

THE TIMES-TRIBUNE & SENTINEL-ECHO'S

BASKETBALL

2024-2025 PREP PREVIEW



COMPLETE SEASON PREVIEWS FOR CORBIN, LYNN
CAMP, NORTH LAUREL, SOUTH LAUREL, WHITLEY
COUNTY AND WILLIAMSBURG... PLUS MUCH MORE!

UNIVERSITY OF THE CUMBERLANDS



PATRIOTS SCHEDULE

Oct 29 (Tue)	7 PM	Home	Campbellsville - Harrodsburg
Nov 1 (Fri)	5 PM	Neutral	Stillman College
Nov 2 (Sat)	3 PM	Away	University of Tennessee Southern
Nov 6 (Wed)	7 PM	Home	Bryan College (Tenn.)
Nov 9 (Sat)	3 PM	Home	Union Commonwealth University (Ky.)
Nov 14 (Thu)	5 PM	Home	Indiana University Southeast
Nov 15 (Fri)	11 AM	Home	Virginia University of Lynchburg
Nov 22 (Fri)	TBA	Neutral	Spartanburg Methodist College
Nov 23 (Sat)	TBA	Neutral	Brescia University (Ky.)
Nov 29 (Fri)	2 PM	Neutral	Northwestern College (Iowa)
Nov 30 (Sat)	1:45 PM	Neutral	Ave Maria University
Dec 3 (Tue)	7 PM	Away	Dalton State College
Dec 7 (Sat)	1 PM	Home	University of Rio Grande (Ohio)
Dec 11 (Wed)	7 PM	Away	Northern Kentucky University
Dec 18 (Wed)	11 AM	Home	Midway University (Ky.)
Dec 30 (Mon)	4 PM	Away	Union Commonwealth University (Ky.)
Jan 2 (Thu)	1 PM	Away	Johnson University - Tennessee
Jan 9 (Thu)	7:30 PM	Away	Campbellsville University (Ky.)
Jan 16 (Thu)	7:30 PM	Home	Freed-Hardeman University (Tenn.)
Jan 18 (Sat)	3 PM	Home	Bethel University
Jan 23 (Thu)	7:30 PM	Home	Georgetown College (Ky.)
Jan 25 (Sat)	4 PM	Away	Cumberland University (Tenn.)
Jan 30 (Thu)	7:30 PM	Home	Lindsey Wilson College (Ky.)
Feb 1 (Sat)	3 PM	Home	Campbellsville University (Ky.)
Feb 6 (Thu)	7:30 PM	Away	Georgetown College (Ky.)
Feb 13 (Thu)	8:30 PM	Away	Lindsey Wilson College (Ky.)
Feb 15 (Sat)	3 PM	Home	Cumberland University (Tenn.)
Feb 20 (Thu)	8:30 PM	Away	Freed-Hardeman University (Tenn.)
Feb 22 (Sat)	4 PM	Away	Bethel University (Tenn.)

PATRIOTS ROSTER

#0 Anthony Harris	F	JR.	6'5	195	Auroa, CO
#1 Kyler McLendon	G	FR.	6'0	170	Harlan, KY
#2 Anthony Johnson	G	JR.	6'2	175	Midfield, AL
#3 Barek Williams	G	RFR.	6'0	180	Somerset, KY
#4 Tanner Walton	G	RSO.	6'3	200	Winchester, KY
#5 DJ Jones	G	SR.	6'1	180	Chicago, IL
#10 Tajahri Cave	G	SO.	6'0	175	Toronto, Ontario
#11 Robertas Jonaitis	F	GR.	6'5	195	Pakruojis, Lithuania
#12 Brady Bell	F	JR.	6'6	200	Russell, KY
#14 Harry Morrice	C	GR.	6'11	250	Dundee, Scotland
#15 Brant Smithers	G	JR.	6'1	175	Williamstown, KY
#21 Jeremiah Godfrey	F	FR.	6'7	185	Georgetown, KY
#23 Matt Cromer	G	GR.	6'2	185	London, KY
#24 Ryan Davidson	F	RFR.	6'4	200	L o n d o n , K Y

