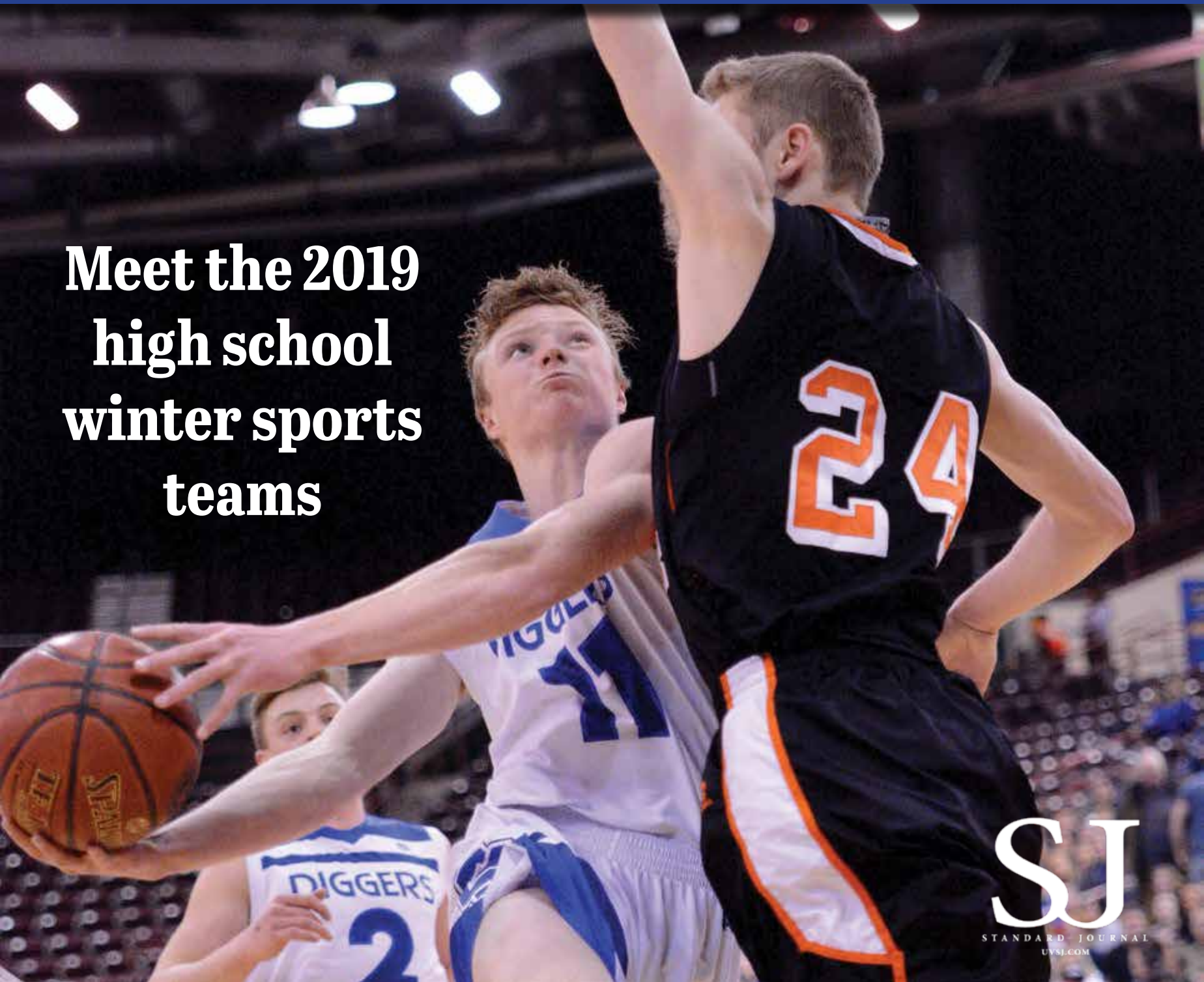


WINTER Sports Preview

**Meet the 2019
high school
winter sports
teams**



TOUGH-MINDED: New group of Lady Cougars look to take it to the competition

By Koster Kennard
sports@uvsj.com

South Fremont's season ended in disappointing fashion last year when they lost twice to Teton in the district tournament. This season, South Fremont has a new coach and a mostly new cast of characters in their rotation.

Karlee Thueson is one starter who is returning and looks to use her sweet stroke from downtown to lead the Lady Cougars in scoring.

"Karlee Thueson was second team all-conference last year and she's a great scorer, and I expect her to lead our team," said South Fremont head coach Ryan Campbell.

Kinley Geisler is another returner after providing a bit of a scoring spark for South Fremont last season as a sophomore.

"She's still feeling some nerves, but I think by the end of the year she'll score a lot of points for us," Campbell said.

Tyleigh Hill and Malorie Tucker are also seniors returning to the rotation.

"Tyleigh and Karlee are our captains," Campbell said after the team's opening game against Firth. "Tyleigh will do a lot for us. She's a post that can play some wing, and she's kind of learning how to play post for us because we're just not big. She got some big rebounds for us yesterday, she hit a couple of big threes, which was kind of a nice surprise. She'll just do a lot of hard work for us. We need girls who will go get offensive boards and defend."

Other than those four, the team is all new to varsity.

Rylie Neville has looked good scoring the ball for the Lady Cougars throughout the summer, and in the season so far, after playing on a freshman team last season.

"(Neville's) just kind of a stud," Campbell said. "Varsity ball's a little bit faster. She's kind of getting used to that.



GIRLS BASKETBALL



South Fremont's Karlee Thueson goes up for a shot over a defender during a game last season.

Standard Journal file photo

In summer, she had 20-plus points in some of our games."

Campbell hopes to have a rotation of about 10 girls, but could play as many as 13 girls to help apply a pressure-style defense. Offensively, he thinks any girl on his team could put up 10 points on a given night."

"Karlee's a really good player and we have some others who I think, in our conference, will do really well," Campbell said. "I just think we're going to be pretty balanced and be able to get scoring from a lot of different places. It's kind of a nice luxury."

Much of South Fremont's focus will be on playing defense and getting rebounds.

"We're not a big team," Campbell

said. "We want to play really aggressively both defensively and offensively."

The mantra South Fremont players chose this year is 'earn it.'

"Putting in the work to earn their success."

The Lady Cougar's goal is to make it to the state tournament

"We have a tough conference," Campbell said. "Teton returns a lot of girls. Sugar's a state championship team. It'll be a tough year, but that's our goal."

South Fremont might not be big, but they are tough.

