

2012-13 Area High School Basketball Preview



Fayette High School returning basketball seniors (l to r): Zach Cook, Ben Harris, Kenya Johnson, Rashad Jackman, Caitlin Wells, Sam Miller, Landon Ball and Kennzie Thornton

Fayette Falcons

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New Franklin Bulldogs

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Glasgow Yellowjackets

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Harrisburg Bulldogs

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Higbee Tigers

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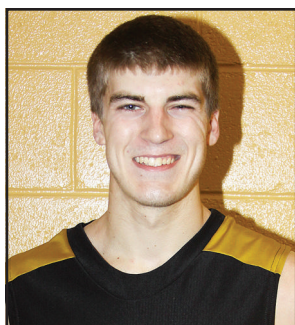
Basketball Schedules

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Fayette Falcons boys basketball



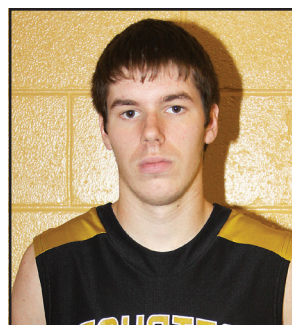
Landon Ball
Senior 6'1" Forward
Parents: Jeffrey Ball
& Lynette Snell-Ball



Zach Cook
Senior 6'0" Guard
Parents: Rick Cook
& Kelly Beeler



Gary Dunivent
Senior 6'5" Center
Parent: Jennifer Dunivent



Ben Harris
Senior 6'2" Forward
Parents: Rich Harris
& Pam Melloway



Rashad Jackman
Senior 6'0" Guard
Parent: Terry Jackson
& Lachandra Jackman



C.J. Johnson
Senior 5'10" Guard
Parent: Marita Harris



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



Collin O'Connell
Junior 6'0" Guard
Parents: Brian McMillan
& Peggy O'Connell



Rudy Williams
Junior 6'4" Forward
Parents: Jessie Williams III
& Tonya Eubanks



Ethan Harper
Sophomore 5'10" Guard
Parents: Cord & Kathyne Harper



Coltin Lewis
Sophomore 5'7" Guard
Parents: Billy & Michelle Lewis



Davis Valencia
Sophomore 6'0" Guard
Parents: Eddie & Amy Valencia



Marquis Williams
Sophomore 6'2" Forward
Parent: Jessie Williams II



Lane Ball
Freshman 5'7" Guard
Parents: Jeffrey Ball
& Lynette Snell-Ball



Ashton Boatman
Freshman 5'6" Guard
Parents: Bobby & Theresa
Boatman



Zech Burks
Freshman 5'10" Guard
Parent: Nathaniel Brinkley



Jeremy Bush
Freshman 5'10" Forward
Parents: Greg Kelly
& Augusta Bush



Sam Moore
Freshman 5'10" Forward
Parents: David Moore
& the late Sherri Moore



Not Pictured
Richard Kite



Cameron O'Connell
Freshman 5'2" Guard
Parents: Brian McMillan
& Peggy O'Connell



Jerrod Riley
Freshman 5'6" Guard
Parents: Justin & Tracy
Johnmeyer



Chris Kendrick
Head Coach



Fayette boys will rely on quickness, depth this season

The Fayette boys basketball team will have a new look. And yet, in another sense, the look will be very familiar to Falcons fans.

The 2012-13 team won't have a player average 28 points per game this season. However, Fayette head coach Chris Kendrick said this year's team will look a lot like the 2009-10 team, his only 20-win season at Fayette.

"We're going to have one or two guys that we still will make it a focal point to get

the ball to them when we're trying to work offensive sets," Kendrick said. "We're really going to try to control the boards and get out and get as many break-away points as we can, creating deflections and layups."

A huge loss from last year's team is Bruce Marshall, an All-State player that accounted for 44 percent of the Falcons' scoring, not to mention his 12.0 rebounds per game and 6.8 blocks per contest. Sometimes players are easy to replace and others not so much. Kendrick said there's no point in trying to

find one person to take Marshall's place.

"We're going to need two to three to four guys to try to give us the production Bruce did," Kendrick said. "He was a very special player and we needed to go through him to have the success we had. We're much deeper this year than we were last year. I'm pleased with what it looks like we're going to have this year."

A key returner to the Falcons this year is junior Rudy Williams, who racked up decent numbers last season playing opposite

of Marshall in the post. Williams averaged more than eight points and eight rebounds per game. This season, he's slated to be Fayette's go-to player in the post. Kendrick said for this team to be successful, Williams will have to consistently score around 20 points per game.

"That's a little bit of pressure to put on him, but I think he's very capable of that," Kendrick said. "When you have a player

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Area High School Basketball Preview

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who is capable of obtaining those goals, they need to be able to reach them for us to be successful. When he is able to do that, it's only going to make the other guys better."

Fayette will dress seven seniors this season, four of them returning as lettermen. Rashad Jackman flipped the script on some teams. He came out and knocked down four 3-pointers in his Falcons' debut against Harrisburg in the Glasgow Tournament. His strength will continue to be the long-range shots and will get more looks beyond arc with Marshall gone, but also look for Jackman to shoot some inside as well.

"The way we want to play this year tailors more to Rashad's skill set," Kendrick said. "We did a lot of half-court offense and half-court defense and didn't get out and run as much as we have in the past. Rashad is so long and athletic, he can cause a lot of havoc and really make some routine passes very difficult for our opponents."

With Jackman returning at the No. 2 guard spot, senior Zach Cook will take over as a full-time point guard this season. Cook missed the first seven games last season with a fractured right wrist, but he came back and finished the season strong, averaging more than three assists per game. One thing Kendrick would like to see out of Cook is more scoring, but for now, he wants Cook to handle the ball.

"It goes all the way back to his freshman year," Kendrick said. "Somebody was pressing us in a JV game and I said, 'Zach, just get the ball and break it.' We knew he had the skill set, we knew he was capable of

handling the ball and it really forced him to improve his ball-handling skills, to be like a Christian Broadus or a Phillip Brinkley. If two guys come at him, he's good enough to get the ball to the open man, or continue to dribble it and beat both of them."

Ben Harris is another senior who will get more playing time this season at the post opposite of Williams. His shot total will improve this season, so expect Harris to get a lot of touches around the rim and in the lane. He also has the potential to be one of the team's leading rebounders.

Landon Ball will compete with Harris for that starting role in the post later in the season. Ball will miss the start of the season with a broken left foot, but he could return as early as the Glasgow Tournament. He cracked into the starting five for Fayette's final two games last season and will help with the depth inside.

"They're going to be a very good combination," Kendrick said of Williams, Harris and Ball in the post. "Being able to rotate those three guys for each other will allow us to get some rest time for those guys to play the way we want to play. Ben and Landon both have an excellent opportunity to be impact role players. They are guys we need to make buckets."

Taking the fifth starting spot for the Falcons is senior Sam Miller, who is another player that will see his playing minutes improve significantly this season. Kendrick said what he has done in the weight room during the offseason has made Miller a person that will guard the opposition's point guard, or maybe even a team's best player.

"Even though he's a little smaller, he's

FAYETTE FALCONS



2011-12 RECORD: 16-10 overall, 8-2 in Lewis & Clark Conference (2nd place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 78-64 to Douglass in Class 2 District 7 Tournament quarterfinals

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 4th place — Glasgow Tournament; 2nd place — New Franklin Tournament; 5th place — Slater Wildcat Classic.

KEY LOSSES: Bruce Marshall (28.9 ppg, 12.0 rpg, 6.8 bpg); Roshawn Wilson (5.9 ppg, 4.4 apg, 2.8 spg); Krey Cowans (7.6 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 3.1 apg).

KEY RETURNERS: Rudy Williams: jr., 6'4" (8.5 ppg, 8.2 rpg, 1.9 spg); Zach Cook: sr., 6'0" (2.2 ppg, 3.2 apg, 2.7 rpg); Rashad Jackman sr., 6'0" (5.5 ppg, 1.8 rpg, 31 3-pointers).

strong, is very quick and very intelligent," Kendrick said. "I think he can be a guy who can lock some guys down, hit a shot for us a night, makes the right passes and gets where he is supposed to be. As we get into the season more, he will be the guy who gets more comfortable in his role."

A new addition to the varsity roster will be sophomore Marquis Williams, a 6-foot-2-inch forward that will make a big impact for Fayette's rebounding effort. For someone who had not played one single high school basketball game before this season, Kendrick said Williams has a lot of potential.

"He's a kid who can be instrumental for us getting boards," Kendrick said. "And if they're offensive board, he can go back up strong and get to the rim. He'll also clear out some space on the defensive glass."

Collin O'Connell mostly saw JV action last season and was a key contributor on that team, but Kendrick said during the pre-season, he's nearly practiced himself into a starting role this season. O'Connell is listed as a forward, but he's skilled enough to play at guard as well.

"Collin has a nice shot and is strong enough to guard a four or a five, even if he is undersized," Kendrick said. "Physically, he's going to hold his own this season. He's going to be very important for us to have."

Seniors Gary Dunivent and C.J. Johnson are new to the hardwood this season. Both players had big roles with the football team this season and will look to contribute some in basketball this season. Kendrick said Du-

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Tony Williams
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awilliams@mofb.com

Fayette Falcons girls basketball



Kenya Johnson

Senior 5'6" Forward
Guardians: Elsie Johnson
& Marita Harris



Kennzie Thornton

Senior 5'6" Guard
Parents: Pete Thornton
& Micki Polson



Caitlin Wells

Senior 6'0" Center
Parents: Marc & Janet Wells



Keonna Bush

Junior 5'3" Guard
Parents: Curtis Jackman
& Vicky Bush



Kyreon Lee

Junior 5'6" Forward
Parents: Dylan Lee
& Myra Kelly



Kenzie Smentkowski

Junior 5'5" Guard
Parents: A.J. & Carol
Smentkowski



Clara Beaman

Freshman 5'6" Guard
Parents: Mitch & Darlene
Beaman



Kristien Dunivent

Freshman 6'0" Center
Parent: Jennifer Dunivent



Clara Lutz

Freshman 5'6" Forward
Parents: Randy & Kathi Lutz



Ashley Oakley

Freshman 5'3" Guard
Parents: Tom & Carrie Oakley



Kelsey Oakley

Freshman 5'3" Guard
Parents: Tom & Carrie Oakley



Monica Parker

Freshman 5'6" Forward
Parents: Kevin & Arianna Parker



Gracen Ripley

Freshman 5'8" Guard
Parents: Chris & Amy Uthlaut



Haleigh Strottman

Freshman 5'10" Forward
Parents: Kevin Strottman
& Shannon Johnson



Mike James

Head Coach



Lady Falcons have eye on second-straight winning season

Like many basketball teams, the Fayette girls lost their top two scorers from last season. But unlike almost every team, the Lady Falcons didn't lose them to graduation.

In addition to losing two seniors from last year's 14-12 team, Fayette lost Ellie Johnson (transferred to Hickman) and Samantha Reed (moved to Indiana). If anyone has a right to complain about having a rough offseason, Fayette head coach Mike James surely does.

And yet, James is approaching the situation as well as he can, saying he is only going to control the things he can control. What happened this offseason was simply out of his control.

"We don't worry about what's not here," James said. "We've got to worry and focus about what we do have and I'm pretty pleased with the group of girls we do have. We want to talk about what we have, not what we lost."

What Fayette did lose this season was a one-two tandem that had an outlook at being one of the best in the area for the next few seasons. Instead, James and the Lady Falcons were back to the drawing board, but despite their losses, the Lady Falcons bring

back several players that finally got the taste of a winning season last year. And they're looking to make it two in a row.

"I think what that did for us last year was get us excited about basketball, and getting us more excited about wanting to work hard in the offseason," James said. "We probably worked as hard this offseason as we have since I've been here. With some encouragement, they have really bought into the weight room. Coach (Ryan) Heaton has been doing a great job with that in the mornings. This team is probably in the best shape it has been in since I've been here, and that's one of the key benefits of us having such an improved year. They don't want to go back down the other way."

Fayette will return some presence in the post with senior Caitlin Wells, who will start at the No. 5 position for the Lady Falcons. Wells missed most of the month of December last year with a shoulder injury, but she scored in double figures four times, including Fayette's district loss against New Franklin. The chances will be there for Wells to average a double-double this season, and it may be necessary for her to do so if Fayette wants to stay above the .500

mark this season. James said she also gained some experience playing AAU basketball this summer.

"She's always had those hot and cold moments throughout her three years," James said. "As a junior, she came off the bench in a new role. I think she's going to be fine. She had a good summer for us and I think she's as physically strong as she has ever been. She has everything we need and she's a different type of player. She's not quite as finessed as the other post players we've had in the past. She's more of a player in the paint who has to be physical to create points."

Fayette will lean on Wells for offensive scoring, but it will mostly be the responsibility of senior Kennzie Thornton to bring the ball up the court this year. That duty belonged to Reed much of last season and the point guard traditionally has had the most turnovers each season for the Lady Falcons, but Thornton will look to change that trend this year, especially after committing just 57 turnovers last year.

"February of last year was when it seemed like she was back to full strength," James said of Thornton, who suffered an ACL injury almost two years ago in the

Glasgow Tournament. "She was confident and I saw some of that old Kennzie Thornton out there. In that game against New Franklin last year, she made a couple of huge baskets. That was the first time all of last year that I saw her really, really trust that knee. We're going to lean on her for a lot, offensively and defensively. She's improved her outside shooting and also is one of our few players who will take it to the rim off the bounce."

Kenya Johnson will start at the other forward position at No. 4, but don't let her short frame fool you. Johnson, a 5-foot-6-inch senior, was fourth on the team in rebounding with 4.3 boards per game. After starting her career as a guard — mostly as a point guard — Johnson has accepted her new role as an undersized forward.

"She will handle the ball some, but only as an emergency-type point guard," James said. "We can play her inside because she is one of the strongest players we have. We're going to ask her for some more scoring, but really, her key role for us is going to be on the glass. She's going to have to get in there, mix it up and get a few rebounds. We're un-

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dersized again this year and Kenya is going to be up to the challenge.”

Kenzie Smentkowski, a 5-foot-5-inch junior, will take the spot at the No. 2 guard position and will take the role of Fayette’s top 3-point shooter. Smentkowski only made two shots from beyond the arc last season, but any open look beyond the arc this year is hers.

“We didn’t have to ask a whole lot from her at the varsity level last year,” James said. “Now she’s the focal point of our outside game. She’s a girl that we’re going to turn loose in transition. We’ve told her ever since practice started that you run the floor hard, and if you have the ball in transition, get up there and shoot the ball. We corrected a few of her mechanical flaws and I think she’ll have a decent year for us. She definitely has a shooter’s mentality. She has no memory if she misses a shot. I like that about her.”

