

2015-16 Area High School Basketball Preview



Fayette High School basketball seniors Kelsey Oakley, Ashley Oakley, Clara Lutz, Clara Beaman, Haleigh Strodman, Lane Ball, Ashton Boatman, Zech Burks and Cameron O'Connell



Fayette Falcons | *Pages 2-5*

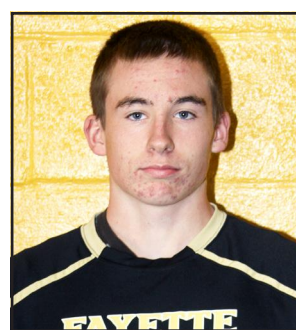
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Higbee Tigers | *Pages 18-21*

Fayette Falcons boys basketball



Lane Ball
Senior 5'11" Forward
Parents: Jeffrey Ball
and Kevin & Lynette Beeler

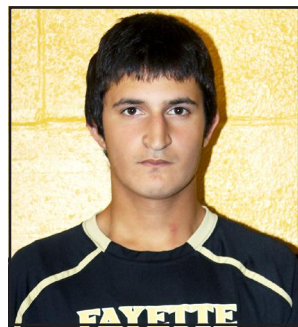
Ashton Boatman
Senior 5'10" Guard
Parents: Bobby & Theresa
Boatman

Zech Burks
Senior 5'10" Forward
Parent: Nathaniel Brinkley

Cameron O'Connell
Senior 6'0" Forward
Parents: Brian McMillan
& Peggy O'Connell

Chase Huthman
Junior 5'9" Forward
Parents: Billy & Jenny Huthman

Tommy Phillips
Junior 6'0" Guard
Parents: Tommy Phillips Sr.
& Billie Williams



Robby Robinson
Junior 5'7" Guard
Parent: Terrie Warren

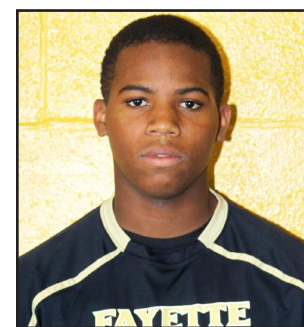
Babrak Tarakai
Junior 5'8" Forward
Parents: Ashraf & Satarov
Tarakai

Blake Dawson
Sophomore 6'1" Guard
Parents: Jeff & Kristie Dawson

Kaden Hoover
Sophomore 5'10" Guard/Forward
Parents: Angie & Emmett Rogers
and Dan & Kelly Hoover

Chavez Kent
Sophomore 6'0" Forward
Parents: Roy Kent
and Raniesh Daniels

Chris Dunivent
Freshman 6'2" Forward
Parent: Jennifer Dunivent



Isaiah Estes
Freshman 5'9" Guard/Forward
Parents: Brandon & Courtney
Estes

Ross Hudson
Freshman 5'5" Guard
Parents: Matt & Mary Ann
Hudson

Antory King
Freshman 5'5" Guard
Parents: Andy Hurd
and Monica King

Danin Kioh
Freshman 5'8" Guard
Parents: Eric Kioh
and Donna Shiflett

Darius Lee
Freshman 6'0" Guard
Parents: Dylan Lee
and Myra Kelly

Vince Roberts
Freshman 5'10" Guard
Parents: Ben & Cindy Roberts



Kolby Skaggs
Freshman 5'10" Forward
Parents: Ryan & Ashlee Skaggs

Jaelyn Udy
Junior Manager
Parent: April Yates

Kylie Williams
Sophomore Manager
Parent: Tonya Pirtle

D'Juan Jackman
Freshman Manager
Parents: Brandon Wright
& Lolita Jackman

Ben Pallardy
Head Coach

Falcons set to show that experience translates into wins

The words “young” and “experienced” simply don’t go together in the same sentence. One tends to contradict the other, especially when describing a basketball team.

Fayette head coach Ben Pallardy, in fact, is using those words to describe Fayette’s boys basketball team in 2015-16. The thing is, it truly is a spot-on description of the Falcons this season.

Fayette has shown it will be young and talented this season with just one senior in the starting lineup. That being said, the Falcons return four starters who have gained plenty

of experience as underclassmen at the varsity level.

“We’re a lot more mature this year,” Pallardy said. “We’ve grown as a team. A lot of the guys we relied on as freshmen and sophomores are now juniors and seniors. Everybody is getting older and we’re jelling as a team.”

Pallardy and his team are already showing that a turn-around is coming. Fayette won both games against Higbee and New Franklin to start the 2015-16 season, marking Fayette’s first 2-0 start since the 2009-10 season.

A start like that makes it easy to forget a 7-19 campaign last season.

“We just didn’t quite know how to win last year,” Pallardy said. “Last year, we had a lot of games where we’d be in it through the third quarter, and then in the fourth quarter we would find a way to let it slip away.”

Leading the way this season will be junior Tommy Phillips at point guard. Last season, it was Davis Valencia who led the team in several statistical categories, including points and rebounds. Phillips scored 9.2 points per game last season, but he will pick up the bulk

of Valencia’s scoring this season.

Phillips won’t lead the Falcons in scoring every game, but his all-around contributions — rebounds, steals and assists — are what makes Pallardy say he has the potential to be one of the best players in the area.

“He’s got so much talent,” Pallardy said. “He’s one of the best passers that I’ve seen in high school basketball. He just sees the floor so well. He’s finally going to be playing against guys his own age. He can score, but

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Area High School Basketball Preview

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his main game is setting everybody else up.”

Also returning as a starter this year is Blake Dawson, who posted one of the highest scoring averages of all freshmen in the area last season. Dawson finished with 10.1 points per game, and Pallardy expects him to raise that scoring average again this season. Dawson hit the weight room hard during the offseason and has added some bulk to his 6-foot-1-inch frame.

“He has worked on his shot tirelessly,” Pallardy said. “All fall during football season, he was coming in during the mornings and getting a ton of shots up. His shot is even better than it was last year. There were times last year where he would catch fire and hit two or three threes in a row. I expect him to be a really good player.”

Fayette fans can also expect Robby Robinson to climb into double figures in scoring this season. The junior guard will score in a variety of ways this season and isn't afraid to drive at the basket and score, even if he stands just 5-foot-7-inches tall. He already scored a career-high 17 points last week in Fayette's win at New Franklin.

“I really like the way Robby's game has rounded out,” Pallardy said. “He is working harder than he ever has. Robby adds that extra ball-handler. If Tommy needs a break, Robby can run the point. He's a tremendous dribbler and nobody ever takes the ball from him. He's a good on-the-ball defender, despite his lack of size. He's not afraid of anybody.”

Moving to the post, Lane Ball is Fayette's fourth returning starter. He will play the No.

4 position and will almost always guard someone bigger on the court. The Falcons averaged only 27 rebounds last season, but Ball will help Fayette improve in that department this year.

“He boxes out better than anyone on the team,” Pallardy said. “He brings experience. He knows what he's doing on the floor and he's a pretty good passer too. He knows he's not out there to score a ton of points. He makes our team better by flashing to the right places. Lane's a valuable player to us.”

Chavez Kent will round out the starting rotation, the lone newcomer to Fayette's starting lineup. Kent appeared in all 26 games last season, averaging a few points and a few rebounds each game. His speed is better than most players at the No. 5 position and Kent has shown he's capable of guarding just about anyone in the paint.

“He needs to be our best rebounder,” Pallardy said. “He's a freak athlete. He's just explosive, athletically. He does a good job of battling inside too. If we can keep him out of foul trouble, I think he's going to have a really good year. He can score more now than he ever could last year.”

Fayette will have three seniors earn their minutes off the bench this season. Ashton Boatman has the most experience of the remaining seniors. Last year, Boatman was like a shot of Vitamin B-12 off the bench, coming in for a few minutes at a time and leading the charge when Fayette went into full-court press mode.

“Boatman is a super sub,” Pallardy said. “He brings so much energy when he comes into the game. He loves to pick up full court and pressure the ball. When he goes in, you

FAYETTE FALCONS



2014-15 RECORD: 7-19 overall, 2-8 in Lewis & Clark Conference (5th place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 82-60 to Harrisburg in Class 2 District 7 Tournament quarterfinals

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 4th place — Glasgow Tournament; 6th place — New Franklin Tournament; 7th place — Slater Wildcat Classic.

KEY LOSSES: Davis Valencia (13.5 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 1.3 bpg); Ethan Harper (2.9 ppg, 3.0 rpg).

KEY RETURNERS: Blake Dawson: soph., 6'1" (10.1 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 2.1 apg, 2.1 spg); Tommy Phillips: jr., 6'0" (9.2 ppg, 2.1 spg, 1.8 apg); Robby Robinson: jr., 5'7" (6.4 ppg, 2.2 rpg, 1.3 apg).

know you're going to get a maximum effort. And he showed this summer that he can score some points.”

Cameron O'Connell and Zech Burks are the other two senior bench players for the Falcons. O'Connell has one of the longest reaches on the team and will earn more minutes when Fayette faces zone defenses. Pallardy said for a forward, he sees the floor well in those situations.

“I wish he'd look to score a little more because he has a nice touch,” Pallardy said. “He's a pass-first guy and he always does the right thing. As long as he can hold up defensively and give us what we need, he's going to play a big role because we're not very deep at the post.”

The first player off the bench for Fayette in most games this season is Isaiah Estes, who is one of two freshmen on the varsity

roster. His play on defense will be his biggest asset, whether he's guarding the perimeter or the paint. In the season opener against Higbee, Estes led the Falcons with 10 deflections on the defensive end.

“He is really good (guarding) on the ball and he anticipates well off the ball,” Pallardy said. “He gets steals. He just makes things happen and always has active hands. He's so strong that guards have a hard time doing anything with him because he bullies them. For a freshman, that's very rare.”

Kaden Hoover is another bench player for the Falcons who can play multiple positions. His size and quickness allow Hoover to be a big factor on the defensive end. His play on the offensive end will continue to get better as the season progresses.

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Fayette Falcons girls basketball



Clara Beaman
Senior 5'6" Guard
Parents: Mitch & Darlene Beaman

Clara Lutz
Senior 5'7" Forward
Parents: Randy & Kathi Lutz

Ashley Oakley
Senior 5'3" Guard
Parents: Tom & Carrie Oakley

Kelsey Oakley
Senior 5'3" Guard
Parents: Tom & Carrie Oakley

Haleigh Strodtman
Senior 5'11" Forward
Parents: Kevin Strodtman & Shannon Johnson

Grace Boulden
Junior 5'7" Guard
Parents: Oran & Sandy Boulden



Jada Gaines
Junior 5'6" Guard
Parents: Xaiver Nelson and Carol Gaines

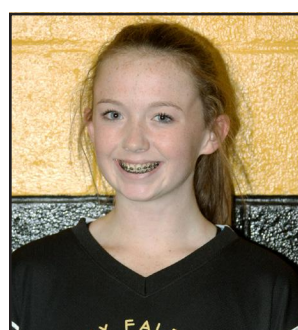
Abbie Jefferies
Junior 5'7" Forward
Parents: Daryl & Karen Jefferies

Samantha Conrow
Sophomore 5'4" Guard
Parents: Jamie & Angie Conrow

Mikela Howell
Sophomore 5'4" Guard
Parents: John & Michelle Howell

Lyndi Thies
Sophomore 5'5" Guard
Parents: Mike & Paula Thies

Chelsea Wysocki
Sophomore 5'6" Forward
Parents: John Markland and Leonette Siegel



Bailey Chew
Freshman 5'6" Forward
Parents: Ian & Jackie Chew

Skyler Garing
Freshman 5'6" Guard
Parent: Hope Ashby

Emma Hoover
Freshman 5'4" Guard
Parents: Angie & Emmett Rogers and Dan & Kelly Hoover

Ashlee Lackland
Freshman 5'3" Guard
Parents: Randy & Trisha Lewis

Dee McDonald
Freshman 5'3" Guard
Parent: Heather McDonald

Jennifer Nelson
Freshman 5'8" Forward
Parents: Mark & Colleen Nelson



Madison Reed
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Parents: Rich & Chris Reed

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Senior Manager
Parent: Geraldine Paige

Javiearra Whitley
Sophomore Manager
Parents: James & Delicia Cowans

Clara Asher
Freshman Manager
Parents: Bobby & Theresa Boatman

Morgan Matthews
Head Coach

Lady Falcons have everyone back under new head coach

Morgan Matthews is entering his first season as a head coach, taking over Fayette's girls basketball program. The transition period will be a unique one, both for him and his team.

Fayette had no seniors on last year's 1-24 squad, so everyone is back on the court. The Lady Falcons will bring a mixture of veteran experience and eager youth, ready to turn around a program that has encountered back-to-back one-win seasons.

Even with the same players, there will still be some changes this season.

"We're going to run a lot," Matthews said. "We'll try to create a lot of turnovers. That's basically going to be our bread and butter."

Matthews said this year's team will have great senior leadership and the kids have "been through the ringer." Haleigh Strodtman has been a significant factor for the Lady Falcons over the past three seasons and became the team leader last year on a senior-less team.

Strodtman returns as the team's top scorer and rebounder, averaging 8.1 points

and 8.7 rebounds per game last season. Matthews said she'll continue to lead the team on the court, but a lot of her responsibility will also be to help groom the younger players as they gain experience.

"She's been a tremendous leader," Matthews said. "When we work on our post play, she basically takes the reins with some of those girls and shows them the ropes. I'll lean on her to get most of our scoring this year. She'll have a heavy load ahead of her, but I think she can handle it."

Clara Beaman is also returning to the

starting lineup for her senior season. She will fill the slot at the No. 3 guard position. Beaman was one of Fayette's top 3-point threats last season and was also one of the team's top-three rebounders. Her mid-range jumper and inside shot will also be key to Fayette's success on offense.

"She has a great basketball sense of knowledge," Matthews said. "Bringing that to the table, along with her ability as both a 3 and a 4, she can do a lot of different things

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for us. She'll shoot the three, but she'll also be able to see and react. That brings a lot for us."

One key characteristic of this year's team is that most of the forwards can easily handle the ball as a guard. Grace Boulden defined that role better than anybody last year and could go back and forth between the No. 3 and 4 positions. Most of her scoring opportunities came by creating shots off the dribble from the perimeter.

"She brings to the table tons of hard work," Matthews said. "She loves jumping passes and being that hard, defensive player that we need. On top of that, she's done a great job scoring around the basket, and I feel like that's her best asset. If we throw the ball into the post, she's able to do something with it because she's that versatile."

Fayette has broken in many freshmen over the past two years at the point guard position. There are no point guards in either the junior or senior classes again this year, and Matthews intends to break in another freshman, Emma Hoover. Unlike most freshmen, he said Hoover's confidence at handling the pressure at a marquee position is very high. Not only will Hoover start, but she'll be responsible for bringing the ball up the court.

"Even when she makes a mistake, it's not something that eats at her," Matthews said. "She's able to recover, go back and work at it. We've done a ton of ball-handling drills and I feel like our fundamentals are what's going to be a lot better this year, and people are going to notice. We're not going to turn the ball over as much. I think she'll do a good job for us."

Mikela Howell worked as a point guard last season, but now she'll slide over to the No. 2 guard spot this season. Matthews said he expects her to fill more of a shooting role

and should finish higher than her 1.4 points per game scoring average as a freshman.

"Her shooting has been pretty good so far, but she's struggling with knowing when to shoot," Matthews said. "She has to have the knack of knowing she's not the point guard anymore, so she can take the ball and shoot it."