"It was kind of something I knew before I came to South. Now, I'm just seeing it first hand," Campbell said. "Our girls are just tough. Tough-minded. We got down early and it was rough

SCHEDULE

Dec. 3	@ West Jeff	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 6	vs. Fruitland	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	vs. Cole Valley	4 p.m.
Dec. 10	vs. Firth	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 13	vs. Salmon	7 p.m.
Dec. 18	vs. Marsh Valley	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 19	@ Ririe	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 27-28	@ Aberdeen Tournament	
Jan. 8	@ Marsh Valley	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 15	@ Teton	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 17	@ Salmon	7 p.m.
Jan. 18	vs. Snake River	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 23	@ Sugar	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 25	vs. Teton	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 28	@ Snake River	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 31	vs. Sugar	7:30 p.m.

ROSTER

Maddie Baler, Jr
Tyleigh Hill, Sr
Cassidy Carpenter, Jr
Kinley Geisler, Jr
Aysiah Conger, Jr
Har-lee Maupin, Jr
Karlee Thueson, Sr
Malorie Tucker, Sr
Josee Angell, So
Taylyn Cordingley, Jr
J.C. Pope, Jr
Rylie Neville, So
Addi Hill, So

going yesterday (at Firth) but there's no quit in them. They play really aggressive, in-your-face kind of defense where they won't back down. We'll play some teams where they're a lot bigger than us. But we out-rebounded some of these teams that are a lot bigger than us. They're gritty. We'll try and do it without fouling, but I think that's something we'll be known for."

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‘LUNCH MONEY:’ South Fremont aims to steal a state title

By Koster Kennard
sports@uvsj.com



Last season, South Fremont’s wrestling team took fourth place in the state wrestling tournament. With many of their best wrestlers back, South Fremont plans to win it all this season.

Tristan Olson returns as a senior to defend his title, and Sawyer Hobbs returns as a senior to defend his third title.

“I think they’re going to do well,” said South Fremont head coach Jed Clark. “They’re hard workers off-season wise. They’re confident. We put a lot of faith in them. We move them around where we need to so they get tough matches all throughout the season.”

Hobbs plans to primarily wrestle at 195 after wrestling at 182 for most of last season, and Olson will likely primarily wrestle at 160 again.

Cesar Tavares placed third at state last season at 145 and is slated to wrestle at 152 as a senior this season.

“He’s strong,” Clark said. “He had a good off-season as well and a good summer. He’s going to do well.”

Bo Hackworth placed third at 126 last season and will likely wrestle at



Tristan Olson, left, wrestles an opponent at Holt Arena in Pocatello last season.

138 as a senior this season.

“He’s a little bigger but he’s strong where he’s at,” Clark said. “He’ll do well.”

Gustavo Carranza also returns after placing sixth in the state tournament at

106 last season. Right now, he is slated to wrestle 120.

“He’s got a lot of confidence in himself,” Clark said. “He had a good summer camp and a good football season. He’ll be in one of those lighter weights.”

River Eddins also went to state last year but narrowly missed placing by one match. This season he’s also slated to wrestle 152.

“He didn’t place but he was one match away from placing,” Clark said. “He’ll be between Cesar and Tristan. He’s a kid that works hard too. I’m excited to have him there too.”

Jackson Coverley also went to state last season. He’ll wrestle 145 this season.

Bryan Popocatl returns to the varsity lineup as a junior after going to state

SCHEDULE

Dec. 2	@ Ririe Jamboree, 4 p.m.
Dec. 6-7	@ North Fremont Tourn.
Dec. 12	@ Ririe & Challis, 5 p.m.
Dec. 13	@ Id. Falls & Skyline, 5 p.m.
Dec. 18	@ West Jefferson/Aberdeen
Dec. 19	@ JV Bonneville Tournament
Dec. 20-21	@ Bonneville Duals
Jan. 9	@ Snake R. & Am. Falls, 5 p.m.
Jan. 10-11	@ Buhl Tournament
Jan. 17-18	@ Tiger-Grizz
Jan. 24-25	@ Gooding Tourn.
Jan. 29	@ Sugar, 6 p.m.
Feb. 7-8	@ Weiser Tournament
Feb. 13	vs. Teton, 6 p.m.
Feb. 20	@ District Wrestling at Teton

last season. He’ll wrestle either heavy weight or 220. Titus Leavitt is another who will vie for a varsity spot at 220.

The remainder of the team will be filled in with experienced freshmen and sophomores and seniors who are pretty new to wrestling.

“We have some new seniors,” Clark said. “I like that kids are willing to try something. I feel like we have a team that kids want to be a part of. The seniors that have been there, they’re good students they’ve put in their time.”

South Fremont has 18 freshmen that have certified to wrestle this season.

“For most teams having a lot of freshmen, you’d think it was kind of a rebuilding year, and it kind of is for us,” Clark said. “We lost some tough kids last year. Easton Banta, Jordan Dodge and Daylin Duncan and others.”

“We have some tough, tough freshmen,” Clark said. “They are freshmen but they’re going to do well. We have

See **WRESTLING**, page 6

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South Fremont boys reloaded and ready to compete

By Koster Kennard
sports@uvsj.com

South Fremont boys' basketball team's 2018-19 season concluded when they lost to Marsh Valley 48-46 in the game that would have sent them to the state tournament. Their 2019-2020 season begins with optimism as they return a few key pieces from last year and have added some depth.

Post Tag Bair dominated in stretches for South Fremont last season and it looks like he's only gotten better.

"Tag had a good offseason," said South Fremont head coach Ryon Pope. "He's worked hard. He has a great love for basketball. He has a lot of natural ability plus he's just a gym rat. He loves getting in the gym and putting in time. I've never known him to miss an open gym or a practice or anything like that. He's always wanting to get somewhere to shoot a ball. We expect him to have a good year this year and we're excited to have him back."

Not only is Bair better, but he's also bigger.

"He's between 6'5" and 6'6" and I think he might be really close to 6'6" now," Pope said. "He's stronger and he's worked on his game, so I'm excited for the possibilities that he has for this upcoming year."

Senior post Jace Neville was also a big part of South Fremont's offense last season and looks to take on a bigger role this year.

"Jace finished last season playing really good basketball," Pope said. "He was really tough to handle down on the block and we would post him against guys and he would almost always get a nice look at the basket. He drew a lot of fouls and he was a big



BOYS BASKETBALL



South Fremont's Tag Bair scores a layup during a game last season.

Standard Journal file photo

part of how we finished last year. In the game against Teton he really had a nice game in that district tournament."

The Cougars moved, then-freshmen, Kaimen Peebles up from JV near the end of last season, and he had a few good stretches scoring the ball.

"He gave us a really good spark," Pope said. "He's a year older and I expect him to have a really good year."

Dallin Orme is another player returning to the South Fremont varsity rotation.