If she is able to return to action this season, Fayette’s most-experienced 3-point shooter is junior Keonna Bush. On Jan. 30, Bush was having the game of her life in a JV contest against Harrisburg and tore her ACL in the closing minutes, forcing her to miss the entire month of February. Bush hasn’t been cleared to play yet, but if and when she does, that will make another long-range threat for Fayette’s offense.

“It finally clicked for her last season as a sophomore and toward the middle of January, it looked like she was on her way to a fine, fine player,” James said. “We just have to see when she comes back, what kind of role she can give us. She’s just a junior, so if we can get her feet wet, then she can come back strong for us her senior year. If she comes back better than Kennzie did, then she’s definitely one of our best outside

threats and defenders. She has a tremendous amount of athletic ability.”

Junior Kyreon Lee will take up the fifth starting spot this year. One of her strengths last season was her fearlessness to attack the basket, but when she drew the fouls, her 36 percent free-throw percentage tended to cancel out her aggressiveness. James said she has also worked her way into being one of the team’s top defenders.

“Kyreon Lee brings a lot of speed to our guard play,” James said. “She came off the bench and immediately did something to get on the free-throw line or score a layup. She’s fast and she’s scrappy.”

Because of low numbers in grades 9-12 James will dress out a handful of freshmen at the varsity level this season. The one player expected to make the biggest impact is Haleigh Strodtman, a 5-foot-10-inch forward. Strodtman can help out rebounding as well and add depth at the post, a position that hasn’t gotten Fayette into some foul trouble in the past.

“She plays bigger than her size, like having another 6-footer on the floor,” James said. “It’s unfortunate she has to get thrown right into the fire, but I think she’s the kind of girl who can handle it. Right now, she’s our sixth man off the bench and she’s going to receive a ton of minutes. She’ll play JV as well, so it’ll be one of those years where she gets a ton of experience. Once she gets adjusted to the level and the speed of the varsity game, I think we have a good player in the making.”

Freshmen Gracen Ripley and Clara Beaman will also pick up a handful of minutes off the bench this season. Ripley will back up Smentkowski as an outside shooter from the perimeter and showed a lot of promise during the summer season.

“Gracen Ripley is a great shooter already and I think she lacks a little bit of

FAYETTE LADY FALCONS



2011-12 RECORD: 14-12 overall, 5-5 in Lewis & Clark Conference (T-3rd place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 51-40 to New Franklin in Class 2 District 7 Tournament quarterfinals

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 5th place — Glasgow Tournament; 3rd place — New Franklin Tournament; 5th place — Slater Wildcat Classic.

KEY LOSSES: Ellie Johnson (11.3 ppg, 8.3 rpg, 4.2 bpg); Samantha Reed (8.7 ppg, 3.5 apg, 2.0 spg); Hayleigh Brunkhorst (5.6 ppg, 4.8 rpg).

KEY RETURNERS: Caitlin Wells: sr., 6’0” (6.5 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 0.8 bpg); Kenya Johnson: sr., 5’6” (2.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 1.6 spg); Kennzie Thornton: sr., 5’6” (1.3 ppg, 1.5 rpg, 1.0 apg).

confidence, to be honest with you,” James said. “I think against a zone team, she’s going to surprise some people and they’re going to get out of that zone pretty quickly. If she has time, she’s as good of a shooter as we have.”

Beaman is another player that can play either guard or forward, but will most likely get her minutes this season as a guard. James said the one thing he likes about Beaman is how hard she plays the game.

“We brought her up to this level to make her a shooting guard and she has worked her tail off on her shot,” James said. “It’s getting better and better. She is extremely coachable and she’s picking up things really, really quickly.”

James will go with a 10-player varsity roster, and rounding out that 10th spot is freshman Clara Lutz. While James said she won’t get many minutes at the varsity level this season, don’t be surprised if she comes off the bench as early as the first quarter because of foul trouble.

“If you give her time, she’s going to be

a pretty nice player for us,” James said. “I think she’ll play a lot of minutes next year. She’ll get a few minutes every game this year. Her biggest thing is just being physical and giving us a post presence. If our post players get in trouble early, she’ll get extended minutes.”

One of the strengths James sees with this team is that his three seniors have practically been starters their entire careers. He said the team is also very athletic and may be even more athletic off the bench compared to last season, which was a very strong Fayette bench.

“We’re going to be a work in progress, no doubt about it,” James said. “We’re going to really have to try to improve game to game. That’s tough to do with the teams we have to play early, but we’ll approach this season more differently than I have with other teams in the past. We’re going to improve tremendously throughout the year.”

Salisbury won the Lewis & Clark Con-

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New Franklin Bulldogs boys basketball



Tyler White

Senior 6'2" Guard/Forward
Parents: Scott & Becky White



Jacob Woodbury

Senior 5'9" Forward
Parents: Jack & Kay Woodbury



Matt Anderton

Junior 5'9" Guard
Parents: Rodney & Melissa Anderton



Adam Harris

Junior 5'10" Guard
Parents: Darren & Jane Harris



Alex Holem

Junior 6'3" Forward/Center
Parents: Larry & Kelly Holem



Tyler Hull

Junior 6'2" Forward
Parents: Jay Hull & Nicole Carleton



Ryley Lyons

Junior 6'3" Forward
Parents: Ryan & Leslie Lyons



Sonny Martin

Junior 5'8" Forward
Guardians: Larry & Dana Phillips



Dalton Welbern

Junior 5'7" Guard
Parents: Mark & Connie Welbern



Levi Bishop

Sophomore 6'0" Forward
Parents: Paul & Kimber Bishop



Cody Wells

Sophomore 5'9" Forward
Parents: Jerry & Becky Wells



Tanner White

Sophomore 5'11" Guard
Parents: Scott & Becky White



Not Pictured

Kaleb Anderton



Zach Evans

Freshman 5'10" Forward
Parents: Jud & Joanna Evans



Jacob Hendrix

Freshman 6'3" Forward
Parents: Kenneth & Tami Hendrix



Ronnie Perkins

Freshman 5'6" Guard
Parents: Brian & Janice Perkins



Jim Schlotzhauer

Head Coach



White brothers look to get New Franklin back on track

Head coach Jim Schlotzhauer and his New Franklin boys basketball team had one roller-coaster ride of an offseason. But after a few loops, twists and turns, like any straightaway of a roller, the ride is starting to settle down.

Long story short, Schlotzhauer returns just about everyone from last year's roster, plus a few more players. But over the summer, the outlook didn't look so bright for this New Franklin team.

After the spring baseball season ended, brothers Tyler and Tanner White transferred to Russellville for the 2012-13 season, along with more than 50 percent of New Franklin's scoring output from last season. Come September, the two had returned to New Franklin, and that changed the game for the Bulldogs this season.

"I think that our chemistry is better overall this year," Schlotzhauer said. "We lost the Whites for the summer, which didn't help our chemistry as a group, but it gave others a chance to take on more of a role than they had before. I think the improvements players made this summer will make our team more balanced, which in turn will improve our chemistry."

New Franklin is coming off a 10-16 season and went through a rough stretch in January following an 0-3 finish in the New Franklin Tournament and a couple of key injuries to Tyler Hull and Tanner White. Still, Schlotzhauer knows the talent is there to turn that record around this season. He also knows getting back above the .500 mark will be no easy task this season.

"We feel that the potential for our team is very high," Schlotzhauer said. "We have a good mix of talent at all positions that can do a variety of things. We have some very quality opponents in the area that will be tough to beat, but that's our main goal. We want to compete every night out, win the games we are favored in, and start knocking off some of those teams that we haven't played well enough to beat in past years."

New Franklin will be led this season by senior Tyler White, who led the Bulldogs in scoring last season with 17.9 points per game. It's not often a player returns for his senior season and already has 1,000 career points under his belt. Schlotzhauer said this year's offensive scheme should allow for Tyler to score even more points.

"I see Tyler having a very good year in-

dividually, but more importantly, he needs to make others better around him with his abilities," Schlotzhauer said. "This year we have changed our offense to try and utilize our talents a bit more. We will run a more open and aggressive offense, instead of trying to grind it out all of the time. This should allow our guards to attack gaps in the defense much more aggressively and get us more open looks and easy baskets."

Tanner White proved to be one of the top freshmen in the area last season, averaging 11.6 points per game behind his older brother. However, there will be nights this season where Tanner could score more than 20 points in a game, using the same techniques as his older brother: taking some outside shots here and there and penetrating the lane for closer looks.

"I hope to see lots of growth in Tanner's game this year," Schlotzhauer said. "He is much more powerful than he was last year. This should help him get in the lane and take contact much more effectively. He must also learn to take good shots when he gets them. He is very passive and unselfish on the offensive end, but must figure out when turning down a good shot is a bad decision."

Hull will return to a starting role as a forward this season. He missed nine game after receiving stitches from a cut on his eyelid against Pilot Grove in the New Franklin Tournament, limiting him to just over seven points per game last season. However, rebounding will continue to be his main role this season.

"Tyler has worked very hard in our first 16 practices of the season," Schlotzhauer said. "He was really hitting his stride last year when he went down with a couple of injuries. I expect a lot out of him this year. If he plays hard every night, he should average 10-plus points and 10 rebounds a game. He is a very good athlete whom we will depend on in the post for scoring and rebounding."

Aside from the Whites, junior Dalton Welbern will take a big portion of the team's 3-point shots this season. The 5-foot-7-inch guard made 33 percent of his shots beyond the arc last year and is the next go-to ball-handler after the Whites.

"Dalton needs to knock down as many open jumpers for us as possible," Schlotzhauer said. "As we penetrate more, open

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jumpers should be there for us to take. Dalton is someone we want taking those shots. He also needs to work on setting up our other guards for them to shoot as well."

Schlotzhauer said he plans to go with a four-guard starting lineup this season and the last spot goes to junior Matt Anderton. Anderton will see his role increase a lot this season after playing just 10 varsity games as a sophomore, but in those games he managed to average four points a game. Schlotzhauer described him as a slasher who can get hot from the outside. Defensively, he said Anderton is a very gifted on-ball defender.

Although Hull is the only starter who is a true post, New Franklin is plenty deep at that position. Junior Alex Holem, who is 6-foot-3, will bring size off the bench. And at times, New Franklin will put two forwards on the floor at the same time. If it's not Hull and Holem on the floor, it will be sophomore Ryley Lyons, another 6-foot-3-inch player for the Bulldogs.

"We really need them to pound the glass," Schlotzhauer said. "We need 12-15 rebounds from this pair (Holem and Lyons) a night. They both need to shoot a much higher percentage than last year as well. We will get them good looks and they must knock them down. Also, they need to be an anchor in the middle of our defense."

Another player that could come out and surprise people this season is freshman Jacob Hendrix, the Bulldogs' third 6-foot-3-inch forward. After dominating at the junior high level, Schlotzhauer said he has seen Hendrix

look like a star in practice, and at other times look like your typical freshman at practice.

"He has the ability to do many things, but he must find the consistency it takes to be a good player every night," Schlotzhauer said. "He will get more and more minutes as the season goes along. As long as he plays hard, he will succeed."

Coming off the bench at the guard position will be another freshman, Ronnie Perkins. He and Hendrix led the New Franklin Middle School basketball team to victory in the Central Activities Conference Tournament championship last season and they will both learn on the job at the varsity level this season.

"Ronnie is our hardest worker," Schlotzhauer said. "He will pick up minutes in defensive situations for sure. He needs to work on his decision-making on the offensive end, but he has shown flashes of being very good as well."

New Franklin's other senior, Jacob Woodbury, will also play some on the varsity level this year, along with juniors Sonny Martin and Adam Harris. Woodbury and Harris played minor roles on last year's team and Martin is new to the Bulldogs' squad.

Ball-handling and the ability to shoot are two strengths of this year's team, Schlotzhauer said. Last season, the Whites took more than 52 percent of the team's shots and brought the ball up the court most often, so those two will be relied upon heavily to continue to make those their strengths.

On the other hand, Schlotzhauer said defense will continue to be a struggle for this team, and judging by New Franklin's sched-

NEW FRANKLIN BULLDOGS



2011-12 RECORD: 10-16 overall, 5-7 in Central Activities Conference (T-4th place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 64-46 to Harrisburg in Class 2 District 7 Tournament quarterfinals

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 5th place — Glasgow Tournament; 8th place — New Franklin Tournament; 3rd place — Keytesville Tournament.

KEY LOSSES: None.

KEY RETURNERS: **Tyler White:** sr., 6'2" (17.9 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 1.8 spg); **Tanner White:** soph., 5'11" (11.6 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 2.7 apg); **Tyler Hull:** jr., 6'2" (7.3 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 1.5 spg).

ule, the Bulldogs will face a lot of teams that will put the defense to the test. The schedule will be even tougher this season, with New Franklin switching from the Keytesville Tournament to the Sturgeon Tournament.

The CAC will be a tough battle again for New Franklin, who tied for fourth place last season with Madison. Schlotzhauer said the title will be up for grabs among Sturgeon (last year's champion), Glasgow and Cairo. Last year, New Franklin nearly stole a win at Sturgeon, but Schlotzhauer said it will take a lot for his team to knock off one of those top three teams.

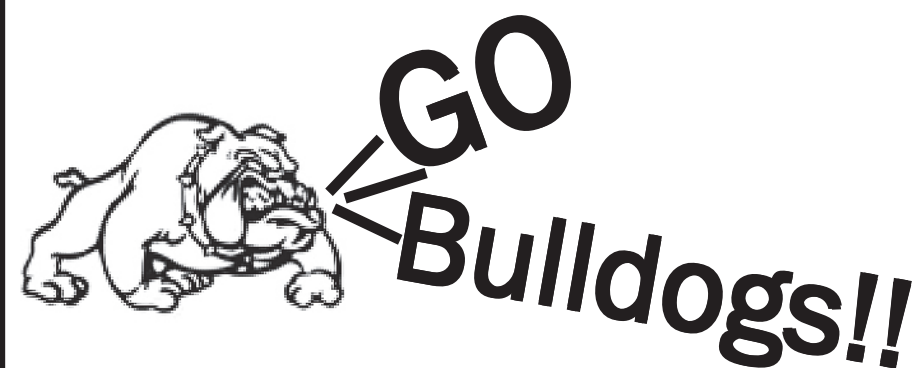
"We can think we should be in the top three, but until we prove it, it doesn't mean a whole lot," Schlotzhauer said. "To beat those teams, we will have to come out and compete wire to wire and leave everything on the court."

