing to work hard to keep winning," Lyons said. "That's for sure. They come into practice without me having to get on them to work hard."

Lyons will also have a handful of new players this season, in addition to Greenlaw. Of the newcomers to the team, Lyons said while it's still early in her career, he sees good things coming from freshman Emily Hendrix. She's someone that brings a hard work ethic to the team and can hopefully fill the shoes of her older sister, who was a senior on last year's team.

Another newcomer to the team is Taylor Warren, a player Lyons said hasn't come out for basketball since the sixth grade. However, he said she's very athletic and ran track for the Lady Bulldogs in the past as well, saying she will be a good fit once she gets acclimated to the program.

Although the season is very young, Lyons has given his team the opportunity the set the bar high. He told his players he sees no reason why they can't match — or even top — last year's mark, that they can be even better.

"At our first meeting, I told them to not use the fact that I'm an inexperienced coach," Lyons said. "Don't get that seed in your mind that that's going to be a problem or an issue because to me, this season depends on (them). I told them I'm not Mr. Dorson, but you all can be as good as you want to be."

After finishing 12-0 in Central Activities Conference play last season, Lyons said he sees no reason why his team

can't take first place again this season. Although he said he doesn't have a set expectation, he believes his players would be disappointed if they finished any lower.

Lyons said that while his team's biggest strength lies within their height, it also extends to the fact that he has tall players that can move around the court. "We've got three girls who are 6-foot and over that can move well," Lyons said. "That's the thing that I think is kind of deceiving. When you guard that tall person, you generally think that they're probably pretty slow, but they can move with some of our wings. They can stick with them pretty well."

The main weakness, Lyons said, again comes with filling the role of Ginter. While he has a couple of point guards vying for the position, he said he also is looking for someone to apply the defensive pressure that Ginter produced last season, which accounted for a team-high 95 steals. He said he believes Reimer can fill that position as well, but she also hasn't

been tested yet.

The Lady Bulldogs look to be tested early this week in the Glasgow Tournament. Earning the No. 2 seed, they would love a rematch against Harrisburg, the team that defeated them in the championship game in 2008 and handed New Franklin one of its three benchmarks on the season.

For the start of the season, Lyons said he would like to set a goal of his team achieving a 20-plus win season, but on the other hand, he'd also like to see them back at Mizzou Arena again this season. It would make for a pretty memorable season as a first-year coach with a team that has that potential.

"That was my dream back in high school," Lyons said of making an appearance at the state championships. "I just want to see as many of them live that out. They'd love to get back to Mizzou Arena. Talent-wise, I think we've got the ability to do that."



New Franklin seniors, from left: Courtney Reimer, Melanie Wilmsmeyer, Kelsea McClellan, Abby Kircher, Sydney Lee and Stephanie Greenlaw.

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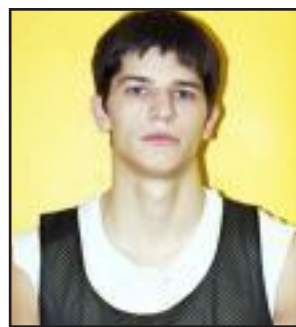
Ben Meyer
Senior 6'6" Center
Parents: Jeff & Bonnie Meyer



Grant Monnig
Senior 5'11" Guard
Parents: Kent and Joyce Monnig



Hank Wellborn
Senior 6'0" Guard
Parents: Sonny & Kathy Wellborn



Nick Boggs
Junior 5'10" Forward
Parents: Terry & Genia Boggs



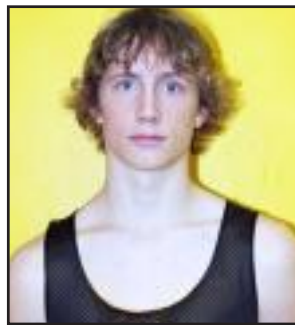
Mitchell Littrell
Junior 5'10" Guard
Parents: Kevin & Vici Littrell



Austin Sanders
Junior 5'11" Forward
Parents: Scott & Helen Sanders



Tyler Sanders
Junior 5'10" Guard
Parents: Rodney & Gina Sanders



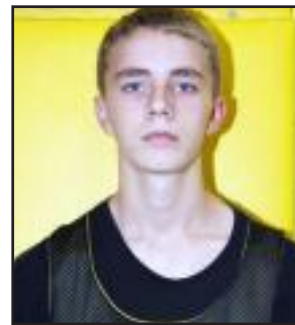
Cody O'Bryan
Sophomore Guard
Parents: Ronnie & Brandy Severns



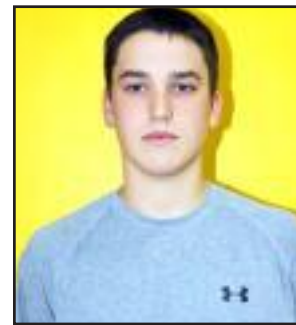
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Ethan Thompson
Freshman Guard
Parents: Joe & Becky Thompson



Jimmie Wilson
Freshman Guard
Parents: Jim & Gina Wilson



Mick Cropp
Head Coach



Not Pictured
Luke Korte

Yellowjackets look to be competitive despite key losses

The Glasgow boys basketball team has been a recurring nightmare for many Class 1 opponents over the past three seasons.

In 2007, the Yellowjackets advanced as far as the quarterfinals before falling to LaPlata.

In 2008, they made it all the way to the championship game and lost to Jefferson, a team that won the state title for its third consecutive season.

In 2009, they made a repeat appearance before stumbling against eventual state champion Scott County Central, but bounced back with a third-place win against Chadwick.

And there was always a common fixture on each of those three teams, and that was Jay Lee, a three-time All-Stater in each of those three seasons. In his senior season, he scored 916 points, averaging nearly 30 points per game for the Yellowjackets on a team that averaged nearly 70 points per game.

But Lee graduated in May and is now playing as a freshman at State Fair Community College. Instead of wearing black and yellow this winter, he'll be putting on a blue and white uniform instead.

And while head coach Mick Cropp knows he can't replace Lee, he still believes his team is going to be OK this season.

"I don't know about right off the bat," Cropp said. "We have some kids back with varsity experience, but they're more rotational players from last year. Inexperience will hurt us early, but if we can shoot the ball consistently well from the outside, we're still going to be OK."

The Yellowjackets will also be without the likes of Briar Hoffman and Chris Wells from last season, the No. 2 and 3 scorers behind Lee.

Cropp said he will be returning eight lettermen this season, including four players that played quality varsity minutes last season. While this season's suc-

cess may still be a question mark early on, he said that the kids on this team have had success since junior high all the way through junior varsity and hopes that will continue.

"We're going to be competitive," Cropp said. "There's just going to be a lot of question marks. It's just going to be a feeling-out process."

But Cropp expects that teams will overlook the Yellowjackets because of the players they lost. If they do, he has senior Ben Meyer to show them that looking past Glasgow this season would be a big mistake.

Meyer has been the big man on campus for Glasgow the past season or two, using a 6-foot-6-inch frame that grabbed 181 rebounds last season to go along with 235 points. Those numbers would have been much higher, but Meyer missed 13 games last season with an injury. During his absence, Glasgow lost four of its six games, showing that Meyer was as much

as a necessity on the court as Lee may have been.

Cropp said he'll bring a big, strong physical presence down low for the Yellowjackets this season.

"I want him to dominate the point, stay out of foul trouble and stay away from injury," Cropp said. "We were 9-4 without him, so we were 17-2 with him. This is just an example of how important he is. He was the focal point (last year), but he wasn't the main man. We're going to find out where our offense is going to go and we're going to stretch the defense around Ben."

Another senior Cropp is going to look to for support is Hank Wellborn, who will spend time as both a guard and a forward. Last season he played in 30 games and put up 1.7 points per game and 1.7 rebounds per game, starting a few games because of injuries to other players.

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"He's really improved his shot from last year," Cropp said. "He rebounds really well, he passes really well. He rebounds really well for a guard and he plays with a lot of intensity."

Junior Tyler Sanders will be another player that will see some time at the guard position, particularly as the point guard. Cropp said Sanders had such a good pre-season, as well as at the team's open gym sessions and he filled in as needed last season.