A lack of scoring has been a handicap for Fayette's basketball team the past two seasons. Last year, only three players averaged better than three points per game scoring, and the team as a whole averaged just over 25 points per game, while allowing nearly twice as many points.

That trend hasn't looked to change through Fayette's first two games this season, scoring 23 points against Higbee and 21 against New Franklin. To find ways to score in the 30s and 40s, Matthews said the Lady Falcons will be more selective with their shots. They'll look to find Strodman and Boulden in the paint for more looks this season closer to the basket, but the shots from the outside will come in bunches over time.

"We want to feed the post," Matthews said. "We do like the jump shot, and I think that will be our bread and butter. I feel like we're growing, as far as 3-point shooters go, with the younger girls. Coach (Zach) Wyatt has really worked with the girls' form, being able to show them what good shots from the outside are."

One of the younger players working on her 3-point shot is Samantha Conrow, who led the Lady Falcons last season with 16 threes. Twice she scored 14 points in a game off the bench and is very streaky from beyond the arc. Last season, she was Fayette's biggest scoring contributor off the bench, a role she wants to maintain this season.

"Without a doubt, she's going to be our shooter off the bench," Matthews said. "She can also be one of those kids who can handle

FAYETTE LADY FALCONS



2014-15 RECORD: 1-24 overall, 0-10 in Lewis & Clark Conference (6th place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 48-14 to Sweet Springs in Class 2 District 7 Tournament quarterfinals

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: T-7th place — Glasgow Tournament; 8th place — New Franklin Tournament; 8th place — Slater Wildcat Classic.

KEY LOSSES: Maddi Duren (1.7 ppg, 1.6 rpg, 1.1 spg).

KEY RETURNERS: Haleigh Strodman: sr., 5'11" (8.1 ppg, 8.1 rpg, 2.5 bpg); Grace Boulden: jr., 5'7" (5.9 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 1.7 spg); Clara Beaman: sr., 5'6" (3.6 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 1.3 spg).

the ball. She's going to do well in that role."

While Conrow's role won't change, Clara Lutz's role will. The senior started in the post last year, but now the Boulden is switching to a forward from a guard, Lutz will be Fayette's first forward off the bench. Her biggest asset has been her rebounding, which ranked fourth on the team last season.

"She brings a ton of hard work to the table every single day," Matthews said. "She'll be able to hold her own and that's what I love about her. She brings experience off the bench and she can handle it."

Other players like Chelsea Wysocki and Abbie Jefferies will also find playing time in the post this season. Wysocki had minimal playing time at the varsity level last year, but Matthews said she has a knack for scoring. Jefferies will play a role similar to Beaman, having the ability to move the ball well and score at multiple positions.

Freshman Jennifer Nelson will also get some experience at the post this season. At the middle school level last year, Nelson was consistently getting to the free-throw line and accumulating her points from the char-

ity stripe. Matthews sees her getting positive minutes throughout the year.

Sophomore Lyndi Thies, another one of the young point guards, will also pick up minutes off the bench to rest either Hoover or Howell. Both Ashley and Kelsey Oakley are two more options off Fayette's bench, working mostly at either the No. 2 or 3 guard spots.

New to the team this year is Madison Reed, who joined Fayette during the pre-season. Once she gets enough practices in to join the varsity squad, Matthews will rotate her in with the guards. He added that her height and shooting ability could pose as a mismatch against opponents.

With Fayette's speed at the guard position, Matthews said fans will see his team run a full-court press more often. However, rather than run a man-to-man defense, he said this is a very "zone-minded" team. The Lady Falcons were able to hold Higbee to just 16 percent shooting in the season opener.

"These are kids who understand where to

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New Franklin Bulldogs boys basketball



Kaleb Anderton

Senior 6'0" Guard
Parents: Rodney & Melissa Anderton



Jacob Hendrix

Senior 6'2" Forward
Parents: Kenneth & Tami Hendrix



Ronnie Perkins

Senior 5'7" Guard
Parents: Brian & Janice Perkins



Jerrod Riley

Senior 6'0" Guard
Parents: Justin & Tracy Johnmeyer



Sid Hendrix

Junior 6'3" Center
Parents: Mike & Bobbi Hendrix



Brendan Hundley

Junior 5'11" Guard
Parents: Travis & Wendy Hundley



Austin Jones

Junior 5'11" Forward
Parents: Tim Jones & Kara Schnell



Hunter Rohlifing

Junior 5'8" Guard
Parents: Heath & Shelia Rohlifing



Zack Welbern

Junior 5'9" Guard
Parents: Mark & Connie Welbern



Mason Bailey

Sophomore 6'1" Forward
Parents: John & Kim Bailey



Zach Gunn

Sophomore 6'0" Center
Parents: Thomas Gunn & Amanda Gibbons



Tyler Hackman

Sophomore 5'10" Guard
Parents: Bruce & Tammy Hackman



Bailey Lyons

Sophomore 6'4" Forward
Parents: Ryan & Lesley Lyons



Kolby Anson

Freshman 6'1" Forward
Parents: Kevin & Leslie Anson



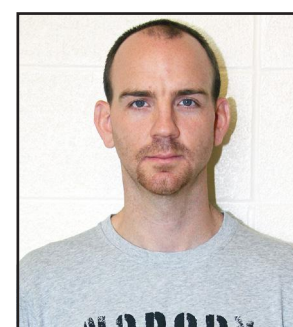
Aden Jones

Freshman 5'9" Guard
Parents: Tim Jones & Kara Schnell



Dustin Mehrhoff

Freshman 5'9" Forward
Parents: Tim & Kim Mehrhoff



Jim Schlotzhauer

Head Coach

New Franklin ready to feed off success of 20-win season

During the first part of the decade, the New Franklin baseball team was garnering most of the attention when it came to the Bulldogs' boys sports. District title after district title piled up, and an appearance in the state tournament's final four has been the highlight during the first half of the 2010s.

Now the boys basketball team is picking up full steam in New Franklin. It started with a single win in a district tournament in 2014. The following season, the Bulldogs were competing for both a conference title and a district title, falling one win shy of obtaining each.

It's a new year, but New Franklin has its sights set on climbing the ladder even higher. Now in their eighth year under head coach Jim Schlotzhauer, the Bulldogs are striving for a second-consecutive 20-win season, with plans to reach the state playoffs for the first time in a decade.

"We'll start four seniors, and all four seniors should be able to contribute pretty well," Schlotzhauer said. "They've all played a lot of minutes and a lot of meaningful time (on the court) over the years. That should be a solid foundation for the year."

Tanner White was a guiding force for New Franklin last year, averaging 19.6 points per game and nearly leading the Bulldogs to an upset win over Salisbury in the district championship game. New Franklin will also be without second-leading scorer Blake Carleton, who returned to the state of California to finish his high school career.

That opens the door for others to shine this year, starting with those four seniors. Schlotzhauer said he isn't sure who will lead his team in scoring this year, and honestly, he prefers it that way. Any of the four seniors in the starting lineup have the capability to lead the way in that category. It will depend on what type of team New Franklin faces from game to game.

"We have some guys who can score inside and we certainly have some shooters that we trust," Schlotzhauer said. "I think it will be a well-balanced year. Ideally, as a coach, that's what you want anyway."

Taking over the point guard position for White this year is senior Ronnie Perkins. He is the team's leading returner in both steals and assists while averaging just under six points per game. He emerged onto the varsity roster as a defensive specialist, but

Schlotzhauer said Perkins' game is improving all-around and much of the load this season will be on his shoulders.

"I think it's something he can handle with his quickness," Schlotzhauer said. "His ball-handling has gotten better, and offensively, he's become a better shooter. We trust him to take open shots, and that wasn't always the case. He has it in him and we trust him to take a bigger role this year."

Behind White last year, Kaleb Anderton was next in line to take the shots for the Bulldogs. Anderton was one of New Franklin's top 3-point threats, but he also took the same number of shots inside the arc. He returns as the Bulldogs' leading scorer at 7.7 points per game and Schlotzhauer anticipates his shooting percentage will increase this year.

"I would actually classify him as our best driver," Schlotzhauer said. "He finishes around the basket very well. Last year, he only shot 28 percent from three. He's a better shooter than what he shot last year. With open shots, we're going to let him have the green light."

Rounding out the perimeter starters for New Franklin is Jerrod Riley, another senior

well-known for his long-distance shooting. Riley led the Bulldogs with 48 3-pointers a year ago and nearly made 40 percent of his attempts. If he and Anderton get in a rhythm shooting the ball from the outside, teams are going to find it difficult to stay with the Bulldogs this season.

"You really don't have to question how hard he is playing," Schlotzhauer said. "He's been a good leader for us as well. We are planning on playing very fast and get transition looks. We're going to try and get down the floor, not only to get the open looks from three, but also hopefully some easy putback rebounds as well."

Barring foul trouble, Schlotzhauer said at least two of those three guards will be on the floor at all times. It's very likely that on any given night, either Perkins, Anderton or Riley will lead the Bulldogs in scoring, and it's also likely they'll each average double figures in scoring this year. After all, White took nearly 400 shot attempts last season, and those extra shot attempts will most likely be divvied out among those three guards this year.

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Area High School Basketball Preview

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Even though Carleton won't be back for his senior season, New Franklin will still have depth at the two forward positions. Schlotzhauer is hoping for a full and healthy season from senior Jacob Hendrix after having a hip injury in the past and will upgrade to the Bulldogs' top threat in the paint.

"I told him last year he could have a double-double every night if he really wanted to," Schlotzhauer said. "He's got a good touch around the basket and he passes well. He can rebound when he really, really wants to. The goal this year is to get him as many minutes as he can."

The last starting spot will go to a player who will make a big jump in minutes at the varsity level this season. It could be any one of three players, but in New Franklin's season opener, it was Bailey Lyons. He's the tallest player on the team at 6-foot-4, putting him at the other forward position, but there will be times he'll look like a guard, step out and knock down a few threes here and there.

"Defensively, we'll look to him to guard quite a few positions," Schlotzhauer said. "With his length and his quickness, he should be able to match up with just about anybody on the floor."

The other players in the mix for a starting role are Austin Jones and Mason Bailey. Both are forwards who saw minimal playing time last season. Schlotzhauer said Jones is a good inside-out player who can shoot well from the outside and is quicker than he appears to be. Bailey is always looking to score and has gotten much better on the defensive end.

"Whoever plays our fifth spot is probably going to get the weakest defender," Schlotzhauer said. "If that's the case, then we have two or three guys who can play inside-out. That should be a spot of production for us."

There's no need for junior Sid Hendrix to be an inside-out player. Designated as a center rather than a forward, Hendrix will be able to body against most post players in the area this season. Schlotzhauer said he will surprise people by how quickly he moves up and down the court for his size. His mobility is actually quite comparable, if not better, than most small forwards.

"He won that game against Tusculumbia for us last year," Schlotzhauer said. "He came in and gave us effort and scored six or eight points, and they were big points. He and Jacob will probably platoon back and

forth, and maybe they'll play at the same time some. He works real hard and he's not easy to move."

Also looking to get a few minutes here and there off the bench are juniors Hunter Rohlfing and Brendan Hundley. Schlotzhauer said Rohlfing works as hard as anybody on the floor and his effort will earn him some key minutes. Hundley will come off the bench as a spot shooter and knock down some shots.

Without White leading the offense this season, the Bulldogs will make some changes. First off, they won't hesitate to get into transition and score immediately. If a player gets an open look at three, Schlotzhauer expects him to take it. Even if the shot is off the mark, New Franklin's size increases the likelihood of getting an offensive rebound.

Schlotzhauer said New Franklin's defense can be even better than it was last year. Only twice did teams score 60 or more points against the Bulldogs, and actually, New Franklin still won both of those games. The goal will be to keep teams in the 40s and give the Bulldogs a greater probability off pulling off a victory.

"We can play different ways," Schlotzhauer said. "If you want to run, then we can do that. If you want to slow it down, then we can probably grind it with you too."

One of the positives last season was that White could take control of a game down the stretch, which was quite helpful in many of New Franklin's 20 victories. It will take some time for the Bulldogs to develop a go-to player this year, or to get multiple players to make big plays down the stretch.

"It's something that we should know how to do, but until you actually have to do those things, it may take us a couple of games to figure out exactly how we fit in and how well we can handle the ball," Schlotzhauer said. "We have four (starting) seniors, which is more than what most teams have. We're going to look to those guys."

New Franklin pushed Glasgow for the Central Activities Conference title last season, suffering its only two CAC losses at the hands of the Yellowjackets. New Franklin swept Cairo and Sturgeon to finish one game back. Now, with a new-look conference that features Pilot Grove and Slater, and drops Brunswick, New Franklin will have some work to do to stay among the best in the conference.

Schlotzhauer said reigning conference champion Glasgow is the team to beat, despite losing All-State point guard Blake Hackman. Sturgeon lost a bulk of its start-

NEW FRANKLIN BULLDOGS



2014-15 RECORD: 20-8 overall, 8-2 in Central Activities Conference (2nd place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 46-33 to Salisbury in Class 2 District 7 Tournament championship

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 3rd place — Glasgow Tournament; 3rd place — New Franklin Tournament; 4th place — Sturgeon Tournament.

KEY LOSS: Tanner White (19.6 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 3.4 apg, 2.5 spg); Blake Carleton (8.2 ppg, 8.7 rpg); Levi Bishop (1.8 ppg, 2.6 rpg).

KEY RETURNERS: Kaleb Anderton: sr., 6'0" (7.7 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 1.1 apg); Jerrod Riley: sr., 6'0" (6.7 ppg, 1.6 rpg, 48 3-pointers); Jacob Hendrix: sr., 6'2" (4.4 ppg, 4.0 rpg).

ing lineup from last season and Cairo returns an impressive cast that was just shy of the .500 mark. Pilot Grove won't have All-State player Mason Schlotzhauer back, but the Tigers will be in the mix this season as well.

"We ought to be right there probably, with a chance to beat (Glasgow), just like we had last year," Schlotzhauer said. "We have back seven kids who played last year. All of them have improved and have hopefully learned from that experience. It will come back to our seniors, but those juniors are ready to contribute."

Even though New Franklin dropped its season opener against Fayette, a potential district tournament opponent, the Bulldogs still like their chances to succeed come district time. Salisbury won't possess the same talent that has allowed the Panthers to win

four of the past five district championships in Class 2 District 7. The playing field will be as level as it has been in quite some time.

Schlotzhauer said he thinks his team is capable of not only competing for a district championship, but this time, he believes the Bulldogs can win it. New Franklin hasn't celebrated a district championship since 2006. After all the district titles the baseball team has won recently, it leaves some players thinking the same can be achieved on the basketball court too.

"If we're playing pretty well, we can beat anybody that's around," Schlotzhauer said. "I don't see one team that is that much better (than us). The one through six seeds at the Glasgow Tournament are all very similar. That's usually a good measurement of where you're at. There are going to be a lot of competitive games this year."