Having the Whites move back makes a huge difference for this team and allowed for some adjustments after their absence over the summer. But with them last year, New Franklin still managed just 10 wins. To get to that .500 mark, Schlotzhauer said it will take a true team effort, and it will come down to what his players expect from one another to help this team.

"When teams are good they help each other out when things aren't going well and really work as a group instead of trying to fix problems individually," Schlotzhauer said. "That could be in the first quarter of a game or when you're in a slump for two or three games. We also must develop trust and communication skills to do this. That's what you play 25 games for, to develop into a unit and hopefully be playing your best come February."



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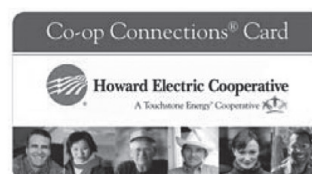
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New Franklin Bulldogs girls basketball



Brittany Anderson

Senior 5'6" Forward
Parent: Paula Anderson



Jasmyne Boggs

Junior 6'1" Forward
Parents: Kenneth & Beverly Boggs



Rox'e Hendrix

Junior 5'8" Forward
Parents: Mike & Bobbi Hendrix



Aly Hundley

Junior 5'8" Guard
Parents: Travis & Wendy Hundley



Sara Montgomery

Junior 5'7" Forward
Parents: Eldon & Heather Montgomery



Kalani Pihana

Junior 5'8" Forward
Parents: Kerry & Denise Pihana



Abagail Prewitt

Junior 5'8" Forward
Parent: Terry Prewitt & Alissa Terry



Christina Allphin

Sophomore 6'0" Forward
Parents: Chris Allphin & Debby Hammond



Derian Dodson

Sophomore 5'10" Forward
Parents: Abiel & Heather Leonard



Aislinn Himmelberg

Sophomore 5'7" Guard/Forward
Parents: Davie Himmelberg & Amanda Himmelberg



Madi Lyons

Sophomore 5'10" Guard/Forward
Parents: Ryan & Lesley Lyons



Molly Lyons

Freshman 5'6" Guard
Parents: Ryan & Lesley Lyons



Jordan Winningham

Freshman 5'6" Guard/Forward
Parents: Patrick & Paula Hogan



Chris McGowan

Head Coach



Youth and experience define Lady Bulldogs basketball

Ever since the New Franklin girls reached the Class 2 Final Four in 2009, the Lady Bulldogs have nestled themselves into a rut.

For the past three seasons, New Franklin has won 19, 16 and 16 games, brought home several tournament trophies (none of them for first place) and in each of those three seasons, they've lost to Harrisburg in the district semifinals.

It's a rut that several girls teams would be more than willing to trade for, but for this New Franklin team, it's ready to turn the corner.

"I feel pretty good about what we have accomplished over the last couple of years," New Franklin head coach Chris McGowan said. "We have played a number of young players in that time span with the goal of getting them some experience. We haven't had a large number of upperclassmen in that time span, so it presented us with the opportunity to play the younger players. We really need that experience to pay off for us this year, and we are looking to take that next step forward and be a better and more complete basketball team."

Each one of those three teams were

young, and this season is no different for the Lady Bulldogs. Of the 13 players on the roster, only one is a senior. This team returns more than 90 percent of last year's scoring totals, so there was hardly any disruption in that department, along with the team chemistry.

"Our team needs to play together in order for us to accomplish what we want," McGowan said. "This group seems to really get along well and we hope that helps us as we play basketball. We will again be young, but our younger girls have played more than most sophomores and juniors, so we expect more of them."

One of the luxuries this team has is that it returns their starting point guard for a third year with junior Aly Hundley handling the point. While it's not all that rare at the high-school level, Hundley managed to lead her team in scoring at the point guard position with 11.1 points per game, the only player to average double figures in scoring. She also has shown the ability to rebound well for a point guard with 5.6 boards a game last season.

"Aly has done a tremendous job for us the last couple of years handling the ball as a

young guard," McGowan said. "In her maturation as a point guard we expect her to be a little more vocal this year and truly be that coach on the court that a good point guard needs to be. I expect her to continue to get better and compete every night."

After an impressive freshman season, Jasmyne Boggs saw her scoring decrease slightly as a sophomore at the No. 5 position. Through her first two seasons at New Franklin, Boggs has accumulated more rebounds (511) than points (504), but she's on pace to have more than 1,000 in each department by the end of her high school career. With two more seasons to go, McGowan has even higher expectations for his 6-foot-1 forward this season.

"I believe she can average a double-double and we need her to control the paint for us," McGowan said. "Our half-court offense runs through Jasmyne and other teams must account for her. She does a very nice job passing and making the players around her better."

McGowan also said he anticipates to see sophomore Madi Lyons have a breakout season at the other forward position. Lyons put up decent numbers as a freshman (4.5

points per game, 3.8 rebounds per game), but if Boggs is having an off-night, look for Lyons to fill in and pick up her output. And if McGowan opts to move Hundley to a shooting guard, Lyons is capable of filling in at point guard as well.

"Madi is a pretty special athlete that is just starting to realize her potential as a basketball player," McGowan said. "She will often times be called upon to guard the opponent's best player, and Madi is skilled offensively. We need her to gain confidence and be one of our better players if we are going to be successful."

Another starting position will go to sophomore Aislinn Himmelberg, who is listed as a 5-foot-7-inch guard/forward. Last season, Himmelberg would score as many as 10 to 12 points in game and as few as two points, and rarely did she score anything between the two. She broke out for a 19-point performance against Fayette in districts for a season-high, but McGowan wants to see more consistent numbers out of Himmelberg this season, particularly if they are higher numbers.

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Area High School Basketball Preview

(Continued from Page 8)

"Aislinn is at her best in the open court and finishing in transition," McGowan said. "We need her to attack the other team and we need Aislinn to really put ball pressure on the other team when we are on defense."

Probably the biggest blow to New Franklin this season will be the absence of junior Kalani Pihana, the team's fourth-leading scorer last season. Without Pihana, most of the 3-point attempts will come from Hundley, and Pihana was also key for the team's rebounding effort. She had knee surgery following softball season and will likely be out until January, and then she will have to work herself into basketball shape.

"We will have to wait and see what we can get out of Kalani this year coming off of a knee surgery," McGowan said. "She is a very good shooter, and every team can use more good shooters."

Starting in Pihana's place will be sophomore Derian Dodson at the No. 4 position. Although it won't be necessary for Dodson to put up similar numbers like Pihana, her presence as a post will be more than enough to fill the position, taking pressure off Boggs on the opposite block.

"Derian is a tall, athletic post player and should be able to take some pressure off of Jasmyne by providing post offense and defense," McGowan said. "We really need for Derian to rebound at a high rate and make open shots."

Even with only 13 players in grades 9-12 this season, depth at some positions shouldn't be much of an issue for the Lady Bulldogs. At the guard position, Sara Montgomery will be called off the bench for support and will look to build on her low numbers from last season.

Sara has the ability to make open shots,

so we are hoping she can make a couple of baskets a game and give us some valuable minutes," McGowan said.

Other guards that will get some playing time this season are freshmen Molly Lyons and Jordan Winningham. McGowan said both players will be called on to handle the ball when they are given the opportunity.

"They both have a bright future and we hope to get them some experience this year," McGowan said.

At the post, players like Abigail Prewitt and Brittany Anderson — the team's lone senior — will get some time when Boggs and Dodson are on the bench. McGowan wants Anderson to be a presence in the lane and Dodson to be a physical player on the court, providing toughness both in the interior and on the boards.

Rounding out the roster are Rox'e Hendrix and Christina Allphin. McGowan said both players will get most of their playing time at the JV level this season.

Despite a still young roster, McGowan said this team's biggest strength will be its experience. If this year doesn't prove to be as promising, the Lady Bulldogs should return 12 of their 13 players for next season and could finally reach that 20-win plateau in the near future.

"We are able to now refine what we do instead of trying to put a system in place," McGowan said. "We should be a pretty athletic team that can apply some pressure defensively and attack offensively."

On the downside, depth could potentially be an issue if any more injuries come up between now and January. With Pihana out of the lineup, New Franklin brings back four players with two or more points per game from last season. Should anyone else go down before Pihana returns, foul trouble could become a serious problem.

New Franklin has usually been a con-

NEW FRANKLIN LADY BULLDOGS



2011-12 RECORD: 16-11 overall, 7-5 in Central Activities Conference (T-3rd place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 64-30 to Harrisburg in Class 2 District 7 Tournament semifinals

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 3rd place — Glasgow Tournament; 2nd place — New Franklin Tournament; 2nd place — Keytesville Tournament.

KEY LOSSES: Amanda Cook (2.6 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 1.2 spg); Taylor Warren (1.1 ppg, 0.7 rpg, 0.4 spg).

KEY RETURNERS: Jasmyne Boggs: jr., 6'1" (9.5 ppg, 10.9 rpg, 3.0 bpg); Aly Hundley: jr., 5'8" (11.1 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 3.4 apg); Kalani Pihana: jr., 5'8" (5.3 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 1.4 spg).

tender for the Central Activities Conference title in the past, but Glasgow has stepped up and pushed the Lady Bulldogs out of the way last season with a sweep. Like New Franklin, Glasgow returns practically everyone from a district-championship team, and Sturgeon returns as conference champions after a 22-win season. And don't forget about Cairo, who tied New Franklin for third place in the conference last season.

"Glasgow really came on last year and they are certainly a team that will contend for the conference title," McGowan said. "Sturgeon has really been a power for the last few years and anyone who is going to with this conference must account for them. Cairo will have a young and athletic team that will be searching for an identity early in the year, but they are always a dangerous team. I would like to think we are going to be competitive in this conference as well, and we will need to be able to compete with those teams in order to be where we want to be."

New Franklin also hopes to climb above

the No. 4 seed in districts, which has set them up for a semifinal loss to Harrisburg in each of the past three seasons. To do that, they will need to finish ahead of either Harrisburg, Salisbury or Sturgeon to move to the other side of the bracket.

"It is certainly a goal of ours to have a better showing at district," McGowan said. "We would like to jell throughout the year and be hitting our stride as we close in on district time in late February. We need to take care of our business at this point though, and we will have to see what the district looks like when we get there."

All in all, McGowan said his team is capable of playing multiple styles to be successful against various opponents. Whether they face helter-skelter pressure or basic half-court defense, he believes his team is built to contend against those opponents, night in and night out.

If that works out, this team could crawl out of its rut and into something different, like a rut that has "first place" written all over it.

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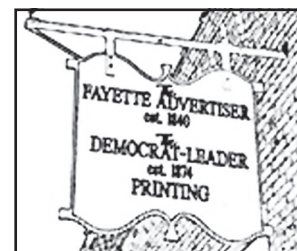
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Glasgow Yellowjackets boys basketball



Reid Littrell

Senior 6'3" Forward/Center
Parents: Mike & Angy Littrell



Joel Monnig

Senior 6'4" Forward/Center
Parents: Kent & Joyce Monnig



Dalton Reeves

Senior 6'0" Forward
Parents: James Reeves
& Sally Reeves



Austin Stockhorst

Senior 6'3" Guard/Forward
Parents: Jeff Stockhorst
& Jeannie Fuemmeler



Ethan Thompson

Senior 5'11" Guard
Parents: Joe & Becky Thompson



Jimmie Wilson

Senior 5'9" Guard
Parents: Jim & Gina Wilson



Landon Brand

Junior 6'2" Forward
Parents: Sam & Stephanie Brand



Lance Brown

Junior 5'10" Guard
Parent: Janice Brown



Alex Mathews

Junior 5'9" Guard
Parents: Bill & Dianna Mathews



Josh Sanders

Junior 6'2" Center
Parents: Tracy & Jody Sanders



Austin Speiser

Junior 5'11" Guard
Parents: Greg & Kristin Speiser



Christopher Frevert

Sophomore 5'6" Guard
Parents: Shawn & Mellissa
Frevert



Garrett Fuemmeler

Sophomore 5'10" Forward
Parents: Scott & Steph
Fuemmeler



Blake Hackman

Sophomore 5'10" Guard
Parents: Doug & Sally Hackman



Clay Littrell

Sophomore 5'11" Guard
Parents: Mike & Angy Littrell



Daniel McMillan

Sophomore 5'8" Guard
Parents: Danny & Tammy
McMillan



Bryant Hubbard

Freshman 5'10" Forward
Parents: Marcus Davis
& Julie Hubbard



Mick Cropp

Head Coach

Third-place state run leaves Yellowjackets wanting more

After losing in back-to-back district championship games, the Glasgow boys won their 33rd district championship in March, the most of any school in Missouri high school basketball history.

The Yellowjackets didn't stop there. First they won their sectional game against St. Elizabeth, then eeked out a quarterfinal win over Marion County to reach the Class 1 Final Four. Glasgow ended the season with a third-place finish, beating St. Joseph Christian by 11 points after losing to eventual state champion Scott County Central in the semifinals.

Despite producing star after star each season, Glasgow head coach Mick Cropp said he had a very unselfish team last season, and he wants that to carry over into the 2012-13 season as well.

"I think these kids are very invested for each other and the team," Cropp said. "I don't see any egos. I don't think they care who scores, they don't care who rebounds. They just care who wins."

Glasgow lost just one player to graduation, but it was their All-State guard/forward Dillon Yung, who led the team with 15.1 points per game and eclipsed the

1,000-point mark last season. Although it is just one player, Yung was the nucleus to last year's team. The argument with Yung was how did he benefit this team the most: on offense or defense?

"You could sum up Dillon in one word and I've said it a million times, and that's versatility," Cropp said. "Whether it was offensively or defensively, he was versatile on the floor and he had a lot of intangibles. He wasn't the best shooter and he wasn't the quickest kid, but he was always where the ball was. That's the biggest thing we'll have to replace, is his versatility on both ends of the floor."

One player that has some of the tools to fill in for Yung is senior Reid Littrell, who enters the season well within reach of 1,000 career points and at least 600 rebounds. Littrell's biggest concern entering any of his previous seasons has been his health, more specifically his ankles, but he got in a full season last year. Without Yung in the lineup, other teams will shift their attention to Littrell in the post.

"I think Reid, more than anything so far this year, has shown his leadership ability," Cropp said. "He communicates to the team.

He understands he's a senior and it's his job to get these guys going. He understands, as a senior, that this is it. He always leads by example, but he has really been vocal this preseason."

Glasgow also returns its starting point guard with sophomore Blake Hackman, who grew up a lot over the course of last season. Hackman hit the winning shot at home against Cairo and got on-the-job training of handling the ball against Scott County Central's full-court pressure, something most freshmen don't get an opportunity to experience. He'll be more of a scorer this season, looking to improve on his 9.9 point-per-game average from last year.