"He's the best shooter on the team and he handles the ball well," Cropp said. "He works hard to communicate with these kids. He's really a coach's player. He runs the team well, especially on the defensive end."

Cropp said that his best defender on the ball this year will be junior guard Mitchell Littrell, someone he considers to be an extremely hard worker. But then again, Cropp acknowledged that his four juniors have impressed him since day one.

"These four kids, when they were freshmen, were the best team I've ever had about communicating defensively," Cropp said. "They really talk well and I was really impressed with that and it's carried over."

Mitchell Littrell is a person who can shoot the three and if he's left open, he can knock down the shot, Cropp said.

One of the strengths Cropp said his team will have is that they will be tall on the court at times. Other than Meyer, the Yellowjackets have two players listed on their roster at 6-foot-3-inches tall with sophomore Dillon Yung and freshman Reid Littrell. When Meyer was injured last season, Cropp said his next tallest player was 6-foot tall.

Yung will primarily handle the No. 4

spot, but possess the ability to play both the perimeter and the paint. But when he talks of Yung, Cropp remembers a moment from last season's district championship against Pilot Grove, in detail.

"He was the one in the third quarter that came out and there was a timeout and they (Pilot Grove) were doing an out-of-bounds play under their basket," Cropp said. "They threw it over the top, it got tipped and they ran after it and he (Yung) just dove and grabbed it and slid, from the free throw line all the way underneath the basket and hit the wall. He had no chance at the ball, caught it and slid. All-out hustle."

Cropp said Yung has a mid-range jumper and he's a long, lanky kid that he'd like to be a rebounder, along with Meyer.

Reid Littrell is the third player Cropp expects to play at the post this season. However, he has been slowed down by an ankle injury he suffered during a shooting drill at practice. When he returns to the lineup, despite his youth, Cropp said he will be a nice addition for his team.

"He's got a good touch," Cropp said. "One reason why we even went to a little bit different of an offense at times is because of him and his touch. He has a nice shot from about 17 feet. He's going to be pretty good by the end of the year."

Cropp also said he expects to see contributions from senior guard Grant Monnig, junior forward Nick Boggs and junior forward/center Austin Sanders.

Cropp said he remembered a time last season against Santa Fe when he had four starters foul out. On the court was Lee and four other junior varsity players. One of those four was Austin Sanders, who acted as the team's center at the time, even though he was less than 6-foot tall.

Within the Central Activities Conference, Cropp said that Sturgeon will be

the team to beat with everyone coming back. After that, Keytesville also has some key players coming back and that New Franklin, Brunswick, Madison and Cairo will be better this season, despite finishing at the bottom of the conference last year.

With that all said, Cropp expects his team to still finish somewhere in the top half of the conference. He said his players will still have athleticism, but they're going to have to play good defense to compete. "Ever since last summer, the key is to be able to shoot consistently and playing good defense," Cropp said. "It never really changes from year to year. We've got to execute offensively and we've got to play hard enough on defense."

The goals will still remain the same for the Yellowjackets as they have in years past: win the conference, be ready to win

a district championship and see what happens after that. The conference title seemed to be the only thing Glasgow wasn't able to win last year, finishing 10-2 in CAC play.

With all this talk about losing players, Cropp wanted to make sure people knew the other side of the story.

The Yellowjackets lost four starters after advancing to the Final Four, and he told critics his team was going to be OK. Sure enough, the following season, Glasgow went back to the Final Four.

Now we're at this season, and a lot of the focus has been on what the Yellowjackets have lost from their Final Four run. And Cropp wants to remind his critics that he said he thinks his team is going to be OK this season.

If it worked once, perhaps it will work again.



Glasgow seniors, from left: Hank Wellborn, Ben Meyer and Grant Monnig.

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Junior 5'7" Forward
Parents: David & Jane Bethel



Danielle Fuemmeler

Junior 5'5" Forward
Parent: Jeff & Marilyn Fuemmeler



Jade Hoffman

Junior 5'4" Guard
Parents: Darren & Pam Hoffman



Ciara McMillan

Junior 5'6" Forward
Parents: Sonny & Sherry Shive



Dani Borges

Sophomore 5'4" Guard
Parents: Brian & Donna Borges



Alex Davis

Sophomore 5'1" Guard
Parents: Jeff & Heather Davis



Carley Brucks

Freshman Forward
Parents: David & Debbie Brucks



Brooklyn Hosmer

Freshman Forward
Parents: Greg & Tarra Hosmer



Not Pictured
Makenzie Christian



Lindsey Kopp

Freshman Forward
Parents: Raymond & Candice Kopp



Trisha McMillan

Freshman 5'3" Guard
Parents: David & Melissa McMillan



Susan Freese

Head Coach



Not Pictured
Courtney Neville

Glasgow hopes hard work and new attitude will pay off

Rather than consider the upcoming season a rebuilding year, Glasgow girls head coach Susan Freese is looking for it to be more of a transition year after finishing with a 13-15 record last year.

While returning only one starter, the Lady Yellowjackets will be somewhat unknown heading into the season, especially with two sophomores joining the mix of the starting lineup.

"I think we're going to be competitive, but I don't know how consistent we're going to be at times," Freese said.

Freese said that this team is much more determined than what she saw last year and are more hard-working. A lot of it had to come after the disappointment from last year's district competition, falling to Keytesville in the championship game.

Over the offseason, Freese said the girls got together and decided they weren't going let that happen again this season. She said they planned to come back in better shape and approach this

season with a different attitude.

"During the summer, we played some bigger schools and looked real good," Freese said. "And then you could turn around and be inconsistent. There's an inconsistency."

Freese said a lot of that inconsistency is going to come from having a younger team. The Lady Yellowjackets graduated four seniors from last year's team, losing their leading scorer in Kasaundra Gatewood, who averaged 9.2 points per game.

As far as the Central Activities Conference could pan out this year, Freese said she expects it to be strong. Despite having a losing overall record, Glasgow managed to finish with a 7-5 record in the conference last season. She said Cairo and Sturgeon looked good over the summer and figure to be teams battling for the title, but she also sees New Franklin as a top contender to retain the title after having an undefeated conference record.

"As far as New Franklin, I see them

in the mix because they're really big," Freese said. "It's going to be hard to stop them just because they have three girls over 6-foot tall."

But then again, she said height is no stranger to the conference, with many teams having girls that are also over 6-foot tall. Freese said she sees her team fitting in somewhere around the middle.

"We're going to have some competition we haven't had in years' past," Freese said. "Madison had a young team that was coming on, and last year toward the end they were much better. Sturgeon is going to be our handful, as well as for everybody."

The Lady Yellowjackets will get an early taste of the CAC in the Glasgow Tournament. Taking the No. 6 seed, they will face Cairo, and then, win or lose, play either New Franklin or Keytesville on the side of the bracket that is entirely CAC members.

To be able to compete this season, Freese said her team is going to have to

pick it up defensively. The four seniors from last season were the only players to average more than one steal per game.

"We're going to have to be good defensively to hold teams that have 6-foot players," Freese said. "We're going to have to pick up the pace of our game. I hope to run more, and I think we're going to be able to do it with this group. Some of the teams that we beat (this summer) was because we got up and down the floor pretty quick."

Along with defense, Freese said that tenacity is also one of her team's strengths. In addition, she said she also likes her team's willingness to work hard and improvement is something that could help tremendously this season.

"I think the girls feel like they are more of a team this year," Freese said. "They enjoy being around each other and working with each other. They're very good at working together as a group. I don't

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know if we had that last year.”

However, with an improved defense, Freese said that her girls will have to work hard at scoring this season. Glasgow lost four of their top-five leading scorers from last season, with Paula Daniels leading the returners with 5.6 points per game.

“It’s going to be one of those things when we’re on, it’s going to be great, and when we’re not on, it could get kind of ugly,” Freese said. “That’s based on what I saw this summer.”

When she set goals for her team this season, Freese said she felt winning the conference wouldn’t be realistic because Glasgow will be competing against three other Class 2 schools. However, she said she’d like to see this team get back to the district finals in Pilot Grove when March rolls around.

Taking a look at her players in regards to a much-needed look for scorers, Freese said sophomore Dani Borges to step up into one of those roles as the team’s shooting guard.