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New Franklin Bulldogs girls basketball



Molly Lyons
Senior 5'9" Guard
Parents: Ryan & Lesley Lyons



Cassie Armentrout
Junior 5'5" Guard
Parents: Rick & Peggy Armentrout



Jasmine Himmelberg
Junior 5'8" Forward
Parents: David Himmelberg & Amanda Himmelberg



Sydney Dowell
Sophomore 5'6" Guard
Parents: Ross & Becky Dowell



Grace Hundley
Sophomore 5'8" Forward
Parents: Travis & Wendy Hundley



Madison Matney
Sophomore 5'9" Forward
Parents: Sean Matney and Amy Dority



Lilly Oser
Sophomore 5'4" Guard
Parents: Mark & Lisa Oser



Kacie White
Sophomore 5'7" Forward
Parents: Scott & Becky White



Bailey Young
Sophomore 5'8" Forward
Parent: Jennifer Maupin



Shelby Breshears
Freshman 5'10" Forward
Parents: David & Amanda Breshears



Lauren Evans
Freshman 5'6" Guard
Parents: Jud & Joanna Evans



Shailey Townlain
Freshman 5'8" Forward
Parents: Bobby & Ginger Townlain



Ryan Lyons
Head Coach



Lady Bulldogs look to reload for third-straight CAC title

It had been four years since Ryan Lyons last coached the New Franklin girls basketball team, but he seemed to have no trouble picking up where he left off.

Even though the Lady Bulldogs had a slow start to the 2014-15 season with a 3-5 record, New Franklin overcame a 1-2 start to the conference schedule, winning the final seven games against Central Activities Conference schools to win the program's second-straight conference championship.

New Franklin finished 16-11 and lost in the district semifinals to Sweet Springs. The momentum the Lady Bulldogs had to finish the season gives Lyons hope that his team can find a way to pick up right where it left off.

"We lost two All-State girls off our final four team. I felt like we replaced that better than I thought we would last year," Lyons said. "I need that same thing to happen again (this year)."

One of those key players from last year's team that Lyons will lose includes his oldest daughter, Madi Lyons. She was named the CAC Most Valuable Player and averaged 15.2 points per game during her senior season, reaching 1,000 career points. The Lady

Bulldogs also lose two All-Conference starters in Aislinn Himmelberg and Derian Dodson. The three combined to account for more than 60 percent of New Franklin's points.

Only 12 players are dressing this season for the Lady Bulldogs. Half the players on the team are sophomores and only one is a senior. Lyons said although Madi is gone, there are a number of players this season who are ready to embody her role on the court.

"I definitely think we have some girls who want to be able to play the one through five," Lyons said. "They want to say, 'Coach, I can do whatever you ask.' Once they blossom, we're going to be OK."

The top returning player on the Lady Bulldogs roster this season will be Molly Lyons, who represents the only player from the senior class. Lyons was also an All-Conference honoree, averaging 5.1 points per game. If there is anyone on this team ready to take on the role of Madi Lyons, it's definitely her younger sister.

Molly Lyons has had the most experience returning on this year's team, playing significant minutes for a program that has won 45 games over the past two seasons. Her coach said she more of a quiet leader and leads by

example, rather than vocally. She's already scoring at a frequent pace like her older sister, tallying 18 points in a season-opening win against Fayette.

"She'll be our main ball-handler," Lyons said. "Last year, I made her that because I didn't really have many choices, although Madi could handle the ball pretty well. Molly ended up doing most of the ball-handling for us and I thought she got pretty good at it. I'm going to turn to her to do that again."

New Franklin's junior class on the team isn't much bigger than the senior class, and Lyons will start both of those players this season. Cassie Armentrout will occupy the shooting guard position. She can shoot from three and gives the Lady Bulldogs another option to use as an outside shooter. Lyons said he anticipates that she will shoot much better than her 24 percent shooting clip a year ago.

"If you looked at her stats from JV (last year), when the pressure was off in her mind, she shot the lights out," Lyons said. "When we put her in a varsity game with better defense, she put pressure on herself. She has matured. I have a feeling she is going to break loose as a real consistent 3-point threat

for us."

New Franklin's other junior, Jasmine Himmelberg, will occupy one of the forward positions in the starting lineup. Himmelberg played in all 27 games last season and has overcome an ankle injury that nagged her a lot, as well as another injury during the softball season. Lyons said she is healthy right now and is in great shape.

"She's maturing mentally, and if she continues to go in that direction, she'll be an excellent player," Lyons said. "She'll shoot 15 feet and in all season. I need her to show up in a way that she did not last year. She was a really great middle school player and I need her to rise up to an All-Conference and All-District player. She has that potential."

Madison Matney made a huge contribution to the Lady Bulldogs as a freshman last season. She came off the bench and averaged nearly three points per game and ranked third on the team with 4.5 rebounds per contest. Now that she is advancing into a starting role, Matney will be a significant part of New Franklin's success in the post at the No. 5 position.

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Area High School Basketball Preview

(Continued from Page 8)

"Last year against Slater in the district-opening round, I had four people score and she had 13 points," Lyons said. "She had nine boards and 13 points in her first district game. I really think she's going to pick up where she left off."

Grace Hundley will round out the starting five for New Franklin. While she is listed as a forward, Hundley is perfectly capable of handling the ball away from the basket. However, with that starting five, the Lady Bulldogs have two true guards and two true post players. Hundley gives them balance as that guard/forward playing the No. 3 spot.

"She is a really good finisher," Lyons said. "If we can get her on the run, she almost never misses a layup in the open court. She's strong and she'll be really different than (her older sister) Aly. She'll be more like Madi, but that's fine with me. She needs to fill those voids left by Madi, in regards to steals and rebounding, getting the 'junk'."

Kacie White is another No. 5 player that is also in the mix for a potential starting spot this season. White suffered a knee injury during the preseason and missed the season opener against Fayette. If she returns to the court this season, she will get quite a few touches inside this season.

"She has developed a 15-foot shot, which she didn't have last year," Lyons said. "I see her playing the high post for us some. Her dad has really worked with her a lot on the outside shot, and it shows. She's knocking down that shot with confidence."

Lilly Oser was injured last season, only making an appearance in two games for the Lady Bulldogs. The sophomore guard will be very competitive on the floor this season. Lyons said she is the vocal leader of that sophomore class.

"She led that group when they were younger," Lyons said. "She has a competitiveness that just naturally spreads around to everyone."

Lyons didn't want to single out his sophomore class, but he did point out one thing they all have in common: they want to start. He said they all have the potential to be starters at some point during their careers, including a five-senior starting lineup for the 2017-18 season.

"They're not shy," Lyons said. "We are strong, physically. We played Ottumwa (Iowa) up at Schuyler County this summer and they should've beaten us. It was really rough up there. The thing I learned about us is that if we play under control, we should be an excellent rebounding team. If we don't control the boards, something went wrong."

Sydney Dowell is another player from the sophomore class that will see some varsity minutes. Dowell played most on the junior varsity team last season and Lyons said as her footwork and her hands get better, she will begin to see more minutes on the court.

Freshmen Shelby Breshears and Lauren Evans will also get some time on the court this season. They won't be around during the postseason because they also split time with the junior high basketball team earlier this fall, but Lyons said they'll learn a lot in their first season with the Lady Bulldogs.

Lyons has plans to make Breshears a monster defender, but she's been having difficulty playing defense without fouling. He said the starters have a hard time scoring on her in practice because of her long arms.

As far as strengths go on this 2015-16 Lady Bulldogs team, Lyons said his team will be the toughest team on the court all season, even against tough teams like district champions Cairo and Tuscumbia. The team that fans will see in late January and early February will be different from the team that plays in December, because it will take a handful of games for the mental toughness to catch up with the physical toughness.

The toughness is already there, but Lyons wants to see more players have success handling the ball this season. Sure, players like Molly Lyons and Armentrout have had

NEW FRANKLIN LADY BULLDOGS



2014-15 RECORD: 16-11 overall, 8-2 in Central Activities Conference (1st place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 47-32 to Sweet Springs in Class 2 District 7 Tournament semifinals

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 4th place — Glasgow Tournament; 5th place — New Franklin Tournament; 6th place — Sturgeon Tournament.

KEY LOSSES: Madi Lyons (15.2 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 4.0 spg, 1.9 apg); Aislinn Himmelberg (9.0 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 2.0 spg); Derian Dodson (3.6 ppg, 5.2 rpg).

KEY RETURNERS: Molly Lyons: sr., 5'9" (5.1 ppg, 1.9 spg, 1.9 apg, 2.2 spg); Cassie Armentrout: jr., 5'5" (2.2 ppg, 1.3 rpg); Madison Matney: soph., 5'9" (2.8 ppg, 4.5 rpg).

experience in this area on past teams, but Lyons said it will take a few games for some of the younger players to feel comfortable bringing the ball up the floor.

"Girls that are confident keep their dribble and keep their head up," Lyons said. "We need a lot more of that."

Lyons also said New Franklin needs to improve its outside shooting. Several players are capable of shooting 35 percent or better from 15 feet and in, but the Lady Bulldogs only made 27 percent of their 3-point shots last season. Right now, only Lyons and Armentrout have shown they can hit the threes, and they accounted for all four New Franklin 3-pointers against Fayette.

Winning a third-straight CAC title won't be easy for New Franklin. Cairo is already a preseason favorite to win the conference, and after losing the conference lead late last season, the Lady Bearcats surged ahead and advanced to the Class 2 state semifinals, finishing in fourth place.

Cairo will return all but one player from last year's state playoff team. Glasgow was also in the three-team race for a conference championship and has two 6-foot sophomores that will be impact players this sea-

son. Add other teams like Sturgeon and Pilot Grove to the mix, suddenly New Franklin will have its hands full this season.

"This group is very similar to last year's team," Lyons said. "We are going to take it one game at a time. I know we're going to lose some games, most likely, before Christmas. I just hope we don't get thumped by 27 points at Cairo again. I can take a few losses. I just don't want them to be disunifying. We struggled with team unity over the first eight games last year and that's something I don't want to repeat."

One thing that has eluded Lyons in his first two years of coaching is a district championship. Both times his team's season has ended in the district semifinals at the hands of the eventual district champion. Just getting to a district championship game isn't the only thing on the third-year coach's mind.

"As we get closer, my speech is going to be that I want to build on last year," Lyons said. "I don't want to go 16-11. Let's win 18 or 19-plus. They have that in their mind and want to be a 20-win program. The wins are going to be harder (to come by), but I think we're a team that's going to improve."

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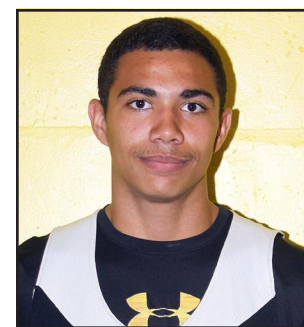
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Glasgow Yellowjackets boys basketball



Bryant Hubbard
Senior 6'0" Forward
Parents: Marcus & Julie Davis



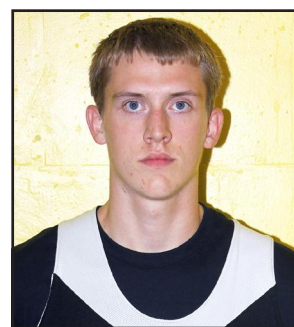
Kennedy Davis
Junior 6'4" Forward
Parents: Kendrick & Tara Davis



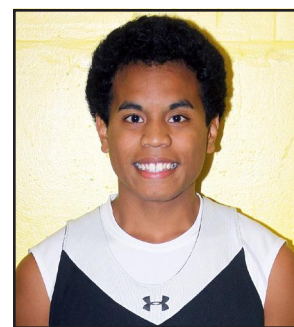
Dariez Dickerson
Junior 6'2" Forward
Parent: Karen Monnig



Hayden Hackman
Junior 6'0" Guard
Parents: Doug & Sally Hackman



Adam Monnig
Junior 6'4" Forward
Parents: Stacy & Mindy Monnig



Rhys Fuemmeler
Sophomore 5'9" Guard
Parents: Don & Marta Fuemmeler



Gage McMillan
Sophomore 5'9" Guard
Parents: Danny & Tammy McMillan



Kabyl McMillan
Sophomore 5'9" Guard
Parents: Sonny & Sherry Shive



Trace Thompson
Sophomore 5'9" Guard
Parents: Joe & Becky Thompson



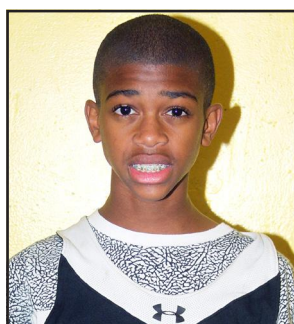
Jacob Bean
Freshman 5'8" Guard
Parents: Aaron & Jennifer Bean



Briar Boss
Freshman 5'11" Forward
Parents: Travis & Melissa Boss



Logan Fuemmeler
Freshman 5'10" Forward
Parents: Alan & Deb Fuemmeler



Adris Hamilton
Freshman 5'6" Guard
Parents: Idris & Felicia Hamilton



Brandon Prentzler
Freshman 5'8" Guard
Parents: Bryan & Tina Prentzler



Mick Cropp
Head Coach



Glasgow has plans for another run at state championship

The Glasgow boys basketball team has had a lot of state playoff runs — 35, if you're keeping track at home — and although the Yellowjackets didn't win a state championship last season, no other team came closer to beating Meadville.

The Yellowjackets had an opportunity to send their state quarterfinal matchup with the Eagles into overtime, but Meadville escaped with a 50-47 win. That loss stuck with Glasgow for some time after that March game, but the lineups for that game left the team with some optimism.

Meadville's starting five was all seniors. Glasgow's lineup was two seniors, one junior and two sophomores. A younger Glasgow squad nearly upset the best team in Class 1, and the Yellowjackets return a lot of talent from that 24-6 ballclub.

"If you look at our team, we only have one senior, but we have quite a bit of experience," Glasgow head coach Mick Cropp said. "That's an advantage for us. We have a couple skilled post players, a couple of wings who are difficult matchups for other teams and a point guard that a lot of people don't know about and will be up to the task of helping this team."

When last season came to a conclusion, Cropp said it wouldn't hit him until the start of this season as to how much the Yellowjackets will miss All-State point guard Blake Hackman. He was named the Central Activities Conference MVP as a senior and was a four-year starting point guard for Glasgow, finishing his career with nearly 1,300 points.

Aside from the ball-handling and shooting skills Hackman possessed, Cropp said he's waiting to see who will be the player to score the big-time points in a game. That role could go to a number of players, but there is one player in particular who is next in line to lead the Yellowjackets.

Bryant Hubbard was Glasgow's leading scorer with 12.8 points per game, just ahead of Hackman. The senior forward, who plays like a guard, is athletic and can create his own shot, just like Hackman. Cropp said the best part about Hubbard is that he has no fear, something he hopes will stay true when Glasgow's games get into crunch time this season.

"Bryant is such a difficult matchup and can score in a lot of different ways," Cropp said. "He can get to the basket, he can rebound, he gets steals and he shoots from the

outside. He has taken steps in practice, helping the younger kids get to where they need to be. He's doing the little things that senior leaders need to be doing."

Glasgow will start a pair of 6-foot-4-inch juniors in the post this season, which is a rarity among Class 1 programs. Returning to the starting lineup is Kennedy Davis, who was Glasgow's third player to average double figures in scoring with 11.3 points per game. He's a player who makes nearly 60 percent of his shots, but foul trouble has been the one area that has plagued Davis in the past, limiting his minutes in a handful of games.

"At the end of the summer, when we were playing really good basketball, it was because he was a force," Cropp said. "He was working extremely hard from possession to possession. The main thing he has to focus on is staying possession to possession. That will help a lot of things, both offensively and rebounding, and that helps him stay out of foul trouble."