See **BOYS**, page 6

SCHEDULE

Dec. 4	vs. Marsh Valley	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 6	@ Fruitland	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	@ Cole Valley	4 p.m.
Dec. 13	vs. Salmon	7 p.m.
Dec. 14	@ Ririe	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 17	vs. West Jeff	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 19	@ Firth	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 20	@ American Falls	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 7	vs. Ririe	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 9	@ Marsh Valley	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	vs. Snake River	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 17	@ Salmon	7 p.m.
Jan. 22	@ Snake River	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 23	vs. American Falls	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 30	vs. Firth	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 1	vs. Teton	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 5	@ Sugar	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 7	@ West Jeff	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 12	@ Teton	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 14	vs. Sugar	7:30 p.m.

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WRESTLING

Continued from page 4

quite a few in those lower weights that are going to be pretty solid all the way through.”

South Fremont should be a little deeper than they were last season with a wrestler at each position and two wrestlers at most positions.

Clark attributes his freshmen’s skills to the coaching staff of South Fremont’s feeder program, the Upper Valley Aces including Rhett and Brock Banta.

“There’s a lot of offseason stuff that’s been put together for this team,” Clark said. “It’s not just me. They’ve developed these kids that are coming in to be successful as freshmen. They are freshmen but they’re going to win a lot of matches.”

Clark said he is just one part of the machine that is South Fremont

wrestling.

“I guess what I want to say is, it’s not me that’s built this team, it’s the whole wrestling community. There’s a lot of guys who’ve put in a lot of time and effort into building South Fremont wrestling. I’m just ecstatic to be a part of it and to be able to be in the kids’ corners and just be a small part of it.”

One slogan South Fremont players are considering this year is ‘lunch money.’

“The premise behind it is, we’re going to be the top dogs this year,” team captain Tristan Olson said. “We’re going to take everybody else’s lunch money. We’re not going to let anybody stomp on us.”

South Fremont only has one goal this season.

“We want to win it (all) this year,” Clark said. “We have a good shot.”

BOYS

Continued from page 5

“He was a really nice point guard, a really good on-ball defender and good at attacking the basket,” Pope said.

Talon Maupin is also coming back for his senior year and his third year as a regular contributor for the varsity team.

“He had knee surgery in the fall and couldn’t play football, but he is back and just about 100 percent and should have a good senior season,” Pope said.

The rest of South Fremont’s team is new. Brock Hunter played JV last season and will be a solid player coming off of the bench.

“We graduated a large senior class last year but we do have some really good players in our senior class.”

Bridger Poulsen and Bridger Erickson will play guard and are good athletes who’ve played big roles on the football and baseball teams. Ryker Hurt is junior post.

“He’s grown a lot,” Pope said. “He’s about 6’4” he’s very athletic and he’s starting to develop the skills that will really help to have a good junior year.”

Carson Draper is another junior who should play.

“He can go inside and outside,” Pope said. “He’s a great offensive rebounder and a good defender. He just never stops working hard.”

South Fremont should be much deeper this season.

“We have 10 on varsity and we expect all 10 of them to play,” Pope said.

South Fremont will likely also switch up the way they play defensively with more man defense than they played last season.

“We should be more athletic, a little quicker than last year,” Pope said. “I think we’ll be able to get up and down the floor a little bit more and maybe fill in some high-pressure defense occasionally. We do have a strong athletic group. Plus, we do still have some good size. We have several kids who can play inside or out. I think we have more depth than

ROSTER

Jace Neville, Sr.

Brock Hunter, Sr.

Talon Maupin, Sr.

Tag Bair, Jr.

Bridger Poulsen, Jr.

Bridger Erickson, Jr.

Carson Draper, Jr.

Dallin Orme, Jr.

Ryker Hurt, Jr.

Kaimen Peebles, So.

last year. And definitely a little more defense, a little more rebounding, a little more offensive firepower.”

South’s slogan this year is “all in.”

“We are just working to get all of us totally committed to what we’re doing,” Pope said. “Everybody getting on the same page and working hard and sharing a common goal.”

Pope doesn’t want to set a specific goal about how many games they’ll win or how far they’ll go in end-of-season tournaments.

“I don’t want to do anything that might limit us,” Pope said. “It’s literally we are going to just focus every day at practice, pushing ourselves to get to the next level every day.”

Pope thinks those who come out to watch his team will get their money’s worth.

“We have a very fun team to watch,” Pope said. “We had a good summer and I hope that people will come out and support these guys. They’re going to be entertaining to watch. We’ll be able to really have some great nights out on the hard court.”

Fans of 3A district VI should see some competitive games this year.

“We have a very tough conference,” Pope said. “I don’t know that there is a favorite. That’s for real. Sugar and South and Teton are, I think, probably, the most evenly matched we’ve been in quite some time. It’s going to be a very entertaining season and especially the district tournament is going to be very exciting.”

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Madison wrestling welcomes new coach

By Bill Schiess
sports@uvsj.com

Aaron Peterson was hired to lead the Bobcats wrestling team after former head coach, Jake Lords, accepted an assistant college coaching job. Peterson is no stranger to Madison wrestling as he has been involved with the youth wrestling programs. He also wrestled for Madison, placing in the state tournament three times before moving on to wrestle for Ricks College.

"I have been interested in the success of Madison wrestling since I was in high school," Peterson said. "My philosophy is to develop kids to be good people as well as good wrestlers. We do that by stressing doing good things from the inside out."

Peterson will be inheriting a nucleus of a good team with three returning state-placers, five state-qualifiers and six seniors. Jaden Smith placed third at state with Tyson Clark taking fourth and Josh Bensen placing sixth last season.

"We are missing wrestlers to fill the upper weights," Peterson said. "It would be nice if we could get some of those talented kids out to help us fill them."

Last year Nathan Sanders at 220 and Jorge Diaz at 285 both took second in district and qualified for state, but right now the Madison squad does not have anyone on the roster over 195 pounds. Also gone are two district champions, Crit Wilcox (120) and Tre Clark (195).

The Bobcats' strength will come from the middle and light weights with Noah Ingram, Diego Vergara, Ethan Burbidge, Jarom Ricks, Colby Wadsworth, Ikaika and Kekoa Jenson along with Smith, Clark and Benson. "I really think David Wheeler and Orion Stokes will surprise a lot of people," said Peterson. "We also have a great group of freshmen coming in."

Notable freshmen wrestling for the



Standard Journal file photo

Madison's Jaden Smith wrestles an opponent during a match last year.

Bobcats will be Kevin Reilly, Ashton Peterson, Tyke Burrell and Hyrum Allen.

"Our team goals are to place in the top two teams at district and in the top 10 at state," commented Peterson. "Highland will be really tough again this year, as they have been for several years, but we should be just behind them."

With the expansion of the athletic facilities, Madison's wrestling room was tripled in size which will allow the 30 to 35 wrestlers plenty of room to develop their skills. Peterson will build his program by working on takedowns about half of the time while splitting the other half between bottom and top moves. He will be assisted by Lucas Ingram, Mike Wilder, Ryan Spencer and Jake Lords (not related to the former coach).

Madison will open their season at home in a quad with Hillcrest, Bonneville and Rigby on December 4.

