

2014-15 Area High School Basketball Preview



Fayette High School basketball seniors
Ethan Harper and Davis Valencia

Fayette Falcons

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Harrisburg Bulldogs

Pages 14-17

New Franklin Bulldogs

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Higbee Tigers

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Glasgow Yellowjackets

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Basketball Schedules

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Fayette Falcons boys basketball



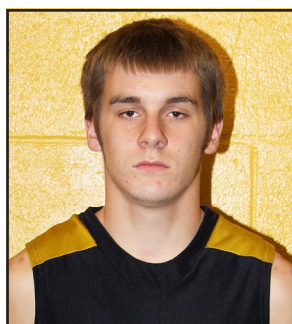
Ethan Harper

Senior 6'0" Forward
Parents: Cord & Kathryn Harper



Davis Valencia

Senior 6'2" Guard/Forward
Parents: Eddie & Amy Valencia



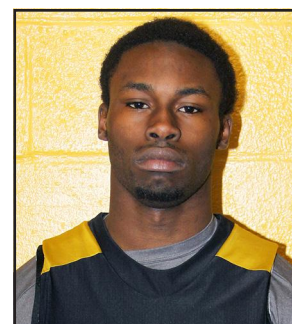
Lane Ball

Junior 5'11" Guard/Forward
Parents: Jeffrey Ball
and Kevin & Lynette Beeler



Ashton Boatman

Junior 5'10" Guard
Parents: Bobby & Theresa
Boatman



Zech Burks

Junior 5'10" Forward
Parent: Nathaniel Brinkley



Sam Moore

Junior 5'10" Guard/Forward
Parents: David Moore
& the late Sherri Moore



Cameron O'Connell

Junior 5'11" Guard/Forward
Parents: Brian McMillan
& Peggy O'Connell



Chance Roberts

Junior 5'9" Guard
Parents: Ben & Cynthia Roberts



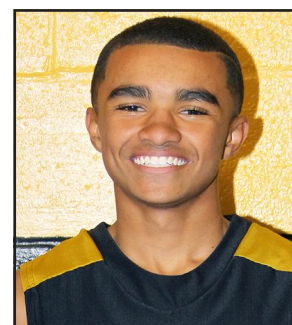
Hunter Heath

Sophomore 5'9" Guard
Parents: Jamey & Trevia Heath



Tommy Phillips

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



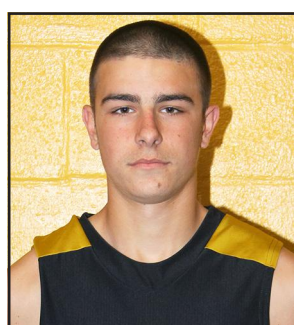
Robby Robinson

Sophomore 5'7" Guard
Parent: Terrie Warren



Tate Beeler

Freshman 5'7" Forward
Parents: Kevin Beeler
and Laura Beeler



Blake Dawson

Freshman 6'1" Guard
Parents: Jeff & Kristie Dawson



Kaden Hoover

Freshman 5'10" Guard
Parents: Angie & Emmett Rogers
and Dan & Kelly Hoover



Brennen Hudson

Freshman 5'8" Guard
Parents: Matt & Mary Ann
Hudson



Chavez Kent

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



Ben Pallardy

Head Coach

Falcons ready to show hard work leads to better results

Fayette head coach Ben Pallardy returned to the high school basketball scene last season for the first time since his playing days at Fort Zumwalt South. It was anything but a warm welcome for the Falcons' first-year coach.

Pallardy and the Falcons had to labor through a 1-23 record, winning its only game of the season against Bunceton, and an average margin of defeat at 22.5 points per loss. They were bounced in district play with a 99-31 loss to Tolton. Times were rough for the Falcons in 2013-14, but the program will see better days this season.

"I've learned the game a little bit more at this level," Pallardy said. "I understand that you're going to have to be able to execute and not just chuck it up and hopefully make some shots. You have to execute. Otherwise, these teams out here will get the best of you."

Fayette lost just one starter from last year's team and returns a lineup that picked up a lot of experience during the season. The leading returner for Fayette is senior Davis Valencia, the Falcons' only All-Conference player last season. He was Fayette's leading scorer with 11.7 points per game and was a dominant 3-point threat, making 58 threes in

24 games.

However, Valencia is falling into the same spell as Bruce Marshall did three years ago. Like Marshall, Valencia's game is tailored to be a shooting guard. However, because Valencia is the tallest player on the team, he will be featured inside more often and will have to take more inside shots, just as Marshall did during his senior season.

"Davis can be an explosive scorer," Pallardy said. "He has a good shooting ability and he's really worked hard this summer. What I've been the most impressed with him is how he has bulked up. He can drive the ball a lot better and he's better at finishing."

The Falcons only averaged 45.8 points per game in 2013-14. Odds are, that number will likely grow by a dozen points this season, and Tommy Phillips will be one of those players responsible for bringing it up.

Phillips was a freshman point guard who probably experienced the most growing pains last season. More often than not, he was a 14-year-old handling the ball against players who were four years older. He did finish with 6.5 points per game, but he is expected to score in double figures on a regular basis as a sophomore this season.

"Tommy has all the talent in the world," Pallardy said. "He really worked hard this summer. He went to the Point Guard College and you can tell his ball-handling and confidence, they're all so much better. Not to mention, he also grew about four or five inches. He's going to be unstoppable at times."

Another key returner this season will be junior Lane Ball, who is entering his third season on the varsity roster. Ball averaged 4.6 points per game and has grown to a 5-foot-11 frame, allowing himself to move back and forth as a guard and a forward. Pallardy described him as an energy player who comes to play every day.

"Every game, you can always count on him giving full effort," Pallardy said. "He's a guy you have to have on your team. He can get hot from the outside, but his biggest thing is making sure he shoots the right shots. When he does, he can knock them down."

Last season, Pallardy was forced to play three freshmen because of low numbers on varsity. This year, he'll dress three freshmen again, and one will crack the starting lineup. Blake Dawson was a key figure for the Fal-

cons' middle school conference tournament championship run last November. He's a 6-foot-1 shooting guard who loves to find his way to the free-throw line.

"Blake's a very intelligent player, especially for a freshman," Pallardy said. "He's picked up the offensive and defensive schemes as quick as anybody on the team. He takes care of the ball and can play defense. He's put in a lot of effort to be a better defensive player."

Robby Robinson came onto the scene as a quiet freshman last season, averaging just over one point per game. He may be one of the smallest guys on the court this season at 5-foot-7, but his game has grown substantially. Pallardy said Robinson is going to surprise people this season.

"Robby has always had the skills, but his confidence and belief in himself is taking off," Pallardy said. "Last year, he didn't know if he belonged or not. I think this year, he realizes it's his spot. He's going to play some at point guard and that will allow us to move Tommy off the ball."

Another key contributor this season will

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Area High School Basketball Preview

(Continued from Page 2)

be junior Sam Moore. While he is listed on the roster as a guard/forward, his impact will be felt the most in the lane. Pallardy compared his skill set to that of Collin O'Connell, Fayette's lone outgoing senior from a year ago. Pallardy said Moore will compete for a starting spot this season.

"There are days when he goes in with our first group and he does pretty well," Pallardy said. "Last year, one of our problems was that our young guys were smaller than a lot of teams and lacked confidence. Sam was a prime example of that and this year he is more aggressive. I expect a good season out of Sam."

Ethan Harper returns to the basketball floor after taking time away from the game during the 2013-14 season. Two years ago, the senior played in 15 of 28 games for the Falcons, playing a few minutes here and there. He will come off the bench and give Fayette some depth at the post.

"Ethan brings us good leadership," Pallardy said. "He's going to do anything he can to help the team. He's accepting his role. He can shoot it a little bit, but his biggest asset is going to be his rebounding. He's going to help us a lot, primarily on the defensive end."

Fayette's varsity roster will go 12 players deep this season. Chavez Kent is likely to be the only Falcon who will play 100 percent of the time as a forward. The freshman is "a coach's dream," Pallardy said.

"He plays and has a great attitude," Pallardy said. "He's arguably our best defender, both perimeter and post. He's a good re-

bouncer and does a lot of the little things that you need on a team."

Ashton Boatman has worked his way through the system and joins Valencia, Phillips, Robinson and Ball as a 3-point shooter. And on the other side of the ball, Pallardy said Boatman will play defense on a player "until he drops dead."

"Ashton has grown up a lot and his shot selection has gotten much better," Pallardy said. "He's an aggressive player who is not afraid of anybody or any situation. You're going to know how hard he plays once he comes into a game."

Cameron O'Connell is another junior guard who will come off the bench for Fayette and pick up some minutes here and there. In addition, Chance Roberts will be a newcomer to the basketball squad as a junior and freshman Brennen Hudson will round out the varsity roster. All three players will see some playing time this season.

Roberts has been battling back and working himself into shape from a knee injury he suffered toward the end of the football season.

"He plays as hard as anybody I've ever seen," Pallardy said. "In practices, he pushes people to play harder to match his intensity."

Hudson will make his impact this season on the defensive end. O'Connell has worked on his defense and has long arms to close off the passing lanes.

Pallardy said speed and athleticism will not be in short supply this season for the Falcons. Yes, there will be times when the team will look out of control on both ends of the floor, but in a way, that works to Fayette's strength. With a majority of the roster con-

FAYETTE FALCONS



2013-14 RECORD: 1-23 overall, 0-10 in Lewis & Clark Conference (6th place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 99-31 to Tolton in Class 2 District 7 Tournament quarterfinals

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

KEY LOSSES: Collin O'Connell (8.1 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 1.1 bpg).

KEY RETURNERS: Davis Valencia: sr., 6'2" (11.7 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 58 3-pointers); Tommy Phillips: soph., 6'0" (6.5 ppg, 2.1 apg, 2.0 rpg); Lane Ball: jr., 5'11" (4.6 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 1.6 apg).

sisting of guards, the Falcons will be able to run the floor with just about any team. The question is, can Fayette's motor run at full steam for a full 32 minutes?

"With our speed and athleticism, I think we can be a very good defensive team," Pallardy said. "I think we're going to push the pace a lot. We're going to press and get after you on defense. This preseason, we've really worked on defense a lot, and we're going to have our defense turn into our offense. Our guard play is going to be a good as any other team."

The points per game for the Falcons can only go up in 2014-15. Valencia is expected to be a leading scorer in many games this season and Pallardy anticipates the senior to be a better scorer. Having better players with more experience this season, Fayette will see a few other players try to average double figures in scoring, such as Phillips,

Robinson and even Dawson as a freshman.

"Overall, our scoring is going to improve just based off our style of play," Pallardy said. "As we return eight or nine players from last year's team, that's not something a lot of teams can say. I'm excited about that."

Fayette's run of finishing in second place in the Lewis & Clark Conference came to an end last season. After tying for first place in 2009-10 and then taking second place for three straight seasons, the Falcons dropped to the cellar in sixth place, winless in all 10 games. Salisbury continued its dominance with a fourth-consecutive Lewis & Clark championship.

The Panthers will be a favorite again this season, returning Brady Francis, one of the top players, if not the best player, in the Lewis & Clark. Westran came through with

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Fayette Falcons girls basketball



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



Kristien Dunivent
Junior 5'11" Center
Parent: Jennifer Dunivent



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



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



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



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



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



Maddi Duren
Sophomore 5'5" Guard
Parents: Wayne & Melissa Duren



Jada Gaines
Sophomore 5'6" Guard
Parents: Xaiver Nelson & Carol Gaines



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



Patricia Ray
Sophomore 5'6" Guard
Parents: Clifford & Lorrie Ray



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



Donisa Duncan
Freshman 5'7" Forward
Parent: April Quint



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



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



Kylie Williams
Freshman 5'10" Forward
Parent: Tonya Pirtle



Chelsea Wysocki
Freshman 5'6" Guard
Parents: John Markland and Leonette Siegel



Mike James
Head Coach

Lady Falcons set to begin two-year plan with young team

This season is the beginning of a two-year process for the Fayette girls basketball team. At least, that's the way head coach Mike James looks at it.

With no seniors playing basketball this winter for the Fayette Falcons, the same faces the crowd sees on the floor this season will all be back next year as well. In essence, the juniors get to have the privilege of acting as senior leaders for two years instead of the traditional one-year phase.

"The girls are definitely taking ownership of their team," James said. "They want to improve and they know this is a team that can stay together for quite a long time. That's something that doesn't happen very often."

This isn't a one-time occurrence in the Fayette girls basketball program. James and the Lady Falcons finished the 2010-11 season without a senior on the team, and a 2-21 team quickly transformed into a 14-12 success story a year later. With only three classes of players, Fayette will dress 17 ladies this year and will add even more the following year.

The player opposing teams will focus on this season is Haleigh Strodtman, who re-

turns to the starting lineup as Fayette's No. 1 forward. Strodtman was the second-leading scorer last season behind Natalie Kimball, posting 8.3 points per game to go with a team-high 7.2 rebounds.

For Fayette to be successful this season, there are going to be nights where Strodtman will have to post double-doubles. She accounted for 25 percent of Fayette's points and rebounds last season, so the junior is already used to carrying much of the workload.

"She seems like she has really stepped it up in about every phase of the game," James said. "I think she's primed for a breakout season. I don't think we can ask for a better leader. She was voted unanimously as a team captain by her teammates and has the respect of the coaches. If she can consistently keep her pace, I think we're about to see a couple of really special seasons out of her."

With the loss of three seniors who played a lot of minutes last season, playing time will open up for a few players, one of whom will be Grace Boulden. The sophomore will start at the No. 3 guard position will take on the role of a scorer, looking to vastly improve her 1.3 points per game performance

as a freshman.

"Everyone is going to see that her improvement has been tremendous," James said. "She can play three positions on the floor. She's strong, so you can put her inside even though she's undersized. She's quick like a guard, so you can put her outside and play her on defense in a lot of different spots. I feel like she's going to be a secret weapon for us."

Clara Beaman will be another starting guard for the Lady Falcons. After having multiple ankle surgeries, James said Beaman is back at full strength and ready to show teams what she is capable of doing. The one area that James said has really improved is her shooting. Beaman made just 1-of-22 threes last season, but James said she looked like the team's best shooter during the preseason.

"She has taken a dramatic step forward," James said. "So far in practice, she looks like a completely different player. Both of her ankles are completely healed. She's missed significant time due to injury and she's trying to make the most of the two years she has left. There's not a harder worker in practice than her."

Clara Lutz will jump into a starting role this season at the other forward spot. The junior played mostly on the junior varsity last season, but she was one of three players to make her way into all 24 games last season. James said she is the team's second-best rebounder behind Strodtman.

"She's been timid around the rim and has been pushed around some, but not this year," James said. "She's in there mixing it up. I think she is going to be a tough-minded player who does a lot of the little things. Maybe you won't necessarily notice them, but nevertheless, those things are very important if you want to win a ballgame."