It will be Adam Monnig, Glasgow's other tall junior, who will fill the spot on the block opposite of Davis. Monnig was typically the first player off the bench last season for Glasgow, but with him in the starting lineup,

he adds another four inches of height for the team's other post player. Monnig and Davis didn't see many minutes on the floor at the same time, but they'll dominate the glass as a tandem this season.

"The thing about Adam is he's a really talented player," Cropp said. "He's a really good passer and has a soft touch around the basket. He understands the defense very well. He was a really good attribute to come off the bench last year, but I look for him to probably pick up a lot of the scoring we lost last year."

By inserting Monnig into the starting lineup, that will allow junior Hayden Hackman to shift from a forward to a guard this season. Hackman rebounded well for a small forward, grabbing nearly six boards a game. With so much scoring talent on last year's team, it wasn't necessary for him to be one of Glasgow's leading scorers, but Cropp said he could work his point total into double figures this season.

"We've had some players like him in the past who are incredibly versatile on both ends of the floor," Cropp said. "He played

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Area High School Basketball Preview

(Continued from Page 10)

the post almost exclusively last year. Now that guards are going to have to guard him, we're going to take advantage of that. His versatility and relentlessness is unmatched on this team."

It's been quite some time since Cropp has had to look for a new point guard for the Yellowjackets, but he has plenty of confidence in Kaby McMillan to take over for Blake Hackman. The sophomore was the last player on the bench last season and played only 11 varsity games, but Cropp said he's ready to jump in with both feet this season.

"He can get hot and shoot the ball," Cropp said. "He struggled in our first two or three games this summer, but from then on, he really turned it on. Sometimes he gets a little down on himself, but he's not afraid."

Glasgow went 11-deep on its varsity roster last season. This year, the roster depth will shrink to just nine players. Right now, Cropp said the remaining four players are all vying for that first substitution in a game.

"While they may not have a lot of experience, they don't play the important games until the end of the year," Cropp said. "They're going to get that experience. Any one of those four has an opportunity to grab a hold of some extra time. It will be interesting to watch how it plays out."

Dariez Dickerson is the only player on Glasgow's bench with previous varsity experience. He is the only forward of the four non-starters and was the only non-starter to score in Glasgow's season opener at Slater.

"He has gotten himself into better shape this year," Cropp said. "He just has to continue to try and be a little more physical defensively and get after the ball a little more aggressively."

The remaining three sophomores, along with McMillan, helped lead Glasgow to a

junior high basketball conference championship last October. Trace Thompson will come into a game as a lock-down defender for the Yellowjackets.

"I've had some really good defenders, but he is as quick laterally as anybody I've ever seen," Cropp said. "I would not want him to guard me."

Gage McMillan was a key contributor for Glasgow's junior high team last season. Cropp mentioned that McMillan has a really good knack for being ahead of the play in transition.

"He's probably one of the better shooters we have coming off the bench," Cropp said. "Early in the summer he had some trouble finishing (at the basket), but he's been able to move past that."

Rhys Fuemmeler rounds out Glasgow's varsity lineup. Cropp said he is a player who wants to do all of the little things well to help the team.

"There is never a thought of himself," Cropp said. "He wants to know what he can do to help the team."

While Glasgow may not have a deep roster this season, depth wasn't an issue outside of a few games last season. Many of Glasgow's starters are capable of playing 25 or more minutes. As the season begins, Cropp said he would put his first five against any other team's first five in Class 1.

"They're a really solid group," Cropp said. "We have to stay out of foul trouble and we have to knock down some shots, because the post players are going to demand a lot of attention."

Just like any other year, Cropp said his team's strengths are going to be their athleticism and defense. Glasgow's post players will rarely take 3-point shots in games, but both Davis and Monnig are capable of hitting threes. While Glasgow's offense averaged 60.1 points per game last season, the

GLASGOW YELLOWJACKETS



2014-15 RECORD: 24-6 overall, 9-1 in Central Activities Conference (1st place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 50-47 to Meadville in Class 2 State Tournament quarterfinals

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 1st place — Glasgow Tournament; 3rd place — Marceline Tournament; 3rd place — Slater Wildcat Classic.

KEY LOSSES: Blake Hackman (12.4 ppg, 2.8 spg, 2.6 apg); Daniel McMillan (5.9 ppg, 3.0 apg, 2.2 spg).

KEY RETURNERS: Bryant Hubbard: sr., 6'0" (12.8 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 2.4 spg); Kennedy Davis: jr., 6'4" (11.3 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 1.0 bpg); Hayden Hackman: jr., 6'0" (8.8 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 2.3 apg).

defense held opponents to just 40.1 points per game. And actually, that number is higher than what Glasgow's defense has allowed in previous year, typically holding teams in the 30's on a regular basis.

Glasgow is a consensus favorite to win the conference championship again this year in the CAC. The Yellowjackets welcomed newcomer Slater to the conference last week with a 42-point road win and have already put themselves at the top of the conference standings. The CAC is back to a 12-game schedule this season and the champion will likely have to win at least 10 of those games to take the crown.

The same teams will continue to chase Glasgow's heels this season. Cropp mentioned that Cairo's height and athleticism is a cause for concern this season, as well as New Franklin's contingent of senior guards.

Pilot Grove, also a newcomer this year, lost Mason Schlotzhauer, who would have been a favorite to win conference MVP. Cropp said the Tigers are still going to be a tough team to beat this year.

It's been four seasons since Glasgow has played in the Show-Me Showdown, and Blake Hackman was the last player to have been apart of that team. The Yellowjackets will get the opportunity to play on the Miz-zou Arena floor when they play Salisbury in the MFA Oil Shootout in January.

Glasgow would also like to get back to Columbia in March, when more is at stake in a state playoff run.

"This group was an undefeated CAC team when Bryant was a freshman," Cropp said. "We had an average margin of victory of about 35 points that year. They've come up together and they fit right in."



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Glasgow Yellowjackets girls basketball



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Parents: Alan & Deb Fuemmeler



Shelby Prentzler
Senior 5'7" Guard
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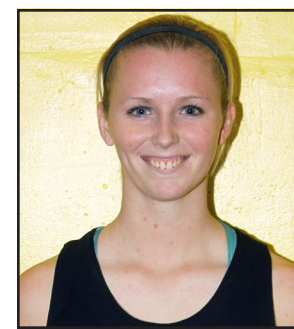
Anne Reynolds
Senior 5'7" Guard
Parents: Mike & Michelle Reynolds



Brianne Sanders
Senior 5'9" Guard/Forward
Parents: Jody & Tracy Sanders



Rose Wellborn
Senior 5'5" Guard
Parents: Sonny & Kathy Wellborn



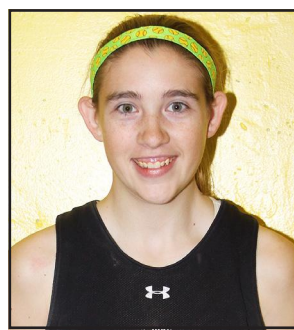
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Maia Polson
Junior 5'6" Guard
Parents: Charlie & Dina Polson



Carrington Frevert
Sophomore 5'5" Guard
Parents: Shawn & Mellissa Frevert



Autumn Fuemmeler
Sophomore 5'7" Guard
Parents: Brent & Mendy Fuemmeler



Abby Littrell
Sophomore 6'0" Forward
Parents: Mike & Angy Littrell



Jaden Monnig
Sophomore 6'0" Forward
Parents: Eric & Barb Monnig



Kasie Neville
Sophomore 5'4" Guard
Parents: Mark & Tracy Neville



Molly Reynolds
Sophomore 5'5" Guard
Parents: Mike & Michelle Reynolds



Kristin Stockhorst
Sophomore 5'7" Guard
Parents: Jeff Stockhorst & Jeannie Fuemmeler



Teagan Howell
Freshman 5'9" Forward
Parents: Jesse & Shelly Howell



Alison Lloyd
Freshman 5'7" Guard/Forward
Parents: Kyle Lloyd & Sara Massie



Madisyn Parks
Freshman 5'4" Guard
Parents: Lewis & Whitney Parks



Molly Monnig
Head Coach

Lady Jackets make 'big' adjustments with taller lineup

The Glasgow girls basketball team could not have been happier last season when it found out Chamois would not be standing in its way during the postseason. For the second time under head coach Molly Monnig, the Lady Jackets went on to win a district championship, and the Lady Pirates were not waiting in the next round.

That joy did not last long. A few days later, Tusculumbia ended Glasgow's season and 1,000-point scorer Abby Thompson suffered an ACL injury in the fourth quarter of that loss, ending another successful season on a sour note. It wasn't an easy 19-10 campaign, but Monnig said the players were able to learn a lot about themselves last season.

"For our sophomores and our seniors especially, it was a great learning experience," Monnig said. "We went through some adversity mid-season where we just weren't very good offensively. We had to work out of a tough spot and we were able to do that."

Glasgow graduated a pair of All-Conference seniors, losing Blakeley Fuemmeler in addition to Thompson. The two were the leading scorers last year, leaving the Lady Jackets this season with a lot of role players who averaged between four and six points

per game. Monnig said those players, most of whom are seniors this year, have grown into taking more of a leadership role this season.

"We have six seniors who are good examples for our underclassmen," Monnig said. "They do the right things and they work hard. Our younger classes have some great kids and great athletes, but they're still developing. We have those leaders that they are able to learn from."

One of the key returners this season is Anne Reynolds, who already held a big role last season but will see it get even bigger this year. Reynolds will continue to be Glasgow's primary ball-handler, a role she tended to share at times with Thompson. For now, she will also have to be Glasgow's primary scorer until other players step up and take more shots for the Lady Jackets.

"She's going to have to be our floor leader the entire game," Monnig said. "Over the summer, she took a really big step when we went to Licking and won the tournament down there. That's the best I've ever seen her play. She just took control, and she's going to have to do that for us this year."

Thompson took the most 3-point shots for Glasgow last year, but it looks like Tara

Fuemmeler will take on that role this year. Fuemmeler has been listed as a forward in years past but she is playing mostly as a guard this season because Glasgow will have other options to use inside the lane.

"We're going to use her ability to shoot the three ball to help spread out the defense," Monnig said. "Defensively, she's a great rebounder, so we can put her down as one of our threes or a weak-side two, where she can grab some boards for us."

Brianne Sanders will flip-flop positions with Fuemmeler, moving from the No. 3 to the No. 4 position as a forward. Monnig said Sanders was inserted into the lineup last year as a guard out of necessity, but now she has developed into more of a post player. Out of the three returning starters, her numbers are expected to improve substantially after averaging just over two points and two rebounds per game last year.

"She's very strong and has some good moves around the basket," Monnig said. "She's more of a natural post player, so her role is going to change. I think she's going to be more successful and we're going to see more out of her on the stat sheet."

Moving back to the last guard position in

the starting lineup, Devyn Yung is another senior who will occupy that role and make the jump into the starting lineup. Yung will pick up where Thompson left off on the defensive end to make her primary contribution to the team. Monnig said with her long reach and left-handed moves, she'll have a unique look in Glasgow's new style of defense.

"She's going to be really successful at getting some steals that lead to easy baskets," Monnig said. "She's very streaky and can hit the three, and she's very good at attacking the basket. If you look at all the players, she's going to make the biggest jump, as far as productivity."

The fifth starting spot could go to either of two players, but Monnig will give sophomore Jaden Monnig the opportunity at the No. 5 position to start the season. The 6-foot post player came off the bench and made 58 percent of her shot attempts, one of the highest success rates in the state.

"She's very smooth with the basketball and once she gets to her spot, she catches the ball and is quick to the basket," Monnig said. "The ball is always where it needs to be. She

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Area High School Basketball Preview

(Continued from Page 12)

has a tremendous upside and I think she's going to continue to get better and better."

Glasgow's other 6-foot sophomore post player, Abby Littrell, is an all-around performer in the post. In addition to the scoring and the rebounding, Littrell is going to be a shot blocker for the Lady Jackets this season. In fact, Littrell is a returning All-Conference player as a freshman, a rare accomplishment for a non-starter.

"She and Anne have the most 'ball sense' of anyone on our team," Monnig said. "She has a great sense of where the basketball is going to go, as far as rebounding and blocking shots. She's very intelligent and catches on quick. She's still growing and getting stronger, but she's going to be a force once she matures."

As freshmen, both Monnig and Littrell were crucial in a large number of games for the Lady Jackets. Monnig scored 10 points in her high school debut last season and helped lead Glasgow to an important win over Cairo to stay in the conference race. Likewise, Littrell was dominant on the road at Sturgeon — 10 points, 13 rebounds, six blocks — to get the Lady Jackets a big win.

With Blakeley Fuemmeler in the mix last year, Monnig and Littrell rarely were on the floor together at the same time. That is something that will definitely change over their next three seasons together.

"Every time they're in (the game) together, every board should be theirs," Monnig said. "That will allow us to outlet quickly and we can get some transition baskets. Defensively, they take up so much space with their length. When you have two girls who are 6-foot at the bottom of your zone and the rest of the girls are 5-foot-8, in Class 1 basketball, that's pretty big."

The remaining two seniors for the Lady

Jackets will come off the bench this season. One of them is Shelby Prentzler, who will serve as a backup point guard to Reynolds and played in 24 of the team's 29 games last season.

"When a team is pressing us, she's great (at point guard)," Monnig said. "She makes pretty good decisions with the basketball and she can knock down some shots."

Rose Wellborn, the other remaining senior, as well as junior Maia Polson will come off the bench as outside shooters for Glasgow. Both made their way into six games last season and played small roles as shooting guards.

A pair of sophomores, Kristin Stockhorst and Molly Reynolds, are going to make the jump from junior varsity to varsity this season. Monnig said they both are a pair of left-handed shooters who will give Glasgow some extra depth at the No. 2 and 3 guard positions.

"Kristin is good with the basketball and very good on defense," Monnig said. "She's very long and lanky, anticipating the basketball well. She'll help us on both sides of the ball. Molly is strong at taking care of the basketball and can shoot the ball extremely well."

Last season, a big portion of Glasgow's shots were taken from outside. Odds are that the Lady Jackets will take fewer threes. Monnig said the goal will be to get touches inside on every possession, so most of their 3-point chances will come from inside-out looks.

"We have to have post touches, whether it's on the block or in the high post, on every offensive possession," Monnig said. "We're going to be tough to defend if we can do that."

Size is definitely a strength for Glasgow, but a weakness will be the perimeter shooting. Only Fuemmeler and Anne Reynolds have significant experience with outside shooting at the varsity level and Monnig will use this season to develop at least a few more long-range shooters who can take their place

GLASGOW LADY YELLOWJACKETS



2014-15 RECORD: 19-10 overall, 7-3 in Central Activities Conference (T-2nd place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 47-30 to Tusculumbia in Class 1 State Tournament sectionals

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 3rd place — Glasgow Tournament; 2nd place — Marceline Tournament; 4th place — Slater Wildcat Classic.

KEY LOSSES: Abby Thompson (10.4 ppg, 2.7 spg, 2.5 apg); Blakeley Fuemmeler (6.4 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 53% FG).

KEY RETURNERS: Anne Reynolds: sr., 5'7" (6.0 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 2.1 apg, 1.5 spg); Tara Fuemmeler: sr., 5'8" (4.8 ppg, 2.8 rpg); Jaden Monnig: soph., 6'0" (4.7 ppg, 4.3 rpg).

next season.