SCHEDULE

Dec. 4	vs. Bonn./Hillcrest	5 p.m.
Dec. 6-7	@ Bucks Bags Tourney	
Dec. 20-21	@ HCC Duals	
Jan. 2	@ Borah	5 p.m.
Jan. 3-4	@ Rollie Lane Tourney	
Jan. 10-11	Madison Invite	
Jan. 14	@ Thunder Ridge	6 p.m.
Jan. 17-18	@ Tiger/Grizz	
Jan. 23	vs. Highland	6 p.m.
Jan. 31-Feb. 1	@ Red Halverson	
Feb. 5	vs. Rigby	6 p.m.
Feb. 7	@ Idaho Falls	5 p.m.
Feb. 12	@ Shelley	5 p.m.



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Mostly new Madison girls working to improve

By Bill Schiess
sports@uvsj.com

After going 0-2 in the district tournament last season, Madison's girls' basketball team is back with a mostly new set of players, and they're ready to make some noise in the district.

Four players are returning to the Lady Bobcats team: two juniors and two seniors.

Macie Gordon and Madison Jensen are the two returning seniors.

"I kind of expect Macie Gordon to step up and do some good things for us," said Madison head coach Traci Peterson. "We only have two seniors so I expect those two kids to really step up and lead these guys."

Then McKell Parkinson and Sid Parker are returning juniors.

"(Parkinson will) kind of be our point guard, kind of be our leader out there, Peterson said.

Grace Dow is also a sophomore who returns to Madison after a couple years in Preston. Her sister, Beth, played at Madison until transferring for her senior year.

"She's only a sophomore and she's doing some really good things for us," Peterson said.

Charlie Cook and Whitney Mackenzie are two freshmen who are new to the team. Peterson has been impressed with how they've played with Madison's junior high program.

"We have a couple of freshmen who I'm hoping will step into their roles and play well."

Peterson expects the team to be able to score if they can get scorers the ball and the opportunity.

"We have kids who can score," Peterson said. "We have to be able to get

GIRLS BASKETBALL

SCHEDULE		
Dec. 3	vs. Skyline	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 5	@ Shelley	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	vs. Blackfoot	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 11	@ Highland	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 13	vs. Rigby	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 17	@ Thunder Ridge	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 20-21	@ Jerome	
Jan. 8	@ Bonneville	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 10	@ Idaho Falls	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	@ Blackfoot	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 16	vs. Hillcrest	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 18	vs. Thunder Ridge	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 22	vs. Highland	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 28	@ Rigby	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 30	vs. Bonneville	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 4-15	District Tournament	
Feb. 20-22	State Tournament	

ROSTER	
Whitney Mackenzie	
Madison Jensen	
Whitney Wasden	
Tori Gillette	
Macie Gordon	
Charlie Cook	
Blaire Gordon	
Grace Dow	
Sid Parker	
McKell Parkinson	

them the ball in the right situations. If we do that and they get some confidence early on about what they're capable of on the offensive end, they're going to score points."

Their defense is still a work in progress for Madison.

"Defensively, right now I would look at you and tell you that we're

See **GIRLS**, page 11



Madison's Macie Gordon goes up for a shot during a game last year.

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Five new starters look to lead Madison to state

By Bill Schiess
sports@uvsj.com



BOYS BASKETBALL

Last season, Madison's basketball team came within 12 points of winning the state title, but this year's team will look far different than last year's.

Every player in Madison's starting lineup last season graduated.

"We are a completely different team this year," to be honest, said Madison head coach Travis Schwab. "I started five seniors last year and my first guy off of the bench was a senior as well. We were very senior-heavy."

This season, Madison returns three players to their varsity team: Carson Downey, Dawson Wills and Mark Williams.

"We're inexperienced as far as floor time and that kind of thing, and when I start five guys on the fifth of December in our first game, we'll probably start five guys that have (almost) never started a varsity game before."

Downey will likely start at point guard for the Bobcats.

"Carson is our captain and he's our point guard and is the floor general," Schwab. "We expect a lot from him."

Wills scored seven points in the state title game last year and Schwab expects him to pick up right where he left off.

"Dawson is kind of the big man down low and he'll play post for us again," Schwab said. He got some good time and his last game was phenomenal. He played against Borah in that state championship and played really well. So we're excited to have him back."

Mark Williams is the final returner for the Bobcats.

"Mark is a defensive stopper and



Standard Journal file photo

Madison's Dawson Wills goes up for a shot during a game last year.

we expect big things from Mark as well with those three kind of being that core that comes back for another year," Schwab said.

Taden King and Wesley Jensen played well together on the junior varsity team last year. Jensen is a senior and King is a junior.

"Those two were an unstoppable force last year on JV," Schwab said. "Granted, it was JV but they played

really well together on JV."

Braxton Pierce, Tyson Lerwill, Joey Williams and star quarterback Easton Cordero will all vie for spots in the varsity rotation.

"It'll be fun to have Easton and his athleticism on the team as well," Schwab said.

Schwab isn't sure exactly what his scoring attack will look like this season.

SCHEDULE

Dec. 5	@ Mountain View	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 6	@ Borah	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	@ Boise	12:30 p.m.
Dec. 12	@ Skyline	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 14	vs. Thunder Ridge	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 18	vs. Idaho Falls	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 20	vs. Blackfoot	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 21	vs. Post Falls	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 28	vs. Bonneville	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 3	@ Sky View	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 9	vs. Hillcrest	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	@ Idaho Falls	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 17	@ Highland	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 21	@ Hillcrest	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 23	@ Blackfoot	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 29	@ Bonneville	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 31	vs. Skyline	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 5	@ Rigby	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 7	@ Thunder Ridge	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 12	vs. Highland	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 14	vs. Rigby	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 18-28	District Tournament	
March 5-7	State Tournament	

ROSTER

Carson Downey
Tyson Lerwill
Easton Cordero
Wesley Jensen
Dawson Wills
Jantzen Marcum
Braxton Pierce
Kaleb Rasmussen
Mark Williams
Taden King
Joey Williams

"I would expect Carson and Mark and Dawson and Caden and Wesley," Schwab said. "Those five will probably

See **BOYS**, page 11

BOYS

Continued from page 10

be out primary scorers as far as most minutes played. I feel like we're pretty deep as far as how far I can go down into the bench and get some points from there."

Madison is quite long this year with Downey playing point at 6'6," Wills and Jensen at 6'5," King at 6'4" and Williams at 6'2." But Schwab said the team will have to pick up their intensity defensively if they want to be like last year's defensive squad that was replete with quick guards.

"This group of kids has not shown the love for defense like the team did last year," Schwab said. "That's one of the question marks that I have, in all honesty, is how good are we defensively. Last year, I knew every single game stepping on the floor that we were the best team defensively. I mean we gave up 44 points a game defensively. This team, they have all sorts of talent and ability and potential, but defensively, we've got to get better."