Kimball and Kenzie Smentkowski held the spot at point guard for much of last season, but that is a position that will fall heavily on the sophomore and freshman classes this season. Taking the starting role for now will be sophomore Maddi Duren, who was the starting point guard on the JV team last year. James said he worked her at point guard every game this summer and her improvement from last year to this year is like night and day.

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"There will be some up-and-down moments for her, but her skill set has improved," James said. "She gets the offense and the changes we made with the offense and defense are going to benefit her. I think she is going to do just fine."

Fayette will only have four post players listed on the varsity roster. Coming off the bench in supporting roles behind Strodtman and Lutz will be sophomore Abbie Jefferies and freshman Kylie Williams. James said Jefferies is fairly similar to Boulden and can play both inside and outside.

"Kylie is raw and probably needs to play mostly JV," James said. "But we're going to throw her in the fire. I think her athleticism is so good that once she gets more comfortable, she has the potential to be a real special player. And Abbie's shot has improved. We're going to be able to play her some off the bench."

In the early stages of the season, James said he will platoon at the point guard spot. Helping Duren will be freshmen Mikela Howell, Lyndi Thies and Samantha Conrow. All three will play significant minutes off the bench.

"The theme here is young," James said. "It's going to be young players coming off the bench and filling some pretty significant roles. I've been impressed with what I've seen so far."

James said Howell is a pretty fair ball-handler for her age and sees the floor well. He added that she has a natural ability to look up and find open people in transition. Thies played middle school basketball at St. Mary's in Glasgow and James said she possesses a lot of the natural abilities of a basketball player and can also shoot the ball a little bit.

"It would be better for them if they could

just have a whole year of JV, but our position is not to do that," James said. "We're going to lean on them and I think they're going to improve. They're going to be really good for us in the long run."

While those two are stronger ball-handlers, James said he likes Conrow's shot. She's not afraid to take a shot at a higher level, and even though she is just 5-foot-4, she's not afraid to slash through the lane and score, which is an area that Kimball, Smentkowski and Kyreon Lee really excelled at.

For the most part, James said he expects to play 10 girls per night, but chances are all 13 players will find their way into the game. Ashley and Kelsey Oakley will dress for varsity games for the first time as juniors and Jada Gaines will pick up some minutes here and there off the bench. All three players bring lightning speed and a lot of pressure to Fayette's defensive effort.

Fayette lost close to 60 percent of its scoring with the graduation of three players from last season, so James is going to try a different philosophy with the Lady Falcons. It's actually really simple and should be music to a player's ears.

He wants players to take the first available, open shot. No need to pass the ball a minimum number of times, like Norman Dale demanded in Hoosiers. No need to always work the ball inside to Strodtman and let her do all the work. If the defense leaves a perimeter shooter open, they have the green light to take the shot. If that's not available and a passing lane is open for a post player, just dump it inside and go for the close-range shot.

"One of the foundations we have stressed this year is we want to rebound on both ends," James said. "On the defensive side, we're going to try the best we can to have girls in spots where we feel like the ball is going to go and get the rebound. On the of-

FAYETTE LADY FALCONS



2013-14 RECORD: 1-23 overall, 0-10 in Lewis & Clark Conference (6th place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 74-45 to Harrisburg in Class 2 District 7 Tournament quarterfinals

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

KEY LOSSES: Natalie Kimball (9.5 ppg, 2.6 spg, 2.5 apg); Kyreon Lee (5.3 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 1.7 spg); Kenzie Smentkowski (4.7 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 2.1 apg).

KEY RETURNERS: Haleigh Strodtman: jr., 5'11" (8.3 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 2.1 bpg); Clara Beaman: jr., 5'6" (1.8 ppg, 2.9 rpg); Grace Boulden: soph., 5'7" (1.3 ppg, 3.3 rpg).

fensive end, we're going to send just about everybody to the glass.

"Last year, we would pass up good shot opportunities looking for somebody else. Sometimes one extra pass does lead to a better shot, but in our case, we would pass up the best shot for a worse shot. It resulted in a poor shooting percentage and too many turnovers. This year in practice, we harped that if you have the first best shot, you need to take that shot."

Strodtman will play at the No. 5 spot this season, but James is aware teams will likely find a way to double-team her, especially early in the season. To try and avoid that, he has had Strodtman work on her shot from the outside, hoping to bring a swarm of defenders to the perimeter and open things for other players. If they leave her open, he likes her chances of knocking down a mid-range shot, perhaps a 3-pointer or two per game.

Taking a look at the Lewis & Clark Conference, the league lost some superstar talent from last year — Hannah Nicolay from Salisbury, Morgan McCormick from

Marceline and Mary Rose Gonzalez from Slater. James said those losses bode well for this Fayette team, but the traditions each of those teams have still comes into effect this season.

Salisbury shared the conference title with Slater last season and the Lady Panthers figure to contend for a championship again this season. James also said Paris returns much of its lineup from a year ago, but Westran, which now has a new head coach with Scott Humphrey, is threatening to take back the conference for the first time in more than six years.

"I think it's going to be a really fun conference season," James said. "I don't think anybody will go undefeated, but I can see a two- or a three-loss team win the conference. I think it's going to be really competitive. Even if we improve certain facets of our game, we can get ourselves in the mix."

The Lady Falcons are in the midst of a 20-games losing streak dating back to last

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New Franklin Bulldogs boys basketball



Levi Bishop
Senior 6'2" Center
Parents: Paul & Kimber Bishop



Cody Wells
Senior 5'10" Guard
Parents: Jerry & Becky Wells



Tanner White
Senior 5'11" Guard
Parents: Scott & Becky White



Kaleb Anderton
Junior 5'11" Guard
Parents: Rodney & Melissa Anderton



Blake Carleton
Junior 6'2" Forward
Parent: Curt Carleton



Jacob Hendrix
Junior 6'2" Forward
Parents: Kenneth & Tami Hendrix



Austin Ivy
Junior 5'9" Guard
Parents: Bob & Pam Ivy



Ronnie Perkins
Junior 5'7" Guard
Parents: Brian & Janice Perkins



Jerrod Riley
Junior 5'11" Guard
Parents: Justin & Tracy Johnmeyer



Sid Hendrix
Sophomore 6'3" Center
Parents: Mike & Bobbi Hendrix



Brendan Hundley
Sophomore 5'11" Guard
Parents: Travis & Wendy Hundley



Austin Jones
Sophomore 5'9" Forward
Parents: Tim Jones & Kara Schnell



Hunter Rohlifing
Sophomore 5'8" Guard
Parents: Heath & Shelia Rohlifing



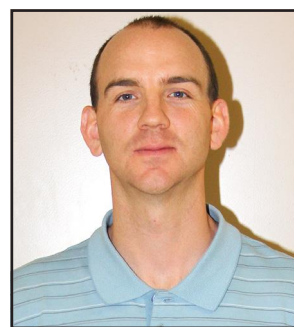
Mason Bailey
Freshman 6'0" Forward
Parents: John & Kim Bailey



Tyler Hackman
Freshman 5'7" Guard
Parents: Bruce & Tammy Hackman



Bailey Lyons
Freshman 6'1" Forward
Parents: Ryan & Lesley Lyons



Jim Schlotzhauer
Head Coach

White ready to lead New Franklin boys team to next level

For years and years, winning the big game had eluded New Franklin head coach Jim Schlotzhauer. Many a season during his tenure, the Bulldogs finished the conference season with a 6-6 record, sweeping Madison, Brunswick and Keytesville, but losing both games to Cairo, Sturgeon and Glasgow.

Yes, New Franklin followed that pattern again in 2013-14, but two wins changed the outcome of the season. The Bulldogs beat Glasgow in the in third-place game of the Glasgow Tournament in December. Then New Franklin upset Sturgeon in the district quarterfinals in February.

Both wins were the first for Schlotzhauer against either CAC team as a head coach, and both wins helped New Franklin to a winning season of 14-13. And now, the Bulldogs are threatening to change the status quo of a 6-6 CAC record in 2014-15.

"I'd say it was a good building block to try and expand on," Schlotzhauer said of the district win over Sturgeon, which snapped New Franklin's 18-game losing streak to the CAC foe. "We had a rough patch in the second part of that season, and it seemed like we came out of it toward the end of the season. Hopefully that continues into this year."

New Franklin lost two starting post players to graduation, but for the second time in three years, the Bulldogs bring back a 1,000-point scorer for his senior season.

Tanner White was the force behind a lot of New Franklin's success, averaging 16.3 points per game and was the Howard County area's second-leading scorer behind Harrisburg's Jacob Rudkin. In fact, White surpassed the 1,000-point mark last season in that district win over Sturgeon. However, to catch his older brother Tyler's scoring mark of 1,794 points, he will need to average roughly 30 points per game this season.

Schlotzhauer welcomes teams to try and do what they can to take Tanner White out of the game, because odds are one of two things will happen. Either White will blow past the defense and score anyway, or the attention he receives will leave one or two players open, and he'll find a way to get them the ball and score.

"I think that he will tell you that he knows that when he plays well, we play well," Schlotzhauer said. "We play the best, not when he scores all the time, but when he gets other people easy points. That needs to be our goal. Sometimes he is going to be the one

who needs to step up and be the one to score, but if he can get a lot of our role players into easy positions to score, it eases the pressure off both him and our team."

Schlotzhauer said the loss of Tyler Hull and Ryley Lyons at forward will be a huge loss. The two combined to average close to 15 points per game and 11 rebounds per game. Both players also shot better than 50 percent from the field, and Hull nearly made 2-out-of-3 shot attempts last season.

"I think we'll have to play differently (without them), that's for sure," Schlotzhauer said. "Tyler and Ryley were both big in the middle. The post players we have can do just as well defensively, but offensively, we'll have to look for scoring from different places."

After transferring back to New Franklin, Blake Carleton didn't take the floor last season until after the first semester was over, missing the first eight games. When he became eligible, it didn't take long for Schlotzhauer to insert Carleton into the starting lineup. He finished with 6.1 points per game and could shoot from anywhere on the floor.

Now the junior will have a full season with the Bulldogs, and with his 6-foot-2

frame, he anticipates filling a void in the post, especially on the defensive end.

"I think Blake will emerge as one of our leaders," Schlotzhauer said. "Defensively, he does a lot of things that don't necessarily show up in the stat sheet. He hit a couple of big shots that helped us win some games. His scoring will go up because his shot attempts will go up. He's a pretty good inside-out threat and should easily average 10 points per game."

Ronnie Perkins will take over a similar role to that of Dalton Welbern, which is to come into a game and take control of the defensive pressure. A big reason New Franklin beat Glasgow in its first meeting last season was that Perkins had a career night, keeping Blake Hackman in check and making free throws at the end of the game.

"Ronnie plays as hard as any kid you'll see play," Schlotzhauer said. "That's what coaches like to see. He has worked really hard offensively and his shot has gotten better and so has his ball-handling. But defensively, he will guard the best perimeter player a lot of the time, simply because he is so quick."

(Continued on Page 7)

Area High School Basketball Preview

(Continued from Page 6)

Kaleb Anderton is a junior guard that Schlotzhauer described as being pretty shift. He will see his playing time increase this season and battle for a spot in the starting lineup. An ankle injury last season sidelined Anderton for about one-third of the season, but he's back and ready to make an impact, ready to improve his 3.4 points per game mark from last season.

"Offensively, he can do a lot of things and be really hard to guard," Schlotzhauer said. "He will get a significant amount of playing time. I think he'll step up and be able to score for us and play pretty well."

In a perfect world, Jacob Hendrix would break out this season, becoming an inside threat and an All-Conference player as a junior. However, Hendrix has been battling a hip injury that dates back to the spring. Schlotzhauer said he was cleared to practice last week, but because of the nagging injury, his role will be limited to coming off the bench for the time being.

"When he's healthy, he can certainly play well," Schlotzhauer said. "One of his biggest strengths is being able to run the floor. He's being working hard in the weight room and should be able to match up with anybody. If he's not healthy, we're really going to have to work to rebound from other positions."

In the meantime, look for senior Levi Bishop to pick up playing time because of Hendrix's injury. Bishop was low on the depth chart at the forward position last year, but now he's climbing to the top. Schlotzhauer said his top priority is to haul in rebounds

and put in the layups on the offensive end.

Sid Hendrix, a 6-foot-3 junior, will pick up a few minutes at a time off the bench this season as well. Schlotzhauer said at his size, he's a hard player to guard, and on defense, players will have a hard time getting around him.

Jerrod Riley is a junior who will come off the bench to provide a spark for the Bulldogs. The long-range threat can get hot from 3-point range in the same it takes to snap your fingers, but no one has to tell that to Harrisburg after he made three 3-pointers in the first quarter of last year's district semifinal game.

"He can certainly shoot it," Schlotzhauer said. "Defensively, we've been on him a lot about trying to really focus his work on that end. He shoots it so well that I think it outshines what else he can do. As he brings those other areas of his game along, they'll shine too."

Rounding out the varsity roster will be sophomore Austin Jones and freshmen Mason Bailey and Bailey Lyons. Schlotzhauer said Jones can play the No. 3 spot and shoot the ball, and the work in the weight room has paid off for him as well. Both Bailey and Lyons could see some time at the No. 4 position.

Without Jacob Hendrix on the floor, Schlotzhauer said the lineup will be guard-heavy with four guards and Carleton filling the lone post position. He said that lineup would look similar to Sturgeon and Westran's five.

Schlotzhauer said a strength for this year's team will be its ball-handling. There will be times when White will be asked to handle the ball in clutch situations, but several other

NEW FRANKLIN BULLDOGS



2013-14 RECORD: 14-13 overall, 6-6 in Central Activities Conference (4th place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 69-62 to Harrisburg in Class 2 District 7 Tournament semifinals

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 3rd place — Glasgow Tournament; 4th place — New Franklin Tournament; 5th place — Sturgeon Tournament.

KEY LOSS: Tyler Hull (7.6 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 65.1% FG); Ryley Lyons (7.2 ppg, 4.1 rpg); Dalton Welbern (5.0 ppg, 1.7 apg).

KEY RETURNERS: Tanner White: sr., 5'11" (16.3 ppg, 4.0 apg, 1.8 spg); Blake Carleton: jr., 6'2" (6.1 ppg, 3.9 rpg); Jacob Hendrix: jr., 6'2" (5.0 ppg, 5.4 rpg).

players have improved in this area and give New Franklin options to let White do some things away from the ball.

Rebounding will have a lot of emphasis on this year's team. New Franklin averaged 28 rebounds per game last year, but if the Bulldogs go with a shorter lineup, it puts pressure on the guards to crash the boards and box out well when height mismatches arise.

There are also other concerns for Schlotzhauer that could be problematic to New Franklin's success.

"We will need to find a way to keep (Tanner) out of foul trouble," Schlotzhauer said. "There were a few games last year where that really hurt us. He has to be on the floor because he can do so much."

For this year only, the Central Activities Conference drops down to six teams, so there

really is no way New Franklin can finish 6-6 again because of the departure of Keytesville to the Carroll-Livingston Activities Association. Brunswick will leave for the CLAA after this school year, but the CAC has recruited both Pilot Grove and Slater to come to the conference next season, revamping the conference to a full seven schools.