“We’ve got two sophomores that are starting. One, Dani Borges, we kind of bumped her up last year. She matured a lot, and playing freshman ball had a lot to do with that. She had limited playing time (last year). I’m looking for her to be our go-to girl on the outside, and also to help with handling the ball.”

Another player Freese will be looking to this season is junior Danielle

Fuemmeler. Although she suffered a sprained ankle in the preseason and averaged under one point per game last season, Freese said she is the most improved player on her squad and will see increased minutes on the court.

“She came off the bench (last year) and she really didn’t get to play a lot because she just wasn’t ready,” Freese said. “She just improved her shooting skills and improved her ball-handling skills. She’s much more aggressive and seems more confident with what she can do.”

Daniels, one of Freese’s two seniors, is the lone returning starter from last year. Freese said she’ll provide a lot of leadership on the floor and she worked out over some of the summer with Central Methodist. Daniels will be the power forward for the Lady Yellowjackets.

“She was our leading rebounder last year,” Freese said of Daniels, who averaged 7.8 rebounds per game. “She’s going to be key for scoring and running the floor. I think she’s just a pretty good all-around player.”

The other senior, Kayla Boss, was the sixth man off the bench for Glasgow last year, Freese said. Boss will bring strength to the team and will be confident at posting up as well. Last season, Boss played in all 28 games and averaged 3.4 points per game and 4.5 rebounds per game.

“She is so strong,” Freese said. “Sometimes she doesn’t even know how strong she is.”

The other sophomore that will take a

position in the starting lineup this year will be Alex Davis. She will take over at the point guard position, but on a time that is needing scoring, Freese said that part of her game is not her strong suit.

“She’s our tenacious defensive player,” Freese said. “If we can get her to run the fast break situations, I don’t see too many girls that can keep up with her.”

Freese will have three juniors ready to off the bench this season. Jade Hoffman will be the bench player with the most experience, playing in 12 games last season. She will be joined by Kellie Bethel and Ciara McMillan as players that will see more minutes than they did in

the past.

In addition, Freese said freshman Trisha McMillan will come off the bench as a guard and a perimeter shooter.

With the bunch she has this season, Freese said both she and the girls are ready to get started. But as she mentioned earlier, the outcome for Glasgow is still something that is unknown, with the combination of hard work, inconsistency and youth.

“You have a lot of hopes that everything is going to go well,” Freese said. “I see a lot of potential, but when you look at your competition, you just don’t know how it’s going to turn out.”



Glasgow seniors, from left: Paula Daniels and Kayla Boss.

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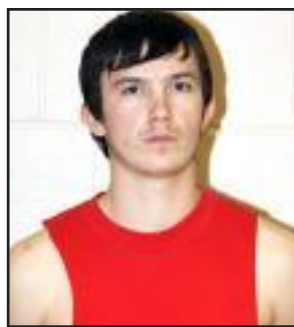
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Senior 6'0" Forward
Parents: Freddy & Jennifer Furlong



Austin Heuer
Senior 5'10" Guard
Parents: Jamie & Tammy Heuer



Jesse Heuer
Senior 6'3" Forward
Parents: Rob & Kelli Heuer



Randy Calvert
Junior 6'1" Forward
Parents: Robert & Vicki Calvert



Tyler Hudlow
Junior 5'7" Guard
Parents: Tim & Linda Hudlow



Keegan Petersen
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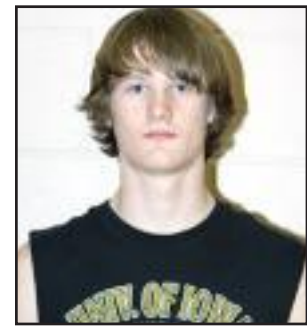
Shay Jones
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Parents: Lonnie & Georganna Jones



Eric Penton
Sophomore 6'2" Forward
Parents: Bob & Kim Penton



Paul Rudkin
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Parents: Roger Rudkin & Lish Alderson



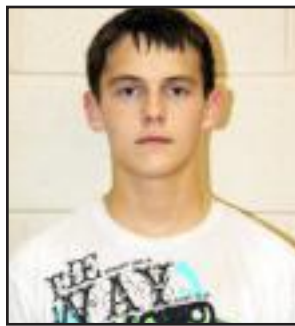
Dylan Smith
Sophomore 6'3" Forward
Parents: Cade & Katie Smith



Ethan Beringer
Freshman 5'7" Guard
Parents: Jeff & Patty Beringer



Alex Canote
Freshman 5'7" Guard
Parents: Chris & Susan Canote



Josh Cole
Freshman 5'9" Guard
Parents: Chris & Christa Cole



Max Kaplan
Freshman 6'1" Forward
Parents: Michael & Chris Kaplan



Shaman Katsoras
Freshman 6'0" Forward
Parents: Mark & Maria Katsoras



Chris Roberts
Freshman 6'0" Forward
Parents: C.D. & Katherine Roberts



Steve Combs
Head Coach



Jacob Watson
Freshman 5'6" Guard
Parents: Dale Watson & Brenda Broxton



David Williams
Freshman 5'8" Guard
Parents: Daniel & Kellie Williams



Ethan Williams
Freshman 5'8" Guard
Parents: Homer & Tammy Williams



Doug Fessler
Assistant Coach



J.R. Royston
Assistant Coach

Harrisburg looks to change things up with speed, strength

Harrisburg head coach Steve Combs has had high expectations for his team, but he considered last season to be a tough year.

Despite going through some ups and downs, the Bulldogs found themselves in the Final Four for the third time over the past four years. Then, once postseason came around, the Bulldogs kicked their game into full gear and ad-

vanced to the championship game at Class 2.

"Come playoff time, we had a group of seniors that were determined to get things done and we made another great run through the state tournament," Combs said. "We would have liked to have finished one spot higher, and so would a lot of other teams, but a second-place finish wasn't too bad and I was

really proud of the guys and their effort and how we did things last year."

The Bulldogs fell in the Class 2 title game to Portageville 60-55, falling short of their third state title in four years, but finished with a 27-5 record. Harrisburg has placed in the top three at the Final Four each of the past four seasons, visiting Mizzou Arena often enough that Bulldogs' fans began donning shirts that read

"Harrisburg Arena" instead.

And as it seems like each of the past four seasons, Combs will be losing quite a bit of production. He'll lose Cory Via, a two-time All-Stater that averaged 22.8 points per game.

"He was one of those kids that kind of came in unknown when he started his

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through the JV program and worked really hard and really blossomed his senior year."

Combs also lost Max Manning, who was a 6-foot-6-inch post player that made the All-Conference and All-District teams. Mason Hardin played on all four Final Four teams and will play football for William Jewell. Josh Taylor is another two-sport athlete that went on to play college baseball and played both inside and outside. Frank Wanner rounded out the starting five from last year that hit a huge shot in the big game last year, but was waved off."

And just like every year, it seems Combs will be back at the drawing board, trying to figure out how he's going to put together another starting lineup that has Final Four potential. And again, it seems the Bulldogs will be just fine this season.

"I think we're going to be able to compete with anybody," Combs said. "That's the main thing we try to stress in practice is to compete every minute on the floor and make each other better. We're just going to take our shot at people and see what we can do. We just want to be at our best basketball at the end."

But Combs said his team won't have the size that it's had in the past, despite having three potential starters that are 6-foot-1-inches or taller.

"We'll have to play more with quick-

ness and we've done that in the past," Combs said. "During our first state title run, we won with our point guard as our tallest player on the team at 6-foot-2. It's just going to be one where we're going to have to see where the effort is at and continue to compete."

Harrisburg has three seniors dressing out this season and would have a fourth, but Zach Beringer will pass up his senior year of basketball after signing a baseball scholarship with Wichita State. The 6-foot-5, 230 pound senior would have been a nice addition to the lineup for Combs as a post player.

"I think we'll miss him a ton," Combs said. "He's a big-bodied kid, a really strong kid and an intense competitor. Zach is a phenomenal kid and I think he's making a good choice. He's concentrating on baseball and is a big Division I signee already. We're going to support him in whatever we can do and I'm sure he supports us as well."