Madison's shooting shirts say 'family,' based on the shooting shirts that players wore in the NCAA tournament last season.

Madison's team is pretty new to varsity but Schwab hopes they really want to get back to the state title.

"I think the goal for every team is to make it to the state tournament and then see what happens," Schwab said. "I would love to say that our goal is a state championship. I think that's what everyone's playing for. For us, where we were there last year and played in it last year, I would be sad if our kids didn't want to get back there."

Schwab said his players are good, coachable kids who are fun to be around.

"As a dad with daughters, I would be great with my daughters dating any of these boys," Schwab said. They're just awesome young men."

With a new cast of characters, Madison's basketball team is out to prove they can play.

"I feel like our kids want to show that they can play basketball too," Schwab said. "We have some people out there who think basketball is no longer played in Madison because we graduated everybody. But, we still have basketball going and we still have a good group of kids and a good team. I think they're out to prove some doubters wrong."

GIRLS

Continued from page 8

really pretty rough," Peterson said. "I think that the kids need to get better at fundamentals and defensively being able to read lanes and step into passing lanes and being able to stop penetration. Defensively, we have to be able to get better."

Madison doesn't have a mantra but they do have a mindset.

"We want to work hard," Peterson said. "We don't want to get outworked."

Peterson feels she has a high-character group of girls.

"They're just a really good group of kids," Peterson said. "They're very unified, they want to work hard they want to learn. It'll be a process for them and if they embrace the process, they're going to do some good things."

Peterson is confident in her team's potential.

"Well, there's no question, you want to come out and do well in your district and end up at the state tournament," Peterson said. "If these kids will play the way they're capable of playing, we have every shot in the world of being able to do that."

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codyr@circlezAG.com

MARTY PETTINGILL

c: 208-390-2322

martyp@circlezAG.com

o: 208-881-5160

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Reloaded North Fremont team determined to build on last year's state title

By Koster Kennard
sports@uvsj.com



BOYS BASKETBALL

After winning their first-ever state title last season, North Fremont's basketball team has some big shoes to fill. In fact, with so many key players lost to graduation, the Huskies are going to have to fill several shoes with new players.

Paul Wynn and Jordan Hess are two main players returning from last year's regular rotation.

"I expect they'll be able to step up and do a good job this year," said North Fremont head coach Shannon Hill.

"They've been playing varsity, this will be their third year for each of them. I expect good things out of them."

Post Tyler Schuldberg also returns as a senior, as does wing Luke Hill as a junior, and guard Jordan Lenz as a sophomore. Guard Colton Orme is new to the team as a senior.

Carson Dye comes to the team after playing on the JV squad last season, and Max Palmer will join the team as a sophomore.

"They're going to be young and they're going to go through some growing pains, but those players are very capable of stepping up and playing against older kids," Hill said. "They've played against older kids their entire lives so it's not going to be a big switch for them."

Hill said the team may be different but they plan to work toward the same goals.

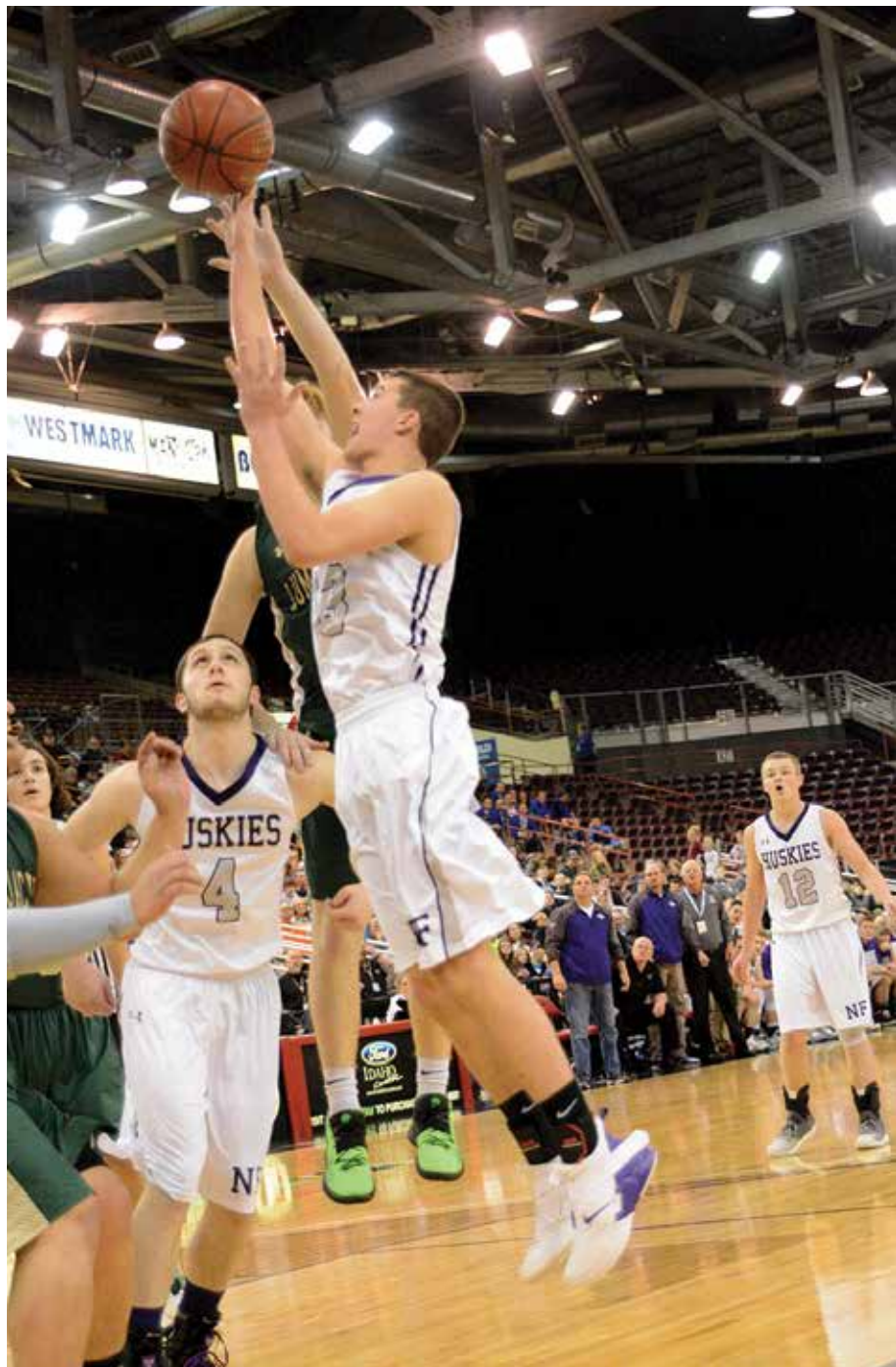
"We're obviously getting almost a complete facelift," Hill said. "We lost a lot of senior leadership and a lot of athleticism from our senior class, but these kids are going to step right in and do well throughout the season and I expect us to be competing for a district championship again."