"He's an athletic kid and he works really hard defensively," Cropp said. "He runs the team for us. He had a good third-place game for us and he had a good summer too. I thought he finished stronger around the basket and got into the lane to do some things. He's definitely a good piece to have come back."

Seniors Ethan Thompson and Jimmie Wilson complemented each other last season. Thompson would get the starts and did most of the scoring, but if those two were

both on the court applying full-court pressure, teams would find themselves in a heap of trouble. It will be the same story again this season.

"They're going to continue to guard well," Cropp said. "Offensively, neither one of them would be classified as quick, like as quick as Blake, but Jimmie is very strong around the basket and is probably one of the better rebounding guards I've ever had. And (Ethan) just seems to get wherever he wants into the lane in penetration. He's savvy with a little hesitation here or there and gets where he needs to get. Jimmie, with his strength, is able to get in there too. We've altered some things to take advantage of their ability to get into the lane. They'll improve on the offensive end."

At the other forward position, senior Joel Monnig will step in as the team's tallest player at 6-foot-4-inches tall. Monnig looks to benefit the most this season from Yung's absence and is expected to improve tremendously on last year's numbers of 3.2 points and 2.9 rebounds per game. Look for Monnig to compete with Littrell as the team's

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Area High School Basketball Preview

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leading shot blocker this season.

"He's long and he may not look very strong, but he is pretty strong," Cropp said. "He lifts the most of about anybody on our team and that's saying something, because his arms are the longest of anybody on the team. He is an animal on the offensive boards. If he can consistently finish around the basket, he will definitely turn some heads this year. His one flaw is that he doesn't always finish softly around the basket. If he can fix that, he'll definitely be a player that people may not know now, but they will by the end of the year."

Austin Stockhorst will miss the start of the season with a broken foot, but when he returns, Cropp said he'll bring a new dimension to the team. With Monnig playing at the No. 4 position, Glasgow has a dominant presence inside. With Stockhorst at the four, Cropp said he'll play a role much like Kim English's last season at Missouri, with a post player shooting from the outside.

"We can play it a couple of different ways and he's probably the best shooter on our team," Cropp said. "I'm going to be excited to get him into games where he's opposite of either Reid or Joel and we can really stretch the floor."

What has benefitted Glasgow the past couple of seasons is their second string of players off the bench could contend against a lot of varsity programs as a starting five. Most times during practice they'll serve as the scout team, but this season those players should see increased playing time as well.

"It's definitely an advantage day in and day out because they can push our first team a little bit," Cropp said. "That's always a benefit. And then they come in and play in meaningful situations. It helps because we're going to lose six or seven kids next year."

Two of those players, Landon Brand and Josh Sanders, have been tall forwards since their freshman season.

"Landon Brand is overall the most athletic," Cropp said. "He's not the quickest, but he is probably the strongest. He's an All-State pole vaulter, he can jump and he defends well. He is really going to help us a lot by getting some minutes here and there. Josh Sanders is also someone that nobody knows about, but he's been plugging along."

Some of these other bench players have only gotten playing time in the past when Glasgow has a big lead, but that will change this year. Alex Mathews is a player who can fill in for Thompson as the team's go-to defender.

"He's got the ability to shoot the three well," Cropp said. "He's got a nice shot and a good stroke. He can shoot it and knock it

down. He had a couple of game last year where he hit three in a game."

Other players like Austin Speiser and Daniel McMillan will also get some playing time at varsity this year. Cropp said Speiser is a guard who is long and lanky and McMillan could be the second-best shooter on the team, although he is rather streaky. Dalton Reeves, a senior that hasn't played for Glasgow at the varsity level before, adds another dimension to the No. 4 spot and might develop his own little niche on this team.

Without Yung, Cropp said the team will do things a little differently on offense and has a few things defensively that fit this squad. But as always, he said the Yellowjackets are going to focus on good team defense.

"My philosophy has always been that man-to-man is good ball pressure with a zone behind it," Cropp said. "And zone is good ball pressure with a zone behind it. It's really no different, except I prefer man because block-out responsibilities are easier. If we have to, we can go zone and junk it up. Who knows? We're going to do what it takes to win ballgames."

Cropp said he anticipates Monnig's scoring average to jump the most this year, and when Stockhorst comes back, he'll do his part to pick up the scoring slack. But Cropp still expects it to be a team effort.

Sturgeon returned to the top of the Central Activities Conference last year, sweeping Glasgow. The Yellowjackets finished the CAC with a 10-2 and had to win two huge games over Cairo to have that record. But getting 10 wins will be another difficult task this season. As always, Cropp said there will be at least three different teams vying for the top spot, and others like New Franklin are wanting to return to the mix.

"I definitely think the top four teams, night in and night out, are going to be in for a battle when they play each other," Cropp said. "Cairo is tough and Sturgeon is going to be really good, and if New Franklin can win a couple of games early to build their confidence, they could really be a good team. Any one of the four teams could realistically win the conference. If I had to pick one right now, I'd say it would be Cairo."

There are a lot of streaks this year's team wants to continue to uphold. No one on this team has lost a game in the Glasgow Tournament. No one on this team has lost a game in the Marceline Tournament. And no matter what happens later this season, the Yellowjackets are definitely going back to Mizzou Arena, although this time it will be in late January to play Meadville in the MFA Oil Shootout.

Throw in the Slater Wildcat Classic and non-conference games against Salisbury and Sweet Springs, and Glasgow has one of

GLASGOW YELLOWJACKETS



2011-12 RECORD: 26-6 overall, 10-2 in Central Activities Conference (2nd place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 78-48 to Scott County Central in Class 1 state semifinals; Won 56-45 over St. Joseph Christian in Class 1 3rd place game

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

KEY LOSSES: Dillon Yung (15.1 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 3.4 apg).

KEY RETURNERS: Reid Littrell: sr., 6'3" (12.1 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 66% FG); Blake Hackman: soph., 5'10" (9.9 ppg, 2.3 apg, 1.9 spg); Ethan Thompson: sr., 5'11" (6.6 ppg, 2.6 apg, 2.4 rpg).

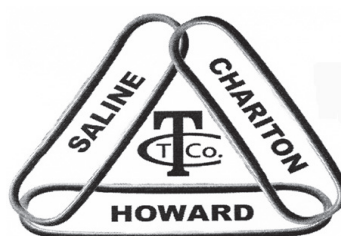
the toughest schedules in their class.

"I've made the comment the last five or six years that we have more state trophies than Slater Tournament trophies," Cropp said. "We thought we were going to be tied up with that last year and then we turned

around and got a state trophy."

But like the rest of Glasgow, Cropp is just ready to get this season going. Bring on the gut-wrenching, down-to-the-wire games and the blowout contests. Basketball season is finally here.

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Glasgow Yellowjackets girls basketball



Carley Brucks

Senior 6'0" Forward
Parents: David & Debbie Brucks



Lindsey Kopp

Senior 5'8" Forward
Parents: Raymond & Candice Kopp



Trisha McMillan

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



Courtney Neville

Senior 5'2" Guard
Parents: Mark & Tracy Neville



Peyton Davis

Junior 5'5" Guard
Parents: Jeff & Heather Davis



Nikki Fuemmeler

Junior 6'0" Forward
Parents: Alan & Deb Fuemmeler



Erin Reynolds

Junior 5'8" Guard/Forward
Parents: Mike & Michelle Reynolds



Blakeley Fuemmeler

Sophomore 5'11" Forward
Parents: Darren & Sonya Fuemmeler



Abby Thompson

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



Tara Fuemmeler

Freshman 5'7" Forward
Parents: Alan & Deb Fuemmeler



Shelby Prentzler

Freshman 5'7" Guard
Parents: Bryan & Tina Prentzler



Anne Reynolds

Freshman 5'8" Guard
Parents: Mike & Michelle Reynolds



Brianne Sanders

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



Rose Wellborn

Freshman 5'3" Guard
Parents: Sonny & Kathy Wellborn



Devyn Yung

Freshman 5'7" Guard/Forward
Parents: Tommy & Tammy Yung



Molly Monnig

Head Coach



Winning district title only the beginning for Glasgow girls

Only two teams from each class in high school basketball end the season with a win. The remaining teams, well most of them, walk off the court hanging their heads after a district or state playoff loss.

But not the Glasgow girls basketball team. After the Lady Jackets won their first district title in 10 years and then lost to Chamois 59-49 in the Class 1 sectional round at Sedalia, players exited the locker room after the game, asking each other and their coach when they can get back in the gym and get ready for next season.

There hasn't been that kind of fever for the Glasgow girls basketball team for a long time, most likely since head coach Molly Monnig was playing for the Lady Jackets.

"The day after (we lost), we had kids in the park shooting around, shooting in the St. Mary's parking lot, and they began to set higher standards for themselves," Monnig said. "They know that to achieve those standards, they'll have to work hard every day. It's great to have that mentality, especially because they hate to lose. They were upset after that loss, but they were more determined than ever to get better at that

point."

After dancing around the .500 mark the previous couple of seasons, last year's team racked up accomplishment after accomplishment. In addition to winning a district title, they won 23 games, won the Marceline Tournament title for the first time since 2004, and won 10 games in the Central Activities Conference. In fact, the race for first place came down to the final game of the regular season, and they also played in the championship game in three of four tournaments. Glasgow was one player away from playing for a title in the fourth one.

The 2011-12 team has paved the way for even more success this season, just by exposing these players to atmospheres they've never experienced in the past.

"Most coaches want to win two out of three games in every tournament," Monnig said. "I'm fortunate enough to have a group of girls that I feel like we can win three. Just from their work ethic, I know every time they step out onto the floor, they're going to outwork everyone else."

Glasgow loses just one player — Alex Davis — who was a key component to last year's team. Davis scored just over one

point per game, but her biggest contribution to the team was coming off the bench and being relentless in applying full-court pressure, which allowed her to average 2.6 steals per game. As a result, very little changes with the makeup of this year's team.

"She was very important to what we did last season, but we have kids who are able to step in and have a great chemistry," Monnig said. "Whenever you can continue with that same chemistry over a period of time, it makes coaching easier and it makes playing the game easier."

Nikki Fuemmeler, who was a second team All-State player and a KRES All-Star last season, returns as a junior this season. Fuemmeler averaged a double-double last year with 13.1 points and 10.8 rebounds a game. Fuemmeler only missed one game last season, and without her, Glasgow nearly beat Class 3 Higginsville in the semifinals of the Slater Wildcat Classic. Fuemmeler showed that if teams can't stop her from the get-go, Glasgow will continually go to her in the first quarter and take a sizeable lead.

"I think she's gotten ever better," Mon-

nig said. "She can hit a mid-range jump shot now. She's gotten quicker to the basket with her post moves and is a little more confident catching the ball with her back to the basket, turning around and scoring. She should average a double-double every night and if she doesn't, it has to be because she's in foul trouble and she's on the bench. She's going to improve as long as she continues playing and she'll do anything to make herself better."

Junior Peyton Davis returns as the team's starting point guard this season. Davis put up the typical point guard numbers, averaging four assists per game, but she was also an aggressor in Glasgow's full-court press along with her older sister. Monnig said she expects to see Davis score more often this season.

"She's worked very hard this summer to develop a consistent jump shot from the 3-point line," Monnig said. "And in getting to the basket, she has gotten more confident. She can shoot a runner now. She still has the instincts to pass first, which is what you want your point guard to have,

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Area High School Basketball Preview

(Continued from Page 12)

but she'll average six to eight points consistently by the end of the year."

When an opponent's attention shifts over to Fuemmeler, that's when senior Trisha McMillan comes into play. Over her career, McMillan has shot around 40 percent from 3-point range and scored 9.4 points per game last year. As one of four seniors on the team, she'll likely be the lone starter of the group at the No. 3 position.

"If she gets the ball and her feet are set, the ball is going to go in nine times out of 10," Monnig said. "She's worked very hard defensively because she doesn't have the quickest feet, but she has gotten very quick with her hands and very good at anticipating reading the defender's eyes. Losing Alex in our press hurts, but I think Trisha is ready to step up."

Glasgow's offense was set up much like the Missouri men's offense last season, running four guards on the court and playing the fourth one as a guard/forward. The player who took that role was Erin Reynolds, a 5-foot-8-inch junior who has taken fewer outside shots because of that role and focused more on the mid-range jumpers. Don't be surprised if she's the team's leading scorer every now and then.

"I think Erin will play much more aggressive around the basket," Monnig said. "She'll be a guard at times, but I think you'll see her looking to catch the ball around the free-throw line and go to the basket a little bit more. Being a No. 4, she usually has someone who is a little bit slower with her feet than (Erin) is, so we've worked on her to use her speed against defenders."

Abby Thompson could make a strong argument to be last year's Comeback Player of the Year in high school basketball. After tearing her ACL in July, Thompson

returned for the start of the season four months later and was a key contributor to Glasgow's run. She became a second 3-point shooting threat behind McMillan, another ballhandler behind Peyton Davis and was a big factor with the team's defensive pressure as well. Now Monnig says as a sophomore, she'll be a key contributor on each possession.

"Now that she has gotten her step back, she is very quick to the basket," Monnig said. "A lot of times last year, we didn't get to see that. And defensively, she's very quick. By the end of the season, Abby will be one of those players that every team has to watch out for because she can do a little bit of everything. She's going to have to draw that best defender from another team."

So Glasgow is returning each player in its starting lineup, which accounted for 89 percent of its scoring offense of 46.4 points per game. Monnig said she has changed the offense up a little bit to get Fuemmeler more looks on the inside and more open 3-point looks for the guards on the outside. Should both of those scenarios work out, the Lady Jackets could average as many as 55 points per game this season. And that also includes points scored in transition off their press.

Carley Brucks is a 6-foot senior forward who will come off the bench for Glasgow. She was next in line at the No. 5 position last year when Fuemmeler needed a rest or was in foul trouble. Her length will cause fits for some defenses, and if she comes in at the No. 4 spot and Fuemmeler stays at the No. 5, don't expect anyone to score inside on Glasgow.

"Her hands always seem to catch the ball, no matter where it's coming from," Monnig said. "She has also gotten better at finishing near the basket. So she'll be a

GLASGOW LADY YELLOWJACKETS



2011-12 RECORD: 23-5 overall, 10-2 in Central Activities Conference (2nd place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 59-49 to Chamois in Class 1 State Tournament sectionals

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 2nd place — Glasgow Tournament; 1st place — Marceline Tournament; 3rd place — Slater Wildcat Classic.

KEY LOSSES: Alex Davis (1.2 ppg, 2.2 apg, 2.6 spg).