The three seniors Combs will have are guard Austin Heuer, forward Jesse Heuer and forward Aron Furlong.

"Austin, Jesse and Aron are three kids that have been with me for six years now," said Combs, who also coaches the middle school team as well.

Combs said the two Heuers have been on the varsity squad since their sophomore season, sitting on the back end of the bench and picking up most of their minutes in JV action, but worked their way into the rotation at times.

Combs will look for Austin Heuer to be able to shut down defenders and take the other team's big player out and defend him all night long.

"Austin is one of those kids who is very fast and very strong," Combs said. "He's probably our fastest kid, end to end, and probably one of our stronger kids on the team."

Combs said that Jesse Heuer has battled through some injuries, but he's going to help the Bulldogs down the stretch and early on as well with his leadership.

"Jesse Heuer is one of those kids who has a great outside shot," Combs said. "He posts up well and he's a smart player."

Furlong is another player that has fought his way through to the varsity squad and will try to earn some starting

time this season.

"Aron is a kid who's got a lot of athletic ability," Combs said. "We're looking for him to bring some defensive intensity and maybe just run the floor and see if he can outrun the other kids."

Combs will also look for leadership out of his underclassmen, and he said that will begin with juniors Tyler Hudlow, Tyler Rasmussen and Keegan Petersen. They have been on varsity since their freshman year and all three started some games last season, filling in for guys who were injured or out of the lineup.

"Keegan Petersen is a guy who started the championship game of the Glasgow Tournament last year, then was ineligible for a while and came back and played at the end," Combs said. "Tyler Rasmussen

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Harrisburg seniors, from left: Jesse Heuer, Austin Heuer and Aron Furlong.

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Parents: Chris & Angie Roberts



Erika Skaggs
Junior 5'5" Guard
Parents: Damon & Mindy Skaggs



Tina Chickering
Sophomore 5'4" Guard
Parents: Clark & Donna Chickering



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Sophomore 5'8" Forward
Parents: Jason & Angela Eaves



Paige Heibel
Sophomore 5'7" Guard
Parents: Ben Heibel & Amber Spry



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Sophomore 5'10" Forward
Parents: Terry & Joyce Kroese



Molly Leach
Sophomore 5'3" Forward
Parents: John & Debbie Leach



Jackie Williams
Sophomore 5'4" Guard
Parents: Homer & Tammy Williams



Kassi Blakemore
Freshman 5'8" Guard
Parents: Gary & Christy Blakemore



Dan Bachmeier
Head Coach



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Freshman 5'8" Forward
Parents: Troy & Cara Douglas



Karissa James
Freshman 5'4" Forward
Parents: Mark & Becky James



Courtney Jones
Freshman 5'5" Forward
Parent: Cindy Jones



Kelsey Vineyard
Freshman 5'4" Forward
Parent: Lori Montague



Brendan Cary
Assistant Coach

Not Pictured: Chelsea Cockrum & Allie Dodson

Lady Bulldogs hope returners will bring home district title

Harrisburg was so close last season to being the Lady Bulldogs team that prevailed in the Class 2 state championships.

After beating New Franklin earlier in the season in the championship game of the Glasgow Tournament, it turned out Harrisburg won the wrong matchup of the season.

New Franklin won what Harrisburg

head coach Dan Bachmeier called a heartbreaker over his ballclub in the district championship, suffering a two-point defeat that kept Harrisburg from advancing, ending its season with a 21-6 record.

"I thought our girls really came on last year," Bachmeier said. "We had some ups and downs, but 21-6 is a pretty good year. I didn't think we were capable of that

yet. I thought it wouldn't be until this year that we were capable of 20 wins. I thought we came a long ways, so it kind of hurt when we got to that game and had the lead most of the fourth quarter and ended up getting beat."

Bachmeier came to realize that his team is already ahead of pace of his expectations, but he still wanted more last

season. He wanted his team to get the experience at the state playoffs that could help them go even further this season, but he thinks that loss has inspired his group of girls. Maybe it was a blessing in disguise, Bachmeier said.

But this season, Harrisburg already has

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Area High School Basketball Preview

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the early edge on New Franklin, claiming the No.1 seed in the Glasgow Tournament this week, while New Franklin had to settle for the No. 2 seed. Perhaps some of that had to deal with what Harrisburg was bringing back to its team this season.

Of the two seniors lost from last season, Bachmeier said Micala Penton will be missed after averaging 7.5 points per game and 6.8 rebounds per game. The other senior, Kaitlynn Guile, is someone that Bachmeier said played great defense and hit some big baskets in games, despite averaging about five points per game.

The Lady Bulldogs will bring back quite a bit of experience with three seniors, particularly on the shoulders of Ashley Fisher, who posted sizeable numbers last season with 17.5 points per game and 7.7 rebounds per game. She was also once named to the Class 2 second team All-State as well.

"Ashley's been a three-year starter for me," Bachmeier said. "Her numbers got better from her junior and sophomore years, which is pretty good, considering we've got a decent cast around her. I'm not saying her numbers are going to be better this year, because we've got a lot of people who can score."

Sizing up as one of the tallest players on the team at 5-foot-11-inches, Bachmeier knows that opposing teams are going to focus on Fisher, but the other girls on the team are capable of scoring as well. Because of that, he said she may not have to give the Lady Bulldogs as many points as she scored last year.

Another senior Bachmeier will turn to for support is guard Chelcie Proctor. She'll handle most of the duties as the point guard for Harrisburg, but she'll also see some time as the shooting guard. Last season, she averaged about three assists

per game.

"Her job is to get the ball in the hands of the scorers and not to turn the ball over," Bachmeier said. "She did a tremendous job toward the end of last year, got even better throughout the summer. She's a much better ballplayer than she was last year."

The third senior, Bethany Wesselmann, is someone Bachmeier will use off the bench. As an aggressive player, he hopes she'll bang down low, use up her fouls and score six or eight points per game, something he knows she's capable of doing.

"She's playing with much better confidence than she did last year," Bachmeier said. "Her skill level has gone up tremendously and she's good for us off the bench."

Of the underclassmen, sophomore forward Chelsey Kroese is expected to continue to receive playing time for the Lady Bulldogs. Bachmeier said she'll be a leader on defense this year, especially after finishing second in the steals department behind Fisher with 3.5 steals per game.

"Our defense starts with her," Bachmeier said. "She's a great defender. She's 5-foot-10 and can guard anybody on the floor. Her and Chelcie Proctor probably pressure the ball as well as anybody."

Joining Fisher down on the post will be junior Shanna Proctor, who matches Fisher's height at 5-foot-11. Bachmeier said she had 25 points in one game last season against California, but had an up and down year. However, the coach said she has become more consistent this year.

"She can also shoot the ball from three," Bachmeier said. "She runs the floor extremely well and she's going to get four to six points on just running the floor."

Another junior to see substantial minutes on the floor will be guard Lindsey Roberts, who made the varsity team as a

freshman. She'll be another asset for the Lady Bulldogs on defense as well.

"She'll be our fifth starter," Bachmeier said. "She is all-around a good ball handler and a good passer. I wish she'd shoot the ball a little more, and I think she will."

Behind Chelcie Proctor at point guard will be junior Jennifer Beckley, who averaged also about three assists per game coming off the bench.

Bachmeier also said that juniors Shelbie Ray and Erika Skaggs will factor into the mix this season after earning some varsity minutes in the past. They will have more playing time, along with junior forward Harly Moore.

To close off the 11 players listed on the varsity roster, sophomore Paige Heibel will return to the Lady Bulldogs after coming off the bench to shoot the ball. Bachmeier said he looks for her to shoot the ball fairly consistently.

Bachmeier said his main goal this season is to play defense, which appears to be a trend set in the past. Last year, Har-

risburg averaged about 63 points per game, while its defense held opponents to roughly around 39 points per game. But he won't hesitate to put five shooters on the floor at once either.

After finishing 9-1 in the Mid-Missouri Conference last year to take the title, Bachmeier said Harrisburg will likely be one of the favorites this season, along with Southern Boone and North Callaway. The lone loss came in a split with the Southern Boone, who lost two conference games.

"The conference games are always tough," Bachmeier said. "I'm assuming if people are going to pick favorites, they're probably going to pick us and Southern Boone."