North Fremont's mantra will once again be, 'team.'

"It worked good so we'll try that again," Hill said. "I doubt that will ever change for me. I'm getting old and set in my ways."

Hill expects the Nuclear Conference to be a tough one again after Ririe nearly met up with the Huskies in the state finals last season.

"West J is probably the front runner to start the season and Firth is always good and right there," Hill said. "I expect Salmon to be much improved. Ririe has such a great tradition that I expect good things out of them too. Our league, is always very competitive. So we usually do very well at the state tournament. We'd feel fortunate to come out of our district and represent again."



Luke Hill goes up for a shot at last year's state tournament game at the Ford Idaho Center in Nampa.

Standard Journal file photo

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North Fremont brings back core for coming season

By Koster Kennard
sports@rjsj.com



GIRLS BASKETBALL

After going three and out in the district tournament last season, North Fremont returns most of its core for another district run.

Ellie Miller, Dakota Dexter and Remi Litton, who all played key roles for the Lady Huskies last year, return for their senior season.

Miller, in particular, has been an offensive force over the last two seasons.

"She's played a lot of varsity minutes over the last few years," Lenz said. "She has a lot of versatility. She can play guard out front and handle the ball for us, and she can play in the post. She brings a scoring threat from both inside and outside."

Miller is projected to be out for the first few games with Infectious mononucleosis.

With the departure of a couple seniors, Litton and Dexter's roles may increase this season.

"We were so young last year and lost a couple of kids from transferring to different schools," Lenz said. "They had to step in last year. So, they had a year of experience behind them that helps aid them in their guard play. I guess more than anything, it's the leadership from them. It's their ability to lead the younger group."

Brylie Greener and Shelby Reynolds are retuning juniors on the team, and Miriya Hoffner and Graycee Litton are back as sophomores. Ryen Rowburry is also on the team as a sophomore.

"(Their role) will be very similar to last year with taking a lot of the time sharing duties at point guard," Lenz said. "Then their ability to defend. They're quick guards so we have to



Ellie Miller dribbles around a defender during a game last year.

Standard Journal file photo

be able to put a little pressure on the ball."

North Fremont doesn't have any incoming freshmen on the varsity team as of now.

"We have that incoming freshmen class," Lenz said. "There's a lot of potential with them. So I don't foresee them making their mark quite yet, but in time."

Lenz said the players in his rotation will be pretty similar to last season, though he doesn't plan to have a set rotation until well into the season.

"They'll be sharing minutes and, little by little, we'll determine a little more where their roles will be," Lenz said.

The Lady Huskies will deploy a similar strategy to previous years.

"We're just going to keep doing what we've tried to build our program on over the years," Lenz said. "Working hard, playing smart and having fun."

North Fremont's motto is 'better each day.'

"I just hope to get better and better," Lenz said. "Then hopefully, by the end, come district where everything's determined in that district tournament, we want to try and peak at the right time. I think our district's wide open, so there's a lot to play for."

North Fremont has a pretty simple philosophy this season.

"If we're humble when we win and we're still confident and prideful when we don't, we'll get the Ws. We'll go through some growing pains with some young kids still, but I think after last year we were so young and I think that just bodes well for this season."

North Fremont's character isn't something Lenz is worried about.

"They're just an easy group to work with," Lenz said. "It's a lot easier on a coach when the girls are giving everything. They play hard for one another more than anything."



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New coach plans to lead several wrestlers to individual titles

By **Koster Kennard**
sports@uvsj.com



WRESTLING

Last season, North Fremont scored the seventh-most points in the 2A state wrestling tournament and placed four wrestlers in the state tournament. Half of those wrestlers are gone, but their two state champions, Rigger Cordingley and Kohl Nielson, remain.

"I absolutely expect another state championship out of each of them," said rookie North Fremont head coach Bruen Cordingley. "They're working hard. They're both doing great."

Cordingley is going for his third-straight title and is three wins away from breaking the North Fremont record (100) consecutive wins.

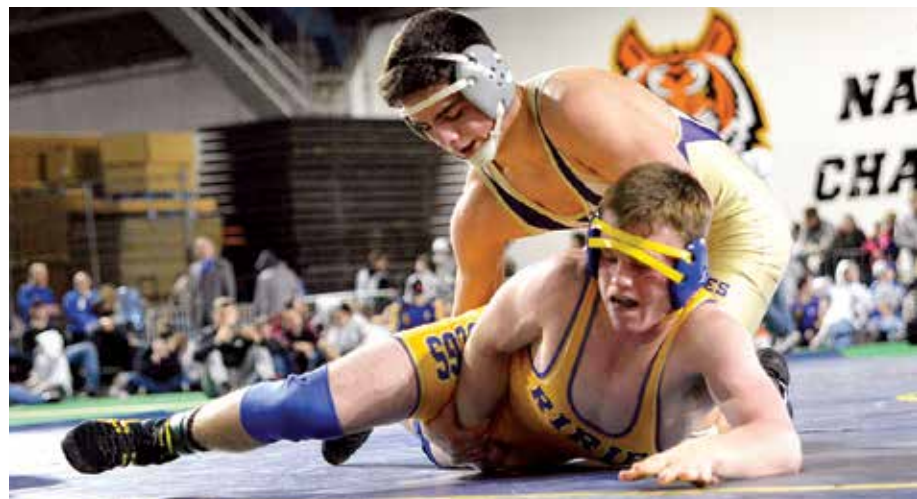
"(101) wins is pretty unheard of," coach Cordingley said. "That's (going to be) a huge accomplishment as well. Rigger's outstanding. I know he has some colleges looking at him."

Kohl Nielson won his title at 120 last season, but will wrestle at a heavier weight this season.

Tyler Session also returns after placing second in the nuclear conference tournament as a junior.

"He's been a state-placer before and I expect him to do good things this year," Cordingley said.

Hayden Maupin comes back as a



Standard Journal file photo

Rigger Cordingley wrestles a Ririe opponent during a match at Holt Arena in Pocatello.

junior after winning the conference last season at 145.

"He works hard every day," Cordingley said. "He's a really great kid who comes in ready to wrestle. I think this is going to be his breakout season."

"I expect both Maupin and Sessions to place high or win a state title this year," he said.

Alex Garcia also placed first in the district last season at 138 and Cordingley feels he'll have a good season.

The only freshman on North Fremont's team this season is Enzo Romero.

"He's wrestled for me all through junior high," Cordingley said. "He's a really good athlete and a really good wrestler."

North Fremont has very little depth this season.

"We're pretty slim this year," Cordingley said. "Most of our kids are going to be wrestling varsity this year. I honestly don't know where my team is right now. I have a couple of kids that I'm working with trying to get them in

the room to wrestle who have wrestled in years past."