Head Coach: Matt Daniel
Associate Head Coach: Kyle Bush
Assistant Coaches: Don Daniel and Steven Silvers
Managers: Andrew Adams, Khris Graham-Smith, Nathan Logan



LADY PATRIOTS SCHEDULE

Oct 31 (Thu)	7 PM	Home	Miami University (Hamilton)
Nov 1 (Fri)	11 AM	Home	W.Va. University Institute of Technology
Nov 8 (Fri)	5 PM	Away	Huntington University (Ind.)
Nov 9 (Sat)	1 PM	Neutral	Indiana University Southeast
Nov 12 (Tue)	5:30 PM	Home	Alice Lloyd College (Ky.)
Nov 16 (Sat)	6 PM	Home	Marian University (Ind.)
Nov 19 (Tue)	5:30 PM	Home	Indiana University Southeast
Nov 23 (Sat)	1 PM	Home	Midway University (Ky.)
Dec 4 (Wed)	5:30 PM	Home	Shawnee State University (Ohio)
Dec 6 (Fri)	11 AM	Away	Tennessee Tech University (Exhibition)
Dec 13 (Fri)	5:30 PM	Home	Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College
Dec 15 (Sun)	3 PM	Away	University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez
Dec 16 (Mon)	6 PM	Away	University of Puerto Rico-Bayamon
Dec 30 (Mon)	2 PM	Away	Union College (Ky.)
Dec 31 (Tue)	3 PM	Home	Milligan University
Jan 9 (Thu)	5:30 PM	Away	Campbellsville University (Ky.)
Jan 16 (Thu)	5:30 PM	Home	Freed-Hardeman University (Tenn.)
Jan 18 (Sat)	1 PM	Home	Bethel University (Tenn.)
Jan 23 (Thu)	5:30 PM	Home	Georgetown College (Ky.)
Jan 25 (Sat)	2 PM	Away	Cumberland University (Tenn.)
Jan 30 (Thu)	5:30 PM	Home	Lindsey Wilson College (Ky.)
Feb 1 (Sat)	1 PM	Home	Campbellsville University (Ky.)
Feb 6 (Thu)	5:30 PM	Away	Georgetown College (Ky.)
Feb 13 (Thu)	6:30 PM	Away	Lindsey Wilson College (Ky.)
Feb 15 (Sat)	1 PM	Home	Cumberland University (Tenn.)
Feb 20 (Thu)	6:30 PM	Away	Freed-Hardeman University (Tenn.)
Feb 22 (Sat)	2 PM	Away	Bethel University (Tenn.)

LADY PATRIOTS ROSTER

0	Kassie Monday	G	Sr.	5-4	Clarkrange, TN
2	Darcie Anderson	G	Fr.	5-7	Corbin, KY
3	Jaiden Cox	G	Sr.	5-9	Sharps Chapel, TN
4	Emily Naranjo	F	Fr.	5-11	Dry Ridge, KY
5	Joy Kendrick	G	Jr.	5-10	Albany, GA
9	Anaia Hoard	G	Jr.	5-11	Carnon Playe, France
10	Mackenzie Babb	F	So.	6-2	Knoxville, TN
12	Brittni Allison	G	Jr.	5-6	Watertown, TN
14	Victory Fredricks	C	Jr.	6-4	Lagos, Nigeria
20	Lakin Burke	C	Jr.	6-1	Rose Hill, VA
22	Ava Schureman	G	Fr.	5-11	Georgetown, KY
24	Kaylie Monday	G	Sr.	5-4	Clarkrange, TN
32	Leeanna McNulty	F	Sr.	5-11	Honaker, VA
34	Kylie Fultz	C	So.	6-2	Harrogate, TN
41	Amy Thompson	F	So.	6-0	Louisville, KY
45	Alexia Wilson	C	Fr.	6-0	Williamsburg, KY
55	Payton Acey	F	Fr.	6-0	Science Hill, KY

Head Coach: Rick Reeves (7th Season)
Assistant Coaches: Krystal Evans, Jerton Evans