But this season, Bachmeier said he doesn't care about the wins and losses, as long as his team comes away with a district championship. "The most important one is the district championship," he said. "Then everything after that, we'll worry about it when it happens."



Harrisburg seniors, from left: Bethany Wesselmann, Chelcie Proctor and Ashley Fisher.

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Higbee Tigers boys basketball



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Bartolacci



Craig DeJonge
Senior 5'11" Forward
Parents: Tony & Sondra
DeJonge



Andrew Glen
Senior 5'10" Guard
Parents: Steve & Cindy
Glen



Travis Holtzclaw
Senior 6'2" Forward
Parents: Jim & Cindy
Holtzclaw



Gus Points
Senior 5'10" Guard
Parents: Billy & Sheila
Points



Zach Reffett
Senior 6'0" Forward
Parents: Randy Reffett &
Patricia Stanfield



Mitchell Stewart
Senior 5'11" Guard
Parents: Kenny Stewart &
Maria Reed



Tyler Tucker
Senior 6'2" Guard
Parents: Jeff & Sherri
Tucker



Adam Leezer
Junior 5'5" Guard
Parent: Teresa Andrews



D.J. Anders
Sophomore 5'10" Forward
Parents: Doug Anders Sr.
& Ruth Huffman



Zach Kirkendoll
Sophomore 6'3" Forward
Parents: Pete & Michelle
Kirkendoll



Austin Messer
Sophomore 6'0" Forward
Parents: Mike & Teresa
Messer



Jon Bishop
Head Coach



Nick Richards
Sophomore 5'11" Forward
Parents: James & Jennifer
Richards



Logan Thompson
Sophomore 5'10" Guard
Parents: Ernie & Tammy
Boggs



Devin Cook
Freshman 5'8" Guard
Parents: Will & Sheri
Cook



Mateo Dias
Freshman 5'6" Guard
Parents: Tom Brennen &
Pamela Dias



Kevin Shaddox
Assistant Coach

Tigers return plenty of offense to go with improved defense

Higbee boys basketball head coach Jon Bishop was proud of his team's 20-10 finish last season, especially when his ballclub went 8-1 down the stretch heading into district play.

What was unfortunate was that his team met up with Jay Lee and Glasgow in the semifinals of district competition, putting an early end to a season that Bishop said had a few ups and downs.

"Some of those losses were definitely losses that we felt like, as a team, we shouldn't have had," Bishop said. "We didn't play quite as well as we wanted to. We were coming into our own there late in the year."

Bishop said his team will miss Ethan Strain, who was a senior last year. He ran the game as the point guard and led the team in assists with 4.9 per game. The Tigers haven't quite yet found a replacement for Strain and will experience some growing pains at the point guard position.

"We're changing a few things offen-

sively that we like to do," Bishop said. "But I expect a lot from this team. I hope that they play together, that they play from their heart and with their head. I think if we can do that, we're going to have a good bit of success."

While averaging nearly 64 points per game last season, Bishop feels like he's returning all of his starters from last season. The Tigers lost six players from last year, but at the same time, none of them averaged more than five points per game.

In fact, the Tigers are returning three players that averaged double figures in scoring with the likes of seniors Byron Bartolacci, Mitchell Stewart and Travis Holtzclaw. They are three of the eight seniors Higbee will have suiting up at the varsity level, showing quite a bit of depth before looking toward the underclassmen.

Unfortunately, Fisher said his team is off to a slow start so far in the preseason because of discipline issues. Two players are suspended through the North-

western Mendon Tournament because of an altercation that happened earlier in the year. Once their suspensions are up, Fisher said he'll have a full roster ready to attack the rest of the Tigers' schedule.

An individual Fisher will be looking to for leadership this season is Bartolacci, who was the leading scorer last season with 15 points per game to go along with 2.3 rebounds per game. Last season, he was named first team All-Conference, All-District and also to the KMZU Dream Team.

"He's a solid, solid player," Bishop said. "He has a real good basketball knowledge. He has improved a lot and he's getting some notice from some colleges as well, so that's been real nice."

Bishop said that Bartolacci also improved his defense over the summer.

Stewart will be a player that will be a player that will complement Bartolacci as well, a duo Bishop has coined as sort of the "yin and yang" of his team. Both play-

ers averaged shooting 48 percent from the floor last year. Stewart was second on the team with 12.9 points per game to go along with 3.8 rebounds per game.

"Mitchell's a slasher," Bishop said. "He'll not shoot the ball probably as much as Byron, but he takes it to the hole a lot. I think Mitchell is going to step up and really help us a lot. I anticipate him to probably lead us in scoring in a lot of our games, if not half of them."

Holtzclaw, who averaged 11.2 points per game, will be one of Bishop's post players this year, but he will work some out of the high post to take a few jump shots.

"Generally, a lot of his stuff is close to the basket and we look to do that," Bishop said. "Obviously, we want to get it inside and try to look to score with that."

Other seniors that will see playing time this season include guard Tyler Tucker

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and forward Craig DeJonge. "They kind of flip-flopped and both of them got several starts, I might even venture to say they got 12 starts between the two of them," Bishop said. "Craig has a good shot. He's not very tall, but he plays big and he plays down low and out on the wing. Tyler is one who also plays both down low and out on the wing."

Bishop said that both of them rebound well, they understand the game well and they take good, open shots. But most importantly, he expects them to rebound a lot. Their versatility to play both positions will be an asset for the Tigers.

Two of the remaining three seniors are players that might have gotten a start here or a start there last season. Forward Zach Reffett and guard Andrew Glen are players that Bishop said got bits and pieces of minutes last year, while the eighth senior, Gus Points, saw very little time at the varsity level.

While Bishop only has one junior on the team with guard Adam Leezer, he said he'll have to turn to his sophomores after that point. Two players in particular that he mentioned are forward Zach Kirkendoll and guard Logan Thompson, two players he'd like to get to rotate into the game early, hopefully in an attempt to run a deeper bench.

The Tigers only have two freshmen with guards Devin Cook and Mateo Dias. Bishop said the two were big contribu-

tors on the junior high team last year and they seem to be catching on pretty fast.

"Once they get through their freshman jitters, I think they're going to help us out a little bit too off the bench, Bishop said. "I feel pretty confident about our JV and I think we'll be doing well."

Taking a look at area teams, Higbee is one of the few that will be returning a substantial amount of key returners from the year before. However, Bishop said he's not going to take anything for granted, especially since the Tigers play in one of the toughest districts in Class 1.

"Glasgow will have a good, young team," Bishop said. "They'll have some freshmen and sophomores that are really going to step up and give them some solid minutes. One thing about Glasgow and Harrisburg is that they have programs that have been successful for a long, long time. You could really think of it as a factory. They just kind of run new guys in. The young guys are just going to have to adapt and once they get to the district tournament, they're not going to be freshmen anymore, just like my guys won't be freshmen anymore. So you really can't count on looking at it like that."

Taking a look at the Cooper County Athletic Association, the Tigers finished with a 9-3 record last season, winning their last six conference games before taking a sweep from Pilot Grove. Bishop said he likes to think his team should finish either first or second, with Pilot Grove

figuring to be in the mix after bringing back some players as well.

He also thinks other teams such as Prairie Home and Malta Bend have improved, along with Jamestown. But when it comes down to it, he said Higbee and Pilot Grove should finish in the top two of the CCAA.

"I'm excited about our year this year," Bishop said. "I think as far as Class 1, I think we've got a good conference, but we should be ranked pretty high in our conference. On paper, we look great, but we've got to put that together on the floor."

However, within the conference, Bishop said that height will be a disadvantage for his team. "We compete and I'm glad for that, but we're not going to have 6-foot-4 or 6-foot-5 height," he said.

On offense, Bishop said he likes to open things up by running a base motion

and a lot of sets out of that, as well as screening away from the ball. With some of the shooters on the team, he's also favorable to the dribble-and-drive to get opportunities for them to take shots.

"I want to get up and down the floor as quick as we can," Bishop said. "You can consider us a fast break team, but I want us to take advantage of opportunities."