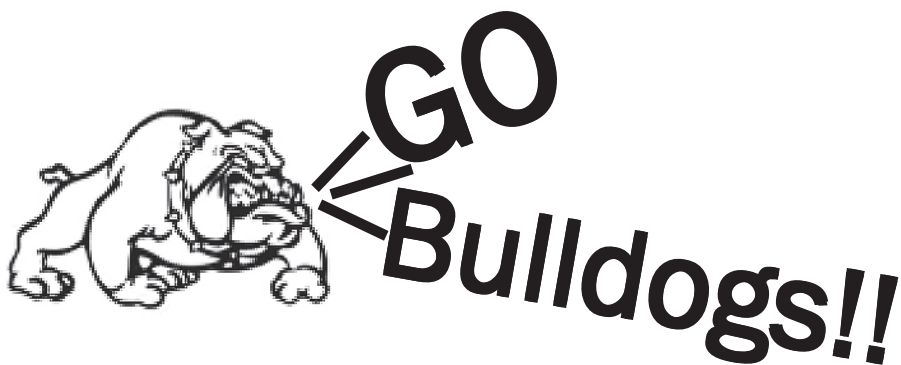
There might have been no one happier than Schlotzhauer to see Brad Roberts graduate from Cairo, because the Bearcats' All-Stater always had New Franklin's number the past four years. Still, Schlotzhauer thinks it will be a four-team race again this season, but he would be disappointed if New Franklin doesn't climb past fourth place this year.

"We have not done a good job winning

(Continued on Page 22)



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New Franklin Bulldogs girls basketball



Derian Dodson

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



Aislinn Himmelberg

Senior 5'7" Guard/Forward
Parents: David Himmelberg
& Amanda Himmelberg



Madi Lyons

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



Molly Lyons

Junior 5'7" Guard/Forward
Parents: Ryan & Lesley Lyons



Jordan Winningham

Junior 5'8" Forward
Parents: Patrick & Paula Hogan



Cassie Armentrout

Sophomore 5'4" Guard
Parents: Rick & Peggy
Armentrout



Chloe Dobson

Sophomore 5'9" Forward
Parents: Kyle & Lora Dobson



Jasmine Himmelberg

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



Madison Maupin

Sophomore 5'9" Forward
Parents: Matt & Lisa Maupin



Alex Nichol

Sophomore 5'5" Forward
Parent: Sharon Sweezey



Sydney Dowell

Freshman 5'7" Forward
Parents: Ross & Becky Dowell



Grace Hundley

Freshman 5'8" Forward
Parents: Travis & Wendy Hundley



Madison Matney

Freshman 5'8" Forward
Parents: Sean Matney
and Amy Dority



Lilly Oser

Freshman 5'4" Guard
Parents: Mark & Lisa Oser



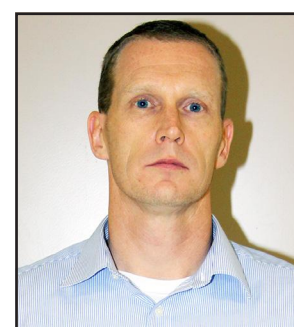
Kacie White

Freshman 5'8" Forward
Parents: Scott & Becky White



Bailey Young

Freshman 5'8" Forward
Parent: Jennifer Maupin



Ryan Lyons

Head Coach

Lyons takes over program gearing for another playoff run

Only baseball great Yogi Berra could accurately describe the New Franklin girls basketball program Ryan Lyons has inherited.

"It's like deja-vu, all over again."

Lyons begins his second stint as the head coach of the Lady Bulldogs, who are coming off a third-place finish in Class 2 with a 29-2 record. Sounds familiar, doesn't it? Well, that's because when Lyons was previously the head coach for the 2009-10 season, New Franklin had also just come off a state playoff appearance, finishing third in Class 2.

"It's really weird, very strange," Lyons said of the likelihood of taking over for two different third-place teams. "I'm a glutton for punishment."

In the one season Lyons was head coach before handing the reins to Chris McGowan, New Franklin finished with a 19-7 season. He said he was so afraid of making mistakes during that season, but he isn't feeling that kind of pressure the second time around.

"I want us to be the team we need to be," Lyons said. "Back then, I tried to keep players the way they were."

One thing Lyons won't inherit is an All-State duo. Both Aly Hundley and Jasmyne Boggs were a huge part of New Franklin's

success last season. But after graduating in May, New Franklin lost two players who were responsible for nearly 50 percent of its scoring last season.

He will, however, return players who played key roles for New Franklin during last year's state run, including a pair of starters. The top returner is his oldest daughter, Madi Lyons. The 5-foot-10 senior averaged 10.4 points per game and was second behind Boggs in rebounding with 5.4 boards per game.

Although Hundley served primarily as point guard, McGowan worked Lyons into the point guard role as often as he could last season. She will be New Franklin's primary ball-handler this season, having averaged 2.7 assists as a junior. Lyons enters the season needing to score 282 points to reach the 1,000-point mark for her career.

"I would like to have Madi at the No. 3, but I can put her anywhere," Lyons said. "You'll notice that as the season goes along, she'll probably play more minutes because she's just so versatile. She can shoot the three well and she has the touch around the basket. She'll be one of the keys this season."

The second returning starter for New

Franklin is Aislinn Himmelberg, who only averaged 6.1 points per game last season as a junior but was capable of scoring 15 to 20 points on most nights. By leading the team in steals, many of Himmelberg's baskets came in transition. This season, Lyons said he will need her to score in double figures on a consistent basis.

"She's a better shooter than people think," Lyons said. "Right now, she's learning when to shoot and when not to. As that progresses, she'll easily average 10 or more points per game."

Derian Dodson will slide over from the No. 4 position and take Boggs' spot at the No. 5. Dodson came off the bench and crashed the boards, getting 4.9 rebounds per game. Without Boggs, those numbers will only get higher, and with more shot opportunities inside, she will improve upon her 2.9 points per game average.

"We aren't feeding her (the ball inside) enough," Lyons said. "We're going to definitely work on that some more. She's a really good finisher, especially on the right side of the basket."

Molly Lyons will join her older sibling in the starting lineup this season. The junior was

one of the last varsity players off the bench last season, but her game has improved during the offseason. Just like Madi, Molly also shows some versatility as a guard/forward.

"I need her to shoot the ball when she's open," Lyons said. "She will make a lot of layups on breakaways, but she can also hit the mid-range jumpers. I'll need that from her. I think she can contribute quite a bit to our scoring."

Jasmine Himmelberg will add another sibling lineage in New Franklin's starting rotation. She missed some time as a freshman after suffering an injury during softball season, but the sophomore was able to come back and do a lot as a forward. Lyons said there will be many games where she leads the Lady Bulldogs in rebounding.

"She's an excellent rebounder for her height," Lyons said. "She's only 5-foot-7 and rebounds like she's 5-foot-11. She's going to be our main board girl, without a doubt."

Cassie Armentrout will come off the bench to play point guard this season. The sophomore played some last season when New Franklin had the game in the bag and

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Area High School Basketball Preview

(Continued from Page 8)

picked up some big experience as a freshman. Lyons said the point guard slot fits her better than anyone else on the team.

"She's like our sixth man," Lyons said. "We're going to bring her off the bench and let her run the offense. Cassie is definitely, in my opinion, an All-Conference and All-District player in the making."

Jordan Winningham is expected to step into a bigger role this season. The junior averaged 1.8 points per game off the bench last year and has earned most of her playing time at the junior varsity level.

"She's not afraid to take the ball to the hole," Lyons said. "If she sees a lane, she'll go. And she's a smart kid. She's always knows what's going on. It'll be easy for me to put her in at the right times."

The rest of the freshmen and sophomores on the team will pick up spare minutes for the Lady Bulldogs. Madison Matney is still fairly new to the game, Lyons said, and is more accustomed to volleyball. However, he said she's coming into her own on the basketball court. Kacie White has a couple of older brothers — Tyler and Tanner — who know a thing or two about basketball, and also has a father who is a former coach, so she has a great knowledge of the game.

Two other freshmen, Lilly Oser and Grace Hundley, will also pick up some varsity minutes off the bench for New Franklin.

"They're definitely going to see more minutes as the season moves along," Lyons said. "I think by January, I'll be able to put 10 girls on the floor and feel comfortable with them on the floor."

As they have for years, New Franklin's strength is going to be its ability to press a team. Lyons said the Lady Bulldogs won't always show the full-court press, but it's something he will have in his back pocket whenever he needs it.

"We're going to work quite a bit on that, especially over Christmas break," Lyons

said. "We're going to be able to create some tension, like other teams have tried to do against us for years. We're going to capitalize by making more layups."

One area that Lyons is concerned about is the number of assists New Franklin will be able to generate. Despite scoring 58 points in their season-opening win at Fayette, the Lady Bulldogs only finished with two assists. Now granted, many of those points did come on the fast break, but Lyons wants to see his players share the basketball more during their offensive sets.

"Ball-handling is also a weakness," Lyons said. "We've got to get some confidence there. We have to fix a lot of the little things. We have some habits to break. We don't use pass-fakes very well. We aren't faking one way and going the other way. We're throwing the ball through hands. Those things will kill us against Harrisburg and those kinds of teams."

Lyons knows that New Franklin will have a target on its back this season after its state playoff run. Big tests will come as early as this week's Glasgow Tournament, where the Lady Bulldogs will have a crown to defend. They were also champions of the New Franklin and Sturgeon tournaments, as well as in Class 2 District 7.

And if you ask Lyons, his team has every intention of successfully defending those four titles.

"When (our players) walk on the floor, I really think that they think they can win this game," Lyons said. "We have some swag, and I don't encourage it, but there's some swag among those seniors. They're really tough, and as they get rid of the sloppiness, the toughness will shine even brighter."

New Franklin finished as conference champions in the Central Activities Conference for the first time since 2008-09, posting an 11-1 record. However, according to the seedings of the Glasgow Tournament, it would appear that Cairo is the team to beat this season, followed by Glasgow and then

NEW FRANKLIN LADY BULLDOGS



2013-14 RECORD: 29-2 overall, 11-1 in Central Activities Conference (1st place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 57-27 to Crane in Class 2 state semifinals; Won 51-38 over New Haven in Class 2 3rd place game

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 1st place — Glasgow Tournament; 1st place — New Franklin Tournament; 1st place — Sturgeon Tournament.

KEY LOSSES: Jasmyne Boggs (11.4 ppg, 10.8 rpg, 3.8 bpg); Aly Hundley (11.4 ppg, 3.2 apg, 2.2 spg); Kalani Pihana (4.1 ppg, 2.5 rpg).

KEY RETURNERS: Madi Lyons: sr., 5'10" (10.4 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 2.7 apg, 2.2 spg); Aislinn Himmelberg: sr., 5'7" (6.1 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 2.3 spg); Derian Dodson: sr., 5'10" (2.9 ppg, 4.9 rpg).

New Franklin. The three teams represent the Nos. 2-4 seeds in that order in the tournament.

"I think we can win it, but I also think those other teams are capable as well," Lyons said. "There's a lot of respect there and they are some good programs. Their coaches have the experience and I'm the new guy again. We'll see what happens."

During last year's playoff run, it wasn't always Boggs, Hundley and Pihana who took turns having big games. Without Madi Lyons' performance in the state sectionals, New Franklin might not have beaten New Bloomfield. Without Aislinn Himmelberg's hot start against Knox County in the state quarterfinals, the Lady Bulldogs may never have had the lead in that game.

What Lyons likes is that there won't likely be a consistent leading scorer on this year's team. If he had his way, the wealth would rotate around as many as four or five different players.

"I don't like the idea of having just two players deliver," Lyons said. "I'm really hoping we have some young role players from last year that can deliver on any night. It may

just be me, but I'd rather lose the big game and have five or six people play really well, than to win the game and have one kid go off. I know it sounds crazy, but I feel like we'll be more successful if we get more players involved."

Defending that district title won't come around for nearly another three months, but there will be a few teams gearing up to knock New Franklin off the top. Harrisburg, which nearly came back and beat New Franklin in the district championship, returns almost its entire varsity roster. And Salisbury, hosting districts in its brand-new gym, would love nothing more than to christen it with a district title.

With that being said, Lyons knows his team is a little rough around the edges right now, but he anticipates having his team playing to its full potential come late February.

"This team is going to have to find its chemistry," Lyons said. "When we do, it's just going to be better and better. We have so many things that we have to change by February. It doesn't matter what our record is by that point. I want this group to be hot by then."

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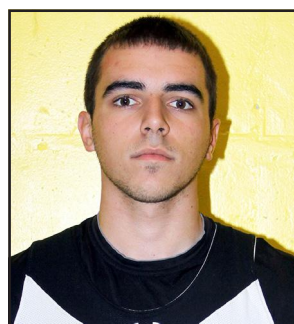
Glasgow Yellowjackets boys basketball



Garrett Fuemmeler
Senior 5'10" Forward
Parents: Scott Fuemmeler
and Stephanie Fuemmeler



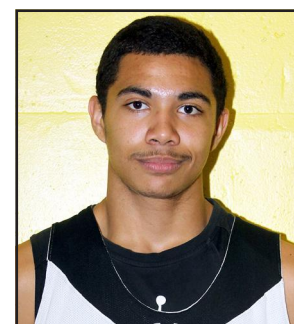
Blake Hackman
Senior 5'10" Guard
Parents: Doug & Sally Hackman



Clay Littrell
Senior 6'0" Guard
Parents: Mike & Angy Littrell



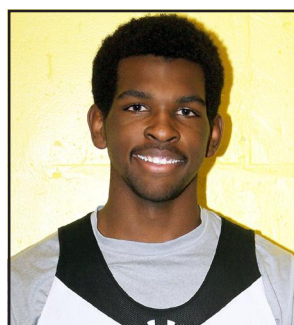
Daniel McMillan
Senior 5'9" Guard
Parents: Danny & Tammy
McMillan



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



Preston Brand
Sophomore 6'2" Forward
Parents: Sam & Stephanie Brand



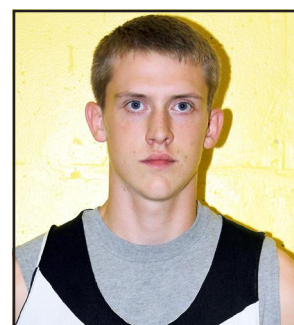
Kennedy Davis
Sophomore 6'4" Forward
Parents: Kendrick & Tara Davis



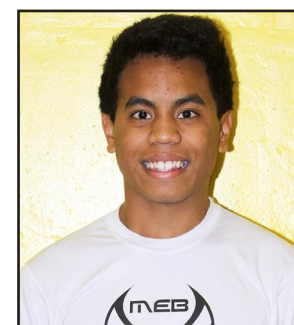
Dariez Dickerson
Sophomore 6'2" Forward
Parent: Karen Monnig



Hayden Hackman
Sophomore 5'11" Guard
Parents: Doug & Sally Hackman



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



Rhys Fuemmeler
Freshman 5'8" Guard
Parents: Don & Marta
Fuemmeler



Gage McMillan
Freshman 5'8" Guard
Parents: Danny & Tammy
McMillan



Kabyl McMillan
Freshman 5'8" Guard
Parents: Sonny & Sherry Shive



Trace Thompson
Freshman 5'8" Guard
Parents: Joe & Becky Thompson



Mick Cropp
Head Coach



Glasgow has strong shooters to go with its tough defense

The ingredients are all there for Glasgow to have a "typical" Yellowjackets season.