"We have a lot of fine-tuning to do," Monnig said. "I think we have the people in the right spots and the right roles, but we have to fine-tune a lot of our offense."

A big adjustment for the team this season is implementing a zone defense. With plenty of quickness and plenty of guards to lead the way in the past, Glasgow has typically been a man-to-man or full-court press defense. Now that the team has more height and length and more forwards than guards, it won't be out of the ordinary to see Glasgow come at teams with variations of a zone defense.

The one thing that has eluded Monnig in her first five years as Glasgow head coach is a conference title. The Lady Jackets have finished second in three of the past four years. Last year, New Franklin may have won the CAC, but both second-place Glasgow and Cairo each won a district title.

Monnig said it will take a lot of preparation for Glasgow to compete against Cairo, a team that features plenty of quick guards and four returning All-Conference players. She

added that both New Franklin and Sturgeon are well-coached, competitive teams that will be in the mix for a conference title.

There have been many great Glasgow basketball teams in recent years, but Glasgow will look to do something it hasn't done in three decades, something even Monnig never achieved in her playing days.

Since 1985, the Lady Jackets have failed to win back-to-back district championships. To make this challenge more interesting, Glasgow will return to Tina-Avalon for districts. That's the site of Monnig's first district tournament as a head coach, when Glasgow lost to Hale in overtime in the championship game. This time, Glasgow hopes it will be the favorite to win on Tina-Avalon's court.

"We have tons of potential, but that potential means nothing if we don't play good basketball," Monnig said. "We have a good schedule within the season to prepare us for that tournament. We don't have many games where we know we're going to go out and win by 30 points. Every game is going to be pretty competitive."

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Harrisburg Bulldogs boys basketball



Austin Buckridge
Senior 6'0" Forward
Parent: Tiffany Buckridge



John-Michael Gillman
Senior 6'1" Guard
Parents: John & Kathleen Gillman



Blake Gipson
Senior 5'8" Guard
Parents: Bobby & Marsha Gipson



Taylor Bottomley
Junior 6'2" Forward
Parents: Brett Bottomley & Jodi Bottomley



Trey Freeman
Junior 6'2" Forward
Parents: Larry & Missy Freeman



Brendan Gray
Junior 5'10" Guard
Parent: Jon Gray



Conner McBride
Junior 6'4" Forward
Parents: Collin McBride & Angie McBride



Daniel Sartin
Junior 5'8" Guard
Parents: Kerry & Laura Peveler and Alan & Lisa Sartin



Noah Strawn
Junior 6'1" Forward
Parents: Billy & Karla Strawn



Cade Combs
Sophomore 6'3" Guard
Parents: Steve & Carmen Combs



Scott Hill
Sophomore 6'0" Guard
Parent: Misty Ewens



Kolton James
Sophomore 5'7" Guard
Parents: Mark & Becky James



Christian Jenkins
Sophomore 6'2" Guard
Parents: Michael & Tracy Jenkins



Cody Karl
Sophomore 5'7" Guard
Parents: Troy & Cari Karl



Jordan Olmstead
Sophomore 5'7" Guard
Parents: Roger Olmstead and Aimee Olmstead



Ethan Sublett
Sophomore 5'11" Forward
Parents: Kevin & Becky Sublett



Tyler Cockrum
Freshman 5'10" Guard
Parents: Gary & Angie Cockrum



Zack Hudnell
Freshman 5'7" Guard
Parent: Idella Hudnell



Cody James
Freshman 5'10" Guard
Parents: Terry James & Angie McLane



Stephen Nichols
Freshman 5'9" Guard
Parents: Kerry & Cheryl Nichols



Aaron Sims
Freshman 5'8" Forward
Parent: Sabrina Sims



Steve Combs
Head Coach

Young Harrisburg squad will rely on speed, athleticism

It appeared as if Steve Combs had his Harrisburg basketball program back where he wanted it last season. Following a 19-win season, the Bulldogs had a hot start and won its first three games with a powerful starting lineup.

Then something happened. The wins stopped coming. Following a loss to Glasgow in the Glasgow Tournament championship game, Harrisburg lost six of its next seven games and never climbed back above the .500 mark, finishing with an 11-16 record that ended with a district semifinal

loss to Salisbury.

To make matters worse, the Bulldogs lose four starters off last year's ballclub, including a pair of dominant scorers like Bryan Bolton and Drew Ewens. This year's team will have a new look, and for the most part, it's going to be a young look.

"You look out there and it's all new faces at the varsity level," Combs said. "We return one kid that played a lot and a couple of kids that played some. Whenever you have that, you're going to have growing pains. We're going to try to get off to a good start this

season, but we're also keeping in mind that the end is the real important time."

Combs implemented the "Bolton Rules" last season. Simply put, there was really only one rule, and that was get the ball inside to the 6-foot-5-inch center, who averaged 15.0 points per game to go with his 9.2 rebound average. There won't be a dominant presence in the paint this season for the Bulldogs, so they will go back to the "old reliable" tactic that worked for years and years.

"We're going back to full-blown, full-

court man fast break," Combs said. "That goes back to our roots of what we try to do as a program, which is trapping and rotating. Last year, we had to adjust our defense because Bolton was such a factor underneath the bucket. We're going to play lots of players, we're going to run and jump and we're going to have a lot of fun."

Brendan Gray returns as Harrisburg's top scorer from last season, averaging 8.4 points per game. Drew Ewens was the Bulldogs'

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Area High School Basketball Preview

(Continued from Page 14)

top 3-point threat last year, but Gray was far behind him. Combs described him as a crafty player who can get in rhythm with his outside shot. Gray will have a chance to lead the area in 3-pointers made this season.

"He's a kid who played a lot of minutes last year off the bench," Combs said. "I expect him to step up and be a leader for us this year and knock some shots down for us."

Taylor Bottomley may not possess the same size as Bolton did, but his motor in the paint will be tough to challenge this year. Bottomley, who has been a standout linebacker for the football team the past two seasons, is going to look like a football player on the basketball court this season, cleaning up the glass and powering his way to the basket.

"For the most part, he did that last year, but this year we're going to have to throw him the ball a little bit more," Combs said. "He has soft hands and has to finish around the rim a little more. I'm excited about his season."

Staying with the strong junior class, Trey Freeman is a long-armed post player who is Harrisburg's top-returning rebounder with 3.6 board per game. Combs added that Freeman is very tenacious and brings a lot of energy to the floor.

"He plays with a lot of intensity, especially on the defensive end," Combs said. "He has nice hands around the bucket as well and is a kid who can score. We're going to have to throw him the ball. He's really going to set the tone with his defensive presence, both up front and inside."

The lone returning starter from last year's team is Austin Buckridge, one of the three seniors on this Harrisburg team. His final stats were not like the rest of the starting lineup, finishing with just 2.0 points and

rebounds per game. Still, Combs said he expects Buckridge to use his previous experience to provide leadership this season.

"He's a kid who will do whatever you ask to do to win the ballgame," Combs said. "He brings a defensive presence and is maybe a touch undersized, but he plays hard in the post and has some good hands around the perimeter. He's a go-between for the inside and outside."

Last season was John-Michael Gillman's first year in the Harrisburg program after being a home-school student for many years. He came into games as a lanky 3-point shooter with a shot that looked much like Jacob Rudkin's shot. Of his 36 points scored last season, 21 came beyond the arc. This season, Combs said the Bulldogs will look to him to do more.

"John-Michael is a great kid and a great athlete," Combs said. "Unfortunately, he has been hurt most of the preseason with an injury that he sustained right before football season. He's working every day to get healthy. He's a run-and-jump type kid who will fit perfectly into our system. He's getting closer and closer each day and he's been cleared to shoot a little bit."

Harrisburg's third senior, Blake Gipson, make a splash in the Bulldog sporting scene as a pole vaulter on the track and field team. He saw minimal playing time on the basketball team last season, but he fits the mold like most other Harrisburg guards.

"He can really run and jump and bring a lot of intensity," Combs said. "He shoots the three pretty good as well and we'll look for senior leadership from him."

Combs will dress six sophomores on the varsity roster and leading the way for that class is his oldest son, Cade Combs. He was one of two freshmen to play some varsity action last year and saw his minutes increase exponentially when he returned from in-

HARRISBURG BULLDOGS



2014-15 RECORD: 11-15 overall

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 62-40 to Salisbury in Class 2 District 7 Tournament semifinals

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 2nd place — Glasgow Tournament; 2nd place — South Callaway Tournament; T-7th place — Southern Boone Classic.

KEY LOSSES: Bryan Bolton (15.0 ppg, 9.2 rpg, 1.6 bpg); Drew Ewens (15.8 ppg, 4.0 apg, 3.5 rpg, 2.6 spg); Blake Williams (4.9 ppg, 5.9 apg).

KEY RETURNERS: Brendan Gray: jr., 5'10" (8.4 ppg, 1.7 rpg, 1.5 apg); Austin Buckridge: sr., 6'0" (2.0 ppg, 2.0 rpg); Taylor Bottomley: jr., 6'2" (1.7 ppg, 1.6 rpg).

jury at the midway point of the season. At 6-foot-3-inches tall, Combs will be listed as a guard, which will create some mismatches against opponents.

"I'm going to look for him to guard the best player most of the time," Combs said. "He'll have to do some scoring for us as well. He has some great moves and some great highlights. He has some things he can do better, but he's just a sophomore and he'll get better with each game and each practice."

Harrisburg's starting rotation will be a young one to start the season. Combs said Freeman, Bottomley, Gray and Cade Combs are four locks as starters to begin the season. With Gillman still recovering from injury, his spot in the starting lineup will be filled by another sophomore, Cody Karl.

In the jamboree, Karl showed a resem-

blance to Drew Ewens from last year, always running around the floor and wreaking havoc on opponents. Right now, Combs said Karl is the Bulldogs' main point guard for the time being.

"He's been a true point guard his whole life," Combs said. "He can really distribute the ball and score a little bit."

Conner McBride will come off the bench for Harrisburg this season. He is the tallest player on the roster at 6-foot-4 and has blocked a bunch of shots in practice. Combs said he'll be a big piece of Harrisburg's inside presence on defense this year.

Noah Strawn will also factor into the mix this season as he makes the jump to the varsity level. Harrisburg's remaining four varsity roster spots will be claimed by

(Continued on Page 22)

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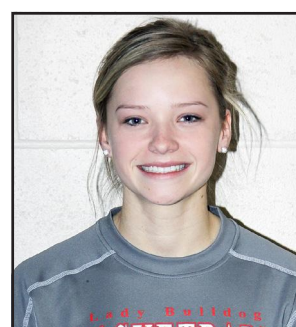
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Baylee Hudson
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Shelby Simmons
Junior 5'5" Guard
Parents: George Simmons & Jennifer Wilhite



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Sophomore 5'5" Guard
Parents: Scott & Shanna Baldrige

Kayla Bradshaw
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Payton Drake
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Maddie Fritts
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Parents: Travis & Nicole Fritts

Emily Southerland
Sophomore 5'8" Forward
Parents: Dwayne & Tracy Southerland

Hannah Southerland
Sophomore 5'7" Center
Parents: Dwayne & Tracy Southerland



Cheyenne Winn
Sophomore 5'5" Guard
Parents: Joey & Desiree Winn



Leah Barton
Freshman 6'0" Forward
Parents: Steve & Monica Barton



Sadie Cook
Freshman 5'6" Guard
Parents: Jay Montgomery & Julie Cook



Sydney Fischer
Freshman 5'9" Guard/Forward
Parents: Allen & Wendy Fischer



Kyla Heuer
Freshman 5'8" Forward
Parents: Kelli & Rob Heuer



Jillian Thornhill
Freshman 5'4" Guard
Parents: Jared & Wendy Thornhill



Kait Weil
Freshman 5'6" Guard
Parents: John Ewens & Kim Woods



Dan Bachmeier
Head Coach



Lady Bulldogs are still searching for that next district title

Looks can be deceiving, and they can also change significantly from one year to the next on a basketball team.

At this time last year, the Harrisburg girls had five seniors in the starting lineup, each capable of dropping gobs of points like they were going out of style. That leadership and talent guided the Lady Bulldogs to an 11-3 start, but a rough second half of the season brought the team's final record to 15-11.

As the 2015-16 season begins, Harrisburg has a much younger look, dressing more freshmen than seniors at the varsity

level. Head coach Dan Bachmeier said this team likely won't average 60 points a game as it did a year ago, but the squad matches last year's team in almost every other facet.

"We can rebound a little bit better and we play pretty good defense and we're aggressive," Bachmeier said. "It's tough to replace shooters, so we have to be better in other ways until our shooting gets better."

Nearly one-third of last year's scoring came from Kirsten Southerland, an All-State guard/forward who averaged 18.2 points per game, 6.9 rebounds per game, 2.7 steals

per game and also led the Lady Bulldogs in blocked shots and was third in assists. Harrisburg also lost starting point guard Karyssa Giboney, shooting guard Hailey Lowrey and forward Macy Arp. The last two were the final remaining players from Harrisburg's 2012 state championship team.

Bachmeier knows it will nearly impossible this season to replace those players, but he said the new players will definitely be able to replace them on defense, which is a start.

"I think we have the defensive capabilities," Bachmeier said. "The one thing that's

going to be hard to replace is the ability to knock down shots consistently. That means we're going to have to get layups off our defense and we have to get the ball inside. While our post game has been adequate in the past, it's going to be our strength this year, if we can get them the ball."

The reason the post position is going to be Harrisburg's strength is because it will be led by Bailey Ivicsics, the Lady Bulldogs' top returner from last year. Ivicsics

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Area High School Basketball Preview

(Continued from Page 16)

transformed from the first player off the bench to the primary forward in the starting lineup midway through last season.

As a result, she became a fixture on last year's 15-win team, finishing third in scoring with 11.9 points per game, while also leading the team with 6.9 rebounds per contest. She has evolved from a player that rarely touched the ball more than 15 feet from the basket to someone Bachmeier is comfortable using in the team's press break because of her improved ball-handling skills.

"We need to get her the ball and she needs touches," Bachmeier said. "But we cannot rely on her to do it all by herself. We have to have others willing to step up and improve their shooting, attack the glass and play defense. There are going to be games where Bailey is outstanding, but is it going to be enough? There will be games when she is double-teamed, and somebody is going to have to step up."

One of those players who will have to step up is Sara Colyer, a junior that will take over at point guard for Harrisburg. Her role this season will be just as vital as the one Ivicsics plays, simply because she'll have to be the facilitator of Harrisburg's offense. The Lady Bulldogs nearly had a scare when Colyer left the jamboree with an injury to her ribs, but Bachmeier said it turned out to be just a bruise and she'll be ready to start the season.

"Sara is going to be relied upon a lot to run the show," Bachmeier said. "We are limited at having true point guards, because I lost another one in Baylee Hudson during the summer (to injury). The odds of her coming back (this season) are not very good."

Like Ivicsics, Kyla Acton also played in all 26 games for Harrisburg last season. Her biggest contributions came on the glass, filling in for Ivicsics or even Southerland at times in the paint. Bachmeier said she'll be a good compliment to Ivicsics in the post this season, but the senior forward will need to be able to keep her emotions on the floor in check and stay under control.

"She can play a fairly decent game when she's composed and under control, and not playing in foul trouble," Bachmeier said.

All three Harrisburg seniors will be in the starting lineup this season. That includes Hunter Carinder, who only appeared in two games last season. Bachmeier said she won't be one of the leading scorers on the team, but she'll bring other assets to the team, such as hustle and defense.