With a plethora of seniors, Bishop said he thinks his team should have a goal of going to the Final Four, just like any other team. But in general, he'd like to start off with a district title, because to his knowledge, it's something the Tigers have never done, or at least not for a long while.

"I think winning the conference and winning the district and moving on from there and starting a new season is definitely some of the things we want to do," Bishop said.



Higbee seniors, front row (l to r) Byron Bartolacci, Gus Points, Andrew Glen, Mitchell Stewart; back row (l to r) Zach Reffett, Travis Holtzclaw, Tyler Tucker and Craig DeJonge.



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Higbee Tigers girls basketball



Ali Richards

Senior 6'0" Forward
Parents: James & Jennifer Richards



Cassie Turner

Senior 5'5" Forward
Parents: Nevin & Catherine Turner



Heather Clark

Junior 5'9" Forward
Parents: Danny & Becky Clark



Amanda Derboven

Junior 6'0" Forward
Parents: Charlie & Tammy Derboven



Chanel Fisher

Junior 5'5" Guard
Parent: Archie Fisher



Megan Bruce

Sophomore 5'6" Guard
Parents: Mark & Christina Bruce



Shanna Clark

Sophomore 5'6" Guard
Parents: Robbie & Jane Clark



Makayla Daniel

Sophomore 5'6" Forward
Parents: Rodney & Kay Daniel



Lerena Nelson

Sophomore 5'3" Guard
Parent: Wendy Kilgore



Cayla Parsons

Sophomore 5'4" Guard
Parents: Bryan & Buffy Parsons



Breeanna Werner

Sophomore 5'5" Guard
Parent: Dana Werner



Alex LeGrand

Freshman 5'5" Guard
Parents: Aaron & Michelle LeGrand



Not Pictured
Tori Dillion



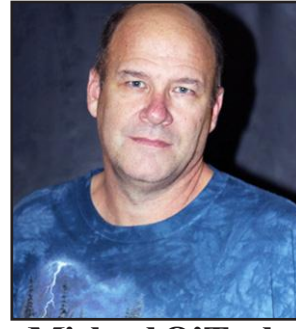
Abbie Michelova

Freshman 5'7" Guard
Parents: Michael & Paulina O'Toole



Abby Sinclair

Freshman 5'4" Forward
Parent: Teresa Sinclair



Michael O'Toole

Head Coach



Not Pictured
Lacy Thompson

First-year coach set to begin building process with Lady Tigers

Taking over in his first season as head coach of the Higbee girls basketball team, Michael O'Toole will lead a very young ballclub that consists of two seniors and three juniors, among other sophomores and freshmen.

"For me right now, it's a building process," O'Toole said. "We're a young team, fairly inexperienced as far as seniority."

O'Toole takes over after previously coaching basketball and being the athletic director in Highland, Kan. He said that because of the economy, two districts combined, he was somewhat pushed out. He said he could have taught, but there was no coaching spot available.

He has also had previous stints at Westphalia and Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

"I'm a journeyman, I guess," O'Toole said. "I'm looking for a place that I can stay and be around. I'm a science teacher by trade."

What led him to Higbee was principal Karl Janson. The two had taught together

before and when a position at Higbee opened up, O'Toole applied and was accepted, getting the opportunity he had wanted: to teach and to coach.

The two seniors leading the Lady Tigers will be forwards Ali Richards and Cassie Turner, players that O'Toole described as calm and very intelligent. He will look to them to help him build a program back up.

Taking a look at Turner, she'll be a defensive tool for Higbee this season. However, O'Toole said that she hasn't played for a couple of years, so her offensive tools might be a little rusty in the early going.

"Once we get into the year, I think she's going to improve because of her stubbornness," O'Toole said.

As for Richards, O'Toole said she'll be the leading post player for the Lady Tigers. If Higbee struggles around the perimeter, he said look for Richards to have a big game because with her 6-foot frame, he'll be looking for her to domi-

nate the paint.

With only two seniors, O'Toole will be very dependent on his underclassmen to step up their game this season. He said he looks for sophomore Tori Dillion to be a factor as a returning starter from last season.

"I expect for her to take off from where she was last year," O'Toole said. "She needs to be able to penetrate and then know when to take a shot and know when to dish."

Junior guard Chanel Fisher will also be an impact player this season. She is listed as one of the team's two captains, along with Richards.

"As far as captains, I pick my calmest players, and when I say calm that's as far as level-headedness," O'Toole said. "And that's why she's one. Chanel, along with Tori, will need to be a general on the court and be able to be smart enough to run the plays, and if they're not in the plays, I need to get them into the plays."

Dillion and Fisher will handle the point

guard duties for the Lady Tigers this season, O'Toole said. He said he also may run a two-guard front. While Tori is in the lead for the No. 1 spot, he said it will depend on how things shape up.

Junior Heather Clark will join Richards at the post position this season. O'Toole said she's quick, has a nice jump shot and can rebound well. Also, junior Amanda Derboven is someone that O'Toole said should see increased playing time as a post player too.

Alex LeGrand is currently listed as the lone freshman on the varsity roster for Higbee. O'Toole said she's a good point guard, but she just needs experience, like all freshmen do.

While it's down the line, O'Toole said with plenty of younger players having a shot at decent playing time this year, he can't help but think how much it will benefit his team down the line.

"My freshmen and sophomores, in a

(Continued on Page 21)

Area High School Basketball Preview

(Continued from Page 20)

couple of years they should be solid," he said. "Height or no height, if you can get the experience and you can get the know-how, then it will make them very strong. Height is important, but not many girls' teams have 6-foot-5 players in their lineup."

With a young team, O'Toole said he'd like to set goals such as obtaining a winning season or making it past the first round in districts for his girls.

Within the Cooper County Athletic Association, O'Toole said that Pilot Grove and Prairie Home are the top contenders. "If we can play them close, I'm a firm believer that any team can beat another team on any given night," O'Toole said. "If we can keep it close, strange things can happen at the end of games."

Taking a look at offense, O'Toole said

he likes to run set plays. "If you come down to be willy nilly, unless you have five dead shooters that can swish the ball every time, you've got to work the ball in and out," he said.

Defensively, he said his team will run both a man-to-man defense and a zone, but they will typically favor man defense.

With the season beginning this week in the Northwestern Mendon Tournament, O'Toole said that before the first game starts, he'd like for his team to improve on the basic fundamentals.

"I don't know how much fundamentals they've had in the past, but I think you have to improve the fundamentals," O'Toole said. "You hear the NBA greats talk and Michael Jordan says that fundamentals is the key to success. I think that's the thing, because once you master those, then you can go to the fancy stuff."

Harrisburg boys preview

(Continued from Page 15)

started at the end of the year for us a little big when Mason was hurt. Tyler Hudlow started in the middle."

Combs said another junior who will step up to varsity action this season is Randy Calvert after spending the last two seasons with the JV. Calvert has a chance to play a lot of minutes this year, and Combs said he has the right hustle, attitude and work ethic for the forward position.

"Hopefully he'll clean up the garbage down there," Combs said.

And continuing on depth, Combs said he has some sophomores and even some freshman guards that could get a look at varsity as well.

Although Combs hadn't quite nailed down who his starting five were until after the team's preseason soap scrimmage, he said with his program, having a set group of five starters won't matter as much to his team as it would others. He plans to use eight to 12 kids in a game and it's still wide open.

With that mindset, Combs said he likes to take the attitude that his team versus his opponent's team, not choosing a select few players on either side. With his depth, he likes his team's advantage when it comes to pressure defense and rebounding.

Austin Heuer suffered a high ankle sprain during the preseason, so Combs said he'll have to look for someone to take his spot until he's healthy enough to play.

Heading into the season, Combs considers his team's speed as its best strength. While the Bulldogs were fast last year too, he had kids that were also bigger and stronger.

"We're going to be able to throw out there eight or nine kids that have close to the same ability, with one or two kids a little bit better than the other ones," Combs said. "But we're going to be able to throw depth at people."

As for weaknesses, Combs pointed to the obvious one of lack of experience, especially with no returning starters to this year's team. "We don't have a ton of guys coming back who had a ton of minutes last year," Combs said. "We had guys who got bits and pieces, with three or four guys who started at some point."