Head coach Mick Cropp said Glasgow is only returning two starters, but what this year's team does have is a lot of athleticism, several shooters and strong post players.

"I feel like we can have a pretty solid team," Cropp said.

Glasgow is coming off a 19-9 season, only the fourth time in Cropp's first 12 seasons as Glasgow head coach the Yellowjackets have finished below the 20-win mark. But don't even try calling it a down year. Glasgow won the Marceline Tournament, handed conference champion Cairo its only loss and played for a district championship on its home floor.

One of the biggest strengths on this Glasgow team is that it will be returning a four-year starting point guard, Cropp said. Blake Hackman started as a freshman on a team that finished third in Class 1 back in 2012. As a junior, he led the Yellowjackets in scoring with 11.3 points per game and also led the team in assists (79) and steals (46).

Hackman will eclipse 1,000 career points this season, already having 909 points

entering this week's Glasgow Tournament. Cropp said even though Hackman was already one of the premiere players in the area last season, he has found a way to take his game to another level.

"He's a mature player," Cropp said. "He takes his time in and around the basket. He doesn't get out of control. He's really worked hard on that over the past year. I've seen his game mature quite a bit."

Daniel McMillan is the other returning starter for Glasgow. He came out on fire to begin last season, knocking down six 3-pointers in the season opener at Brunswick. He finished the year with 55 threes and averaged 7.5 points per game.

However, almost 79 percent of McMillan's points were scored beyond the arc. Cropp said he'll continue to be a 3-point threat, but added that McMillan has diversified his skill set on the court as he enters his senior season.

"His athleticism has gotten better. I noticed that toward the end of last season," Cropp said. "We continued to work on that with him this summer and fall. The way we're going to do things is going to take advantage of that. We are adding some stuff to

take advantage of the fact that we can have four pretty athletic kids on the perimeter at a time."

One of those players who will be a presence on the perimeter is Bryant Hubbard. The junior guard played a few minutes here and there last season, but his playing time will likely see the most growth of any Yellowjacket this season. Last year during practice, Hubbard always played the role of the scout team's No. 1 player. He has mimicked Brad Roberts, Tanner White and Brayden Kelly, just to name a few.

"What has made Bryant the player he is right now is how much he plays," Cropp said. "He loves to play the game. He has improved more than any player I've ever coached, from seventh grade all the way to senior year. It seems like every year, we have that player that nobody really knows about coming into the season. Bryant will be that player this year."

Rounding on the starting lineup for Glasgow will be a pair of sophomores, Hayden Hackman and Kennedy Davis. The two are together so often, Cropp said it's almost easier to talk about them as a pair rather than individually.

"When you get kids that are together all the time — on the court and off the court — they just know each other," Cropp said. "They just know where is each other is on the court, instinctively. They pass the ball really well. They knew each other's game. And they've worked extremely hard in the weight room. I get comments from a lot of people about how big they've gotten."

Both players were the first two off the bench in many of Glasgow's games when they were freshmen. Hackman is coming off his second-straight season of reaching state in cross country, earning All-State honors. Cropp said you can't try to compare him to his older brother because their games are so different. This season, even though he's grown up as a guard, Hayden Hackman will play as a forward because of his strength.

"Hayden's not the opposite of Blake, but he's stronger and finishes around the basket a little better," Cropp said. "He's a good shooter, but he's not as good of a shooter as Blake. Hayden is a strong, slashing, physical guard that rebounds the ball pretty well. He's as hard on himself as anybody I've

(Continued on Page 11)

Area High School Basketball Preview

(Continued from Page 10)

ever coached. He's a perfectionist and wants to do everything right."

Davis had the skills to start as a freshman, but Cropp used last season for him to develop under Landon Brand and Josh Sanders. Coming off the bench, Davis averaged 5.4 points per game and grabbed 3.7 rebounds per contest, the most boards for any returning player this season, and standing at 6-foot-3, he'll be one of the tallest players on the floor in the area this season.

"There were some things in his post game that he needed to get better at, and he did," Cropp said. "He's not near where he wants to be or where I want him to be, but he's a lot better than he was last year. Some teams that started to figure him out at the end of last year really helped us see what needed to be done. He's really made some improvements."

One of the first kids off the bench this season will be Adam Monnig, another 6-foot-3 forward for the Yellowjackets. With the graduation of Brand and Sanders, Monnig — like Davis — will see increased playing time in the post. Cropp said he's another smart player who understands basketball.

"He's a kid that has pretty good footwork and moves around the basket," Cropp said. "He has long arms and has a great knack for blocking shots without fouling. He's really going to help us out quite a bit."

Glasgow will dress four seniors this year, and the next two expect to be key figures off the bench. Both Garrett Fuemmeler and Clay Littrell have experienced this program for the past three years and understand the system.

"Clay has been like an assistant coach on the bench for the players," Cropp said. "He knows everything that is going on, he knows all the positions and I can always count on him being on the bench and saying the right

things. Then he goes out and does the right things on the court."

Littrell has a nice shooting touch from the outside, taking eight of his 10 shot attempts from 3-point range last season. Fuemmeler has grown into a role as a post player, a position Cropp said he never thought he would see him play because of his size.

"He really has developed and done some nice things for us down around the basket," Cropp said. "He's another hard-working kid and a good kid to have on your team."

Freshman Kabyl McMillan will be the only freshman to begin the season dressing with the varsity team for the Yellowjackets. He dominated teams during the brief junior high school season this fall and is also a 3-point shooting threat.

Dariez Dickerson and Preston Brand are a pair of sophomores rounding out Glasgow's varsity roster. Both players earned their first varsity minutes on Nov. 24 in the Yellowjackets' season opener against Brunswick.

Tough defense has defined Glasgow's program year after year under Cropp. Last season, the Yellowjackets held state champion Sacred Heart to a season-low 52 points, held Salisbury to a season-low 47 points and kept Cairo under 60 points in two of their three meetings. Glasgow allowed an average of 39.8 points per game during the 2013-14 campaign.

Cropp said this team can be a good defensive team, but it can be a little over-aggressive at times. But just like any year, the Yellowjackets will make tweaks here and there to their defensive scheme.

"We have to keep the ball out of the paint, contest shots and rebound," Cropp said. "If we get to fouling and going for unnecessary steals, then we may not be as good defensively. But we have the ability to be very good defensively."

A quiet strength this year's team will pos-

GLASGOW YELLOWJACKETS



2013-14 RECORD: 19-9 overall, 9-3 in Central Activities Conference (3rd place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 36-33 to Community in Class 1 District 9 Tournament championship

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 4th place — Glasgow Tournament; 1st place — Marceline Tournament; 4th place — Slater Wildcat Classic.

KEY LOSSES: Josh Sanders (7.7 ppg, 5.7 rpg); Landon Brand (6.2 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 1.1 spg); Alex Mathews (4.4 ppg, 2.3 apg, 1.5 spg).

KEY RETURNERS: Blake Hackman: sr., 5'10" (11.3 ppg, 2.8 apg, 1.6 spg); Daniel McMillan: sr., 5'8" (7.5 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 55 3-pointers); Kennedy Davis: soph., 6'3" (5.4 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 0.6 bpg).

session is that any player on the roster is capable of shooting the three, something even great Glasgow teams of the past can't say. During one practice session when Cropp split up the forwards and the guards, the forwards made 8-of-12 threes. Even Davis and Monnig will take some shot opportunities from 3-point range this season.

Team chemistry is something Cropp said the Yellowjackets will have to develop as the season progresses. Some kids have played multiple years at the varsity level, while others are making their first varsity appearance this season.

"We work on that a lot and talk about it," Cropp said. "We're just going to have to get into tough situations and work through them. It's just like how your offense is going to be better at the end of the year. We'll be better with our team chemistry at the end of

the year, because we're going to have to go through some trials and tribulations."

Glasgow finished third in the Central Activities Conference last year with a 9-3 record, placing behind Cairo and Sturgeon. There's no Brad Roberts this season, but Sturgeon returns almost everyone and has a new head coach. Cropp said Sturgeon will be the team to beat, but don't sleep on New Franklin, a team that has finished in fourth place year after year and is ready to make the climb to the top of the standings.

"We have the opportunity to possibly win 20 games and be a challenger in the conference," Cropp said. "Cairo is still going to be pretty decent. They still have a hall of fame coach."

With Keytesville dropping from the

(Continued on Page 22)



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Senior 5'7" Guard
Parents: Joe & Becky Thompson



Tara Fuemmeler
Junior 5'8" Forward
Parents: Alan & Deb Fuemmeler



Shelby Prentzler
Junior 5'7" Guard
Parents: Bryan & Tina Prentzler



Anne Reynolds
Junior 5'7" Guard
Parents: Mike & Michelle Reynolds



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



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



Devyn Yung
Junior 5'9" Guard/Forward
Parents: Tommy & Tammy Yung



Chandler Beeler
Sophomore 5'6" Guard
Parent: Sherri Beeler



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



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Freshman 6'0" Forward
Parents: Mike & Angy Littrell



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



Kelsey Noll
Freshman 5'6" Guard
Parents: Steven & Mary Kay Noll



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



Kristin Stockhorst
Freshman 5'7" Guard
Parent: Jeannie Fuemmeler



Molly Monnig
Head Coach



Lady Jackets poised for another chance at district title

Disappointment. Frustration. Heart-breaking.

One could go on and on with a thesaurus trying to find words to describe the way the Glasgow girls felt after bowing out in the district semifinals in February. It was supposed to be the Lady Jackets' big season. Instead, they had to watch the district championship game from the stands.

The thing is, players didn't sit around and dwell on the loss. Instead, they took action.

"When we lost to Chamois, the follow-

ing Monday a group of kids requested to watch the game tape," Glasgow head coach Molly Monnig said. "They're always trying to learn because they want to have success and they want to be remembered by people down the road. They want to set a standard. They want to take the opportunity to learn. That's a big thing."

Still, a 21-6 season is nothing to balk at. Nikki Fuemmeler produced a third consecutive All-State season and both Erin Reynolds and Peyton Davis earned All-Conference honors. But those three were a huge piece

of the puzzle for Glasgow in three straight seasons, all producing 20-plus wins.

Now the reins will go to a team that is very deep, with 18 players dressing in grades 9-12. A lot of the leadership responsibility will be placed on the shoulders of Abby Thompson, a senior who has been named to the CAC All-Conference team that past three seasons. This year, she'll be one of the candidates in the competition for MVP honors and has a chance to reach the 1,000-point plateau for her high school career.

As a junior, Thompson averaged 10.3

points per game, the second-highest on the team. On the defensive end, she led the Lady Jackets in steals with 2.1 per contest. She will take over for Davis at the point guard position, but there will be times when she slides over to a shooting guard slot. Monnig said Thompson feels responsible to take the reins as a leader, a position she's happy to accept.

"For us to be successful, she's going to have to average 15 points per game, and I

(Continued on Page 13)

Area High School Basketball Preview

(Continued from Page 12)

have no doubt that she can do that," Monnig said. "She's lights out from the 3-point line and she knows that's her strong point. This summer we really worked on getting her in the lane and creating space. Any time you have a kid who is talented, who is willing to work and spend time on her game, the sky is the limit. She's going to have a tremendous season and will be one of the best players in our area."

The second returning starter is junior Anne Reynolds, who averaged just under six points per game last season. Right now, Monnig has her starting at the No. 2 position, but depending on the offensive set, Reynolds may rotate with Thompson at point guard. Monnig said if she had to pick a player who is really going to impact Glasgow's season, it would be Reynolds.

"She has all the talent," Monnig said. "She uses her strength and she's still mobile. She's really good at getting to the basket. She's left-handed naturally, but she has worked hard on her right hand and can finish on both sides now. She has shown bits and pieces, but she's ready to step out of her big sister's shadow and do something."

Nikki Fuemmeler's successor at the No. 5 position will be Glasgow's other senior starter, Blakeley Fuemmeler. Over the past two seasons, Blakeley saw most of her minutes on the floor when Nikki was in foul trouble. Now she's going from a part-time role to a full-time role, leading the Lady Jackets' inside presence. Monnig said Blakeley Fuemmeler does a lot of the little things away from the ball, and most of the time without realizing she's doing them.

"I think Blakeley is probably the most athletic post player you're going to see around right now," Monnig said. "When it comes to post defense, you're not going

to find anyone better. I watched game film many times last year and noticed she never gets screened. She always moves her feet. When you guard an All-State player for three years, you're going to learn a lot of things."

Filling up the other post position in the starting lineup will be Tara Fuemmeler. As Nikki's younger sister, Tara spent many days working against an elite player. Monnig said Tara has worked on her outside shot and will take whatever is given to her.

"Tara's confidence grew over the summer," Monnig said. "She's not a true sit-in-the-lane post player. She's able to step out and shoot the three and has worked extremely hard on her range. The best thing about Tara is she spent all that time traveling around and watching games, and now it's her time. I see her really cherishing that time to step up."

Junior Brianne Sanders will take the fifth starting spot at the No. 3 guard position. She appeared in 21 games last season, averaging 1.6 points and 1.6 rebounds per game. Sanders is good at getting to the basket and has been working on her shot, but Monnig said once she gains confidence, she will be a big key for the Lady Jackets moving forward this season.

"If we get Brianne some more confidence throughout the first half of the season, she is going to be a great player," Monnig said. "She's very strong and very good defensively. Offensively, she's still trying to kind of find what she can be most successful at."

One of the more versatile players on this year's Glasgow team is Devyn Yung. The junior will fill a role similar to that of Erin Reynolds as a player who can play possession after possession in the post, but her 3-point shooting skills will allow Yung to step out a knock down some outside shots as well.

GLASGOW LADY YELLOWJACKETS



2013-14 RECORD: 21-6 overall, 10-2 in Central Activities Conference (2nd place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 42-38 to Chamois in Class 1 District 9 Tournament semifinals

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

KEY LOSSES: Nikki Fuemmeler (16.2 ppg, 10.1 rpg, 1.8 spg); Erin Reynolds (8.3 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 1.6 spg); Peyton Davis (3.4 ppg, 5.4 apg).

KEY RETURNERS: Abby Thompson: sr., 5'7" (10.3 ppg, 2.1 spg, 55 3-pointers); Anne Reynolds: jr., 5'7" (5.9 ppg, 3.1 rpg); Blakeley Fuemmeler: sr., 5'10" (3.3 ppg, 2.4 rpg).

"When it comes to Devyn, she has all the potential in the world," Monnig said. "When she misses a shot, she's very hard on herself because she expects to make every shot. You want kids like that. She's a left-handed kid who can play some very good defense, especially out of a zone. As the season progresses, she's going to be a very important player for us."