UNION COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY



BULLDOGS SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER		
Tue. 5	VS Ind. Univ. Columbus	4:00 PM EST
Sat. 9	AT Cumberlands (KY)	3:00 PM EST
Wed. 13	AT Bluefield (VA) *	7:30 PM EST
Wed. 20	AT St. Andrews (NC) *	7:30 PM EST
Sat. 23	AT Johnson (TN) *	4:00 PM EST
Tue. 26	VS Pikeville (KY) *	7:30 PM EST
Sat. 30	VS Oakland City**	10:15 AM EST
DECEMBER		
Sun. 1	VS Indiana East**	11:00 AM EST
Wed. 4	AT Milligan (TN) *	7:30 PM EST
Sat. 7	VS Reinhardt (GA) *	4:00 PM EST
Tue. 10	AT Truett-McConnell *	7:30 PM EST
Sat. 14	VS Lindsey Wilson	4:00 PM EST
Mon. 30	VS Cumberlands (KY)	4:00 PM EST
JANUARY		
Sat. 4	VS CIU (SC) *	4:00 PM EST
Tue. 7	VS Kentucky Christian *	7:30 PM EST
Thu. 9	AT Tennessee Wesleyan *	7:30 PM EST
Sat. 11	VS Montreat (NC) *	4:00 PM EST
Wed. 15	AT Bluefield (VA) *	7:30 PM EST
Wed. 22	VS Bryan (TN) *	7:30 PM EST
Sat. 25	VS Milligan (TN) *	4:00 PM EST
Wed. 29	VS Columbia (SC) *	7:30 PM EST
FEBRUARY		
Wed. 5	AT Kentucky Christian *	7:30 PM EST
Sat. 8	AT Reinhardt (GA) *	4:00 PM EST
Wed. 12	AT Pikeville (KY) *	7:30 PM EST
Sat. 15	AT Montreat (NC) *	4:00 PM EST
Sat. 22	VS Johnson (TN) *	4:00 PM EST

Bold denotes home games
* — denotes conference games
** — denotes The Show event in Kingsport, Tenn.

BULLDOGS ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Cl.	Ht.	Hometown
0	Brian Gilmore Jr.	G	Jr.	6'3	Memphis, Tenn.
1	Kenton Wright	G	Jr.	6'0	Chicago, Ill.
2	Jabari Covington	G	Fr.	6'1	Covington, Ky.
3	Dallas Rufus	F	Jr.	6'3	Louisville, Ky.
4	Kaleb Hedgepeth	F	Jr.	6'6	Wake Forest, N.C.
5	Sam Conley	G	Sr.	6'4	Taylorsville, KY.
11	Kenny Garth	G	Jr.	6'2	Kenosha, Wi.
12	Allister Dixon	F	Jr.	6'8	Mobile, Al.
13	Sam Parrish	G	Fr.	5'11	Lexington, Ky.
14	Kaleb McLendon	G	So.	5'11	Harlan, Ky.
15	Jeremy Wilson	F	Fr.	6'6	Cleveland, Oh.
21	Drew Rhodes	G	So.	6'3	Horse Cave, Ky.
22	Ben Underwood	F	Jr.	6'8	Orrville, Oh.
23	Micah Engle	F	So.	6'5	Corbin, Ky.
24	Jeremiah Stroman	G	Jr.	6'4	Washinton, D.C.
25	Luca Stubel	G	Fr.	6'4	Berlin, Germany
30	Hayden Harris	F	Fr.	6'7	Manchester, Ky.
32	Malik Jefferson	G	Fr.	6'5	Bowling Green, Ky.