KEY RETURNERS: Nikki Fuemmeler: jr., 5'11" (13.1 ppg, 10.8 rpg, 41% FG); Trisha McMillan: sr., 5'3" (9.4 ppg, 2.2 rpg, 33% 3-point shooting); Abby Thompson: soph., 5'5" (7.6 ppg, 2.0 spg, 1.9 rpg); Erin Reynolds: jr., 5'8" (7.6 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 2.2 spg).

contributor almost every night."

Lindsey Kopp, another senior forward, will also get playing time off the bench. Monnig said her specialty is playing defense and is capable of guarding someone taller than her 5-foot-8-inch frame.

"She will do whatever it takes and she is just all-out hustle," Monnig said. "She's very good at making the post-entry pass, which is also good for us to have her come up as a four and be able to look to go inside."

With only 11 players on last year's team, both JV and varsity, at times Blakeley Fuemmeler saw some action at the varsity level. As a young post player, Monnig said she's an athletic player who is still learning the position.

"It's going to take a little bit of time, but defensively, she can help us quite often," Monnig said. "She can make post moves, but she just has to slow her feet down, catch and then go to score."

As for backups at the guard position, Monnig says to look for freshman Anne

Reynolds to come off the bench and be quick to the basket. With a team full of right-handed shooters, Anne Reynolds provides a different look with her left-handed touch.

"She can also knock down the three," Monnig said. "She'll be a work in progress, just getting her playing time and catching up to the speed of the game, of course."

Glasgow's fourth senior, Courtney Neville, will also come off the bench as a guard. Monnig said she looks for her to come off the bench when the team needs a basket because she is a high-percentage 3-point shooter.

Depth was one of the team's main concerns last season and Monnig is hoping that's not the case again this year. She said she plans to start the season going eight-deep in her rotation and hopes to get the freshmen to come around and go nine- or 10-deep. She said the team will also be more diverse in its full-court pressure and

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Harrisburg Bulldogs boys basketball



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Senior 6'3" Guard/Forward
Parents: Jeff & Patty Beringer



Josh Cole
Senior 5'11" Guard
Parents: Chris & Christa Cole



Shaman Katsaros
Senior 6'2" Forward
Parents: Mark Katsaros & Maria Coffman



Chris Roberts
Senior 6'1" Forward
Parents: Ed & Katherine Roberts



Blake Berry
Junior 6'1" Forward
Parents: Daniel & Nancy Berry



Aaron Blakemore
Junior 6'0" Guard
Parents: Lance & Cec Blakemore



Blake Cochran
Junior 6'1" Forward
Parents: Sean Cochran & Angie Cochran



Cortney Franklin
Junior 6'2" Forward
Parents: Rick Gaines & Karla Franklin



Charles Roller
Junior 6'4" Center
Parents: Charles & Cindy Roller



Jacob Rudkin
Junior 6'4" Guard
Parents: Roger Rudkin & Lish Alderson



Kale Spry
Junior 5'10" Guard
Parents: Blake Spry & Karen Spry



Zach Sublett
Junior 6'0" Forward
Parents: Kevin & Becky Sublett



Bryan Bolton
Sophomore 6'4" Center
Parents: Tony & Julie Bolton



JP Canote
Sophomore 5'9" Guard
Parents: Chris & Susan Canote



Drew Ewens
Sophomore 5'8" Guard
Parents: John & Melissa Ewens



Austin Horn
Sophomore 5'9" Guard
Parents: Wade Horn & Christina Sharp



Blake Williams
Sophomore 5'9" Guard
Parents: Daniel Williams & Kellie Williams



Austin Buckridge
Freshman 5'8" Guard
Parent: Tiffany Buckridge



Michael Eaves
Freshman 6'2" Forward
Parents: Jason & Angela Eaves



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



Gage Grooms
Freshman 5'8" Guard
Parents: Mike & Amy Acton



Derek Howard
Freshman 6'3" Center
Parents: Logan & Genevieve Howard



Will Nichols
Freshman 5'9" Guard
Parents: Kevin & Dawn Nichols



Josh Wren
Freshman 5'11" Forward
Parents: Phil & Gale Wren



Steve Combs
Head Coach



Area High School Basketball Preview

Harrisburg ready to reload after another 15-win season

For the second straight season, Harrisburg came away with 15 wins. But last season was a bigger step forward than the previous season.

For the first time since 2008, the Bulldogs came away at the end of the first week of the season with a trophy from the Glasgow Tournament, which means for the first time since 2008, Harrisburg started the season with a winning record. In total, Harrisburg came away with trophies from all three regular-season tournaments and picked up huge wins over Hallsville (in double overtime), Fayette (twice) and Sturgeon (by 25 points on the road).

Not to mention that as planned, Harrisburg was playing its best basketball come the end of February. Unfortunately, the "District of Doom" did not allow the Bulldogs to advance past the semifinals once again, losing to Sturgeon in a rematch.

Harrisburg lost many significant players from last year's team, including three players who scored in double figures on average, a couple of knock-down 3-point shooters and two big inside post players. And still, Harrisburg head coach Steve Combs likes his team's chances this season.

"Every year, we have a bunch of players leave that were a big part of the program," Combs said. "We've got some new faces and some new guys that are starting to step up. I'm just excited about the start of the year. We're going to be different than we were last year. This year, we're going to be a little more even as far as size. We'll have big guards and some athletic big kids. I'm just excited about a new year."

Harrisburg lost six seniors from last year's team and will begin this season with four seniors. Despite losing two bigs that made an impact in Harrisburg's inside game, Combs said with the players he has this year, the forwards will be better running a press, breaking a press and moving up and down the floor.

The Bulldogs will return two starters from last year's team, starting with senior forward Ethan Beringer. Standing at 6-foot-3-inches, Beringer has molded himself into a ball-handling post player that can do things from both the outside and the inside. Last season, he averaged 8.5 points per game, but expect his 3.3 rebounds per game to jump up this year.

"Ethan is a kid who is a very high-level baseball player, so he brings a lot of competitive spirit to the team," Combs said. "He's very skilled, very strong and a very good athlete. We're working on his perimeter game a little bit more, but going to the hole, he's hard to stop. He's been very successful in basketball and baseball and I'm very excited to have that kind of kid as a senior."

Senior Josh Cole battled for a starting role as a guard last season and he'll return as the team's point guard for 2012-13. Cole led Harrisburg with 100 assists last season and still managed to score 7.6 points per game. Combs said he likes how Cole has developed into a pretty solid defender.

"I'm looking for him to score more this year," Combs said. "The one thing as a point guard, we had so many good shooters last year and he's going to have to trust new kids

this year with those shots. If we can get him to do that, I think the team will run pretty smoothly."

Also returning this season is Blake Cochran, a junior who will play either guard or forward. Although Cochran only averaged 3.1 points per game last season, he was remembered best for hitting the winning shot against Centralia at home. Another strong multi-sport athlete for this Harrisburg team, Cochran was also a sectional qualifier in the 110-meter hurdles this past spring.

"Blake's a very versatile kid who can play the post or play the wing," Combs said. "He can play every position except probably point guard. He's got a knack for the ball and he rebounds well and defends well. He'll be one of those glue guys that hopefully stuffs up the stat sheet with rebounds, points and steals."

Combs said his team will have several options of true post players. One of those key players is senior Shaman Katsaros, who stands 6-foot-2-inches tall. He won't bring over many stats from varsity action last year, but he is one of the main players Combs predicts will step up and fill a void in the paint.

"He's a very rugged kid who has worked hard on getting stronger and is just a big, strong farm kid," Combs said. "He's probably our most physical post player."

In total, Combs will have four post players that will be 6-foot-2-inches or taller, just like last season. He'll have a pair of 6-foot-4-inch players in juniors Charles Roller and Jacob Rudkin, both of whom have grown a lot during the offseason.

"Charles is a pretty good athlete who can score a little bit in the paint," Combs said. "We've got some other kids like Blake Berry, who can play a little bit in the post for us this year. He can even stretch the floor with his 3-point shooting. We'll also have Chris Roberts, who has played with us since the seventh grade and is a senior this year. He was on varsity last year and he can put the ball in the hole some. We're excited about having him back as well."

Going back to Harrisburg's perimeter game, one player that Combs has been molding to take the place of Shay and Gavin Jones is junior Kale Spry, who has been a varsity player since his freshman season. Spry will display similar signs of quickness like the Joneses and quietly averaged five points per game last season.

"I think Kale Spry has a chance to be really good for us this year," Combs said. "He played a lot as a sophomore last year and got a cup of coffee at the end of his freshman season on the varsity. I'm excited about Kale because he's a kid who can score the ball and play the point. He should have a good year for us."

Although Rudkin is one of the tallest players on the team, Combs said he plays more of a role as a shooting forward. But again, like a majority of the returners, his varsity action was limited last year.

"He's the third Rudkin boy I've had and he's an excellent athlete," Combs said. "He's also a good shooter and I'm just trying to get him to realize how good he can be."

Combs said he also has four sophomores who are ready to fill in as guards this sea-

HARRISBURG BULLDOGS



2011-12 RECORD: 15-12 overall, 3-5 in Mid-Missouri Conference (3rd place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 64-46 to Sturgeon in Class 2 District 7 Tournament semifinals

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 3rd place — Glasgow Tournament; 5th place — South Callaway Tournament; 3rd place — Southern Boone Classic.

KEY LOSSES: Gavin Jones (12.1 ppg, 1.2 spg, 39% 3-point shooting); Shay Jones (10.8 ppg, 3.6 apg, 3.5 spg); Eric Penton (10.2 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 48% FG); Buddy Proctor (9.5 ppg, 9.1 rpg, 51% FG).

KEY RETURNERS: Ethan Beringer: sr., 6'3" (8.5 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 2.5 apg); Josh Cole: sr., 5'11" (7.6 ppg, 3.7 apg, 1.7 spg); Blake Cochran: jr., 6'1" (3.1 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 1.4 spg).

son with Blake Williams, JP Canote, Austin Horn and Drew Ewens. Williams, Canote and Horn all picked up JV minutes last season for the Bulldogs and Ewens is a transfer from Hallsville.

"Blake is the kid with the most experience and played a little varsity this summer for us," Combs said. "JP and Austin will probably be JV kids this year as well, but they'll be at the end of the varsity bench fighting for minutes. Drew played well in the Soap Scrimmage. He started off at Harrisburg, transferred out and now he's transferred back. We're excited to have him back in the fold."

Combs admits one thing he can't replace

from last year's team is the streaky 3-point shooting of the Joneses, who combined to make 110 3-pointers. They took roughly 75 percent of Harrisburg 3-point attempts and next in line after them was Spry, who made 15-of-50 shot beyond the arc. One thing Combs does like with his new crew of guards is their length, which will offset the loss of some of the quickness when they go into full-court pressure on defense.

"This year I've got a lot of kids who can play the inside and the outside," Combs said. "We're going to try to spread the floor a little

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Harrisburg Bulldogs girls basketball



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Senior 5'8" Forward
Parents: Gary & Christa Blakemore



Chelsea Cockrum
Senior 5'4" Guard
Parents: Gary & Angie Cockrum



Allie Dodson
Senior 5'6" Guard
Parent: April Dodson



Raechel Douglas
Senior 5'9" Forward
Parents: Troy & Cara Douglas



Kyla Brown
Junior 5'3" Guard
Parents: Jim & Tina Brown, Josh & Dawn Stephenson



Alissa Lumb
Junior 5'5" Guard
Parents: Brian & Angel Lumb



Macy Arp
Sophomore 5'6" Guard
Parents: Bobbi & Jeff Arp



Emma Callahan
Sophomore 5'6" Forward
Parents: Jeff & Judy Callahan



Chloe Franklin
Sophomore 5'9" Forward
Parent: Karla Franklin



Karyssa Giboney
Sophomore 5'3" Guard
Parents: Mark & Jodie Giboney



Hailey Lowrey
Sophomore 5'6" Guard
Parents: Todd & Julie Lowrey



Kirsten Southerland
Sophomore 5'7" Guard/Forward
Parents: Dwayne & Tracy Southerland



Kyla Acton
Freshman 5'7" Forward
Parents: Mike & Amy Acton



Hunter Carinder
Freshman 5'5" Guard
Parent: Stephanie Carinder



Bailey Ivicsics
Freshman 5'10" Forward
Parents: Robert & Amy Ivicsics



Admanda Pendleton
Freshman 5'2" Guard
Parent: Mike Pendleton



Keeley Vanderfelt
Freshman 5'9" Forward
Parents: Mark & Kassie Wasson



Dan Bachmeier
Head Coach

Harrisburg senior class has eyes on fourth district title

The Harrisburg girls basketball team and the Kentucky men's basketball team will share something in common this season.

No, it has nothing to do with unibrows. It has to do with the fact that both teams will have to replace their entire starting five the season after winning a championship, state or national. But Harrisburg is losing much more than its starting five.

After winning a Class 2 state championship last season and two in the past three seasons, the one consistency on those two teams was Chelsey Kroese, a three-time All-State player under head coach Dan Bachmeier. In her senior season, she averaged 17.2 points per game and 8.6 rebounds a contest. Throw in the loss of a 3-point shooter like Paige Heibel, a prominent post player like Haley Heuer and role players like Tina Chickering, Sonja Eaves and Jackie Williams, losses like that could set back teams for at least a couple of seasons.

But Bachmeier is entering this season optimistic as ever, saying his team is just as good as it has been the past three years.

"The competition is tough each day in practice," Bachmeier said. "Players are going to get more reps. These girls are used to

winning and a lot of them played last year on varsity. We're hoping that the program we've developed in seventh and eighth grade will carry over into JV, and when it's their turn to put on the varsity uniform, they're ready to play."

Bachmeier said his team has the potential to be harder to guard than it has in the past. Harrisburg has anywhere from six to eight girls who can score this year. The Lady Bulldogs will have more depth in the post and will have a fair amount of outside shooters. However, he said this team may not be able to shoot well consistently like it did during its two state championship runs.

Raechel Douglas will be one of the senior leaders to step up on this year's Harrisburg team. Bachmeier said she was preparing for a starting role last year, but as she began to battle nagging health issues, she adapted to more of a role player. At 5-foot-9, she'll be a presence in the post, averaging 4.5 points and 3.8 rebounds per game last year.

"She understands the position and what she needs to do there," Bachmeier said. "We're going to have a group of three post players like I've never had before, and they're going to make each other better.

Raechel may have 16 to 20 points one game and she may have four the next game. She'll do what it takes to win the game that particular night, whether it's scoring, rebounding or playing defense."

Harrisburg will continue to attack teams with its defensive pressure, and one player who will step up in that department is junior Alissa Lumb. She'll also step in as the starting point guard and Bachmeier said Lumb will need to stay on the court as long as possible this season.