"Whatever points she can get me is great, and she will have to hit some shots," Bach-

meier said. "She's definitely capable of hitting some shots."

Shelby Simmons will claim the last starting spot, which means all healthy upperclassmen will start in Harrisburg's season opener. Simmons has had some experience playing the point, but she will factor into the mix as a shooting guard.

"She's got to relax and not hesitate," Bachmeier said. "She's getting better at it, but you have to remember that she's had little experience (at the varsity level). It's just like being a freshman, really. She just needs to play with confidence and she can score a little bit."

Bachmeier's group of freshmen will challenge most teams as the best freshman group in the area. They may not be in the starting lineup to begin this season, but most of them are capable of starting this early in their careers. After all, this freshman group went back-to-back seasons in middle school without suffering a loss, and many of their wins were runaways.

One of the leaders in that freshman class is Sydney Fischer, who very likely could be the first player off the bench in several games. Standing at 5-foot-9 inches, her abilities are already mirroring those of Southerland as someone who can handle the ball anywhere in the half court and always have control. Bachmeier said there's a good chance she'll play all five positions.

"She's my most versatile player," Bachmeier said. "She's getting better at handling the ball, and while she lacks experience, she is gaining confidence. I need her to step up off the bench and be a scorer. I'm hoping she'll be able to score off her defense because she's both long and fast."

Another varsity freshman, Sadie Cook, is someone Bachmeier said is capable of achieving a lot of things. Cook gives Harrisburg depth at the shooting guard position, just as Emily Southerland does. Harrisburg lost practically all of its 3-point shooting to graduation and Southerland will get her fair share of shots beyond the arc.

Cheyenne Winn will come off the bench at the guard position this season. Bachmeier said her shooting hasn't been consistent, but her decision-making is going to be key this season, and that will dictate the number of minutes she will play.

Behind Ivicsics and Acton at the post, Harrisburg will have sophomore Maddie Fritts and freshmen Leah Barton and Kyla Heuer. Harrisburg has had depth at the guard position year in and year out, but never this much depth in the post.

"Leah can change the game by herself," Bachmeier said of his 6-foot-tall freshman.

HARRISBURG LADY BULLDOGS



2014-15 RECORD: 15-11 overall

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 52-47 to Sweet Springs in Class 2 District 7 Tournament championship

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 1st place — Glasgow Tournament; 3rd place — South Callaway Tournament; T-7th place — Southern Boone Classic.

KEY LOSSES: Kirsten Southerland (18.2 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 77 3-pointers); Hailey Lowrey (13.1 ppg, 2.5 rpg); Karyssa Giboney (5.6 ppg, 4.2 apg).

KEY RETURNERS: Bailey Ivicsics: sr., 5'11" (11.9 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 53% FG); Sara Colyer: jr., 5'4" (1.8 ppg, 1.3 rpg, 0.9 apg); Kyla Acton: sr., 5'9" (0.8 ppg, 1.6 rpg).

"She's a great outside shooter and is just learning the post-up game. Kyla is a smart player who has to work on her post game a little bit. Maddie just has to keep believing in herself and we'll be fine."

Last season, Harrisburg was actually outrebounded by its opponents. Bachmeier doesn't think that will be the case this year. Harrisburg is a team that gets bigger the deeper you go into the bench. It won't be a team that focuses on a rotation of just seven players as it did last year. The Lady Bulldogs will come close to utilizing their entire bench every game of the season.

"I think I could have one of the deepest teams I've had in a long time, since maybe Ashley Fisher's season year," Bachmeier said. "We were 10-deep, and this year I have the capability of putting 10 or 11 girls on the floor on any given night, and not lose anything."

Other than depth, Bachmeier said another strength is having the ability to utilize multiple players at multiple positions. In the past, Harrisburg's All-State players — Ashley Fisher, Chelsey Kroese and Kirsten Southerland — could handle anywhere from three to five positions on the floor. In Bachmeier's system, players with diversity rise faster than players with specialization, as the past results have shown.

"This summer, we did a great job of getting after it like the old Harrisburg teams," Bachmeier said. "We can go to zone, we can play a man, we can play a hard man or soft man and press full-court. We can do a variety of defensive schemes against whoever we play. We're not good enough to press every team on our schedule. We're not good enough to pick up every with full-court man-to-man. We've become very good at making the adjustments."

Bachmeier was able to reel off a number of areas in which he said his team still needs improvement. Those areas consist of shooting the ball better from the perimeter, passing the ball into the post, penetrating through the defense and finishing at the basket.

In addition to playing 40 percent of its schedule against Lewis & Clark Conference teams, easing into the transition from an independent program, Harrisburg will have some extremely tough games on their schedule. That includes an early-season meeting against Helias Catholic, a late-season road game at Chillicothe and a mid-season battle against a young and powerful Southern Boone team.

That doesn't even take into account what talented teams the Lady Bulldogs will face in the Centralia, Macon and Southern Boone tournaments.

"I don't think there's a game where we'll go into the gym and know we're going to win," Bachmeier said. "If we don't bring our 'A' game each night, it's possible we could lose."

The 10 Lewis & Clark games won't count as conference games for Harrisburg, but it gives the girls something to aim for, like a de facto conference championship, something they haven't been able to play for in four years. Still, that's not on Bachmeier's mind. He wants to use those schools to give him insight for the district tournament. After all, the last time Harrisburg won a district championship, it was still a part of the Mid-Missouri Conference.

"That gives me a good judgment of what I need to do to get these girls ready for the district tournament," Bachmeier said. "They know we haven't won a district title in three years, but I don't want to dwell on that too much."



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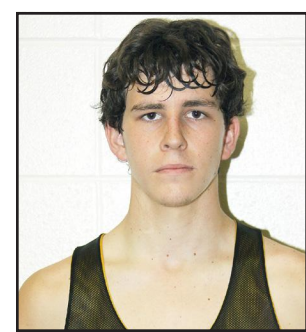


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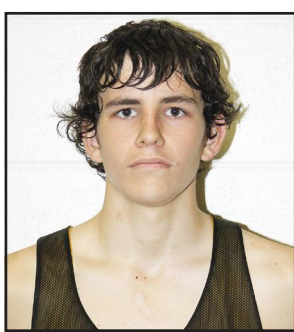


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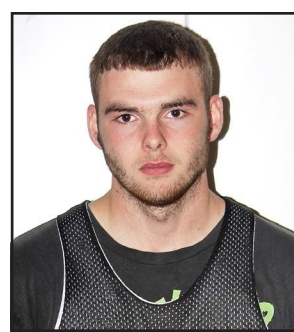
Jacob Beal
Senior 6'1" Guard
Parents: Ben & Glenda Beal



Jesse Beal
Senior 6'0" Guard
Parents: Ben & Glenda Beal



Brad Berendzen
Senior 6'4" Center
Parents: Robert & April Berendzen



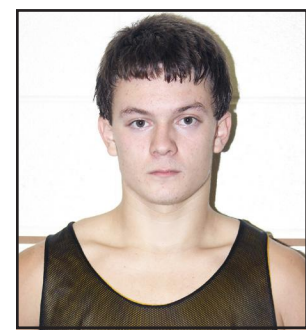
Levi Jones
Senior 5'11" Forward
Parents: Robert & Stephanie Jones



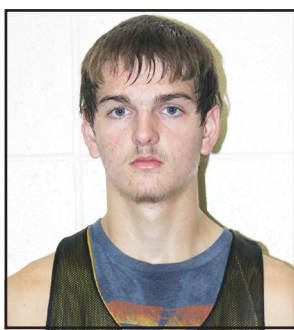
Marc Sears
Senior 5'10" Forward
Parents: Frank & DeeDee Sears



Keaton Smith
Senior 6'5" Center
Parents: Robert Smith and Randy & LeAnn Smith



Phillip Smith
Senior 5'8" Guard
Parents: John Smith & Shirley Smith-Kirk



Wil Clark
Junior 5'11" Guard
Parents: Danny & Becky Clark



Cameron Crawford
Junior 6'3" Guard
Parents: Chad & Jessica Crawford



James Gibson
Sophomore 6'2" Forward
Parents: James & Rebecca Gibson



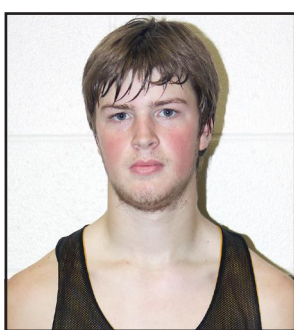
Jason Hudson
Sophomore 6'4" Forward
Parents: Ryan & Jessica Hudson



Noah Kirby
Sophomore 5'8" Forward
Parents: Matt & Michelle Kirby



Josh Morrow
Sophomore 6'1" Center
Parents: Bud & Kathy Henry



Bailey Nauerth
Sophomore 5'11" Guard
Parents: Larry & Christina Nauerth



John Schell
Sophomore 6'4" Forward
Parents: John & Georgia Schell



Zack Smith
Sophomore 5'5" Forward
Parents: Ernest & Bridgett Smith



Wade Spilman
Sophomore 6'2" Forward
Parents: Michael & Leslie Spilman



Tanner Bartolacci
Freshman 6'3" Forward
Parents: Rachel Bartolacci, David & Kathy Bartolacci



Chandler Crawford
Freshman 5'8" Guard
Parents: Chad & Jessica Crawford



Kaleb Skaggs
Freshman 5'11" Forward
Parents: Shawn & Christina Skaggs



Tanner Walter
Freshman 5'11" Guard
Parent: Mike Walter



Jon Bishop
Head Coach



Higbee poised to make playoff run with talented lineup

Higbee fans have to keep their heads on a swivel when they watch the Tigers play basketball this season. That's how often possessions change hands when the Higbee boys take the floor.

It's really the way Higbee head coach Jon Bishop wants it to be. The Tigers averaged 65 shot attempts per game, roughly two shots per minute. It's actually sound thinking. The more possessions you have, the more often you're likely to score. Or, to steal a quote from George in the classic bas-

ketball movie *Hoosiers*: "You can't score if you don't shoot!"

Bishop has a group of players ready to cater to that mindset. The one change he wants to see this year is more one-shot possessions that result in made baskets and fewer that end in defensive rebounds.

"We've got two All-District players and four returning starters back," Bishop said. "We also have two other guys who have significant playing time and are veteran guys. When you have 90 percent of your scoring

back, and you feel like over the summer that you learned a little bit, then yeah, I'm excited about that."

Higbee will be one of the few teams in the area to bring back a player who averaged nearly 20 points a game, and he did that as just a sophomore. Wil Clark scored 508 points last season, taking roughly one-third of Higbee's shot attempts. He made 50 percent of his shots inside the arc (172-of-345), but from 3-point range, he shot a mere 17 percent, knocking down just 33-of-191 attempts.

Bishop would like to see Clark make closer to 30 percent of his threes, if not more, taking fewer attempts but making more of them. Still, there's no doubt his best option to get Higbee points is to create his own shot off the dribble.

"That's one of his individual goals," Bishop said of Clark's interest in posting a higher shooting percentage. "His shot looks really good and we've talked a lot about him

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Area High School Basketball Preview

(Continued from Page 18)

getting everything upstairs taken care of first. It's in his head sometimes that he's not good enough to do that, but I tell him he's going to be in more trouble (with me) if he passes a shot up. I'm going to keep pressuring him to do that."

The Beal brothers head into their senior year after each scored in double figures as juniors, helping Higbee score an average of 62 points per game. Jacob Beal had some impressive all-around numbers like Clark, finishing with 17.2 points per game. He also led Higbee in rebounding and assists — a rare combination for any player — all the while playing at the No. 4 position.

"He's going to handle the ball when we need it," Bishop said. "He'll still do that because I feel like that's really where he came out of his shell last year. He played all these different spots and was able to help us in so many different ways. Barring injury, he's going to be able to eclipse some pretty cool goals this year. But he'd rather worry about wins and what the team is doing."

Jesse Beal was the third leg of Higbee's scoring tripod last season. Bishop is hoping that if Clark gets a team's best defender and Jacob Beal gets the second-best defender, then Jesse Beal has a pretty good chance to win the battle on offense against a team's third-best defender on the court. He's capable of leading the Tigers in scoring and Jesse Beal will have some big games if that third-best defender scenario works out his way.

"He really paced us in several games," Bishop said. "He probably kept us from getting blown out in a few different games, even though we really didn't get handled at any point. If Jesse controls his emotions well, then we're a really good team. When he improves his defense and is able to close people out a little better one-on-one, that's going to help us as well."

During the early going of the season, because of the experience and senior leadership, Bishop said the Beals will play more like forwards than they will guards, simply because they already know they are capable of scoring in the paint.

"When you have the starting five we have, you've got the beauty of being able to do some different things with different guys," Bishop said. "We've been able to look at that and we're going to continue to battle that."

Levi Jones, one of the seven seniors on Higbee's roster, will occupy the other starting position at forward this season. Outside of Higbee's top-three performers, he put together some role-player numbers of 4.6 points per game and 4.8 rebounds per game. Bishop said he is capable of scoring from the outside, but he's going to have to get a

majority of his points inside.

"He's just going to keep getting better," Bishop said. "His shot has improved and he's able to get to the basket more. He's a stockier guy and not very tall, but he handles himself well in the post. He's going to be able to help us in the long run."

The fifth starting spot could go to one of any three different players this season. In Higbee's season opener against Fayette, the last starting spot went to Phillip Smith, a 5-foot-8-inch guard who was a bench player last season. Smith is more of a mid-range shooter for a guard but he also gives Higbee an extra ball-handler on the court.

If the season opener is any indication of future potential, it may not be long before Bishop inserts senior Brad Berendzen into the starting lineup. The 6-foot-4-inch center played some crucial minutes inside and gives Higbee that extra size inside that could be crucial in a few games this season. However, Berendzen did not play basketball last season, so it could take a few games before he plays significant minutes for the Tigers.

Cameron Crawford could also see some starts this year. Bishop said when he enters the game, he sometimes plays like his hair is on fire, and when he does that, he'll stay in the game until the fire is put out. With a 6-foot-3-inch frame, Crawford is a guard playing in a forward's body, which gives Higbee more versatility when he's on the court.

"He's been playing really well and he worked really hard over the summer," Bishop said. "He filled out a little bit and he's handling the ball a little better with more confidence. He's going to give us another dimension."

For a Class 1 school, Higbee is definitely going to be in the upper quartile when it comes to roster height. The Tigers have six players on the roster listed as 6-foot-3-inches or taller, and most of those players are varsity-ready. It isn't just their size that impresses Bishop. It's also their aggressiveness, using their bodies well and moving their feet quicker than most post players. Keaton Smith, another senior, stands the tallest at 6-foot-5. John Schell stands at 6-foot-4 and is only a sophomore. "Obviously, milk does a body good," Bishop said.

Other players who will work their way into games this season include Marc Sears, a senior who Bishop said just hasn't caught a break the past two years to get into more games. Bailey Nauerth is another player Bishop intends to see step his game up this season.

While Higbee did manage to shoot 37 percent from the field as a team last season, one reason the percentage was that high was because the Tigers averaged nearly 15 offensive rebounds per game. Granted, a lot of those boards came off long rebounds from missed 3-pointers, but many of those misses

HIGBEE TIGERS



2014-15 RECORD: 14-12

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 73-36 to Glasgow in Class 1 District 10 Tournament semifinals

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 6th place — Northwestern Tournament; T-7th place — Marceline Tournament; 5th place — Keytesville Tournament.