Shelby Prentzler will be the first guard off the bench this season. A wrist injury sidelined Prentzler for the early part of last season. Monnig said she is a very intelligent player who makes good passes and is capable of shooting the ball. Primarily a junior varsity player last season, Prentzler will see her role grow exponentially.

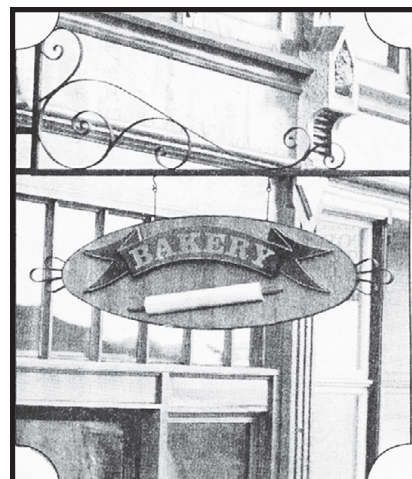
"I think that as the season progresses, she'll see more and more time," Monnig said. "She played very well this summer and did some very good things. She may not put up a lot of points, but she's also not going to hurt you throughout a game. She does good things on defense and doesn't make a lot of mistakes."

Glasgow did not have any freshman play basketball at the high school level last season, but the Lady Jackets are more than making up this year. Seven freshman will dress this season and two of them should get some key minutes on varsity.

Abby Littrell and Jaden Monnig give Glasgow something it hasn't had for quite some time now: depth at the forward positions. Both freshmen will come off the bench to fill in for the Fuemmeler girls and their height — Littrell is 5-foot-11 and Monnig is 6-foot — will cause problems for opponents on defense.

"Abby is a very intelligent post player," Monnig said. "She's worked hard in the weight room over the summer. She knew she needed to get stronger if she was going to bang around in the post. To her credit, she asked Nikki for help, and she and Nikki played against each other over the summer. She has taken the steps to be ready to play at the varsity level."

(Continued on Page 22)



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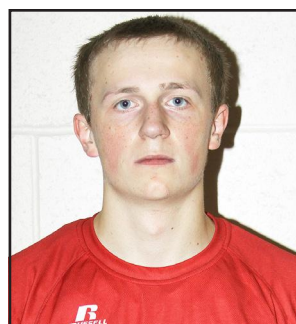
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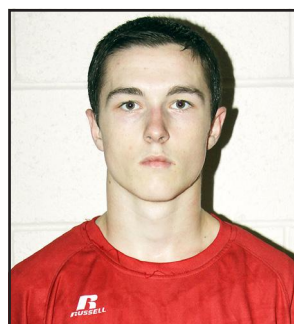
Harrisburg Bulldogs boys basketball



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Senior 6'5" Forward
Parents: Tony & Julie Bolton



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Senior 5'10" Guard
Parents: Chris & Susan Canote



Drew Ewens
Senior 5'9" Guard
Parents: John & Melissa Ewens



Austin Horn
Senior 6'0" Forward
Parents: Wade Horn
& Christina Sharp



Blake Williams
Senior 5'10" Guard
Parents: Daniel Williams
& Kellie Williams



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



John-Michael Gillman
Junior 6'0" Guard
Parents: John & Kathleen
Gillman



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



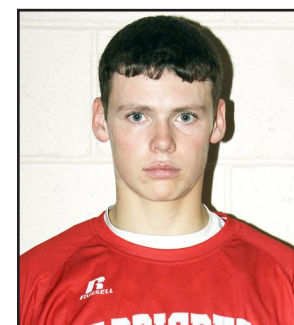
Taylor Bottomley
Sophomore 6'2" Forward
Parents: Brett Bottomley
& Jodi Bottomley



Josh Carr
Sophomore 6'0" Forward
Parents: Jeff & Stacey Carr



Will DiStefano
Sophomore 5'11" Forward
Parents: Bob & Cindy DiStefano



Trey Freeman
Sophomore 6'0" Forward
Parents: Larry & Missy Freeman



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



Connor McBride
Sophomore 6'3" Forward
Parents: Collin McBride
& Angie McBride



Daniel Sartin
Sophomore 5'6" Guard
Parents: Kerry & Laura Peveler
and Alan & Lisa Sartin



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



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Freshman 6'2" Guard
Parents: Steve & Carmen Combs



Scott Hill
Freshman 5'11" Guard
Parent: Misty Ewens



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



Christian Jenkins
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Parents: Michael & Tracy Jenkins



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



Jordan Olmstead
Freshman 5'6" Guard
Parents: Roger Olmstead
and Aimee Olmstead



Ethan Sublett
Freshman 5'10" Forward
Parents: Kevin & Becky Sublett



Steve Combs
Head Coach

Harrisburg brings back traditional Bulldog style of play

It seemed as if Harrisburg had one chance last season to return to its days of glory, and for much of the season, that's exactly what happened.

The Bulldogs were state-ranked much of the season, played in three tournament championship games and battled night in and night out against a brutal schedule. The Bulldogs finished with a 19-8 record, only to fall to Tolton in a rematch in the district championship game.

On paper, Harrisburg is not supposed to be a factor in 2014-15. The Bulldogs lost all

five starters, including two college-bound basketball players, and graduated 84 percent of its scoring offense. What team would be capable of reloading its offense in just a few short months?

Harrisburg can. And better yet, head coach Steve Combs said this year's team will look even more like the style the Bulldogs displayed during their state playoff run last decade.

"We're going to go back to something that's more our style," Combs said. "Last year, we weren't quite as quick. We were

long and athletic, but this year, we have a group that has been playing rotation minutes and worked through the JV. Those guys are ready and it's their time."

With a new-look team comes a new style of offense. Combs said the double-low post offense is out this season. Harrisburg will go with a four-guard, one-post setup, and the Bulldogs have worked the whole preseason toward making that adjustment.

Now the first players off the bench last season are going to make the jump to the starting five. Combs said this senior group

has come a long way from being a two-win team in eighth grade.

Leading things off will be senior Drew Ewens, a player Combs said will give 110 percent this season. Ewens missed roughly half of the football season with an injury, but he's returned to full strength for basketball season. His quickness on the court will have a similar look to what Kale Spry and Blake Cochran have done in years past.

"His whole game is fire," Combs said.

(Continued on Page 15)

Area High School Basketball Preview

(Continued from Page 14)

"He's going to be aggressive on defense and aggressive on offense. He just competes and is a lot of fun to coach. If you guard Drew Ewens, you're going to have a long day because he uses every inch of the floor."

Blake Williams, like many of the returning seniors, were masters of defensive pressure last season. In fact, Williams wasn't far off from having as many steals (60) as points (75) during the 2013-14 season. Combs said he is the type of player who epitomizes a leader.

"Every day in practice, he has the guys where they need to be," Combs said. "He's a great, vocal leader. He leads by example. I just can't say enough about how proud I am of Blake Williams. He's a kid who has made it on his own and I'm really excited about giving him the keys to this team and telling him to go."

With the two-post setup, many of Harrisburg's inside looks went to either Jacob Rudkin or Blake Berry. Now, changing over to the one-post offense, the inside game will center on senior Bryan Bolton. Now standing at 6-foot-5, Bolton will tower over just about any player on the court this season, and his 1.9 points and 2.1 rebounds per game will quickly be a thing of the past.

"He's the centerpiece of our offense right now," Combs said. "We call it 'The Bolton Rules.' We have ways we do things without Bolton, and things we have to do when he's on the floor. He's going to set up on the block and he has such great hands. When in doubt, we're just going to throw the ball to Bolton. We're going to have to establish him early and often."

JP Canote is another senior who will get the nod in the starting lineup, and like Ewens and Williams, he's going to be another speedy guard. Canote will shoot from

the outside like Ewens and Williams, but Combs said he will need to penetrate to the basket to get some points.

"One thing he does really well for his size is rebound the basketball," Combs said. "That's going to be key for us this year. He didn't get to play a lot this summer because of an ankle injury, so he's still finding his niche in the offense. He's going to bring a lot of energy."

Austin Horn is the fifth and final returning player from last year's varsity roster, but an ACL injury will sideline the senior to begin the season. Combs said he suffered the injury in the last game of the summer and had to miss the entire football season too, but best-case scenario, Horn could return as early as this week during the Glasgow Tournament.

"He's a kid who is making us go to this new (offense) because he's 6-foot, but yet he has good guard skills," Combs said. "He's a really strong, physical kid. He has looked good during his rehab and jumps and runs well. He's even added a little more to his 3-point shot since he's been hurt."

Austin Buckridge leads the charge of the many new faces to the varsity level and will be in the starting lineup to begin the season. Buckridge will be listed as a forward because, at 6-foot tall, the Bulldogs need as much of a post presence as they can have. Combs said Buckridge is a competitor, just like the rest of the senior class.

"His play won't always be pretty, but he gets a lot done," Combs said. "He's going to be a stat sheet stuffer, getting a steal here and a rebound there. He sets great screens and is going to have to compete against bigger kids in the post. I'm excited to turn him loose on the varsity level."

Blake Gipson will be one of the first guards off the bench this season, but with a loaded group of guards, Combs said he will

HARRISBURG BULLDOGS



2013-14 RECORD: 19-8 overall

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 73-51 to Tolton in Class 2 District 7 Tournament championship

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 2nd place — Glasgow Tournament; 2nd place — South Callaway Tournament; 3rd place — Southern Boone Classic.

KEY LOSSES: Jacob Rudkin (17.5 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 1.5 bpg, 64 3-pointers); Blake Berry (11.4 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 2.7 spg); Charles Roller (10.7 ppg, 7.1 rpg).

KEY RETURNERS: Drew Ewens: sr., 5'9" (3.1 ppg, 1.4 spg, 1.4 apg); Blake Williams: sr., 5'10" (2.9 ppg, 2.3 spg, 2.0 apg); Bryan Bolton: sr., 6'5" (1.9 ppg, 2.1 rpg).

be fighting for minutes. The shortest player on the team at 5-foot-8, Gipson is fast and athletic, and he also has a nice shooting touch from the outside.

John-Michael Gillman is a newcomer to the Bulldogs program, entering high school this year as a junior after being homeschooled the last several years. Combs said he's a very skilled kid and has been learning how to play in Harrisburg's system.

"These other guys have been doing it since about the fifth grade and know all the ins and outs," Combs said. "John-Michael is trying to figure out what needs to be done, and once he gets that figured out, we expect him to bring a big boost off the bench with offense. He can dunk a basketball and he can shoot the three."

A pair of sophomores round out Harrisburg's roster. Taylor Bottomley adds some

height to what little depth the Bulldogs have in the paint. Combs said the best things for Bottomley this preseason is that he had to battle against Bolton in every practice, tooth and nail.

"He's starting to figure out post moves and how to catch the basketball," Combs said. "He's going to sub in for Bolton and get good minutes this year. He's brings toughness from the football field and is really dishing it out there."

Brendan Gray, Harrisburg's other sophomore, is a knock-down shooter, Combs said. "When he gets to a spot, it's going in," Combs added. "He was our leading scorer on the JV team last year as a freshman and even had almost 40 points in one game last year. He's a kid who can just fill it up."

(Continued on Page 21)

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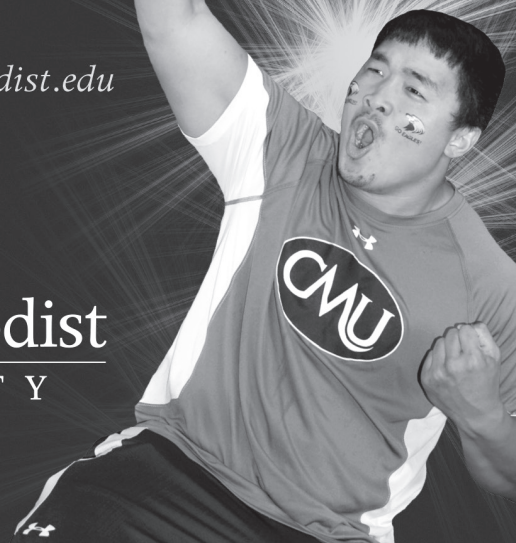
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Senior 5'9" Guard/Forward
Parents: Dwayne & Tracy Southerland



Kyla Acton
Junior 5'8" Forward
Parents: Mike & Amy Acton



Hunter Carinder
Junior 5'6" Guard
Parent: Stephanie Carinder



Bailey Ivicsics
Junior 5'10" Center
Parents: Robert & Amy Ivicsics



Sara Colyer
Sophomore 5'4" Guard
Parents: Wes & Paula Colyer



Baylee Hudson
Sophomore 5'4" Guard
Parents: Jeff & Tracy Hudson



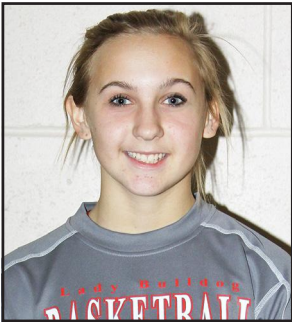
Shelby Simmons
Sophomore 5'5" Guard
Parents: George Simmons & Jennifer Wilhite



Adrian Baldrige
Freshman 5'4" Guard
Parents: Scott & Shanna Baldrige



Kayla Bradshaw
Freshman 5'4" Guard
Parents: Mike & Michelle Bradshaw



Payton Drake
Freshman 5'5" Guard
Parents: Andy & Rhonda Drake



Maddie Fritts
Freshman 5'8" Center
Parent: Travis & Nicole Fritts



Kacie Lowrey
Freshman 5'6" Forward
Parents: Jason & Kristina Coil



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



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



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



Dan Bachmeier
Head Coach



Lady Bulldogs are back on hunt to reclaim district title

Harrisburg head coach Dan Bachmeier will tell you his team was right there at the end of the 2013-14 season.

The Lady Bulldogs, who lost five consecutive games to end the regular season, were fighting for their fourth district title in five seasons. A 15-point halftime deficit was trimmed to three points in the final minute of the fourth quarter, but New Franklin held on for a 56-50 win, then continued its state playoff run to a third-place finish.

“That’s given us a lot of fight heading into this year,” Bachmeier said. “I want us

to come back and fight for that (district title) harder than ever.”

Had one or two more plays worked in Harrisburg’s favor that game, Bachmeier can only imagine if his team could have been back in the state semifinals instead.

That was last year. This year, Harrisburg loses just one player and returns a huge chunk of last season’s 16-12 team. Bachmeier said this team still has a long way to go, but he knows he’s lucky to have back an experienced senior group.

“It’s easier for me to teach (this year)

because they already know a lot of things,” Bachmeier said. “The one issue I have is that they want to win so bad, sometimes that gets in the way of playing calmly and loosely.”

Alissa Lumb was the only departing senior from last year’s team and Harrisburg brings back its top-five leading scorers. Chloe Franklin returns to the post this season and has developed her game much like Chelsey Kroese did. Both players played in the post because of their height — Kroese was 5-foot-11 and Franklin is 5-foot-9 — but their ball-handling abilities allowed

them to start with the ball on the perimeter and then drive the lane to attack the basket.