"We may see nine to 10 girls playing equal minutes this season, except for Alissa," Bachmeier said. "Alissa will have to stay on the floor as much as possible, kind of like Kroese. I subbed everybody quite a bit last year until the end. Alissa may not be the same kind of player, but she's that important that I have to keep her out there as much as possible."

Senior Kassi Blakemore also picked up a fair share of playing time at the varsity level last season. In 29 games, Blakemore averaged 3.2 points per game and shot 34 percent from 3-point range. She was an All-State third baseman this past fall for the Harrisburg softball team and she is looking

to carry that momentum into the basketball season.

"She has to look to score more," Bachmeier said. "She's a good passer and she'll have to play with more confidence. The only thing that has ever held Kassi back is lack of confidence, and a lot of that was being an underclassman. I think she's starting to get over that and I told her, 'If you're open, you have to shoot it.'"

After that, Bachmeier's varsity roster will consist of players who were primarily JV players last season or are going to be freshmen this season. He said this team reminds him a lot of his 2008-09 team, which was inexperienced and still almost came away with a district title.

"We have a lot of people who can play, but we also have a lot of inexperience," Bachmeier said. "A lot of them won't be sure how to handle their nerves."

One player Bachmeier said is ready to take that step to the varsity level is sophomore Chloe Franklin. She was one of the big forces on his JV team last season and he said her defense is much better this season.

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Area High School Basketball Preview

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"She's totally unselfish, which bothers me as always," Bachmeier said. "I want my girls to play more selfishly. She can even score inside-out some. The thing about her is, as a sophomore bad things are going to happen, but that's the biggest stumbling block for all of my players."

Harrisburg had two freshmen last season that dressed out with the varsity during its state playoff run, Macy Arp and Hailey Lowrey. Unlike a lot of young players on great teams, the two stayed with the team after the JV season and now have state championship rings to show for it. They'll be asked to step up this season and fill big roles as well.

"Macy has an all-around game where she's not great at everything, but she's good at everything," Bachmeier said. "She can fill any role. I look to have Hailey score and see if she can shoot a little bit. They both need to work on a few things. When they mess up, they have to keep playing. I'm going to keep coming back to that, no matter what."

As a freshman, Bailey Ivicsics could be one of the biggest surprises on this year's team, and rarely has Bachmeier given a freshman significant playing time in the past. Standing at 5-foot-10-inches tall, she's listed as the tallest player on Harrisburg's roster, but that's not all the reason why she'll see big minutes as a freshman.

"She's got skill with that size, it's not just so I can throw a big body into the lineup," Bachmeier said. "If she continues to get herself into shape, she'll be a nice little rotation player at the No. 4 or 5 spot. Bailey is probably going to play some JV, but she's going to be in the mix at the post position at the varsity level."

A player who will try to factor in as a guard this season is Allie Dodson, who left the team after nine games last season. She made a splash in the opening week of the Glasgow Tournament last season and aver-

aged 4.4 points per game. As a senior, she'll be another threat to score from the outside.

"She has the chance to play for a starting spot," Bachmeier said. "If not, she'll come off the bench and fill a hole for us."

Harrisburg will dress out 13 players at the varsity level, but Bachmeier said the remaining players will each fight for what is left of the playing time.

"Kirsten Southerland has the ability to score from three and she has an old-school game," Bachmeier said. "Her negative has been that she didn't play hard defense, but I think she's going to play some defense this year. Karyssa Giboney always gives you everything and Emma Callahan is trying to understand the game. Kyla Brown, who is coming off knee surgery, will have an opportunity to play. And Chelsea Cockrum, a senior who played as a freshman and a sophomore, is going to try to find some minutes. Are they all going to get them? Probably not. We have good competition. It's not like I only have six players fighting for spots."

Even with all of the personnel changes to the roster this season, Bachmeier doesn't expect much to change with his offensive or defensive sets.

"We might add a few wrinkles here or there," Bachmeier said. "I think we have a chance to threaten teams at a lot of spots. Teams always leave our point guards wide open, but I don't think you can do that this year. You want to play a zone? I think I have four or five girls who shoot you out of it. You want to play man-to-man? I think we're going to post you up and take you off the dribble."

Bachmeier said he has been impressed with how quickly his girls have come together this preseason, a strength for this year's team that has been a weakness in years past. With numbers down to 17 players in grades 9-12, players have been more active in practice than they were in the past. However, the players' limited experience at

HARRISBURG LADY BULLDOGS



2011-12 RECORD: 29-2 overall, 8-0 in Mid-Missouri Conference (1st place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Won 43-34 over New Haven in Class 2 State Tournament championship

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 1st place — Glasgow Tournament; 2nd place — South Callaway Tournament; 1st place — Southern Boone Classic.

KEY LOSSES: Chelsey Kroese (17.2 ppg, 8.6 rpg, 3.9 spg); Paige Heibel (9.0 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 67 3-pointers); Haley Heuer (8.7 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 1.1 bpg).

KEY RETURNERS: Raechel Douglas: sr., 5'9" (4.5 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 1.0 spg); Kassi Blakemore: sr., 5'8" (3.2 ppg, 1.4 rpg, 34% 3-pointers); Allie Dodson: sr., 5'6" (4.4 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 1.1 spg).

the varsity level could be a weakness entering the season. One thing is for sure: Bachmeier is looking for everyone to step up this season.

"They all have the green light," Bachmeier said. "I don't know who's the one I'm going to give the ball to consistently. I gave the ball to Kroese consistently and she never shot it. You might see me come out and say, 'Hey, let's get the ball to Raechel the next three or four times,' or 'Let's get the ball to Chloe,' or 'Let's have Alissa drive.' I don't know yet. But they all have a great knack to score."

After winning four — by share or outright — consecutive Mid-Missouri Conference regular-season titles, that is one thing that isn't on Harrisburg's agenda this season. One thing that will hurt is the Lady Bulldogs were pretty reliant on having four players receive All-Conference honors, but now that the league is disbanded, Harrisburg will play as an independent for at least this season.

The strength of schedule will still be brutal for Harrisburg, and that's not including its three regular-season tournaments. The

Lady Bulldogs picked up games against Macon, Russellville, Knox County, Father Tolton, Principia and Versailles. And after playing in the MFA Oil Shootout's only girls contest in the history of the event last year, Harrisburg will head to the John Wood Community College Shootout this year and play Quincy Notre Dame.

"Our conference was always competitive and teams we have picked up are competitive," Bachmeier said. "We say every game is going to be a big game. That's why, as a coach, you have to make sure you rest up your players because we expect them to come out and play their butts off every single game. We play so many quality teams that we have to make sure we're fresh. That's the key to our season and we've done pretty well through most of those battles."

But no matter what happens during the regular season, Bachmeier wants his girls to put themselves in a spot to win a fourth straight district championship.

"I don't worry about how many games we're going to win," Bachmeier said. "I worry about how hard we're going to handle the big games."

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Higbee Tigers boys basketball



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Mateo Dias

Senior 5'7" Guard
Parents: Tom Brenner
& Pamela Dias



Dakota Oles

Senior 5'10" Guard/Forward
Parents: Brian & Angela Oles



Caleb Starks

Senior 6'3" Center
Parents: Troy & April Starks



Jeremy Kirkendoll

Junior 6'1" Forward
Parents: Pete Kirkendoll
& Michelle Kirkendoll



Garrett Nauerth

Sophomore 5'10" Guard
Parents: Larry & Christina
Nauerth



Austin Nelson

Sophomore 5'9" Guard
Parents: Neil & Angie Nelson



Chase Uhrich

Sophomore 5'2" Guard
Parent: Crystal Uhrich



Taylor Andrews

Freshman 5'6" Forward
Parents: Donnie & Tammy
Andrews



Jacob Beal

Freshman 5'8" Guard
Parents: Ben & Glenda Beal



Jesse Beal

Freshman 5'7" Forward
Parents: Ben & Glenda Beal



Brad Berendzen

Freshman 6'2" Forward
Parents: Robert & April
Berendzen



Derek Clark

Freshman 5'9" Forward
Parents: Donald & Tara Clark



Levi Jones

Freshman 5'10" Forward
Parents: Robert & Stephanie
Jones



Marc Sears

Freshman 5'8" Forward
Parents: Frank & Dee Dee Sears



Jon Bishop

Head Coach



Young roster doesn't deter Higbee's outlook this season

There will be a lot of new, young faces on the Higbee boys basketball team this season, especially since only four players are returning from last year's team.

But Higbee head coach Jon Bishop doesn't look at this upcoming season that way. Instead, he focuses on the positives. One is that the Tigers improved their win total from six win to 12. Higbee also returns one of its leading scorers from last season. And there is also plenty of promise with this new bunch.

"It's always going to be new and fresh, even if you have returning players," Bishop said. "I'm really pleased with what we have, as far as experience. I wish we were a little deeper, but we have three returning starters and we have two players who took a year off last season that are returning and have started for us before. We're just going to have to see how the rest pans out."

Gone this season is last year's leading scorer, Logan Thompson, who had 12.8 points per game. Bishop also lost a couple of post players that were just coming into their own with Austin Messer and David Janson, so Higbee will have its work cut out at the forward position. Bishop also said

Seth Tucker won't return to the team for his junior season after having Tommy John surgery. In six games last season, Tucker averaged 13.3 points per game.

One player Higbee does have coming back is Mateo Dias, a 5-foot-7-inch senior that Bishop has described as the Energizer Bunny in the past. Dias is the top returning scorer at 11.2 points per game and will be the team's main perimeter threat. He also led the team in assists and steals last season, averaging more than four per game in each category as the team's point guard.

The Tigers weren't sure if Dias would return for his senior season. Bishop said Dias was considering graduating at the end of this semester to enlist in the Marine Corps, but there were a few administrative things that wouldn't allow him to join in January. As a result, Dias will get to compete the rest of his senior year and try to enlist after that.

"It's nice to have leadership from him and he has great sportsmanship," Bishop said. "His shooting got a little cold for us last year toward the end of the year, but he is still always electric when he goes to the basket. He's got a great motor, he's a great defender and he's our glue. As he goes, sometimes

our team goes. I think that's going to continue, but he's also going to have some people step into that role and support him."

Senior Caleb Starks will anchor the post play for the Tigers. Starks scored just under five points per game last season, but he exploded for 18 points and 16 rebounds against Missouri School for the Deaf. He may not put up numbers quite that high every night, but for Bishop, it's nice to know Starks has games like that inside him.

"He's been a role player the past couple of years," Bishop said. "He's developed a lot more and I've already seen a good deal of improvement from last year. He's not the most athletic guy, but he works his butt off and he knows where to go and what to do. He has a lot of heart in him and he shows it out on the court. He gives us a good presence down low and will be able to defend and get some good rebounds."

Another returner this season for Higbee that has his eye on a starting role is sophomore Austin Nelson. As a freshman, Nelson was one of the last players off the bench for the Tigers and struggled at times, but Bishop said Nelson was one of the players he was most proud of, because he continued to

work hard to overcome his weaknesses.

"He's even shown improvement already this year," Bishop said. "I've seen a night-and-day difference already from his game, and that includes shooting the ball, which he struggled with last year. I think he's going to have moments where he's going to make some good, mid-range jumpers, or take some guys to the basket. He plays with a ton of heart and desire, so when you have that on the defensive end, that's going to be a big plus for us. He might be the guy we put on the best offensive player for the other team."

Bishop said senior Devin Cook and junior Jeremy Kirkendoll, both players that took a year off last season, are in the running for the final two starting spots. Two seasons ago, Cook got significant playing time as a guard and averaged 3.5 points per game. Kirkendoll played in 17 of 22 games and didn't factor at the varsity level much, but he still shot 42 percent from the field.

"Jeremy has improved his low-post game a little bit and is probably going to help out Caleb a little more," Bishop said. "Devin is going to be able to play down low at the four

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Area High School Basketball Preview

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spot and probably play some at the three or the two. I'm really excited about what he can do. He is a smart player who can handle the ball really well. Those two are definitely going to provide us some help in scoring and be able to help us out in the long run."

The fourth returning player from last year's roster is sophomore Garrett Nauerth, who will be sidelined at the start of the season with a knee injury and may not be back until January. Like Nelson, he was also one of the last players to come off the bench in games and has the ability to get up and down the floor when he returns healthy.

"He understands our system and has been with us for a while," Bishop said. "His skill has improved a little bit, but I'd like to see it improve a little more. He's gotten better and anytime you spend a year doing something, then come back and do it again, you're going to be able to enjoy it and have a little more fun with it. I hope he can give us some good minutes."

Of the 15 players on the roster, seven of them are freshmen. Unless Higbee wants to lack depth on its varsity bench and keep the freshmen at the JV level, at least a couple of kids will be thrown into the fire this season. Right now, Bishop said he has his eye on four freshmen to step up.

Bishop said Jacob Beal and Levi Jones bring athleticism to the table as freshmen and appear to be on a faster learning curve compared to most freshmen. Jones stands out with his mid-range jumper and can run the floor well, while Beal will be a ball-handler and will have the green light to take some perimeter shots.

"They understand the game, like if you're talking about a pick-and-roll or man-to-man vs. zone defense," Bishop said. "They understand those concepts. They're able to take that and go on the fly. They played with us this summer and they've seen things coming to practice last year as eighth graders. I hope

they show a good deal of leadership with the other freshmen (teammates) and get them in the right mold."

Two other freshmen, Brad Berendzen and Jesse Beal — Jacob's twin brother — are other freshmen who are expected to make an impact at the varsity level. Berendzen is a 6-foot-2-inch forward that will figure into the mix at the post, while Jesse Beal is another guard that has to develop a little bit more to catch his brother, but Bishop expects to see good things from him.

"Brad is a guy who may end up being 6-4 or 6-5," Bishop said. "He's got good length to him right now and runs really well. His athleticism is catching up to his body size. He won't dribble the ball well, but he's worked on his game and is doing the fundamental things on defense that really makes him stand out. Jesse is a pretty decent dribbler and when he gets his head right, he has a good shot too. He understands the game pretty well, but we have to get him to be a little less timid and attack."

Despite finishing the years with 12 wins last season, Higbee came away with a fifth-place finish in the CCAA Tournament, finishing ahead of only Jamestown. During the regular season, the Tigers also took down Bunceton in overtime, Malta Bend and Jamestown during the conference slate in February and also won in a landslide at Malta Bend before the conference tournament began.

Bishop said he figures Higbee will finish in the middle of the pack again this season — the Tigers were 2-4 against Cooper County Activities Association opponents in February. Otterville won the conference last season, as well as the CCAA Tournament, and Pilot Grove and Prairie Home were nipping on the Eagles' heels in second place.