LADY BULLDOGS SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER		
Tue. 5	Indiana University Columbus	2:00 PM EST
Wed. 13	Bluefield (VA) *	5:30 PM EST
Fri. 15	Coastal Carolina	5:30 PM EST
Wed. 20	St. Andrews (NC) *	5:30 PM EST
Sat. 23	Johnson (TN) *	2:00 PM EST
Tue. 26	Pikeville (KY) *	5:30 PM EST
Fri. 29	Georgetown	7:45 PM EST
DECEMBER		
Sun. 1	Brescia (Ky.)	2:30 PM EST
Wed. 4	Milligan (TN) *	5:30 PM EST
Sat. 7	Reinhardt (GA) *	2:00 PM EST
Tue. 10	Truett McConnell *	5:30 PM EST
Mon. 30	Cumberlands (KY)	2:00 PM EST
JANUARY		
Sat. 4	CIU (SC) *	2:00 PM EST
Tue. 7	Kentucky Christian *	5:30 PM EST
Thu. 9	Tennessee Wesleyan (Ky.) *	5:30 PM EST
Sat. 11	Montreat (NC) *	2:00 PM EST
Wed. 15	Bluefield (VA) *	5:30 PM EST
Sat. 18	Brenau (GA) *	2:00 PM EST
Wed. 22	Bryan (TN) *	5:30 PM EST
Sat. 25	Milligan (TN) *	2:00 PM EST
Wed. 29	Columbia (SC) *	5:30 PM EST
FEBRUARY		
Sat. 1	Brenau (GA) *	2:00 PM EST
Wed. 5	Kentucky Christian *	5:30 PM EST
Sat. 8	Reinhardt (GA) *	2:00 PM EST
Wed. 12	Montreat (NC) *	5:30 PM EST
Sat. 15	Union Commonwealth (Ky.) *	2:00 PM EST
Sat. 22	Johnson (TN) *	2:00 PM EST

Bold denotes home games
* — denotes conference games

LADY BULLDOGS ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Cl.	Ht.	Hometown
1	Rachel Smith	G	So.	5-7	Georgetown, Ky.
2	Ja'Naia Moran	G	Sr.	5-5	Boynton Beach, Fl.
3	Emrey Glover	PG	Fr.	5-6	Middlesboro, Ky.
5	Sarah Smith	PG	Fr.	5-7	Barbourville, Ky.
12	Harper Coffey	F	Fr.	5-7	Danville, Ky.
13	Claire Belcher	F/G	Sr.	5-9	Hartsville, Tenn.
21	Natalie Johnson	G	So.	5-2	Lenoir City, Tenn.
22	Gracie Jervis	G	Sr.	5-8	London, Ky.
24	Rayna Duzant	F	Jr.	5-9	Utica, Ny.
25	Mylaiyshya Norman	G	Sr.	5-5	Killeen, Tx.
31	Tiana Adams	F	Jr.	5-6	Madison, Ga.
32	McKenzi Himes	C	Sr	6-0	Mt. Vernon, Ky.
33	Madison Brady	C	Jr	6-2	Campbell County, Tenn.
34	Lindsey Pirkle	C	Fr.	6-2	Cumming, Ga.

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NORTH LAUREL



With another roster filled with talented players, led by Murray State signee Brooke Nicholson, the Lady Jaguars are set to defend their 49th and 13th Region championships. | FILE PHOTO

North Laurel returns talented but young roster that looks to three-peat as 13th Region champions

BY LES DIXON
LONDON — Some things never change.
 Case in point, Eddie Mahan’s North Laurel Lady Jaguars.
 With another roster filled with talented players, led by Murray State signee Brooke Nicholson, the Lady Jaguars are set to defend their 49th and 13th Region championships.
 Just how successful has North Laurel been?
 Dating back to the 2017-18 season, the Lady Jaguars have compiled an overall record of 193-44 (best in the 13th Region), three region championships, two Elite Eight appearances, six 13th Region title game appearances, seven consecutive 49th District championships, a 90-12 record against 13th Region teams, and a 48-game win streak against 49th District opponents.
 That’s impressive.
 North Laurel is coming off a 29-6 season that saw them capture its second consecutive 13th Region championship.
 Can they make it a three-peat this season?
 “Last year was a tremendous season,” Mahan said. “Our team once again came together to accomplish another trip to Rupp Arena. That continued success in the post-season hopefully creates a better prepared team each and every year with that kind of experience.”
 “However, even with all of the success our team felt we fell short of our potential losing for the first time in the first round of state,” he added. “We are determined to get back and redeem our program from the disappointing performance of last year.”
 If his team’s summer play is any indication of things to come, North Laurel could very well be cutting down the nets at The Corbin Arena for the third year in a row.
 “This year’s team is a very talented and a very athletic group,” Mahan said. “However, our team will have to adjust to life without Chloe Mcknight this year. Her performance in the post always demanded a double team and we played through her the last few years. This year’s team will be more perimeter oriented and will have to make up for the loss with great defense and ability to