Franklin finished the season with 10.4 points and 7.9 rebounds per game, drawing a lot of attention in the paint. What Franklin is able to do on the defense end aside from rebounding is what will make a difference this season. Last year, she was second on the team with 64 steals.

“Quality teams are going to have to defend her,” Bachmeier said. “She’s going to

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Area High School Basketball Preview

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have to work extra hard to get things done. But she's her own worst enemy. She'll do what she can do each night, but she is probably the only one who can stop herself. Somebody else might (stop her), but if she doesn't have a good night, it's probably because of herself."

Kristen Southerland will be Harrisburg's main 3-point threat again this season. She averaged 9.5 points per game last year and knocked down 57 threes, holding steady as a 35 percent shooter beyond the arc. If defenses plan to use a zone defense, Southerland will have a heyday. Once she knocks down her first three of the game, it's hard to slow her down. Bachmeier's biggest concern will be getting her to keep shooting the three after she misses one or two in a game.

"I also want her to attack, and she's developing more at going to the hole," Bachmeier said. "She's added a shot fake. If she's not going to shoot the three, she at least has that. My shooters need to understand that when we're down, we have to start getting the ball to the post."

Another returning senior starter is Hailey Lowrey. Like much of this senior class, Bachmeier said Lowrey is another player who can be hard on herself at times. That being said, Lowrey will bring a lot to this team other than score. She has been a facilitator on offense in the past and will resume that role this year.

"Hailey can score, drive and play defense," Bachmeier said. "We have lots of players who can do lots of things, both offensively and defensively. All of us need to be a little tougher when it comes to taking contact. We can't shy away from that."

Macy Arp, along with Lowrey, are the only remaining two players on this Harrisburg team from the 2012 state championship season. Both were freshmen at the time and observed the games from the bench, but

that experience was much more valuable for them as opposed to watching the games from the stands.

What Arp brings to the team won't always show up in the stat sheet. She averaged just under four points per game last season and 2.8 rebounds per game, but her length for a 5-foot-7 forward will really clog up things defensively this season for Harrisburg.

"She can play defense at any of the five spots," Bachmeier said. "She's our quarterback and our communicator. She makes sure everybody get into it. Her bugaboo is that she needs to look for her shot. I think she has a little more in the last year and a half. She doesn't have to score 12 to 15 points, but she does need to get six to eight."

The Lady Bulldogs return 100 percent of their inside presence, and that is completed with junior Bailey Ivicsics, a 5-foot-10 junior center. It wasn't often last season that both Ivicsics and Franklin were dominant in the same game, usually taking turns as top scorers inside. However, if Harrisburg has success getting the ball inside this season, look for Ivicsics to improve greatly on her 7.8 points per game.

"Bailey can go left or right and shoot the short jumper," Bachmeier said. "She's a good defender and she can anticipate the play. If teams play us man-to-man, we can get her the ball inside a little more and let her make things happen. During the last three weeks of the season, Chloe and Bailey were averaging about 13 points apiece. We can't always fall in love with the three because I have two post players who can score."

Senior Karyssa Giboney will earn her way into the starting lineup at point guard this season, taking Lumb's place. She finished second on the team in assists while coming off the bench and also has a knack for shooting the three, just like Southerland and Lowrey. Giboney's big moment last year came in the district tournament semi-

HARRISBURG LADY BULLDOGS



2013-14 RECORD: 16-12 overall

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 56-50 to New Franklin in Class 2 District 7 Tournament championship

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 2nd place — Glasgow Tournament; 5th place — South Callaway Tournament; 6th place — Southern Boone Classic.

KEY LOSSES: Alissa Lumb (4.6 ppg, 3.1 apg, 2.4 spg).

KEY RETURNERS: Chloe Franklin: sr., 5'9" (10.4 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 2.3 spg); Kirsten Southerland: sr., 5'9" (9.5 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 57 3-pointers); Bailey Ivicsics: jr., 5'10" (7.8 ppg, 7.0 rpg).

finals, where her 3-pointer in the final seconds lifted Harrisburg past Sturgeon.

"She's gaining confidence and she doesn't freak out at point guard nearly as often anymore," Bachmeier said. "She's my hardest worker, and I have a lot of hard workers. Her game has gotten better because of desire. I tell the girls it's not just about the desire to win. It's the way you go about trying to win."

Those will be Harrisburg's top six players to begin the season, and the opponent will often dictate the Lady Bulldogs' starting five. Right now, Giboney, Lowrey, Arp and Franklin are four locks as starters. If teams play a zone defense, Southerland will get the start and Harrisburg will play four guards. If teams choose to play man-to-man defense, Ivicsics will get the start and the Lady Bulldogs will try to attack inside.

"Teams are going to have to decide before the game how they are going to pick their poison," Bachmeier said. "Then we'll have to react to what they're doing, which we haven't always done well at times. If we can recognize and see what they're doing, we're going to be hard to guard."

Two players Bachmeier hopes to have back by Christmas are sophomores Sara

Colyer and Baylee Hudson. Colyer is recovering from an elbow injury and Hudson has dealt with a shoulder problem this pre-season. When they both return, Bachmeier said his first eight players are going to stack up with the best in the area.

Some of the other players to come off the bench for Harrisburg will be Kyla Acton and Shelby Simmons, as well as Hunter Carinder. During the first month of the season, those three will see plenty of time off the bench.

"Shelby and Kyla are learning how to play," Bachmeier said. "Shelby can shoot and Kyla just hustles her butt off, which will get her more minutes off the bench."

With several returners, Bachmeier has added multiple defenses this season to mix things up. If he's designed the set, the Lady Bulldogs are already proficient at it or they've already mastered it.

One thing the two-time state champion head coach could not reiterate enough is that his team cannot freak out during games. He saw too much of that last season, especially once Harrisburg went on a decline after a promising 9-2 start. With a program that

(Continued on Page 19)

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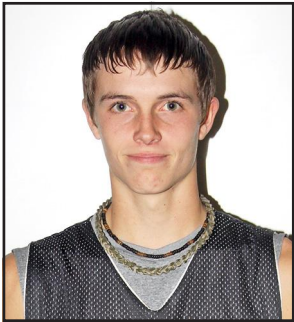


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Higbee Tigers boys basketball



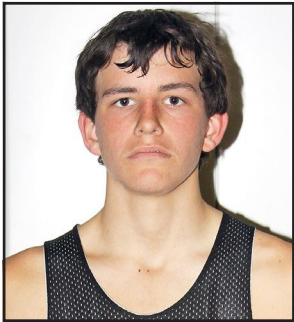
Garrett Nauerth
Senior 6'0" Guard
Parents: Larry & Christina Nauerth



Austin Nelson
Senior 5'11" Guard
Parents: Neil & Angie Nelson



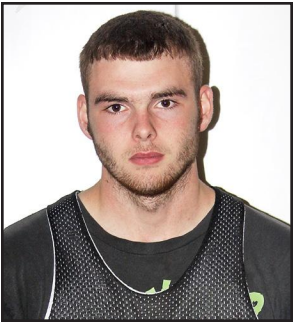
Jacob Beal
Junior 6'0" Guard
Parents: Ben & Glenda Beal



Jesse Beal
Junior 5'11" Guard
Parents: Ben & Glenda Beal



Derek Clark
Junior 6'1" Guard
Parents: Donald & Tara Clark



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



Marc Sears
Junior 5'10" Forward
Parents: Frank & Dee Dee Sears



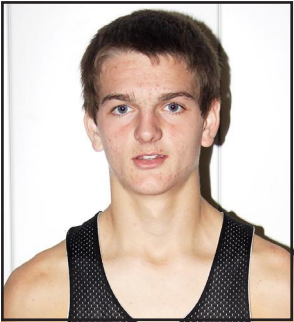
Keaton Smith
Junior 6'4" Center
Parents: Bobby Smith & Renee Fuls



Phillip Smith
Junior 5'8" Guard
Parent: John Smith



McKenzie Arms
Sophomore 5'8" Guard
Parents: Chris Jenkins & Ruschel Jenkins



Will Clark
Sophomore 5'10" Guard
Parents: Danny Clark & Becky Clark



Cameron Crawford
Sophomore 6'2" Guard
Parents: Chad & Jessica Crawford



James Gibson
Freshman 6'1" Forward
Parents: James & Rebecca Gibson



Noah Kirby
Freshman 5'8" Forward
Parents: Matthew & Michelle Kirby



Josh Morrow
Freshman 6'1" Center
Parent: Russell & Kathy Henry



Bailey Nauerth
Freshman 5'10" Guard
Parents: Larry & Christina Nauerth



John Schell
Freshman 6'2" Forward
Parents: John & Georgina Schell



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



Wade Spilman
Freshman 6'1" Forward
Parents: Michael & Leslie Spilman



Jon Bishop
Head Coach



Higbee fields guard-heavy team with interchanging parts

This season is the most excited Jon Bishop has been to be the head coach of the Higbee boys basketball team in eight seasons with the Tigers.

Coming off a 9-13 season, the Tigers can't say they lack experience this year after relying on a young team in 2013-14. Higbee returns a bulk of its roster and 19 boys will dress for the small Class 1 school. And the thing is, Higbee is still a fairly young team this season.

"I have eight guys that I can trust," Bishop

said. "Those guys are going to be our core for a bulk of the season. I feel like I have six starters, and those guys have all started more than 10 games in their careers. Four of them started for an entire season. When you have that, I don't see how you cannot be excited."

With the style of play Higbee possesses, players wanted to average 65 points per game and hold teams to 55 points. They achieved half their goal on the defensive end, but the offense only produced about 53 points per game.

The Tigers will get numerous possessions because of their run-and-go offense, but the defense had difficulty holding teams on the other end. "I want these guys to really step up this year and shut teams down," Bishop said.

Leading the charge for the Tigers is junior Jacob Beal, who was the only player to average in double figures in scoring last season. Because he has grown four inches since last season, Bishop said Beal will be able to take different roles this year, prefer-

ably in picking up rebounds and dishing out assists. The Tigers lost close to 12 rebounds per game in the past, so Beal will likely be featured in the No. 4 position.

Higbee has traditionally been a guard-oriented team, but Bishop indicates that he will have players who are considered to be "interchangeable parts" and double up as forwards. Beal fits that role perfectly.

"I expect him to continue to take good

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Area High School Basketball Preview

(Continued from Page 18)

shots, and I think he has gained a lot of confidence with that," Bishop said. "He's gotten a little bigger and a little stronger. He got a little helter-skelter during the summer a few times and we had to rein him in and said he needs to look for open people. We're definitely going to count on him."

Twin brother Jesse Beal will also start this season, but he will stay in a role suited for a No. 2 guard. Bishop said he should be able to improve his scoring average of 8.3 points per game and will control the ball and defend better. Sometimes with twins, the similarities are endless, but Bishop said their games on the court are definitely different.

"They're different in a great way," Bishop said. "One is really emotional, the other is cool, calm and collective. They wear their personalities on their sleeves and it works. Jesse did well stepping into a key role last year, and that was because he made some shots."

Jesse Beal filled in for Austin Nelson, who missed almost the entire 2013-14 season because of an injury. Nelson, one of two seniors on this Higbee team, played in just three games and scored a total of 19 points. That 6.3 points per game average is right on target with where Bishop thinks he will end up this season.

"I knew when we lost him last year, it was going to be a setback," Bishop said. "Now he's got to adapt. Austin can get everything positive out of his game on the defensive end of the floor. He feeds off that. He wants to get the steal and then get whatever he can off the offensive end."

Will Clark showed plenty of promise last season, playing in all 22 games as a freshman and averaging 7.2 points per game. He will start at point guard this season and Bishop said he's going to be a point guard that scores, perhaps getting 12 or 13 points

a game.

"Will needs to take more of a leadership role," Bishop said. "Even as a sophomore, I believe he can do that. I felt like he got a little lackadaisical with his shooting last year, and he can do a better job this year. He can get to the hole pretty well, but he is shooting crisper and smoother."

Bishop said he's on the fence with his fifth starter, which could either be senior Garrett Nauerth or junior Levi Jones. It's a split because one makes the team stronger offensively, but the other is a big pickup on the defensive end. Whoever gets the nod will play opposite of Jacob Beal at the other forward position.

"Garrett knows his strengths," Bishop said. "He works down low to make layups and get rebounds. He also tries to find open shots for other guys. Levi has shot the ball better and scored a lot more at the end of last year. He also defended when he needed to. It's a coin flip right now for my fifth guy, but both of them are going to see significant minutes."

Cameron Crawford and Derek Clark are two players who will make an impact off the bench this year. Bishop said they had a huge summer season and have gotten stronger.

"Derek Clark has stepped up and will be able to defend and block shots in the post," Bishop said. "If you turn both of them sideways, you'd mark them absent in class. But they still have some strength to play tough down low. They're also going to have to step up, because the season is different from the summer. I can trust them enough to get them into the game, and get them to take the roles that Levi and Garrett had last year."

Bishop said it's nice having a full roster of 19 kids this year, including seven freshmen. The Tigers have added more JV games than usual for the 2014-15 schedule, playing Fayette, Moberly, Hallsville, Salisbury and Christian Fellowship. That being said, he

HIGBEE TIGERS



2013-14 RECORD: 9-13 overall, 2-4 in Cooper County Activities Association (5th place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 76-50 to Jamestown in Class 1 District 9 Tournament quarterfinals

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

KEY LOSSES: Seth Tucker (9.1 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 2.3 apg); Jeremy Kirkendoll (4.0 ppg, 5.5 rpg); Brad Berendzen (4.3 ppg, 5.9 rpg).

KEY RETURNERS: Jacob Beal: jr., 6'0" (14.1 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 2.8 apg); Austin Nelson: sr., 5'11" (6.3 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 3.0 spg); Jesse Beal: jr., 5'11" (8.3 ppg, 2.6 rpg).

also understands there's no chance that everyone will get minutes at the varsity level.

"I've tried to play 10 guys before and I've tried to find 10 guys I can trust (on the floor) when I've had quick, fast teams," Bishop said. "I'm done with that. We're going to hone in on those top-eight guys that have been committed to us and want to do great things. Nobody else is devalued, but we have to be able to play a certain way on the varsity level."

"We also have to get everyone on the floor at some point, because that's the best way they're going to learn. It's a struggle in practice right now. We have some size with those younger guys, and if they continue to develop, I'm not going to be afraid to put them in if they show improvement."

The rebounding will be a community effort this season. Last year, all eight regular players averaged between 2.6 and 5.9 rebounds a game, and that was with two tall forwards. This year, Bishop said he would like to have five different players each game grab five to six rebounds.

"If we have anybody with 10 rebounds in any game this season, I'm probably going to have to go out and buy them a pizza," Bishop

said. "We absolutely need to win rebound battles and we absolutely need to close out and get steals."

Bishop went on the record saying he would be disappointed if his team doesn't at least flip its record and finish with a 13-9 season or better. The Tigers will have a new look to the schedule this season after being voted out of the Cooper County Activities Association, and the big bonus for that is a chance to see a wider variety of teams.