"Pilot Grove is going to be right up at the top because they've got a lot of kids returning," Bishop said. "They've also got some young kids coming in as well. Otterville lost a couple of kids, but they still have enough

HIGBEE TIGERS



2011-12 RECORD: 12-14 overall, 2-4 in Cooper County Activities Association (4th place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 64-39 to North Shelby in Class 1 District 11 Tournament quarterfinals

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 6th place — Northwestern Tournament; 3rd place — Marceline Tournament; 5th place — CCAA Tournament.

KEY LOSSES: Logan Thompson (12.8 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 2.4 spg); Austin Messer (10.2 ppg, 8.7 rpg, 1.9 spg); David Janson (8.0 ppg, 7.2 rpg).

KEY RETURNERS: Mateo Dias: sr., 5'7" (11.2 ppg, 4.3 apg, 4.1 spg); Caleb Starks: sr., 6'3" (4.8 ppg, 7.6 rpg, 0.5 bpg); Devin Cook: sr., 6'1" (3.5 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 1.1 apg in 2010-11 season).

to compete in that second or third spot. Prairie Home is going to be really tough and we're right around there with Bunceton and Jamestown. Bunceton will have a new coach and a new system, so we'll see how that works out with them. I think we'll finish around the middle of the pack."

The district assignment has changed again for Higbee. After going northeast the past two seasons, the Tigers will see some familiar foes in the Class 1 District 9 Tournament, including CCAA opponents Jamestown and Prairie Home. Also in their district is Glasgow, which ended Higbee's 22-win season in 2009-10 in the district semifinals.

"I really believe that if we can keep our heads together and remain injury-free, and battle adversity in a positive way, we're going to scare some people toward the end of the year," Bishop said. "I'm excited about that. There are some positive teams that are going to battle really well, but I like our chances. We've got a whole season to battle and once we get to that point, our freshmen won't play like freshmen anymore."

Bishop said he likes how his team has been able to get up and down the floor this preseason, which is a pace he likes to run.

This team cuts to the basket well, he said, and although the shooting isn't where it needs to be, much like last year, but he likes where his team is at.

"Anytime you can play good defense and get some rebounds, you're going to see some success," Bishop said. "I think that's what we have going right now."

On the other hand, with a young team, Bishop is concerned his players might feel forced to put up some shots that aren't the kind of quality shots he wants to see.

"We need to learn when to push it and when to pull it out," Bishop said. "We're working on that right now. Defensively, if we can learn to help off and cover backside help, we're going to have success too."

Higbee was just a few games off the .500 mark last year and Bishop says this team can climb above that mark this year. They may not reach the 22-6 season from three years ago, but once January rolls around, the future could be bright for the Tigers.

"We're going to take our lumps at times and play some tough teams in the Mendon and Marceline tournaments, but I like our chances once conference rolls around," Bishop said.



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Senior 5'10" Center
Parents: Michael & Pavlina O'Toole



Abby Sinclair
Senior 5'6" Forward
Parent: Teresa Sinclair



Ashley Berendzen
Junior 5'10" Center
Parents: Robert & April Berendzen



Krysta Hall
Junior 5'6" Forward
Parents: Lee & Mary Hall



M'Kenzea Starks
Junior 5'10" Center
Parents: Troy & April Starks



Hope Clark
Sophomore 5'8" Forward
Parents: Danny & Becky Clark



Alexandria Forrester
Sophomore 5'7" Guard
Parents: Jim Forrester & Nichole Ackerman



Marissa Perkins
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Parent: Jennifer Carr



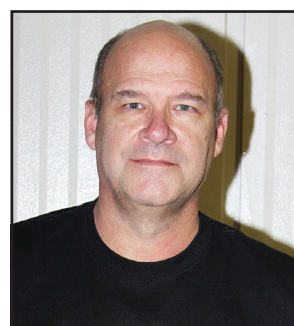
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Freshman 5'8" Forward
Parent: Teresa Sinclair



Daina Derboven
Freshman 5'8" Guard/Forward
Parent: Charity Switzer



Kaylee Embree
Freshman 5'8" Forward
Parent: Jessie Embree



Michael O'Toole
Head Coach



Lady Tigers aim to dominate opponents in paint this year

Entering his fourth season as head coach of the Higbee girls basketball team, Michael O'Toole is starting to see his program turn into middle-of-the-pack team.

After a 12-14 season, the Lady Tigers picked up a few key wins that even put themselves in the middle of the pack in the Cooper County Activities Association. But the one player that was the focal point of the team, Tori Dillion, graduated and left behind big shoes to fill. After all, Dillion led the team in scoring (12.0 ppg), steals (5.8 spg), assists (6.0 apg) and also hauled in 5.3 rebounds per contest. Basically, one could argue wherever the ball was on the court, Dillion was most likely all over it.

"We can't replace Tori," O'Toole said. "To replace her would take three or four years. I do have a good point guard this year, but she won't be the shooter Tori was. Tori was an individual player who could pass well, but her passes were so advanced that my girls weren't expecting them. Tori was a pure player."

But with Dillion out of the picture this season, the Lady Tigers look to be more balanced and won't try to find that one specific go-to player. What will help is Higbee

returns two post players that each averaged double figures in rebounding, and this team will also be more balanced in its scoring attack.

One of the players that return in the post is sophomore forward Hope Clark, who is also the top returning scorer at 8.7 points per game. Clark won't be the tallest player on the court in most games, but her wing-span more than makes up for that. As a freshman, she pulled in 271 rebounds and almost half of them were on the offensive end.

Joining Clark on the other side of the post is junior Ashley Berendzen, who averaged 12.8 rebounds a game. Combined, the two players accounted for nearly 25 rebounds together on average and O'Toole said those numbers should be about the same this year, if not higher.

"(Hope) scored most of her points on the inside, but she can step out and shoot the three if she needs to," O'Toole said. "She's gotten a little taller this year. Then you have Ashley back and she's healthy. With her and Hope, I didn't lose anything in rebounding. I just gained maturity there and experience. Tori was the fifth-leading

rebounder last year, so I have all of my top-four rebounders back. I'm looking for the post play to be just as good as it was last year."

Without Dillion, O'Toole said a lot of the scoring could shift to the inside players this season. Dillion was the only player to average more than nine points per game last season. For a team that scored just 38 points per game last year, that lost scoring will be distributed evenly among three or four players.

Alex LeGrand, one of the team's three seniors this year, will see her role change on the outside. LeGrand will start at the No. 2 position. She handled the ball the most behind Dillion last year.

A new and welcome addition to the Higbee ballclub is Alexandria Forrester, a sophomore transfer from Harrisburg. LeGrand was initially a potential candidate to step in at point guard, but Forrester will begin the season at point for the Lady Tigers. Forrester played on the JV level at Harrisburg last season. O'Toole said she's not replacing anybody. Instead, she is stepping into a position that was open for the taking.

"I had four starters, but I didn't know

who my fifth starter was," O'Toole said. "Now I do. She's not hurting any of the existing players that were maybe in contention for that starting position, because we didn't have a point guard. She doesn't like to shoot, but she does like to handle the ball and make good passes. That's what I need, someone who can get the ball to my post players."

O'Toole plans to go with a starting lineup of three forwards and just two guards. Filling that third post position is junior M'Kenzea Starks, another significant rebounder. Because Clark has an outside touch, O'Toole will put her at the No. 3 spot and leave Berendzen and Starks down low around the paint. Defenses might also see Clark on the high post to shake things up a bit.

Even Higbee's bench will be filled with post players. O'Toole said freshman Kaylee Embree, freshman Daina Derboven and sophomore Courtney Sinclair will get playing time as forwards this season.

"I'm loaded on posts, so that's not going to be a problem," O'Toole said. "But for

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point guards, right now I have Ali and backup guard of Alex and Hope and that's it. I don't have any other guards besides them."

With only 12 players on the roster, O'Toole said there is a good chance 25 percent of his roster won't be available for the start of the season at the Northwestern Tournament in Mendon. Krysta Hall, a small forward at 5-foot-6, has an injury on the arch of one of her feet. Abbie Michelova-O'Toole, a 5-foot-10 senior, is dealing with a shoulder injury. Add Abby Sinclair's injured knee to the list of the walking wounded, suddenly the bench is getting smaller and smaller.

This has played a big factor in the pre-season practices because only nine players are dressed out, meaning the team couldn't even run a 5-on-5 scrimmage to warm up for the start of the season.

"Right now, we're conditioning," O'Toole said. "We're working on the fundamental drills and working on getting in really good shape. We can run some 3-on-3 or 4-on-4, but right now we have to do drills that are meant for less than a 5-on-5. We've been doing fast-break drills and defensive drills, and really concentrating on defense."

O'Toole said last year's defense was more of a 3-2, but that will change some

this year. Higbee will throw a zone-man defense at opponents, similar to a set run by the Duke men's basketball team. He said that defense is designed for his starting five, but with substitutes in the game, instead of running a pressure defense the Lady Tigers will fall back into a zone.

Last season, Higbee took third place in the CCAA Tournament and finished fourth in the conference regular-season standings. Otterville claimed the top spot with a 27-2 season, including a 26-game winning streak. Bunceton and Pilot Grove also finished ahead of Higbee in the conference standings.

This season, O'Toole said he expects his team to finish again at either No. 3 or No. 4. He said he has heard Jamestown will be strong this year and Prairie Home will be tough, so those two teams could be in the hunt for the middle of the pack as well.

"When you talk about the Ottervilles and the Pilot Groves, unless they just graduate nine seniors and have nothing but freshmen, they're always stacked," O'Toole said.

If there's one statistical area Higbee needs to improve upon, O'Toole said it has to be at the free-throw line. Last season, the Lady Tigers shot just 40 percent from the charity stripe as a team. Even though they also shot poorly from the field (22 percent), they made up for it by grabbing a lot of offensive rebounds. With a scrappy team like

HIGBEE LADY TIGERS



2011-12 RECORD: 12-14 overall, 2-3 in Cooper County Activities Association (4th place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 80-22 to Marion County in Class 1 District 11 Tournament quarterfinals

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 6th place — Northwestern Tournament; T-7th place — Marceline Tournament; 3rd place — CCAA Tournament.

KEY LOSSES: **Tori Dillion** (12.0 ppg, 5.8 spg, 6.0 apg); **Cayla Parsons** (5.2 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 3.7 spg); **Shanna Clark** (2.8 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 1.3 apg).

KEY RETURNERS: **Alex LeGrand:** sr., 5'7" (4.0 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 3.4 spg); **Hope Clark:** soph., 5'8" (8.7 ppg, 11.3 rpg, 3.3 spg); **Ashley Berendzen:** jr., 5'10" (4.1 ppg, 12.8 rpg, 3.1 spg).

Higbee, the Lady Tigers can go to the free-throw line 15-20 times a game, and over the course of a season, the misses can add up.

"If we can shoot 50 percent from the free-throw line, we would have won at least four more games last year," O'Toole said. "We lost a couple of games by two or three points and there were at least eight games decided by under six points. Free throws make a big difference and we've been working on them. Right now, it's looking a little better, at least with my starting five. If we can improve 10 percent, we would have been above .500 last year."

The Lady Tigers, despite a near-.500 re-

cord last season, drew the No. 8 seed in districts and were trampled by Marion County, a team that went on to finish in third place in Class 1 last season. Now Higbee is going to be in a new district, but it includes two district champions from last season in Chamois and Glasgow.

When this team returns to full strength, O'Toole said the Lady Tigers will be better than they were last year. With the scoring spread out among more players, there will be less 2-on-1 or 3-on-1 situations when Higbee has the ball. And when teams play Higbee 1-on-1, O'Toole likes his team's chances.

Harrisburg boys preview

(Continued from Page 15)

more and play a little more 'four around one' in our motion offense this year. With some of our bigs who can shoot a little bit, we'll have to stretch them out and create some driving angles."

One of the strengths Harrisburg has this season is the Bulldogs will have a lot of kids that can play, dressing out 24 players in grades 9-12, the most of any area team. Right now, Combs said he has up to 10 guys

that can play big minutes for his team, which helps with their pace of play. With that in mind, one of the biggest weaknesses is making players adjust to playing more than one position, Combs said. A couple of players can be anywhere from the No. 2 to No. 5 positions, so the big adjustment is just getting comfortable at each spot.

Now usually this is the part of the story where conference predictions are made, but that won't be necessary for Harrisburg this year. Last season was the final for the now-

defunct Mid-Missouri Conference. So that means with the open slots in the schedule, Harrisburg can fill them with smaller schools, right?

Not in the least. Combs didn't take the easy way out and managed to schedule four games against former conference foes, in addition to starting the season at Macon. The Bulldogs also picked up games against Calvary Lutheran, Father Tolton and Blair Oaks.

"We've got 10 tough games before Christmas break, and then once we get

back from break, we go right into Tolton and Brookfield," Combs said. "It's a thunderous schedule, one where we're going to have to compete really hard each and every night. Like Mizzou going to the (Southeastern Conference), there's no easy night on our schedule."

But a tough schedule is nothing new for Harrisburg. No matter what happens, Combs said he wants his team to be playing its best basketball at the end of the season, and he usually gets his way.

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Area High School Basketball Preview

Fayette boys preview

(Continued from Page 3)

nivent, who was a lineman, has slimed down to 265 pounds this winter, but he will still take up plenty of space inside.

"It's just going to be a matter of getting Gary plenty of JV quarters and getting him into some varsity action here and there," Kendrick said. "I think he's a guy who, by Christmas, could have an impact on this squad, even if it's for two minutes a quarter."

Kendrick will also have a slate of sophomore players that will split time between JV and varsity with Ethan Harper, Coltin Lewis and Davis Valencia. Kendrick said all of the sophomores will get sporadic minutes here and there at the varsity level. That way, after this season when Fayette loses another big senior class, these guys can fill in to play key roles next season.

"Davis is a guy who we're going to have to have for four quarters," Kendrick said. "Out of everybody we have, Davis may be the most athletic player we have. It's just a matter of youthful timidity. I was pleased with how he played this summer and hopefully that can translate into this season."

Fayette will dress one freshman — Jerad Riley — for varsity. Kendrick said Riley has the opportunity to surprise some people this season as a shooting guard, depending on the number of minutes he gets and how much he progresses at the JV level.

"As a freshman, he's got a lot to learn," Kendrick said. "But from a skill-set point, he's the one kid we have who, when we say, 'Shoot a left-handed layup,' he shoots a left-handed layup. When you say, 'Pull up and hit the jumper,' he can hit the jumper."

One of the key strengths to this team is having a lot of inside-out players, Kendrick said. In addition, having greater depth will allow the Falcons to even be three-deep at some positions. That will benefit the team's "on-the-run" style of play that will have Kendrick screaming "Go!" at least a couple dozen times each game.