KEY LOSSES: Austin Nelson (6.2 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 3.3 spg); Derek Clark (2.8 ppg, 2.5 rpg); Garrett Nauerth (1.8 ppg, 3.5 rpg).

KEY RETURNERS: Jacob Beal: sr., 6'1" (17.4 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 2.8 apg, 2.3 spg); Wil Clark: jr., 5'11" (19.5 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 3.5 spg, 2.7 apg); Jesse Beal: sr., 6'0" (10.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 2.5 spg, 2.5 apg).

turned into second- or even third-chance points. Austin Nelson, the lone starter Higbee has to replace this season, made a living on the offensive glass, where he grabbed 80 of his 129 rebounds last season.

Higbee's defense will continue to use the same mentality it has for years, where Bishop and the Tigers will throw everything at opponents, "including the kitchen sink." It's definitely cliché, but teams rarely hold onto the ball for long periods of time against Higbee, either because they turned it over or because they took a quick shot to avoid committing a turnover later in the possession. Higbee averaged nearly 14 steals a game last year.

"The beauty of having the players that I have is that I do have a way of switching things up and having different personnel to do those changes," Bishop said. "We're going to run some presses and get after it half-court wise. We still won't be able to find that fourth and fifth man to run man-to-man full-court (pressure) all the time, but we're still going to do some good things with it."

Bishop not only anticipates the team's shooting percentage to get better, but he also said this year's ballclub is going to be better at taking the ball to the basket.

"We push the ball well defensively, and when we do get steals, we're looking to run with it," Bishop said. "That's a strength that we're going to have. We work on transition offense in practice and we focus on that a lot. We're going to have a stronger presence inside and I hope that continues to improve throughout the season. Once we get the ball down there, we want to finish."

What could work against Higbee as they try to get the ball inside is that those post players lack substantial varsity experience. For the most part, Higbee's primary experience at this level rests on the shoulders of three guards, or a guard and two forwards who mostly play as guards. But halfway through the season, if all goes well inside,

Higbee will look to balance its scoring between the guards and the forwards, rather than relying on the guards to handle most of the workload.

"We can't foul and we have to make sure we're adapting to that and playing well through it," Bishop said. "If we can do all those things, I think we're going to have a pretty good year."

Higbee will return this season to the Cooper County Activities Association for conference affiliation. Pilot Grove and Otterville have departed the CCAA, and Malta Bend was booted the same time as Higbee was after the 2013-14 school year. Joining the Tigers and Bunceton, Prairie Home and Jamestown is Calvary Lutheran, a Class 2 program that was already on Higbee's schedule.

"We are excited to be back," Bishop said. "That's going to be good for our schedule. Hopefully we can see the light at the end of the tunnel and try to grow a little bit in the conference. We want to be able to add more teams (to the conference). We'll have all but one of those games at home and the opportunity is right there for us to take and be able to come back and get that conference title."

Lopsided losses weren't a common occurrence last year for Higbee, so when Glasgow dominated the Tigers in the district semifinals, it left a sour taste with Bishop. The Tigers return a giant portion of their nucleus and their goal isn't just to win those games that were losses last year. They truly want to flip the script.

"We put the score up from our last game (73-36) on the score board and we talked about how we didn't just want to close that gap," Bishop said. "We want to turn that around. We have to do the things that we're supposed to do during the season to get to that point. We may not see Glasgow all year until districts, but we have to be ready to play against a team like that. We have to play our best basketball."

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Higbee Tigers girls basketball



Daina Derboven
Senior 5'9" Forward
Parent: Charity Switzer



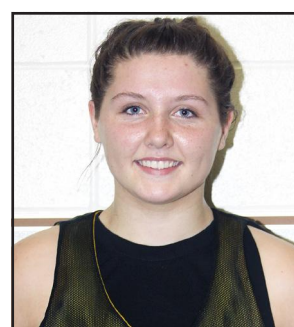
Brianna Evans
Junior 5'4" Guard
Parent: Tracy Evans



Sabrina Huddleston
Junior 5'9" Guard/Forward
Parent: Dusty & Mindy Huddleston



Rhiannon Runyon
Junior 5'7" Guard
Parents: Jimmy & Shannon Runyon



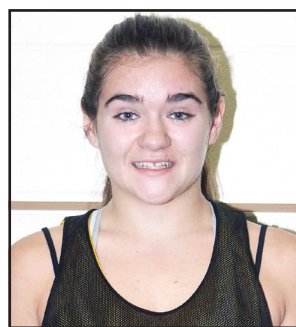
Claire Berendzen
Sophomore 5'5" Forward
Parents: Robert & April Berendzen



Sam Nelson
Sophomore 5'9" Forward
Parents: Neil & Angie Nelson



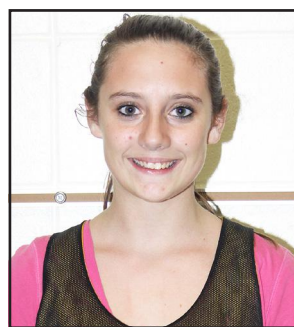
Geocie Sager
Sophomore 5'2" Guard
Parent: Randy Sager & Stacy Sager



Hope Smith
Sophomore 5'4" Forward
Parents: Scott & Susie Smith



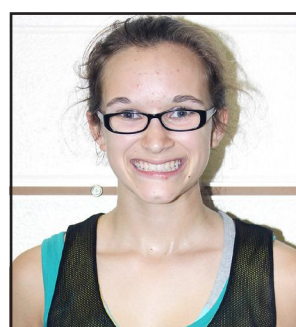
Shelby Clark
Freshman 5'8" Forward
Parents: Donald & Tara Clark



Sharlee Grimes
Freshman 5'4" Guard
Parent: James Grimes, Emy Grimes and Brandy Grimes



Destiny Switzer
Freshman 5'3" Forward
Parents: Ricky Switzer & Ladawn Cossey



Grace Westfall
Freshman 5'3" Guard
Parent: BJ & Lisa Westfall



Alexis Whisenand
Freshman 5'6" Forward
Parents: Jonathan & Brandy Whisenand



Tanner Burton
Head Coach



Lady Tigers are eager to write next pages of record book

The Higbee girls basketball team made headlines throughout the 2014-15 season. Winning seasons haven't come around very often for the Lady Tigers, but in just his second year as head coach, Tanner Burton wasn't just rewriting the record books. He actually had to sit down and write the record books in the first place.

Higbee dominated the month of December and had to fight through some tough opponents to get to a 21-win season. The Lady Tigers had never won a district basketball championship in program history, but they came within one win from climbing Everest, falling to Glasgow in the championship game.

To say the Higbee girls took mid-Missouri by storm is an understatement. In one season, Higbee improved its win total by 13 games and advanced to the championship bracket of each tournament, which rarely happened prior to Burton's arrival.

"It was a dynamic situation to be in," Burton said. "These kids have bought in whole-heartedly, and not just at the high-school level. I have fourth, fifth and sixth-graders who are excited to play basketball for me one day. That's something you don't

see at every school."

Higbee only loses one player from last year's tough roster, but it will be a key loss. Hope Clark scored more than 1,000 points in her career and nearly finished with 1,000 career rebounds. She averaged a double-double during her senior year and is an irreplaceable player for Higbee.

"Hope was a special athlete and one of the best to have played at Higbee," Burton said. "There were a couple of games that we played last year that, if she hadn't lit that fire under herself, we would've had a couple more losses for sure."

This season, Higbee again will have just one senior on the roster. Daina Derboven played in the post opposite of Clark last year. Burton said she learned under Clark and has assumed a huge leadership role on this year's squad. Rebounding has never been an issue for Derboven, who grabbed 8.1 boards per game as a junior. However, her scoring will have to improve after averaging just under two points per game a year ago.

"She's been pushed around for a couple of years by Ashley Berendzen, who had 1,000 rebounds, and then by Hope, who had 900-plus rebounds," Burton said. "She's

ready to take that role and clean the glass for us. She has adjusted offensively. Last year, I would tell her to shoot, and instead she would pass it to Hope. This year, she's going to look to shoot more."

Higbee will have a pair of junior teammates who will push each other for reasons more than winning. Both Sabrina Huddleston and Rhiannon Runyon have been scoring machines and are on pace to eclipse 1,000 career points sometime this season. After last week's season opener against Fayette, Huddleston needs 302 more points to reach the milestone, while Runyon is just 244 points shy of reaching 1,000 for her career.

Runyon posted the best all-around numbers of any Higbee player last year, aside from Clark. She averaged 14.4 points per game and also grabbed 6.5 rebounds per contest, an impressive number for a 5-foot-7-inch guard. Runyon has been the full-speed type of guard for Higbee the past two seasons and she clearly continued to show off that role in Higbee's season opener at Fayette.

"The kid has really developed additional key points to her game," Burton said.

"She'll attack the basket. She has a step-back jumper now and she's doing a nice job of knocking down the outside shot, which she struggled with a bit last year. She is a big piece of the glue to this team."

Huddleston was the leading scorer last year with 14.9 points per game. However, unlike Runyon, she will have an obstacle to overcome this season. Huddleston tore the ACL in her left knee during the district championship game against Glasgow. She was able to rehab the knee and return for the softball season this fall at Higbee. With 71 3-pointers made as a sophomore, if teams don't put a hand in her face this year, they'll likely regret it.

"From what I saw on MaxPreps, she took the most 3-point attempts in the state," Burton said, which was 242 shots beyond the arc. "The kid is going to burn you. She has developed a good inside-outside game that she didn't have last year. This year, what I've seen so far is that she's been able to do a good job of attacking the basket, using her size to her advantage. You're either going to have to put your best defender on her,

(Continued on Page 21)

Area High School Basketball Preview

(Continued from Page 20)

and she'll be a bigger size than that girl, or you're going to put a post on her and she's going to have the ability to beat her to the basket."

If Huddleston plays like a guard on offense, Higbee will often have a four-guard setup in its starting lineup. With Runyon and Huddleston as dominant shooting guards, the person in charge of getting them the ball is point guard Geocie Sager. The sophomore was a crucial piece of the puzzle to last season's success, handling the ball and allowing Runyon, Huddleston and Clark to set themselves up for scoring opportunities. Sager still posted 6.9 points per game and could be another future 1,000-point scorer for the Lady Tigers.

"In the offseason, we do the 10,000-shot challenge," Burton said. "She got the closest to 10,000 made baskets this summer, finishing between 9,000 and 10,000. One day, she would not go home until she made 1,000 baskets. She was at the gym from morning until dusk, just shooting, shooting, shooting. She's become more of an outside threat, and when you have to honor three people who shoot the outside shot, it creates a dynamic issue."

Burton will look to the freshman class to fill the fifth starting position. That responsibility will fall on Grace Westfall, who was the leader on Higbee's junior high basketball team the past two seasons. She was both the point guard and the leading scorer last year as an eighth grader. Higbee's other three guards will do most of the scoring this year, so it's an opportunity for Westfall to adapt to the next level and get comfortable as she advances to the varsity level.

"She has the dedication and the drive," Burton said. "She doesn't want to disappoint me at all, and that's her biggest fear. We do drills throughout practice, and they have to do additional running during them. She gets on the line and runs, even when she doesn't

have to. She always asks what she can do to be better and I tell her that her additional focus needs to be on defense."

Sam Nelson was one of the first players off the bench last year and it's a role she'll continue to hold this season as a sophomore. Nelson gives Higbee depth off the bench in the post, but she has shown she has the ability to knock down mid-range jumpers.

"Sam has the height and size, and she's working to get more comfortable in our system," Burton said. "The big thing for her is just having confidence in herself. She's going to be a great asset on the boards and she'll probably take some of Hope's blocked shots."

Claire Berendzen will also get some time off the bench for Higbee this season. When Nelson missed a few games last season because of an injury, Berendzen picked up more minutes and worked her way into more playing time for the remainder of the season. Burton said she is a scrapper and defines her as the team's enforcer.

"Every team needs one, and she's definitely my enforcer," Burton said. "The kid is gritty and she's not going to give up an inch to anybody. She's 5-foot-5 but she plays like she's 5-foot-8 or 5-foot-9. That tenacity is definitely going to be something special for us."

Alexis Whisenand has one of the purest shots on the team and will be one of the few freshmen to pick up varsity minutes this season, as will Shelby Clark, a tall and lanky post player. Burton also added that Hope Smith will work her way into games off the bench as well, describing her as the most improved player on the team.

There were many games that Higbee dominated last season, but the Lady Tigers had troubles getting past teams that had a significant height advantage. Glasgow won both meetings against Higbee because of two 6-foot freshmen in the post and Keytesville won one of its matchups against Higbee behind a huge night from center Abby

HIGBEE LADY TIGERS



2014-15 RECORD: 21-7 overall

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 46-28 to Glasgow in Class 1 District 10 Tournament championship

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 5th place — Northwestern Tournament; 3rd place — Marceline Tournament; 3rd place — Keytesville Tournament.

KEY LOSSES: Hope Clark (11.3 ppg, 11.4 rpg, 3.3 spg, 2.9 bpg).

KEY RETURNERS: Rhiannon Runyon: jr., 5'7" (14.4 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 3.1 spg); Sabrina Huddleston: jr., 5'9" (14.9 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 71 3-pointers); Geocie Sager: soph., 5'2" (6.9 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 2.4 spg, 1.9 apg).

Koehl.

To combat that this season, Burton said his players came up to him and asked if they could implement more presses this season. What more could a coach ask for?

"These kids have some different ideas to match up with the size, and if we put a lot of pressure on their guards and win the guard game, it's going to be hard for them to get the ball to the post anyway," Burton said. "And there aren't a lot of big post players who are comfortable taking the ball coast to coast. We'll need to be more physical. We have girls who are getting more comfortable in the post."

There were no conference titles for Higbee to win last year, but their status as an independent will only last for one season. The Lady Tigers are back in the Cooper County Activities Association, joining Bunceton, Jamestown, Prairie Home and newcomer Calvary Lutheran. There won't be a conference tournament this year, so it's only a regular-season conference championship that is up for grabs this year.

Higbee picked up easy wins over Calvary Lutheran and Bunceton last year, but lost to Prairie Home and will have to face a

tough Jamestown ballclub. Luckily for Higbee, three of the four conference games will be on its home floor.

"We're 11-2 at home over the past two years, so it's not only about winning a conference championship. It's also about protecting our house," Burton said. "The girls have built a lot of pride here. You're going to see some hungry kids when we play in front of the home crowd."

Higbee will be among the contenders for the District 10 crown, which will be played at Tina-Avalon this year. It may only be his third season as head coach, but making history is still in the cards for Burton and his girls. According to him, his program is still in the building phase in the grand scheme of the program's overall direction.

"I've got kids from seniors down to fourth grade that all get along," Burton said. "They talk to each other and they're always in the gym. When you have that togetherness, that's special. We had a kid who needed shoes, and there were 10 girls who said, 'Oh, my sister probably has a pair.' These kids are a team and the community is really seeing that. If you come to our games, you're seeing a heck of a turnout for girls basketball."

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Area High School Basketball Preview

Fayette boys preview

(Continued from Page 3)

“He gives up good depth,” Pallardy said. “He gives us more depth at the guard spot, which allows us to play somebody like Blake or Tommy inside a little more. He can shoot, and he’s a pretty good shooter when he gets his feet set.”