In the Mid-Missouri Conference, Combs said his team will again be one of the contenders for first place. He expects Southern Boone to be a contender, along with Hallsville.

"Last year we blew through in and won every game by double digits," Combs said. "I think this year, you've got to protect your home court and steal some on the road to have a good shot at it."

Looking ahead at districts, Combs said Sturgeon gave his team a "whale of a ballgame" on their home court in the final, when the Bulldogs narrowly won by one point. He said Sturgeon is returning everybody, so he expects them to be the team to beat when district play rolls around. He also said to look for other teams such as Salisbury and Fayette to compete at districts as well.

Combs said that while it's been a few years since he's dealt with a young team, he likes that he's seen constant improvement in practice. He said his team will be fun to watch this season, wherever the Bulldogs happen to end up.



Higbee seniors, from left: Cassie Turner and Ali Richards.




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Area High School Basketball Preview

Fayette boys preview

(Continued from Page 3)

for half a quarter as hard as you can, and then you absolutely need a break,” Kendrick said. “When you do that, it’s going to get nine or 10 guys into the game really quickly.”

The Falcons’ strength resides in their athleticism, especially with their fast-paced offense and full-court press, which forced a plethora of turnovers against New Franklin. However, Kendrick said the team’s lack of experience, especially when you get deeper into the lineup, could pose as a weakness in the early going of the season.

But playing two tournaments right off the bat is something the Falcons hope to be enough playing time to get the younger players used to the system Fayette plays.

What the Falcons want to get out of their system and put in the past was their first-round upset loss against Douglass High School in district competition in February. During the game, Kendrick said Douglass scored on 21 consecutive possessions and the loss gave his players a bad taste, something they’ll look to use as motivation this year.

“We’ve got a lot of guys that were on that basketball team, and now a lot of guys who didn’t have a huge role in that basketball game, that want to say ‘That wasn’t us, this is what we are,’” Kendrick said. “We didn’t play that way all season. They got extremely hot and we bowed to the pressure of a bad situation.”

Kendrick said it’s going to be tough for opposing teams to guard the Falcons on offense this season. It’ll be tough to

try a man-to-man defense because of the matchups Fayette will pose, but it will also be tough to try a zone defense because the Falcons will try to shoot people out of it.

But with his philosophy, Kendrick said a lot of the offensive production will come from his team’s defense. “If we can play solid defense and press when we want to press, hopefully we turn that in and give a good show of putting big numbers on the board.

After tying for second in the Lewis & Clark Conference last season, the Falcons look to place among the top once again, hopefully vying for the conference title. Fayette came close last season, but losing two of their last three conference games cost them a shot at first place.

Kendrick said Paris is going to be tough

as the defending conference champions two years in a row, while Westran and Salisbury will also pose as a threat within the conference as well.

“If you go through a bad week and a half, you could be at the bottom of the conference,” Kendrick said.

But more or less, the Falcons want to force their opponents to be uncomfortable. It may be early, but after one game, it already seems to be working.

“That’s the approach we take,” Kendrick said. “We prepare the best we know how and try to get the kids ready to go with our pregame plans and what we expect the other teams to do. I think they’re ready to play and whatever I ask them to do, they’re pretty skilled at getting it done.”

Fayette girls preview

(Continued from Page 5)

James said that, while the Lady Falcons’ outside shooting was considered a weakness last year, it appears to be a major strength with this season’s ballclub. Through the first couple of weeks of practice, James said his team is already ahead of the shooting pace they were at last season.

However, a weakness that this year’s team will have to overcome is the lack of experience at the point guard position, James said. Unfortunately, this was evident in the season opener against New Franklin. Although the Lady Falcons were facing a team that made it to the Class 1 Final Four last season, Fayette struggled time and time again to run their offense because of the half-court pressure the Lady Bulldogs placed on the Fayette point guards all night.

James said that while he doesn’t like

to set goals for his team because of the possibility of limiting his players to what they can accomplish, he did set the obvious goal of beating last year’s record, something he doesn’t think will be much of a challenge.

“Obviously, when you’re rebuilding, which we are rebuilding, you want to beat last year’s record, which I don’t see how we couldn’t beat last year’s record,” James said. “We should be a much more competitive basketball team this year. We should get somewhere around 10 wins, and then if we can get that close, maybe (a .500 record) is not a crazy possibility.”

While the Lady Falcons drew the unfortunate No. 8 seed in the Glasgow Tournament, which is being held this week, they did receive the top seed for the Northwest Invitational Tournament the following week. Taking first place at Northwest alone would at least match last

season’s win total by itself.

While Bailey was the main leader for the Lady Falcons last season, James said he actually prefers it if he has a balanced team of four or five players leading the squad. That way, opponents have to focus on all athletes on the floor rather than just targeting one player.

“The best teams that I’ve had have been balanced in scoring, where one through five or six girls can contribute,” James said. “That’s what I hope happens this year. You look at some of our numbers from last year and we’re going to need some more production from these girls. But I don’t look for one girl to be dominant.”

James said that within the Lewis & Clark Conference this season, he expects Salisbury to be the favorite this season, with Paris coming in right behind them. After that, he said it’s anyone’s game.

“Salisbury is far and above, on paper,

better than everybody,” James said. “With that said, you’ve got to play the games.”

James kept saying that while this season is considered another rebuilding year, he mostly wants the girls to go out there and have fun. While player development and building a program are important, he said it’s more fun for the girls to win games.

“I really anticipate, especially early in our season, if we can get two or three early victories in these tournaments, if we can get ourselves to .500 after six or eight games, I think you’re going to see a different product,” James said. “I think you’re going to see a much more confident team that really is enjoying themselves. This year, we’re definitely going to go after some victories early when we think we have a chance and try to make sure we don’t let anything slip away because we need some confidence.”

New Franklin boys preview

(Continued from Page 7)

as previously mentioned, by Glasgow, Keytesville and Sturgeon; however, Bulldogs were on the winning side of three season sweeps against Brunswick, Cairo and Madison.

Unfortunately for New Franklin, three of their losses last season came at the hands of Sturgeon, with the third defeat coming in the opening round of district play.

This season, Schlotzhauer would like to take a step at a time, aiming for one more spot in the conference with a third-place finish, hoping to knock off the team that finished one spot ahead of the Bulldogs.

“We’d like to beat the team that we

are better than and try to pick off some of those games that we were the same as in talent,” Schlotzhauer said. “We would like to win some of those games we didn’t win last year.”

The Bulldogs will get an early taste of the CAC with the Glasgow Tournament this week. Taking the No. 3 seed in the tournament, New Franklin will face conference foe Glasgow in the opening round with a possible matchup against Cairo, win or lose.

Schlotzhauer has the outlook that he would like for his team to improve every day. He acknowledged that while his team isn’t the best team around, they also aren’t the worst, perhaps falling somewhere around the middle.

“If we improve every single day, then

eventually we’re going to be at the point where we want to be,” Schlotzhauer said. “So if we play hard and do the things we’re supposed to, we just want to be the best team that we can be. And wherever that takes us, we’ll be happy with it.”

Unfortunately, the Bulldogs didn’t get off to the start they had hoped for this season, suffering a season-opening 61-42 loss at home against Fayette on Nov. 24.

Prior to the start of the season, Schlotzhauer said he distinctly remembered the matchup against the Falcons last year, hoping the Bulldogs would turn things around this time.

“Last year against Fayette, I remember it being 21-2 at the end of the first

quarter,” Schlotzhauer said. “They lost a couple of those kids that were beating us up pretty good with the (Ryan) Sherman kid and (Xavien) Crump. Their pressure got to us in the first game, so we should be more prepared for that, you would think, because we know what to expect. Last year was my first year and maybe I didn’t do a good job of preparing them.”

Although it wasn’t as bad this time season, it was a similar story for the Bulldogs. After tying the score at 4-4, the Falcons went on an 18-0 run before New Franklin could respond with a bucket. By the end of the first quarter, Fayette led 22-7.