"We don't have that one guy who sticks out that you know is a go-to must like we had in Bruce," Kendrick said. "We have guys who could be that, but if we work hard as a unit, that could probably be one of the better defensive squads we've had across the board. We just have to constantly make sure we're doing the right things and that

we're in the right spots. Defensively, we could reward ourselves with quality offensive opportunities."

As a team, Fayette shot 45 percent from the floor last season. Kendrick said if this team wants to be successful, the Falcons are going to have to shoot well from the floor and not have much of a drop-off in that department. If the team's defensive system works the way Kendrick wants it to, the Falcons should rack up several breakaway scores, and that always leads to a higher shooting percentage.

In the Lewis & Clark Conference, Kendrick said Salisbury is the favorite to win the conference title for a third straight season. Salisbury was the Class 2 runner-up last season to Billings and starts the 2012-13 season ranked No. 2 in Class 2. Fayette has gone 8-2 in each of the past two seasons in conference play and should be another strong contender for the second-place spot behind the Panthers. Kendrick said Marceline returns the most experience after Salisbury.

"If you talk to the other coaches in the conference, it's Salisbury and then everybody else," Kendrick said. "Until some-

body knocks them off, it's not going to be any different. But we've been the only club the last couple of years that's had a shot of even splitting with them, and our goal has to be to take care of business against everybody else and show that it's Salisbury and Fayette, and then everybody else."

And as always, the "District of Doom" will be just as tough as it has been in the past. Although Douglass isn't fielding a team this year, Sturgeon starts the season as a top-ranked team in Class 2 and Harrisburg will be strong again this year. Father Tolton will be a dark horse heading into its first varsity season as well.

Fayette has had a winning season in each of Kendrick's four years as head coach, and he doesn't look for that trend to change this season. He said the goal is to reach 18 wins this season and bring home a trophy from every tournament.

"Our inability to hang onto a lead against Centralia and win a trophy in the Glasgow Tournament was the difference in us not winning 18 games," Kendrick said. "Winning 18 games is not an easy thing to do, but as always, it's something we're going to shoot for."

Fayette girls preview

(Continued from Page 5)

ference on the girls side last year, giving the school a sweep once again during the conference basketball slate. Although James said Salisbury will be back at the top in the mix of things, it's difficult to say how things will shake out. Marceline returns Kendra Gladbach and has a new head coach this year and Paris also brings plenty of experience back this season.

"If you look at them on paper, you have to give Salisbury the edge," James said. "This is four or five years in a row for them

and they always lose quality players. I think Marceline is extremely talented, if not the most talented team in the conference. And of course Paris is always a handful, with the guards they have and the way they shoot the ball. I think everybody has improved."

James said he expects Westran and Slater to be better than they were last year as well. He said he thinks Fayette can finish anywhere from third place — which is where they finished last season — to sixth place, depending on how fast his team adjusts.

The main thing James wants to see out

of his team this year is to improve in taking care of the basketball. Fayette cut down its number of turnovers significantly last season, although the Lady Falcons still averaged 23 per game. Fayette has cut down turnovers against a full-court press. Now it's time to see if the team can cut down turnovers while running the offense in a half-court set.

"Our returning players really know the offense, better than we ever have at this point," James said. "I think we'll see us execute better earlier in the year than we have in the past. With that said, I don't know if

our bench players are ready for that kind of execution yet, but I think our starting five plays pretty well together. I want to see us do a better job of blocking out and playing good post defense. If we can do that, we'll stay in some games. And then scoring has always been an issue. Even last year, we averaged 40 to 45 points per game. I hope we can be more balanced in our scoring and put the ball in the hole more often. All of those things are key and they're all big question marks. If we do those things, we'll have a better season than most people expected us to."

Glasgow girls preview

(Continued from Page 13)

after facing several tough teams last year, the girls have worked on new zone defenses and different situations to trap out of.

"The kids love to scramble and they play hard when they scramble," Monnig said. "I don't want to take away something that has made us successful unless we have to. But we might get into situations when we're substituting at times and we won't be able to do those things."

As for weaknesses, Monnig said the girls just have to work on fine-tuning some things. Seven girls have been under her system the past two years and the offense is a slight alteration from last year, so it's just taken a little time to adjust the kinks.

After coming up just short of the conference crown last season, that's another box on the checklist this team wants to fill in. Sturgeon finished one game ahead

of Glasgow last year, losing only to New Franklin, and the Lady Jackets are one of the favorites to win this year. Sturgeon returns a few key players from last year's team and New Franklin returns four of its five starters as well. Don't leave Cairo out of the mix, which tied New Franklin for third place.

"Our conference is going to be tough," Monnig said. "I know Keytesville is young and getting better and Madison is the same, so our conference is always very competitive. That's great for us because you need to be able to play competitive games in the regular season to get ready for the postseason."

For the third time in four seasons, Glasgow will play musical chairs in the district assignments. For the past two seasons, the Lady Jackets have played teams in North Central Missouri. For at least the next two seasons, the region has shifted

down to Central Missouri, with teams spread all around the area.

And if this team needed any more motivation, Chamois will be in the same district, which will be played at Jamestown. In a rare occurrence, two district champions will battle in the same district trying to return to the state playoffs.

"Once the assignment came out, I had knocks on my classroom door all day," Monnig said. "The girls were excited. They want to get back out there and play. The one thing about this group is if they lose a game, they're all ready to go back out there and play the next game the minute they walk out of the locker room. Having Chamois in our district is going to make us tougher."

Monnig said it's very feasible for this team to have back-to-back 20-win seasons, but a 20-win season wasn't the biggest thing to take away from last year. Glasgow

has traditionally been a boys basketball powerhouse year in and year out. After last season, even though the boys made a deeper playoff run than the girls, fans were showing up earlier at home games to watch the girls play and not just the boys. The excitement that was around the scene 10-12 years ago has returned for the Lady Jackets, and don't be surprised if they're just getting warmed up.

"Last year was a big turning point for us, both confidence-wise for myself and the girls," Monnig said. "We've always had great fans and the way we play is certainly exciting to watch. If (fans) have high expectations, then the players know they're going to have to bring their 'A' game every night. That's a great thing for our kids. Hopefully we can live up to those expectations. I know we'll work hard enough for it. It's just can we get everything to go well and can we stay healthy?"

Area High School Basketball Preview

Fayette High School

2012-13 Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 20.....	New Franklin (JVB/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Nov. 26-Dec. 1.....	Glasgow Tournament.....	TBA
Dec. 3.....	Centralia (JVG/JVB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 4.....	Slater* (JVG/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Dec. 11.....	@ Westran* (JVG/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Dec. 13.....	@ Smithton (JVB/VG/VB).....	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 17.....	Hallsville (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 18.....	@ Hallsville (JVG/JVB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 27.....	vs. Stover^ (VG/VB).....	Noon
Dec. 29-Jan. 5.....	New Franklin Tournament.....	TBA
Jan. 7.....	Marceline* (JVB/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Jan. 8.....	@ Slater* (JVB/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Jan. 11.....	Salisbury* (JVG/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Jan. 15.....	@ Harrisburg (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Jan. 17.....	Fr. Tolton Catholic (JVG/JVB).....	6 p.m.
Jan. 18.....	@ Atlanta (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Jan. 21-26.....	Slater Tournament.....	TBA
Jan. 28.....	Harrisburg (JVG/JVB, A&B).....	5 p.m.
Jan. 29.....	@ Marceline* (JVG/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Feb. 5.....	Paris* (JVG/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Feb. 8.....	@ Salisbury* (JVB/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Feb. 12.....	@ Paris* (JVB/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Feb. 15.....	Westran* (JVB/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.

Home Games in Bold

* — Lewis & Clark Conference Game

^ — Holiday Shootout @ State Fair Community College

New Franklin High School

2012-13 Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 20.....	@ Fayette (JVB/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Nov. 26-Dec. 1.....	Glasgow Tournament.....	TBA
Dec. 4.....	Keytesville* (JV/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Dec. 7.....	@ Brunswick* (JV/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Dec. 10.....	Slater (JVG/JVB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 11.....	@ Cairo* (JV/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Dec. 17.....	Harrisburg (JVG/JVB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 18.....	Brunswick* (JV/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Dec. 19.....	@ Pilot Grove (JVG/JVB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 29-Jan. 5.....	New Franklin Tournament.....	TBA
Jan. 7.....	@ Slater (JVG/JVB).....	6 p.m.
Jan. 8.....	@ Pilot Grove (JV/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Jan. 11.....	Sturgeon* (JV/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Jan. 15.....	Glasgow* (JV/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Jan. 17.....	Westran (JV/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Jan. 18.....	@ Madison* (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Jan. 21-26.....	Sturgeon Tournament.....	TBA
Jan. 29.....	@ Sturgeon* (JV/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Feb. 1.....	Salisbury (JV/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Feb. 5.....	@ Keytesville* (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Feb. 6.....	Pilot Grove (JVG/JVB).....	6 p.m.
Feb. 8.....	@ Glasgow* (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Feb. 12.....	Cairo* (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Feb. 14.....	Madison* (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.

Home Games in Bold

* — Central Activities Conference Game

Harrisburg High School

2012-13 Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 20.....	@ Macon (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Nov. 26-Dec. 1.....	Glasgow Tournament.....	TBA
Nov. 29.....	@ Madison (JVG/JVB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 4.....	@ Moberly (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 5.....	North Callaway (JVG/JVB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 6.....	Russellville (JVG/VG).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 7.....	@ Calvary Lutheran (JVB/VB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 11.....	@ Southern Boone (JV/V).....	5 p.m.
Dec. 14.....	@ South Callaway (JVB/VB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 14.....	vs. Quincy Notre Dame* (JVG/VG).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 17.....	@ New Franklin (JVG/JVB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 18.....	Sturgeon (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 20.....	Knox County (JVG/VG).....	5 p.m.
Dec. 20.....	Blair Oaks (JVB/VB).....	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 3.....	Fr. Tolton Catholic (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Jan. 4.....	Hallsville (JVG/JVB).....	6 p.m.
Jan. 5.....	Brookfield (VG/VB).....	4 p.m.
Jan. 7-12.....	South Callaway Tournament.....	TBA
Jan. 8-9.....	Harrisburg JV Tournament.....	TBA
Jan. 10.....	Sturgeon (JVG/JVB).....	6 p.m.
Jan. 15.....	Fayette (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Jan. 17.....	@ Mexico (JVG/VG).....	6 p.m.
Jan. 18.....	@ Fatima (JVB/VB).....	6 p.m.
Jan. 19.....	@ Principia (JVG/VG).....	3 p.m.
Jan. 21.....	Westran (JVG/JVB, A&B).....	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 22.....	@ Centralia (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Jan. 28-Feb. 2.....	Southern Boone Tournament.....	TBA
Jan. 28.....	@ Fayette (JVG/JVB, A&B).....	5 p.m.
Feb. 5.....	@ Versailles (JVG/VG).....	6 p.m.
Feb. 8.....	Southern Boone (JV/V).....	5 p.m.
Feb. 12.....	Santa Fe (JVB/VB).....	6 p.m.
Feb. 15.....	@ Hallsville (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.

Home Games in Bold

* — John Wood Community College Shootout

Glasgow High School

2012-13 Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 20.....	Brunswick* (JV/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Nov. 26-Dec. 1.....	Glasgow Tournament.....	TBA
Dec. 3.....	@ Slater (JVG/JVB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 4.....	@ Brunswick* (JV/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Dec. 10.....	Marceline (JVG/JVB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 11.....	@ Madison* (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 13.....	Westran (JV/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Dec. 17.....	@ Salisbury (JV/VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 28-Jan. 5.....	Marceline Tournament.....	TBA
Jan. 8.....	Sturgeon* (JV/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Jan. 10.....	Salisbury (JVG/JVB).....	6 p.m.
Jan. 11.....	Cairo* (JV/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Jan. 15.....	@ New Franklin* (JV/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Jan. 17.....	@ Sweet Springs (JV/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Jan. 18.....	@ Keytesville* (JV/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Jan. 21-26.....	Slater Tournament.....	TBA
Jan. 27.....	vs. Meadville^ (VB).....	11 a.m.
Jan. 31.....	@ Sturgeon* (JV/VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Feb. 5.....	@ Cairo* (JV/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Feb. 7.....	Madison* (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Feb. 8.....	New Franklin* (JV/VG/VB).....	5 p.m.
Feb. 12.....	Meadville (JVB/VG).....	6 p.m.
Feb. 15.....	Keytesville* (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.

Home Games in Bold

* — Central Activities Conference Game

^ — MFA Oil Shootout @ Mizzou Arena

Higbee High School

2012-13 Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 26-Dec. 1.....	Northwestern (Mendon) Tournament.....	TBA
Dec. 4.....	@ Mo. School for the Deaf (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 7.....	Madison (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 11.....	Bunceton (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 14.....	Jamestown (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 18.....	Christian Fellowship (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Dec. 28-Jan. 5.....	Marceline Tournament.....	TBA
Jan. 8.....	Malta Bend (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Jan. 11.....	Atlanta (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Jan. 15.....	@ Prairie Home (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Jan. 17.....	@ Keytesville (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Jan. 21-26.....	CCAA Tournament (@ Bunceton).....	TBA
Jan. 29.....	Christian Fellowship (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Feb. 1.....	Pilot Grove* (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Feb. 4.....	@ Bucklin/Macon County (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Feb. 5.....	@ Jamestown* (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Feb. 8.....	@ Bunceton* (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Feb. 11.....	Prairie Home* (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Feb. 12.....	@ Malta Bend* (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.
Feb. 15.....	Otterville* (VG/VB).....	6 p.m.

Home Games in Bold

* — Cooper County Activities Association Game

Postseason Schedule

Class 1 and 2 District Tournaments — Feb. 16-23

Class 1 and 2 Sectionals — Feb. 26 & Feb. 27

Class 1 and 2 Quarterfinals — March 2

Show-Me Showdown (Final Four) — March 7-9

District Assignments

Class 2 District 7 Tournament — @ Sturgeon High School
Fayette, Father Tolton, Harrisburg, New Franklin, Salisbury,
Slater, Sturgeon

Class 1 District 9 Tournament — @ Jamestown High School
Calvary Lutheran, Chamois, Community, Glasgow, Higbee,
Jamestown, Missouri School for the Deaf, Prairie Home

Area Conferences

Lewis & Clark	Central Activities	CCAA
Fayette	Brunswick	Bunceton
Marceline	Cairo	Higbee
Paris	Glasgow	Jamestown
Salisbury	Keytesville	Malta Bend
Slater	Madison	Otterville
Westran	New Franklin	Pilot Grove
	Sturgeon	Prairie Home

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