penetrate on the offensive side of the ball. We had a very tough summer schedule playing some of the best in the country.
 “We know our top end talent is battle tested and ready for the best in the state, but we have a very young but talented group that will need to come along to round out our lineup in order for us to win our third straight region championship,” he added. “With that kind of youth, expect us to have some bumps in the road during December and January. However, I believe that by the end of the season the ceiling for this team might be the highest of any team we have had.”
 Two starters are returning in Nicholson and Haley Combs.
 Nicholson averaged 18 points per game last season along with 9.9 rebounds per game.
 “Brooke is the best athlete I have ever coached including when I coached college,” Mahan said. “Her ability to get to the basket is unreal and that same athletic ability is seen in her defense and rebounding as well.”
 Combs returns as one of the top guards in the region. She averaged seven points and 4.3 rebounds per game last season.
 “She is a tremendous point guard who can get to the basket, hit the perimeter shot, or create for others,” Mahan said. “Her unselfish play is such a huge asset to our team. I think you will see Haley take a huge step forward this season as our pace of play increases.”
 Mahan will also be leaning on players such as 6-2 sophomore Mariella Claybrook, Leslie County transfer Bella Lewis, Mahan’s daughter, Bella Mahan, Emma Carl, Paisley Kilburn, and Abby Hubbard.
 Claybrook has established herself as one of the top players in the region. She’s received offers from Northern Kentucky University, Radford University, and Lipscomb University.
 “She is one of the most versatile players in the state,” Mahan said. “She can post you up or bring the ball up and run the offense. There is a reason she has so many colleges offers already as just a sophomore.”
 “Last season, she

showed just how much of a team player she is coming off the bench even though she had already received multiple D1 offers,” he added. “Her team first mentality will be in the starting lineup this season and I am sure that will give her the minutes to shine.”
 Mahan confirmed he has multiple players who will be starting at different times this season. It will be unique as each player is young but talented and can bring something different to the starting lineup.
 “Bella Lewis is a very athletic guard who can do it all,” Mahan said. “She is often noticed first with her ability to defend but is a good penetrator and shooter as well. She will be a consistent member of the starting lineup this season.”
 “Bella Mahan is one of the most skilled players,” he added. “She can shoot the three, and handles the ball well for her age. Her basketball IQ will work well as a contributor around our returning players. She be in the starting lineup some this season as a shooting guard and will also play some back up point guard.”
 “Emma Carl is an unbelievable athlete, who can get to the basket extremely well,” he added. “Her defense is possibly the best on the team. She has the ability to not just be a starter but a standout this season.”
 Mahan also likes what Kilburn and Hubbard bring to the table.
 “Paisley Kilburn is a very good all-around player,” Mahan said. “She just needs to get more experience and she will be contributing and competing to start this season. Abby Hubbard is a senior who is a great leader and can contribute in the low post or mid-range area.”
 “This team has three players who are ready to play anyone in the state, but our overall roster is very young,” he added. “Just how great this team is, may be decided by the maturing of our young players. Even though they are young, the talent level is very high, and we could see a very deep roster by the end of the season.”
 Mahan feels his team’s strengths are defensive play combined with a

SEE LADY JAGS, PAGE 13



Reece Davidson is one of the best players in the region, leading North Laurel with a 14.8 scoring average. | FILE PHOTO

Talented Jaguar squad committed to get North Laurel back to the top of the 13th Region

BY LES DIXON
LONDON — Life without Reed Sheppard in the lineup wasn’t as bad as expected last season as Nate Valentine’s North Laurel Jaguars posted a winning record at 17-16, despite losing 97 percent of of their scoring output the season before.
 Valentine instilled a never say quit attitude in his team as North Laurel battled all the way to the 49th District title game before bowing out to Knox Central during first round play of the 13th Region Tournament despite having to deal with injuries to key players throughout the season.
 The Jaguars return a solid core of players that’s ready to lead North Laurel atop the 49th District and 13th Region.
 “After losing 97 percent of our scoring the previous year, we return our core nucleus of what was an extremely young team last year,” Valentine said. “Our guys are a year older and have worked extremely hard in the offseason. They have gotten stronger and expanded their game.”