Area High School Basketball Schedules

Fayette High School

2009-10 Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 24	@ New Franklin	5 p.m.
Nov. 30-Dec. 5	Glasgow Tournament	TBA
Dec. 7-12	Hughesville Tournament	TBA
Dec. 8	@ Slater (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 15	vs. Westran* (JVG/VG/VB)	5:15 p.m.
Dec. 17	vs. Smithton (JVB/VG/VB)	5:15 p.m.
Dec. 21	@ Hallsville (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 28	vs. Stover @ State Fair CC	Noon
Jan. 4	vs. Centralia (JVB/JVG)	6 p.m.
Jan. 5	vs. Harrisburg (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 11	@ Marceline* (JVB/VG/VB)	5:15 p.m.
Jan. 12	vs. Slater* (JVB/VG/VB)	5:15 p.m.
Jan. 14	vs. Hallsville (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 15	@ Salisbury* (JVG/VG/VB)	5:15 p.m.
Jan. 19	@ Slater* (JVG/VG/VB)	5:15 p.m.
Jan. 21	@ Glasgow (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 25-30	Slater Tournament	TBA
Jan. 28	vs. Marceline (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 1	@ Harrisburg (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 2	vs. Marceline* (JVG/VG/VB)	5:15 p.m.
Feb. 5	vs. Columbia Ind. (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 9	@ Paris* (JVG/VG/VB)	5:15 p.m.
Feb. 12	vs. Salisbury* (JVB/VG/VB)	5:15 p.m.
Feb. 16	vs. Paris* (JVB/VG/VB)	5:15 p.m.
Feb. 19	@ Westran* (JVB/VG/VB)	5:15 p.m.
Feb. 26	@ Centralia (VG/VB)	6 p.m.

Home Games in Bold

* — Lewis & Clark Conference Game

New Franklin High School

2009-10 Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 24	vs. Fayette	5 p.m.
Nov. 30-Dec. 5	Glasgow Tournament	TBA
Dec. 7	@ Tipton (JVB/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 8	@ Keytesville* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 11	vs. Brunswick* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 14	@ Bunceton (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 15	vs. NE Cairo* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 16	@ Harrisburg (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 4-9	New Franklin Tournament	TBA
Jan. 12	vs. Santa Fe Alma (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 14	@ Slater (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 15	@ Sturgeon* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 19	@ Glasgow* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 21	@ Westran (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 22	vs. Madison* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 25-30	Keytesville Tournament	TBA
Feb. 2	vs. Sturgeon* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 5	@ Salisbury (JVG/VG/VB)	5:15 p.m.
Feb. 8	@ Concordia (JVB/VG)	6 p.m.
Feb. 9	vs. Keytesville* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 12	vs. Glasgow* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 16	@ NE Cairo* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 19	@ Madison* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 23	@ Brunswick* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.

Home Games in Bold

* — Central Activities Conference Game

Harrisburg High School

2009-10 Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 30-Dec. 5	Glasgow Tournament (V)	TBA
Dec. 3	vs. Madison (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 6	Norm Stewart Classic (VB)	TBA
Dec. 8	vs. Moberly (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 10	@ Mexico (JVG/VG)	6 p.m.
Dec. 14	vs. North Callaway* (JVG/VG)	6 p.m.
Dec. 15	vs. North Callaway* (JVB/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 16	vs. New Franklin (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 17	vs. Southern Boone (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 18	vs. Southern Boone* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 5	@ Fayette (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 6-9	Harrisburg Tournament (JV)	TBA
Jan. 11-16	S. Callaway Tournament (V)	TBA
Jan. 14	@ Sturgeon (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 19	@ South Callaway* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 21	vs. Tipton* (JVG/VG)	6 p.m.
Jan. 22	vs. Tipton* (JVB/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 25	@ Westran (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 26	vs. Centralia (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 28	@ California (JVG/VG)	6 p.m.
Jan. 28	vs. NE Cairo (JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 29-31	MFA Oil Shootout (VB)	TBA
Feb. 1-6	Southern Boone Tournament	TBA
Feb. 1	vs. Fayette (JVG/JVB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 2	@ North Callaway (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 4	@ Glasgow (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 8	@ Hallsville* (JVG/VG)	6 p.m.
Feb. 9	@ Hallsville* (JVB/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 12	@ North Callaway* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 16	@ Southern Boone* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 17	@ Southern Boone* (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 18	@ South Shelby (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 19	vs. South Callaway (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 22	@ Tipton* (JVG/VG)	6 p.m.
Feb. 23	@ Tipton* (JVB/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 25	vs. Hallsville* (JVG/VG)	6 p.m.
Feb. 26	vs. Hallsville* (JVB/VB)	6 p.m.

Home Games in Bold

* — Mid-Missouri Conference Game

Glasgow High School

2009-10 Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
11/30-12/5	Glasgow Tournament	TBA
Dec. 7	vs. Slater (JV)	6 p.m.
Dec. 8	vs. Brunswick* (JV/V)	5 p.m.
Dec. 14	vs. Marceline (JV)	6 p.m.
Dec. 15	vs. Madison* (V)	6 p.m.
Dec. 18	@ Westran (JV/V)	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 21	vs. Salisbury (JV/V)	5 p.m.
Jan. 4-9	Marceline Tournament	TBA
Jan. 12	@ Sturgeon* (JV/V)	5 p.m.
Jan. 14	@ Salisbury (JV)	6 p.m.
Jan. 15	@ NE Cairo* (JV/V)	5 p.m.
Jan. 19	vs. New Franklin* (JV/V)	5 p.m.
Jan. 21	vs. Fayette (JV)	6 p.m.
Jan. 22	vs. Keytesville* (JV/V)	5 p.m.
Jan. 25-30	Slater Tournament	TBA
Feb. 2	vs. Braymer (JV/V)	5 p.m.
Feb. 4	vs. Harrisburg (JV)	6 p.m.
Feb. 5	@ Brunswick* (JV/V)	5 p.m.
Feb. 9	vs. NE Cairo* (JV/V)	5 p.m.
Feb. 12	@ New Franklin* (JV/V)	5 p.m.
Feb. 15	@ Madison* (V)	6 p.m.
Feb. 16	@ Meadville (V)	6 p.m.
Feb. 19	@ Keytesville* (V)	6 p.m.
Feb. 23	vs. Sturgeon* (V)	6 p.m.

Home Games in Bold

* — Central Activities Conference Game

Higbee High School

2009-10 Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 30-Dec. 5	NW of Mendon Tournament	TBA
Dec. 8	@ Pilot Grove* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 10	@ Madison (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 12	@ Salisbury (JVG/JVB)	TBA
Dec. 14	vs. Columbia Fellowship	6 p.m.
Dec. 15	vs. Bunceton* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 18	@ Jamestown* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 4-9	Marceline Tournament	TBA
Jan. 12	vs. Pilot Grove* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 15	vs. Keytesville (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 19	vs. Prairie Home* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 21	vs. Columbia Ind. (JVG/VG)	6 p.m.
Jan. 22	vs. Otterville* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 25-30	CCAA Tournament	TBA
Feb. 2	@ Malta Bend* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 4	vs. Douglass (JVB/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 8	vs. Bucklin (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 9	vs. Jamestown* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 12	@ Bunceton* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 16	vs. Malta Bend* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 18	@ Otterville* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 23	vs. Mo. School for the Deaf	6 p.m.
Feb. 25	@ Mexico Military Academy	6 p.m.
Feb. 26	@ Prairie Home* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.

Home Games in Bold

* — Cooper County Activities Association Game

Postseason Schedule

Class 1 and 2 District Tournaments — Feb. 27-March 6
 Class 1 and 2 Sectionals — March 9 & March 10
 Class 1 and 2 Quarterfinals — March 13
 Show-Me Showdown (Final Four) — March 18-20

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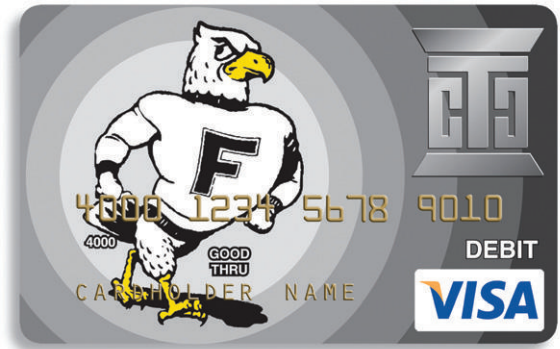
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