It wasn't uncommon for Higbee to play a CCAA opponent three times in one season: first in December, then in the conference tournament and again in February. Right now, the Tigers only play Bunceton and Malta Bend twice this season, and they've replaced the conference tournament with the Keytesville Tournament.

Rather than go scout the new teams on the schedule, however, Bishop said he plans to have players work on their game instead, rather than adjusting to opponents.

"Feeding them with that (scout) information can throw things off," Bishop said. "If we feed into what we can do well, trying to

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Harrisburg girls preview

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has gone without a tournament title of any kind since the 2012 state tournament, players have felt the pressure to get that big win.

The best thing that could happen for his team is to win the Glasgow Tournament this week, Bachmeier said. The Lady Bulldogs enter as the No. 1 seed, which creates more unwanted pressure. It's definitely not a win-or-go-home scenario, but it would ease the pressure moving forward this season.

"I hate to say any game is huge for a season, but (winning that tournament) may be the biggest games of our season," Bachmeier said. "We need to get over the hump."

Regardless of what talent Harrisburg returns from season to season, the schedule will never be easy. The win-loss record has never been a priority for Bachmeier. What he wants to see is his Lady Bulldogs come out ready to play every game and find a way to improve over the course of the season.

Harrisburg will play Class 4 Moberly in December, a team it defeated last season. They'll play both Blair Oaks and Palmyra at neutral sites over the Christmas break and the strength of schedule will only continue to climb.

Then again, the district's strength will drop some this year. Tolton was a program ready to take a big step this season, but the Trailblazers will move to Class 3. Sturgeon is out too, but in comes Westran and Sweet Springs, two teams that aren't featured on Harrisburg's schedule.

In Bachmeier's mind, that's too far off, and he definitely doesn't want his girls looking that far down the line. As cliché as it sounds, he need his team to go one game at a time.

"We're not that good yet," Bachmeier said. "We are capable of doing big things and we have to continue to work. Just because our of history, with this town and its tradition, it doesn't mean we are guaranteed anything."

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Higbee Tigers girls basketball



Hope Clark

Senior 5'9" Forward/Guard
Parents: Danny & Becky Clark



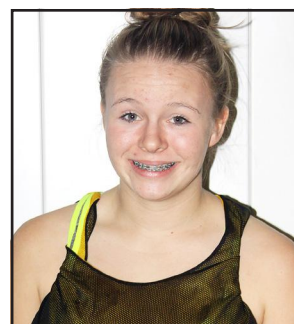
Daina Derboven

Junior 5'9" Forward
Parent: Charity Switzer



Kennedy Bankhead

Sophomore 6'1" Center
Parents: Chuck & Christina Bankhead



Brianna Evans

Sophomore 5'4" Guard
Parent: Tracy Evans



Sabrina Huddleston

Sophomore 5'8" Guard/Forward
Parent: Dusty & Mindy Huddleston



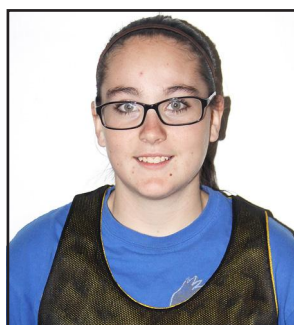
Rhiannon Runyon

Sophomore 5'6" Guard
Parents: Jimmy & Shannon Runyon



Claire Berendzen

Freshman 5'6" Forward
Parents: Robert & April Berendzen



Allie Derboven

Freshman 5'4" Guard
Parent: Charity Switzer



Sam Nelson

Freshman 5'8" Forward
Parents: Neil & Angie Nelson



Geocie Sager

Freshman 5'2" Guard
Parent: Randy Sager & Stacy Sager



Hope Smith

Freshman 5'4" Forward
Parents: Scott & Susie Smith



Tanner Burton

Head Coach

Lady Tigers enter season confident times are changing

In his first year, Higbee girls basketball head coach Tanner Burton guided the Lady Tigers to an 8-15 season. It was a pretty successful start for what he anticipates to be a program that is headed down the fast lane.

Burton hasn't just taken over the high school girls basketball program. He also coached the junior high teams this past fall, both the boys and the girls, and now he's just getting warmed up for his second season with the Lady Tigers. And optimism could be at an all-time high for the program.

"We bring back a lot of kids and we were young," Burton said. "Not being from Higbee, I had no reason not to play kids. I just played them based on ability and it's been a luxury, really. We always got to see our best product on the floor. Everyone wants to be a part of this, and that's something that really hasn't been here. People have bought into this program."

Burton and the Lady Tigers lost Ashley Berendzen, who grabbed more than 1,000 career rebounds and averaged 13.3 boards a game, and Alexandria Forrester, who led the team with 6.5 assists per game, from last year's team. On the flip side, Higbee returns its top three scorers, all of which averaged more than 12 points per game.

The lone senior representing Higbee this season is Hope Clark, who averaged a double-double last season with 12.9 points and 11.5 rebounds per game. Other than Clark, only Nikki Fuemmeler and Jasmyne Boggs averaged a double-double, but Clark is the only one of the three returning this season.

Clark missed two weeks of the 2013-14 season with a knee injury, and coincidentally, Higbee went 1-6 without her on the floor. Having been a leader on the team for three seasons, Clark is capable of playing any position on the floor, but she'll be needed inside the most this season.

"The kid has tons of potential," Burton said of Clark, who started the season 295 points shy of 1,000 for her career. "It'll be interesting to see what we have in store with Hope at 100 percent. She has a lot pushing her and driving her. If we can keep her out of foul trouble, she's going to hurt a lot of teams."

Higbee returns two players who were freshman sensations a year ago. Rhiannon Runyon led the Lady Tigers with 15.0 points per game, and if she keeps up that scoring average, she'll have 1,000 points before the end of her junior season. Runyon took nearly 300 shot attempts and made 43 percent of her shots. However, that percentage was only as high as it was because she made better than 50 percent of her shots inside the 3-point line.

"She has so much upside," Burton said. "Averaging 15 points as a freshman sounds phenomenal, but she was only 10-of-69 from 3-point range and was 66-of-146 on free throws. Over the course of the summer, the kids made over 5,000 baskets and she was one of them. During the summer, she was knocking down shots that she wasn't making last year."

Sabrina Huddleston was Higbee's primary 3-point shooter last season, making 43 threes to help her average double figures with 12.2 points per game. Burton said Huddleston has the nicest shot on the team and had three games last season with five threes in one night. She may have been the third-leading scorer, but there will be times she has the hottest hands for the Lady Tigers.

"She's one of the last ones to get out of the gym," Burton said. "She goes through one rack of balls after another. Now we've got her shooting three, four, even five feet behind the 3-point line because teams put a lot of pressure on her last year. She also

grew two inches over the summer, so she will play some at the post and has the attack game going."

Filling a starting spot for Berendzen in the post is Daina Derboven, the only junior on the team. Her primary role last year was being a rebounder and she filled in when Clark was injured. Derboven will fit perfectly into that role after averaging 15 rebounds per game at the JV level last season.

"She really stepped up to be that role player," Burton said. "This summer, I may have pulled her out of a game once, and she played the other 29 or 30 games entirely. She is dedicated and is harder on herself than I've been on her. She just has more hustle than anybody else out there. Any loose ball is hers."

Nine of the 11 Higbee players this season are either freshmen or sophomores, so naturally it isn't a surprise to see a freshman take the fifth starting spot. Geocie Sager was Burton's top scorer at the junior high level last season and she brings speed to the Lady Tigers. Sager might only be 5-foot-2, but if there is a long rebound, Burton said she's going to be all over it.

"That's something you don't see out of a freshman every day," Burton said. "Rhiannon is known for her track and field quickness, but Geocie is pushing her every day in practice. Rhiannon had nobody pushing her last year, so now there is somebody equally as fast as her."

Sam Nelson will most likely be the first player off the bench every game. The freshman has the best court vision of anyone on the team, Burton said, and as a forward, she will be the one to take Clark's place after this season. When she is able to get the ball in the post, Nelson can be a threat inside, and her knack of getting to the free-throw line is a good reason why Higbee's 43 percent clip

from the charity stripe last year should get much better.

"She really got acclimated over the course of the summer," Burton said. "She really had a lot of kinks early on and learned how to gel with the rest of the team. Now she's one of them and there's not going to be any lag there."

Claire Berendzen will also get some minutes off the bench for Higbee. Burton said she has the same drive and fire as her older sister, Ashley, did, and Claire is looking to fill those shoes. Brianna Evans and Kennedy Bankhead played small roles on last year's team. Burton said Evans has grown as a ball-handler and handles the pressure much better than she did last season. Allie Derboven has shown she has a knack for reading passing lanes, which goes well with the Lady Tigers' 1-3-1 zone defense, Burton said.

With three high scorers, Burton said it's going to be tough for opponents to game plan against Higbee. More than likely, teams are going to try and double-team Clark in the post, which will open opportunities for either Runyon or Huddleston to score 20 points, or even have Derboven or Nelson get 10 points on the other block. Not having limitations in the scoring column is going to be an asset for this team.

The shooting percentages, however, are something Burton hasn't been able to move past. Higbee shot 23 percent from 3-point range, 43 percent from the line and 33 percent from the field. However, that number was an improvement from the 2012-13 season, when Higbee shot just 28 percent from the floor.

"Percentages are black and white," Burton said. "You either do better or you can't. We put all our emphasis this summer in the

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Area High School Basketball Preview

(Continued from Page 20)

'10,000 shot program.' These kids are going to be better than they were last year. Offensively, now we've got it."

Burton has changed Higbee's defense to a 1-3-1 zone, which has taken his players some time to get used to. Although most people don't run that defense, Higbee saw it right off the bat against Fayette to start this season.

Off the court, Burton has pretty much assumed the position of Higbee's director of basketball operations. He's done just about everything possible to help promote his school from southern Randolph County and put it on the map this season.

The Higbee boys and girls will play Ridgeway/Cainsville in the NCMC Holiday Shootout in Trenton on Dec. 23. Then the Lady Tigers will face Wellsville-Middletown four days later in the MRMC Shootout at Moberly. If that wasn't enough, Burton will have KRES Radio from Moberly

come do a live broadcast of one of Higbee's games, something the Tigers have never experienced on their home floor.

"We're doing the right things to make this program stand out, to get (players) the recognition they deserve," Burton said. "When it comes down to All-District and All-Conference, it's been an interesting thing to go through my first year. What I'm doing is a way I can help get my players' names out there and on the map."

The turnaround is already beginning for Higbee. The Lady Tigers beat Fayette by 29 points in their season opener and they earned the No. 3 seed in the Northwestern Tournament this week at Mendon. Many times, Higbee has worn road uniforms in a lot of tournament games as the lower seed, but players will have to start packing their home jerseys more often.

Winning a district game is also becoming a very likely possibility for Higbee, which hasn't happened in years. Burton said Higbee played within six points of Glasgow this

HIGBEE LADY TIGERS



2013-14 RECORD: 8-15 overall, 1-5 in Cooper County Activities Association (6th place)

PLAYOFF RESULT: Lost 61-31 to Community in Class 1 District 9 Tournament quarterfinals

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

KEY LOSSES: Ashley Berendzen (5.7 ppg, 13.3 rpg, 1.0 bpg); Alexandria Forrester (4.1 ppg, 6.5 apg, 1.4 spg).

KEY RETURNERS: Hope Clark: sr., 5'9" (12.9 ppg, 11.5 rpg, 2.8 spg, 2.4 bpg); Sabrina Huddleston: soph., 5'8" (12.2 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 43 3-pointers); Rhiannon Runyon: soph., 5'6" (15.0 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 2.5 spg).

summer and kids are starting to see the confidence beginning to surface.

"Previously, folks would tell the girls they're 30-point underdogs," Burton said. "This year, now they're telling them they

have a shot to do this. The kids have bought in, the parents have bought in and the administration has bought in. They're no longer behind the eight ball. Everything is on our side now."

Harrisburg boys preview

(Continued from Page 15)

Last season, Harrisburg had five scorers on the floor at all times, so feeding off its defense wasn't necessary. Now the Bulldogs plan to create some havoc on the defensive end this season, so it's going to be a night-and-day difference. Combs expects Harrisburg to play more of an underdog role after losing five starters, and if anything, the preseason jamboree showed numerous areas that are in need of improvement.

"We learned that we can't let up an ounce," Combs said. "If we do, varsity teams are just going to score at will on us. If we keep the pressure up and keep moving and rotating, then good things will happen for us."

It may take a few games into the season, but Combs said his bench will soon become a strength for this team. Last year, there was a noticeable drop-off from the fifth to the sixth player on the roster, so it was imperative to play starters for long periods of time. That won't be necessary this season. With 10 players for now, the talent level from No. 1 to No. 10 will be much closer this season.

"When you play our style, you can't just have five or six kids," Combs said. "You have to go eight, nine or 10 deep. We have some kids who will get better throughout the year. I've told the kids we still have spots for

five more and there will be some younger kids who can come up and help. Speed and quickness will be our bread and butter, but we're hoping to get that bench going."

Since the start of last year's basketball season, Harrisburg learned it will join the Lewis & Clark Conference, but not until the 2016-17 school year. This will be the third season the Bulldogs are an independent since the Mid-Missouri Conference was disbanded.

The way the Bulldogs have set up their schedule, one would think they're planning for a state playoff run. While Harrisburg will continue to play in the National Guard Shootout in Jefferson City, it has also added another shootout game in December against North Tech, playing at Moberly Area Community College. And that's not all. The Bulldogs will play county rival Sturgeon at the Mizzou Arena in January during the MFA Oil Shootout.

"We're going to get to play in a lot of nice venues," Combs said. "We open up with Macon and we're going to have tough matchups the whole year. We're hoping the better the competition we play, the more it'll raise our level. We know there will be some times when we have ups and downs, but the main thing is to keep our focus on that district run."

Harrisburg advanced at least as far as the state semifinals from 2006 to 2009, and last season was its first district championship game appearance since that playoff run. The new district assignments figure to make things a little easier on the Bulldogs this season.

First off, no more Tolton. The Trailblazers will still be on Harrisburg's regular-season schedule, but come district time, they'll play at the Class 3 level. Also, no more Sturgeon. The other Bulldogs from Boone County were a staple of Class 2 District 7

for years, but now Sturgeon will head to the eastern part of the state for district play.

Salisbury, which had its string of three-straight district titles snapped last season, will figure to be in the mix again this year. And the Panthers will host the district tournament in its new gym. The "District of Doom" also features some other strong programs, such as Westran, New Franklin and Sweet Springs.

Regardless of conference affiliation, Harrisburg doesn't hang conference championship banners in its gym. All that matters to the Bulldogs are district championships. And there is still one spot remaining on the boys basketball banner for one more district title.

"You just have to enjoy the ride," Combs said. "If there's anything I've learned as I got older, it's that winning championships are great, but you have to enjoy the ride and the process. It's going to be a fun year."

Higbee boys

(Continued from Page 19)

dictate the game the way we want to play it, that'll lead to success."