Both Chris Dunivent and Chase Huthman will pick up a few minutes a game for Fayette. Dunivent, only a freshman, is the tallest player on Fayette’s roster at 6-foot-2 inches. Pallardy said Dunivent’s offseason work has landed himself on the varsity roster. Huthman, who is playing his first season in Fayette at the high-school level, will also play in the post this year.

Pallardy made a decision during the off-season to scrap the offensive plan he had implemented in his first two seasons at Fayette to go with something new. He said the pass-and-cut offense wasn’t working as well as he had hoped. This season, under a new offense, Fayette will use more ball screens against a man-to-man defense. He said he is still working some new ideas into the system and hopes to have them implemented by the end of the first month of the season.

“I think the offenses are looking a heck of a lot better now than they did anytime in the last two years,” Pallardy said. “It sets up Tommy and Blake to have a lot of success, to have more opportunities to do what they do best.”

There’s no question that Fayette’s biggest strength is going to be its guard play. The bulk of the team’s scoring is returning at those three positions and all three starting guards have the ability to be All-Conference players.

“When we can get stops and rebound the ball, we can get out and run,” Pallardy said. “We’re really good in the open court. We’re going to attack the basket, we’re going to get to the free-throw line a lot. If we can play defense and rebound the ball, it’s going to propel us to be as good as anybody around.”

One of the weaknesses on this year’s Fayette team is a lack of height. The Falcons will face some teams this year with a significant height advantage, and for the most part, Fayette will only be able to counter with 6-foot players in the post. When that happens, Pallardy said it will have to be a team effort to stop teams from scoring near the basket.

“We’re not going to be able to go one-

on-one at them,” Pallardy said. “People can shoot right over the top of us. We’ve worked hard on our ball pressure and on our pre-catch post defense. We’re going to double-team the post some and try to scramble a little bit, getting teams to play more of a guard-oriented game. We can’t allow second-chance points. It’s going to be a team effort for everyone to hit the boards.”

Salisbury is the five-time defending champion in the Lewis & Clark Conference. In fact, the Panthers have won 46 consecutive conference games. The Falcons were the last conference team to beat Salisbury, back when they knocked off the No. 1 Panthers on Jan. 14, 2011.

This year, an undefeated season isn’t a lock for Salisbury. Pallardy said he is picking Westran to be the favorite to win conference because the Hornets return its three best players, while Salisbury graduated its entire starting lineup. Marceline also returns several key players, as does Paris. With only five teams in the conference this year, a couple of bad games could drop any team into last place this season.

“I can see any team beating any other team on any given night,” Pallardy said. “It’s

going to come down to consistency. You have to hold your own at home, and then you have to steal a couple on the road.”

Speaking of home games, Pallardy wants to start a new trend. Of Fayette’s eight wins over the past two seasons, only one win has come on the Falcons’ home floor, and that was last year’s conference matchup against Slater. Pallardy plans to show the Fayette home crowd more wins this year. So far, Fayette has defended its home court this season, beating Higbee at home to begin the season. They’ll have seven more home games left on the schedule.

But it’s not just the home games. Pallardy wants to see this program get back to where it was when he arrived. Three years ago, Fayette was a top challenger for a conference title, a threat to make a push for a district title and a team that was a few breaks shy of a 20-win season.

“Our best players the past two years have mostly been underclassmen,” Pallardy said. “It’s hard to win like that. If we started taking care of our home court, people will start coming to the games. They’ll see that we’re a team that can play, not just hoping to win. I think we’re there.”

Fayette girls preview

(Continued from Page 5)

move throughout the zone and they excel very well at that,” Matthews said. “We’ll try to trap a lot out of it, and that’s where we’re going to get our turnovers from.”

Fayette has finished in last place in the Lewis & Clark Conference over the past two seasons. It will be a tough task to climb out of the conference cellar this season, with the remaining four Lewis & Clark teams all bringing back most of their star players from

last season.

Matthews said he believes Westran will be the team to beat this season. Both Salisbury and Paris split the title last year and will be near the top again this season. Matthews wants to see his team do well in conference play, as would any other coach, but his main focus isn’t necessarily centered on winning a conference title.

“Our main focus this year is to become mentally-tough individuals, and to be able to come in and finish games,” Matthews said.

“If we can compete with those teams at a high level, then we give ourselves a chance. They are good teams, but we can come in and battle against them.”

This past fall, the Fayette softball team played for its first district championship in more than 30 years. The Lady Falcons nearly pulled off the upset, but fell in the last inning to Pilot Grove.

From that loss, the softball girls playing basketball are trying to carry that momentum into the winter months. The softball team had

ups and downs throughout its season, but the Lady Falcons were playing their best by season’s end. The basketball team has every intention of replicating that same conclusion to this season’s journey.

“They’re very hungry,” Matthews said. “From the very first practice, these girls are ready to win. They’re ready to put together a successful season. A lot of those older girls are on the charge for that. The upperclassmen are wanting to change this culture into a different direction.”

Harrisburg boys preview

(Continued from Page 15)

sophomores: Kolton James, Scott Hill, Christian Jenkins and Ethan Sublett. Combs said each of those players have a lot of ability and talent. It will take some in-game experience to figure out where they fit as pieces in a puzzle.

“We’ll have a big rotation early in the season, which is typical for us,” Combs said. “We have to find the pieces and see who’s going to step up and who’s ready to go. As we get to January, we’ll shorten it up a little bit. This is a neat team because so many jobs are open after having back-to-back big senior classes. We’ve had some high-level players leave the program and now it’s wide open.”

One of the strengths on this year’s Harrisburg team is speed, which isn’t a new concept for the Bulldogs. The difference as far as this year goes is there is more of it, not just a few players that will lead the guards this season. Combs added that many players can do multiple things on offense rather

than specializing. The Bulldogs can go after teams with the inside-outside look, which was an option that was rarely used last year.

With youth, however, comes inexperience, which is a factor working against Harrisburg to start the season. Combs said sometimes it just goes back to the basics, like understanding what is and what is not a good basketball shot.

“These kids have been there, but it’s always been at a sub-varsity level,” Combs said. “Now it’s all about trying to get it done every possession. We can come out and play pretty well, but the next play, our intensity could drop 30 percent, which you can’t do in a varsity game. You have to get at it the whole time.”

Combs wants to get his team’s defense back to what he calls “organized chaos,” but right now, he said it just looks like chaos. He jokingly said that right now, he fears for the people sitting in the front row, should a Harrisburg player come flying in their direction.

This will be Harrisburg’s last year as an independent before moving to the Lewis

& Clark Conference. However, in taking a look at Harrisburg’s schedule, the Bulldogs might as well be considered a conference team this year.

In an effort to begin the transition process into the conference, Harrisburg picked up a full Lewis & Clark schedule, filling Slater’s spot in 10 games — five home and five away — against conference schools. It’s a big shakeup for a schedule that still consists of games against Moberly, Hallsville, California and Southern Boone, but it will give Harrisburg an idea of what the competition will be like for the 2016-17 season.

“We have some teams on the schedule that we’ve never played before,” Combs said, making a reference to teams like Marceline and Paris. “We’re going to have to figure out these new opponents and new faces. We’re just excited to become a part of the Lewis & Clark and build some new rivalries, and maybe restoring some old ones.”

Harrisburg won’t be in either the Glasgow or South Callaway tournaments this year. Because they had to drop bigger

schools to take on the Lewis & Clark schedule, the Bulldogs moved into the Centralia and Macon tournaments, hoping to match up against those dropped teams.

Last year, Fayette was the only district opponent Harrisburg had played prior to the district tournament. Now the Bulldogs will be more familiar with the District 7 layout, adding games against Salisbury and Westran. The timing couldn’t have been more perfect, as the district is wide open this year. No powerhouses like Salisbury or a past combatant in Tolton are making big noise so far. That may leave the door open for an up-and-coming Harrisburg team to win its first district championship since 2009.

“It’s going to be a race to see who gets to the top,” Combs said. “I want our kids to be able to understand basketball at a high level. I think we have enough skill and athleticism, but if we understand our roles and all the little things that make teams go from good to great, that will be a big key for our season.”

Area High School Basketball Preview

Fayette High School

2015-16 Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 23	Higbee (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Nov. 24	@ New Franklin (JVG/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Nov. 30-Dec. 5	Glasgow Tournament	TBA
Dec. 7	Centralia (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 10	@ Higbee (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 15	Westran* (JVG/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 17	Smithton (JVB/VG/VB)	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 18	@ Harrisburg (JVG/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 21	New Franklin (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 4-9	New Franklin Tournament	TBA
Jan. 11	Marceline (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 12	Harrisburg (JVB/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 14	Pilot Grove (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 15	Salisbury* (JVG/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 18 & 23	Salisbury JV Tournament	TBA
Jan. 21	@ Brunswick (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 22	Atlanta (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 25-30	Slater Tournament	TBA
Feb. 1	@ Prairie Home (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 2	Marceline* (JVG/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 9	@ Paris* (JVG/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 12	@ Salisbury* (JVB/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 16	Paris* (JVB/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 18	@ Marceline* (JVB/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 19	@ Westran* (JVB/VG/VB)	5 p.m.

Home Games in Bold

* — Lewis & Clark Conference Game

New Franklin High School

2015-16 Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 24	Fayette (JVG/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Nov. 30-Dec. 5	Glasgow Tournament	TBA
Dec. 8	Slater* (JV/VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 9	@ Harrisburg (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 11	Madison* (JVG/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 15	@ Cairo* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 16	Slater (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 17	vs. Tuscumbia^ (VG/VB)	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 21	@ Fayette (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 4-9	New Franklin Tournament	TBA
Jan. 11	@ Slater (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 12	Pilot Grove* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 15	@ Sturgeon* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 22	@ Glasgow* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 25-30	Sturgeon Tournament	TBA
Feb. 2	Sturgeon* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 4	@ Jamestown (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 5	@ Salisbury (JVG/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 8	@ Pilot Grove* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 9	@ Slater* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 12	Glasgow* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 16	Cairo* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 18	@ Madison* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.

Home Games in Bold

* — Central Activities Conference Game

^ — State Fair Community College Holiday Shootout at Sedalia

Harrisburg High School

2015-16 Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 30	@ Brookfield (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 2	@ Pilot Grove (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 5	vs. Helias Catholic* (VG)	12:30 p.m.
Dec. 5	vs. California* (VB)	2 p.m.
Dec. 7-12	Centralia Tournament	TBA
Dec. 9	New Franklin (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 15	@ Paris (JVB/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 17	@ Westran (JVB/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 18	Fayette (JVG/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 21	Southern Boone (JV/VG/VB) ...	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 29	vs. Moberly^ (VG/VB)	TBA
Jan. 5	Southern Boone (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 7	Hallsville (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 11	Salisbury (JVB/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 12	@ Fayette (JVB/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 15	Paris (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 18-23	Macon Tournament	TBA
Jan. 19	Salisbury (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 23	vs. Iberia% (VB)	1:30 p.m.
Jan. 25	@ Hallsville (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 26	Hallsville (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 29	Marceline (JVB/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 1-6	Southern Boone Tournament	TBA
Feb. 4	Macon (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 9	@ Marceline (JVG/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 12	Westran (JVG/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 13	@ Chillicothe (JVG/VG)	5 p.m.
Feb. 16	@ Salisbury (JVG/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 17	@ Fr. Tolton Catholic (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.

Home Games in Bold

* — Norm Stewart Shootout at Columbia College

^ — MRMHC Holiday Shootout at Moberly Area Community College

% — MFA Oil Shootout at Mizzou Arena

Higbee High School

2015-16 Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 23	@ Fayette (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Nov. 24	Southern Boone (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Nov. 30-Dec. 5	Northwestern (Mendon) Tournament	TBA
Dec. 7	@ Brashear (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 8	Westran (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 10	Fayette (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 14	Bunceton (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 17	@ Mo. Military Academy (JVB/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 18	Calvary Lutheran* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 21	vs. TBA^ (VG/VB)	TBA
Dec. 28	vs. Centralia% (VG)	12:30 p.m.
Jan. 5	Mo. School for the Deaf (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 7	@ Slater (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 8	Keytesville (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 11	@ Brunswick (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 15	@ Atlanta (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 19	Prairie Home* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 21	@ Bevier (JVB/VG/VB)	5:15 p.m.
Jan. 25-30	Keytesville Tournament	TBA
Feb. 1	@ Moberly (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 2	Brunswick (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 5	Bucklin/Macon County (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 8	@ Christian Fellowship (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 11	Salisbury (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 12	@ Bunceton* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 16	Jamestown* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 18	@ La Plata (VG/VB)	6 p.m.

Home Games in Bold

* — Cooper County Activities Association conference game

^ — NCMC Holiday Shootout at North Central Missouri College

% — MRMHC Holiday Shootout at Moberly Area Community College

Glasgow High School

2015-16 Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 24	@ Slater* (JVB/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Nov. 30-Dec. 5	Glasgow Tournament	TBA
Dec. 7	Slater (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 8	@ Cairo* (JVB/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 10	@ Westran (JVB/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 14	@ Marceline (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 15	Madison* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 4-9	Marceline Tournament	TBA
Jan. 12	@ Sturgeon* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 14	@ Salisbury (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 15	@ Pilot Grove* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 19	Slater* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 21	Sweet Springs (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 22	New Franklin* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 23	vs. Salisbury^ (VB)	Noon
Jan. 25-30	Slater Tournament	TBA
Feb. 2	Pilot Grove* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 4	Salisbury (JVG/VG)	6 p.m.
Feb. 9	Cairo* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 11	@ Madison* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 12	@ New Franklin* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 16	@ Meadville (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 19	Sturgeon* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.

Home Games in Bold

* — Central Activities Conference Game

^ — MFA Oil Shootout at Mizzou Arena

Postseason Schedule

Class 1 and 2 District Tournaments — Feb. 20-27

Class 1 and 2 Sectionals — March 1 & 2

Class 1 and 2 Quarterfinals — March 5

Show-Me Showdown (@ Columbia) — March 10-12


District Assignments

Class 2 District 7 Tournament — @ Harrisburg High School
Fayette, Harrisburg, New Franklin, Salisbury, Slater,
Sweet Springs, Westran

Class 1 District 10 Tournament — @ Tina-Avalon High School
Brunswick, Glasgow, Hale/Bosworth, Higbee, Keytesville,
Northwestern (Mendon), Tina-Avalon

Area Conferences

Lewis & Clark	Central Activities	CCAA
Fayette	Cairo	Bunceton
Marceline	Glasgow	Calvary Lutheran
Paris	Madison	Higbee
Salisbury	New Franklin	Jamestown
Westran	Pilot Grove	Prairie Home
	Slater	
	Sturgeon	



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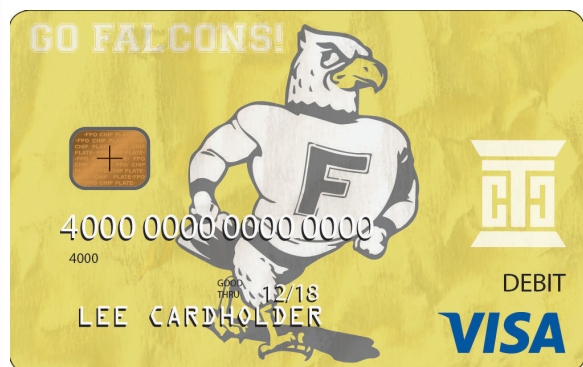
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