Cordingley doesn't want to set a specific goal for where his team will finish but believes some of his wrestlers will do very well in the state tournament.

"I don't think we have the numbers this year to plan on placing high in tournaments," Cordingley said. "I wish we could, but we have to get some more kids coming in. We're kind of in our down year right now. The future looks awesome. I wouldn't have any prediction about how we're going to do as a team in team tournaments."

Just because North Fremont doesn't have many wrestlers doesn't mean they don't have some good ones.

"We're always going to have 2,3,4 kids in the finals," Cordingley said. "We don't have a lot of kids to score points throughout the whole tournament. I truly believe that we have a couple of the best wrestlers in the state of Idaho, but we just don't have enough to make a complete lineup."



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New-look Sugar girls battling to maintain championship tradition

By Koster Kennard
sports@rsvj.com

Sugar-Salem's girls basketball team won the state championship in each of the last two years, but with four starters graduating from last year's team, that unblemished playoff record will be tested.

Last season, Macie Knapp was the Diggers clear leader, the year before it was Savanna Crane and Kayla Luke, this season, their offense may be even more democratic.

"I think we'll be pretty balanced and we'll have a team where a lot of different kids will contribute," said Sugar-Salem head coach Crystal Dayley.

Two of the three Fillmore girls return from last season. They will both be key players for the Diggers both probably in much different ways. Macey Fillmore is the returning starter at the wing and she has a good chance to lead Sugar in scoring after providing a scoring punch last season. Mardee Fillmore will bring her defensive prowess to the starting lineup and take on a larger scoring role down low.

"Mardee Fillmore has stepped up a lot and I think she can be really tough in the post," Dayley said.

Michelle Luke was a regular con-



GIRLS BASKETBALL



Sugar-Salem's Mardee Fillmore goes up for a shot over two defenders during a game last year. Standard Journal file photo

tributor as well as a backup guard. The rest of the rotation is up for grabs for a collection of young players.

"Our goal is to play a lot of kids this

year and have a lot of different kids who contribute," Dayley said. "So I look for a team that will have a different

See **GIRLS**, page 19

SCHEDULE

Dec. 3	vs. Firth	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 6	@ Filer	1 p.m.
Dec. 7	@ Kimberly	1 p.m.
Dec. 10	vs. Marsh Valley	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 13	@ Soda Springs	4 p.m.
Dec. 18	@ Snake River	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 20-21	@ Jerome Tournament	
Jan. 3	vs. Filer	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 8	vs. Snake River	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 10	@ Shelley	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	@ Firth	4 p.m.
Jan. 17	vs. Teton	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 18	vs. Kimberly	1 p.m.
Jan. 21	@ Marsh Valley	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 23	vs. South Fremont	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 29	@ Teton	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 31	@ South Fremont	4:30 p.m.

ROSTER

Sarenady Price, Sr.
Hailey Harris, So.
Meg Fillmore, Fr.
Lizzy Baldwin, Jr.
Michelle Luke, Sr.
Sunny Bennion, Jr.
Kalli Bingham, Sr.
Natalyah Nead, So.
Megan Pannell, Sr.
Mardee Fillmore, Sr.
Macey Fillmore, Sr.

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Sugar boys primed to repeat

By Koster Kennard
sports@uvsj.com



BOYS BASKETBALL

Last season Sugar-Salem's boys basketball team kind of snuck up on Fruitland — who hadn't lost in two years — and dethroned them. This year, Sugar will be the ones looking to maintain their crown.

"When we won it last year no one expected us to win it," said Sugar-Salem head coach Shawn Freeman. "I wouldn't say we were off the radar but we weren't really on the radar. With all the Sugar programs that are very successful right now I think you're going to have a target on your back, which you should. It's going to be a little different than previous years especially where you bring back a large core of your guys who were on your team last year."

Returning players will once again look to apply the strategy that won the title

a.k.a sharing the ball.

"I think it's tough to name a leading scorer with our program because we share the ball so well," Freeman said. "I think it could vary every night and I hope it does. I think Crew Clark, Hadley Miller, Tanner Harris and Sam Parkinson those are guys that have shown that they can put up good numbers. You know we've never really had a real dominant guy. We've always tried to cater to whoever was hot or whatever took place."

Summer basketball has helped the Diggers adjust their offense on the fly.

"I anticipate a lot (from the returners)," Freeman said. "We had a good summer in terms on figuring out who we are after losing a Gerohm Rihari and those seniors



Standard Journal file photo

Sugar-Salem's Crew Clark fights for the ball during a game last year.

who were helpful last year. We were pretty young so we're pretty senior-heavy this year. I think Crew will step up, and just like he's excelling on the football field, I think he'll do the same this year."

Six-foot-five, big Keayan Knead moved into town and will be new to the team. Braxton Ostermiller will see more time on the varsity squad this year and Rylan Bean will likely reprise his bench role but could also see more time.

Sugar played well defensively last season but they could be even better this year.

"Defensively, I think that we'll be pretty solid," Freeman said. "That's one of our things that helped us out last year a lot that we pride ourselves in. I think difference wise, I think the cohesiveness is always a big deal with how our chemistry is. A lot of these seniors have been playing together since they could pick up a basketball. I think if we can get the chemistry going with this group I think they could do something special."

See **BOYS**, page 17

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BOYS

Continued from page 16

Freeman hasn't noticed any underclassmen who might play their way onto the varsity squad, but Sugar's new system will allow for some fluidity when it comes to junior varsity and varsity.

"Where we're so senior heavy this year there's not a lot of kids that are poking through yet," Freeman said. "They have potential to move up there later. That's yet to be seen. It's hard not to have all of our football guys. I have eight of my 10 guys that are football guys."

Sugar's team is a high character and versatile group.

"I think with this group of kids, they're probably one of the most competitive group of boys that I've ever coached," Freeman said. "Comparable to the '17 team and last year's team. This group of seniors are very competitive. I think that people will get to see a lot of

that. We pride ourselves on character. Hopefully, we're good examples and we play the game the right way and when we don't, we'll let those guys see the bench. We take a lot of pride in how we represent our school and our community. I think that these kids will do that very well."

With such a good group returning Sugar will face high expectations.

"It's kind of one of those things where you feel like you have pressure, which you want," Freeman said. "You want to have those types of things put on you so you can see how you handle it."

Sugar's goal is obvious, win another championship.

"I think that everyone has the same goals if you ask every coach throughout the state, and if they don't have the same goals they're probably not caring about the game or their program and getting them to believe," Freeman said.

Winning their district could be key to

ROSTER

Hadley Miller
Tanner Harris
Crew Clark
Sam Parkinson
Rylan Bean
Kyler Handy
Pasen Michaelson
Mckay Shulthies
Mason Guymon
Braxton Ostermiller
Keayen Nead

Sugar succeeding in the state tournament.