Bishop said he coaches basketball for a lot of reasons. Most importantly, he wants to pass on his successes to other young men and women. But now he has the nucleus he's been building up the past couple of seasons, and he can only see this program going upward this season.

"When you see successful teams, they want to play together and they want to be there for each other," Bishop said. "We've done that better this year than any other year I've been here. That may sound corny, but it works."



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Area High School Basketball Preview

Fayette boys preview

(Continued from Page 3)

a second-place finish a year ago and figures to be Salisbury's top contender in the battle for a conference championship. After that, a lot will be up for grabs in the conference, but Fayette would like to return to the top-half of the conference.

"You have to go through Salisbury," Pallardy said. "Salisbury is the cream of the crop, and everybody knows it. Now they have a new gym and they're going to want to win a title in there. I think we can compete and we can be right there in the middle. I want to finish at least .500 in the conference, but I don't see why we can't compete with every team in the league."

Pallardy said the Falcons have team

goals of finishing at the .500 mark, both in the regular season and in the conference. One of the biggest struggles last season was the Falcons were unable to compete in many of their losses and were on the wrong end of lopsided scores. They lost to Sacred Heart, the Class 2 state champions, by 56 points. Fayette fell to Tolton in districts by 68 points. Salisbury handled the Falcons by 51 points on Courtwarming night. Pallardy said those types of scores cannot happen again this season.

"We have to play our game," Pallardy said. "We have to play our brand of basketball. Whatever happens, happens. We can't let other teams dictate control of the game. We have to play our style at our pace, all the time."

Class 2 District 7 saw a bit of a shakeup with the new two-year district assignments. Tolton and Sturgeon are leaving the "District of Doom," as the Trailblazers ascend to Class 3 and the Bulldogs slide over to District 5. Westran will return to District 7 after a two-year hiatus up north and Sweet Springs also comes into the district representing the I-70 Conference.

The district title should be another tough battle and will grace Salisbury's gym in its inaugural season. Fayette has a chance to play every team in the district during the season, should it meet Sweet Springs in the New Franklin Tournament in January.

"We may see teams in our district early (in the season), but by the end of the year, they'll be better teams," Pallardy said. "We

have to be on our game every time we play them."

It took Pallardy 11 games into the 2013-14 season to get his first win. This year, he won his season opener. He's never gotten to experience win No. 2 in a single season, but odds are, it could come this week during the Glasgow Tournament.

After an unfair first season at the helm, Pallardy said he's learning the process and becoming better himself, just like his players. Now that he's had a full summer with this team — a luxury he was not afforded last season — he's looking forward to climbing the ladder of success this season.

"We've really improved in every facet of the game," Pallardy said. "We're becoming better every possible way that we can."

Glasgow girls preview

(Continued from Page 13)

"Jaden is a 6-foot post player that actually jumps. You don't see a whole lot of post players that get up and jump. She jumps to shoot and she jumps to rebound. She finishes well around the basket and she's strong physically. Between her and Abby, we have a very good opportunity to have a good high-low offense."

Sophomore Maia Polson and junior Rose Wellborn will also play some varsity minutes this season. Monnig said the players that set the tone at practice are the kids who spend a lot of time watching and taking things in. Both Polson and Wellborn fit that description. They participate and are very vocal for their teammates.

One of Glasgow's strengths this season will be its depth all around the floor, not just around the perimeter. While Nikki Fuemmeler was able to get the job done in the paint night after night, this year's team will have four to five players who can accomplish some things near the basket. Mon-

nig said they don't have Fuemmeler's experience, but it will help the Lady Jackets be more versatile on offense. Defensively, Glasgow should also be able to cover more space inside the lane.

"It's the first year I've had more post players than guards," Monnig said. "Going through drills, we have four or five guards and we have a lot more post players who are just specifically post players. We're going to challenge ourselves and make those adjustments."

And another reason the offense changes is because the main objective the past couple of seasons was to get the ball inside to Fuemmeler and let her dominate. This year, Glasgow will key its offense around Thompson. When teams try to contain Thompson, Monnig said it will open things up for other players, such as Reynolds and Blakeley Fuemmeler.

Glasgow will continue to use its defense to build energy in a game. Rarely do the Lady Jackets go a game without implementing its "in your face" full-court press. Mon-

nig simply said that "defense is what we do," and it tends to be the best part of each practice.

The Lady Jackets finished second in the CAC last season with a 10-2 record, losing both games to New Franklin. Glasgow was able to make the push past Sturgeon, but now Cairo is emerging as a contender for the top of the standings in 2014-15. Getting road wins against those top teams will be crucial for Glasgow to win the conference title.

"Cairo has some very good guards and they have some size now," Monnig said. "New Franklin is always good. You can always expect them to be competitive in our conference. Sturgeon has a new coach and they're playing a different style and they'll also be very competitive. That's the great thing about the CAC. Any night, you have to show up and be ready to play."

No one needs to tell the Glasgow girls that Chamois is their nemesis. The Lady Pirates have ended Glasgow's season the past three years, first in the state sectionals, then in the district championship game and lastly

in the district semifinals this year.

No, Chamois will not be in Glasgow's district this year or the next. Instead, the district assignments look similar to the 2011 and 2012 district tournaments, making the Lady Jackets an early favorite to take the top seed. However, teams like Keytesville and Higbee have taken significant strides and will also make pushes for the top seeds in the district.

Should Glasgow win the district title, there is the possibility Chamois could be waiting for another rematch in the state sectionals, again. The players have known that ever since basketball districts were assigned in the spring.

"The great thing about the kids I have is that they always want to play the best," Monnig said. "They want to play Chamois. They want to have that chance again. As soon as district assignments came out, Abby and Blakeley got on a computer, looking to see when they could meet them. These kids don't just want to win. They want to win against good teams."

Fayette girls

(Continued from Page 5)

season as they enter this week's Glasgow Tournament. First things first, James would like to get that monkey off the team's back and get that first win.

Even more important, getting that win during the Glasgow Tournament could be the start of something for this team. More often than not, going two-and-out in the Glasgow Tournament has been a pretty good indicator of the Lady Falcons' season over the past decade. When Fayette reaches the consolation final, it has built confidence for the team going forward as it did in 2011-12 and 2012-13.

James also has a lot of confidence in his team to do good things in the month of December. He said if Fayette can steal a couple of early wins, it would make a world of a difference for this team.

"I just want to be able to look at our team and know that every time out, we're going to be in every game," James said. "We want to win, obviously, but when we look back, if we are in all of these games, then I think our confidence will get better, and we'll find ways to win games."

New Franklin boys Glasgow boys

(Continued from Page 7)

our home games," Schlottzauer said. "We've had a number of close games that we have lost to Cairo, Glasgow and Sturgeon. If we can pick up two or all three of those wins, then get one or two of those wins on the road, we're right there at the top of the conference."

Despite facing yet another tough schedule, the chance is there for New Franklin to maneuver a 15-win season. While the Bulldogs won a couple of tough games last season against teams that give them fits, they also suffered a five-game losing streak in January that brought them below the .500 mark.

This time, because of that district win followed by only a seven-point loss to top-seeded Harrisburg, the Bulldogs have the confidence they have been lacking during past starts to a season.

"We've matured more," Schlottzauer said. "We understand what our roles are. We understand what we are capable of doing. We can't let one game affect another. It's going to come down to us showing up to play every night."

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CAC, it allowed Glasgow to pick up two extra games this season. The Yellowjackets kept Keytesville on the schedule for one non-conference game, but they've added a game against South Shelby in the MRM Holiday Shootout at the end of December.

Cropp can't reiterate enough how much ability this team will have. This year's team can have many different looks with five players on the floor. Most teams have played a zone defense against Glasgow, but the Yellowjackets are ready for any opportunity to go against a man-to-man defense when given the chance.

The one thing Cropp does know is his team will be ready when Glasgow hosts districts for the second-straight season. And settling for second place isn't anticipated to be an option.

"I think we can be pretty good," Cropp said. "Basketball-wise and talent-wise, it'll be one of the better (teams) I've had. That shouldn't be a problem. We just have to continue being better, together."

Area High School Basketball Preview

Fayette High School

2014-15 Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 24	@ Higbee (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Nov. 25	New Franklin (JVG/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 1-6	Glasgow Tournament	TBA
Dec. 8	Centralia (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 9	Slater* (JVG/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 11	@ Higbee (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 16	@ Westran* (JVG/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 18	@ Smithton (JVB/VG/VB)	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 2	Hallsville (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 5-10	New Franklin Tournament	TBA
Jan. 12	@ Marceline (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 13	@ Slater* (JVB/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 15	@ Pilot Grove (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 16	@ Salisbury* (JVG/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 19 & 24	Salisbury JV Tournament	TBA
Jan. 20	@ Harrisburg (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 22	Fr. Tolton Catholic (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 23	@ Atlanta (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 26-31	Slater Tournament	TBA
Feb. 2	Harrisburg (JVG/JVB, A&B)	5 p.m.
Feb. 3	@ Marceline* (JVG/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 5	@ Hallsville (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 9	@ New Franklin (JVG/JVB)	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 10	Paris* (JVG/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 13	Salisbury* (JVB/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 17	@ Paris* (JVB/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 19	Marceline* (JVB/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 20	Westran* (JVB/VG/VB)	5 p.m.

Home Games in Bold

* — Lewis & Clark Conference Game

New Franklin High School

2014-15 Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 25	@ Fayette (JVG/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 1-6	Glasgow Tournament	TBA
Dec. 8	Harrisburg (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 12	Brunswick* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 16	@ Cairo* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 17	Slater (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 18	vs. Tuscumbia (VG/VB)	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 5-10	New Franklin Tournament	TBA
Jan. 12	@ Slater (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 13	@ Pilot Grove (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 16	Sturgeon* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 20	Glasgow* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 22	Westran (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 23	@ Madison* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 26-31	Sturgeon Tournament	TBA
Feb. 3	@ Sturgeon* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 5	@ Brunswick* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 6	Salisbury (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 9	Fayette (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 10	Jamestown (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 11	Pilot Grove (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 13	@ Glasgow* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 17	Cairo* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 19	Madison* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.

Home Games in Bold

* — Central Activities Conference Game

Harrisburg High School

2014-15 Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 25	@ Macon (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 1-6	Glasgow Tournament	TBA
Dec. 1	Pilot Grove (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 8	@ New Franklin (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 9	@ Moberly (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 11	Russellville (JVG/VG)	6 p.m.
Dec. 16	@ Southern Boone (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 18	@ South Callaway (JVB/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 18	Versailles (JVG/VG)	6 p.m.
Dec. 20	vs. Blair Oaks* (VG)	TBA
Dec. 20	vs. Hermann* (VB)	TBA
Dec. 29	vs. Palmyra^ (VG)	3:30 p.m.
Dec. 29	vs. North Tech^ (VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 3	Sturgeon (JVG/JVB/VG)	1 p.m.
Jan. 6	Blair Oaks (JVB/VB)	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 6	@ Mexico (JVG/VG)	6 p.m.
Jan. 8	Mexico (JVB/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 10	Brookfield (JV/VG/VB)	12 p.m.
Jan. 12-17	South Callaway Tournament	TBA
Jan. 12	@ Salisbury (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 14	@ Southern Boone (JVG/JVB, A&B)	6 p.m.
Jan. 18	vs. Sturgeon% (VB)	TBA
Jan. 20	Fayette (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 21	Hallsville (JVG/JVB, A&B)	5 p.m.
Jan. 23	@ Fatima (JVB, A&B/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 26	Westran (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 27	@ Centralia (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 29	@ Hallsville (JVG/VG)	6 p.m.
Feb. 2-7	Southern Boone Tournament	TBA
Feb. 2	@ Fayette (JVG/JVB, A&B)	5 p.m.
Feb. 5	@ Macon (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 10	Knox County (JVG/VG)	6 p.m.
Feb. 13	Fr. Tolton Catholic (JV/VG/VB)	4:30 p.m.
Feb. 17	Santa Fe (JV/VG/VB)	4:30 p.m.
Feb. 20	@ Hallsville (JVB, A&B/VB)	5 p.m.

Home Games in Bold

* — Missouri National Guard Shootout at Jefferson City

^ — MRMC Holiday Shootout at Moberly Area Community College

% — MFA Oil Shootout at Mizzou Arena

Higbee High School

2014-15 Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 24	Fayette (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 1-6	Northwestern (Mendon) Tournament	TBA
Dec. 8	Brashear (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 9	@ Mo. School for the Deaf (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 11	Fayette (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 12	Madison (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 16	@ Bunceton (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 19	@ Calvary Lutheran (VG/VB)	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 23	vs. Ridgeway/Cainsville* (VG/VB)	TBA
Dec. 27	vs. Wellsville-Middletown^ (VG)	3:30 p.m.
Jan. 5-10	Marceline Tournament	TBA
Jan. 12	@ Keytesville (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 13	Malta Bend (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 16	Atlanta (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 20	@ Prairie Home (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 23	@ Christian Fellowship (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 26-31	Keytesville Tournament	TBA
Feb. 2	Moberly (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 3	@ Hallsville (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 6	@ Bucklin/Macon County (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 10	Christian Fellowship (JVG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 12	@ Salisbury (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 13	Bunceton (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 17	@ Malta Bend (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 19	La Plata (VG/VB)	6 p.m.

Home Games in Bold

* — NCMC Holiday Shootout at North Missouri Community College

^ — MRMC Holiday Shootout at Moberly Area Community College

Glasgow High School

2014-15 Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 25	Brunswick* (JVB/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 1-6	Glasgow Tournament	TBA
Dec. 8	@ Slater (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 9	@ Brunswick* (JVB/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 11	Keytesville (JVB/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 15	Marceline (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 16	@ Madison* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Dec. 18	Westran (JVG/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Dec. 27	vs. South Shelby^ (VB)	2 p.m.
Dec. 27	vs. Moberly^ (VG)	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 5-10	Marceline Tournament	TBA
Jan. 13	Sturgeon* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 15	Salisbury (JVG/JVB)	6 p.m.
Jan. 16	Cairo* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 20	@ New Franklin* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 22	@ Sweet Springs (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Jan. 26-31	Slater Tournament	TBA
Feb. 5	@ Sturgeon* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 10	@ Cairo* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 12	Madison* (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 13	New Franklin* (JV/VG/VB)	5 p.m.
Feb. 17	Meadville (VG/VB)	6 p.m.
Feb. 19	@ Salisbury (VG/VB)	6 p.m.

Home Games in Bold

* — Central Activities Conference Game

^ — MRMC Holiday Shootout at Moberly Area Community College

Postseason Schedule

Class 1 and 2 District Tournaments — Feb. 21-28

Class 1 and 2 Sectionals — March 3 & 4

Class 1 and 2 Quarterfinals — March 7

Show-Me Showdown (@ Columbia) — March 12-14

District Assignments

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

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

Area Conferences

Lewis & Clark Conference — Fayette, Marceline, Paris, Salisbury, Slater, Westran

Central Activities Conference — Brunswick, Cairo, Glasgow, Madison, New Franklin, Sturgeon

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