"For us (our goal) is always first and foremost to win a district championship," Freeman said. "That's something that will guarantee a state seed. Obviously, we feel like if we can get everything rolling that we should have potential to play in Boise. You always want to end with a trophy and as you go to the state tournament there's a lot of good teams and it doesn't matter where you rank. You're always shooting for the

SCHEDULE

Dec. 6	@ Logan	3:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	@ Bear Lake	4 p.m.
Dec. 10	@ Firth	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 14	vs. Logan	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 17	@ Snake River	4:45 p.m.
Dec. 20	vs. Star Valley	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 3	vs. Filer	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 4	vs. Bear Lake	1 p.m.
Jan. 7	vs. Firth	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	vs. Kimberly	1 p.m.
Jan. 17	@ Filer	4 p.m.
Jan. 23	@ Shelley	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 25	@ Star Valley	4 p.m.
Jan. 28	vs. Shelley	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 30	@ Teton	4:30 p.m.
Feb. 1	@ Kimberly	1 p.m.
Feb. 5	vs. South Fremont	4:30 p.m.
Feb. 7	vs. Teton	4:30 p.m.
Feb. 12	vs. Snake River	4:30 p.m.
Feb. 14	@ South Fremont	4:30 p.m.

blue one and if that doesn't happen then you hopefully walk away with some hardware."

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We want more: Diggers going for fourth straight

By Koster Kennard
sports@uvsj.com



WRESTLING

Three straight state championships is pretty impressive, but Sugar-Salem's wrestling team isn't satisfied with three. They want more.

The Diggers are under new management this season with Scot Davis stepping in for Keven Glider who retired from coaching at the end of last season. Davis has big shoes to fill but no one in Sugar City seems to be worried about it. Maybe because Davis is the country's winningest high school wrestling coach.

Sugar lost two state champions to graduation last year, but they do have Kenny Copley who won at heavyweight last season. David expects him to win it again after excelling as an offensive linemen for Sugar's state championship football team this fall.

Tristen Brown (3rd, 98), Daxtyn Zollinger (4th, 138), Browning Bennion (4th, 195), Skyler Klingler (4th, 113) and Cody Tillery (6th, 170) return after placing in the state tournament last season.

"I guess we'll have high expectations (for them), although I haven't seen them because they're at football," Davis said. "It's kind of hard to evaluate, but just from their past records. I've heard good things particularly of Browning. It sounds like he even has a shot at winning it."

Kyler Dalling (1st, 220), Bridger Norman (2nd, 126), Carson Roberts (2nd, 182), Trey Wilson (2nd, 195), Kyler Singleton (3rd, 106), David Overson (4th, 170) and Brent Parkinson (4th, 145) each placed at the district tournament last year.

"You never know what they'll do," Davis said. "A year can make a big difference. My problem is I haven't seen



Sugar-Salem's Browning Bennion executes a move during a wrestling match at Holt Arena in Pocatello last year.

them before."

Sugar's slogan this year is, "we want more, we want four."

From what he hears, Davis anticipates South Fremont and Snake River will be some of their stiffest competition this season.

"I keep hearing good things about South Fremont," Davis said. "It sounds like they have a pretty good team this year. I've heard their lighter weights are

pretty tough. It sounds like that might be the team to watch out for."

So far, Davis has been impressed with his new team.

"They have great attitudes," Davis said. "They've been working hard this week. I've pushed them pretty hard and I don't hear any complaining. They're taking it seriously and I like that. They're really good kids. I've worked with all kinds, from the roughest, these

SCHEDULE

Dec. 6-7	@ North Fremont Duels
Dec. 13-14	@ Braves Brawl
Dec. 18	@ Soda Springs 5 p.m.
Dec. 19-21	@ HCC Duels at Bonneville
Jan. 9	vs. Snake, Am. Falls, S. Fremont
Jan. 10-11	@ Madison invite
Jan. 16	@ West Jefferson
Jan. 17-18	@ Tiger-Grizz Tourney
Jan. 24-25	@ Aberdeen Invite
Jan. 31-Feb. 1	Sugar-Salem Classic
Feb. 6	@ Teton 6 p.m.
Feb. 7-8	@ Dick Fleischmann Duels
Feb. 13	vs. South Fremont
Feb. 20	@ District Tourney at Teton
Feb. 27-29	State Tournament

are just really fine kids. Good kids, well behaved and they want to do well. You can tell. That's a complement to the program that I've come into."

Davis is helping his wrestlers adjust to his coaching style by patiently instructing them. Davis believes his team will be motivated to compete and he'll work to keep it that way.

"I think you try to make them aware that other teams are trying to catch them," Davis said. "If they don't work hard, that's what's going to happen. You have to keep them aware of the competition. It's not just going to happen. There are people working hard to catch Sugar-Salem. If they're going to stay at that level, they're going to have to work hard. You can't let them beat you. Before they might have snuck up on some people because they weren't the team. Well, now they are."

Standard Journal file photo

GIRLS

Continued from page 15

leading scorer every night and will just have a lot of different girls who will be able to contribute.”

Four of the players will play half of their minutes on junior varsity and the other half on varsity.

“We’re doing things a lot different than we have in the past, so we actually have a lot of kids who will get varsity minutes and JV minutes as well,” Dayley said. “I think it’s hard to say because we will have a lot of players who will contribute here and there. I don’t think we’ll have any real standout players.”

The Sugar girls also plan to switch up their style of play a bit to take advantage of the deeper roster they have.

“We want to run the ball more and press more than we’ve done in the past,” Dayley said. “I think we’ll be a really solid defensive team. That’s

kind of been our focus on the defensive end.”

Dayley has been impressed with her young team’s work ethic.

“They’re a really hard working good group of kids that really love to play, to play defense and give a lot on the defensive end,” Dayley said.

The team’s mantra this season is ‘rise up.’

“We’re back to back state champs but we lost a lot of kids that were huge contributors to that success,” Dayley said. “So everyone else has to rise up and fill those holes that we lost from last year’s team”

Most of the Lady Diggers are new but their goal is tried and true.

“Our goal’s always to win it all,” Dayley said. “We’ve been lucky to have a lot of success in the past, so these kids they want to be back at the state tournament. Their goal is to be district champs again and be back at the state tournament.”

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- Bone Fractures
- Carpal Tunnel Release
- Hand, Finger, Ankle, and Foot Surgery
- Hip and Knee Replacement
 - Direct Anterior Hip Approach
 - Robotic Knee Replacement
- Reverse Total Shoulder Arthroplasty




Upper Valley Orthopedics
and Sports Medicine

360 E. Main Rexburg, Idaho
(208) 356-9550 | www.UpperValleyOrtho.com
Michael J. Larson, M.D. • Kevin M. Lee, M.D. • Travis R. Tornngren, M.D.