Reece Davidson, Kole Jervis, Jordan Rawlings, Joel Smith, Cooper Elza and RJ Noble return to the mix for Valentine.
 Davidson is one of the best players in the region, leading North Laurel with a 14.8 scoring average while Rawlings and Jervis followed with identical 10.8 scoring averages.
 Joel Smith averaged seven points per game while Cooper Elza came on strong and finished with a 3.2 scoring average. RJ Noble also saw playing time, and finished with a 3.2 scoring average.
 Evan Zarate, Cam Anderson, Kaiden Allen, and Brayden Hampton are also expected to contribute this season.
 North Laurel will be tested early and often by another tough slate which includes home games against Lexington Catholic, Jefferstown, Henry Clay and South Laurel.
 “We will once again play a very challenging schedule that will test us early,” Valentine said. “We will be battle tested by tournament time.”

SEE JAGUARS, PAGE 13

Good Luck

to all the area boys and girls teams!

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CORBIN



Kylie Clem is one of the top players in the region, averaging 14.2 points per game last season. | FILE PHOTO

Lady Redhounds look to contend for district, region crowns despite key losses due to graduation

CORBIN LADY REDHOUNDS SCHEDULE

- Fri, Dec. 6 Barbourville (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Tue, Jan. 21 Whitley County (Away) - 6:00 p.m.
- Thu, Dec. 12 Perry County Central (Away) - 8:00 p.m.	- Sat, Jan. 25 Southwestern (Away) - 2:30 p.m.
- Fri, Dec. 20 Caverna (Home) - 7:30 p.m. Corbin Christmas Bash	- Tue, Jan. 28 Williamsburg (Home) - 6:00 p.m.
- Sat, Dec. 21 Harlan (Home) - 11:30 a.m. Corbin Christmas Bash	- Fri, Jan. 31 South Laurel (Away) - 6:00 p.m.
- Sat, Dec. 21 Wayne County (Home) - 4:00 p.m. Corbin Christmas Bash	- Tue, Feb. 4 Whitley County (Home) - 6:00 p.m.
- Thu, Feb. 6 Knox Central (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	
- Mon, Feb. 10 Madison Southern (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	
- Thu, Feb. 13 North Laurel (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	
- Sat, Feb. 15 Owsley County (Home) - 2:30 p.m.	
- Tue, Feb. 18 Harlan (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	
- Thu, Feb. 20 Bell County (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	
• From KHSAA Team Website	
- Fri, Dec. 27 Menifee County (at Somerset) - 4:00 p.m. Don Hurt Insurance Holiday Classic 2024	
- Sat, Dec. 28 Tates Creek (at Somerset) - 6:00 p.m. Don Hurt Insurance Holiday Classic 2024	
- Fri, Jan. 3 Ashland Blazer (Away) - 2:30 p.m.	
- Tue, Jan. 14 South Laurel (Home) - 6:00 p.m.	
- Fri, Jan. 17 Williamsburg (Away) - 6:00 p.m.	

BY LES DIXON
CORBIN — Most teams would look to be in rebuild mode after graduating more than 40 percent of its scoring from the year before, but not the Corbin Lady Redhounds. Isaac Wilson’s squad looks to compete for the 50th District and 13th Region Championships despite graduating two of its top three scorers from last season — Kallie Housley and Bailey Stewart. “We have graduated a big portion of last season’s team and will come into this season with some big shoes to fill,” Wilson said. “With that being said, I believe that this team has some great pieces to fill those shoes and we return more experience than some may believe. “We have battled the injury bug the last two seasons which have made us have to play a little deeper into our bench each year,” he added. “Because of this, we have some kids that are now juniors and seniors who have not only been able to practice against the talent that we have graduated, but who have also gained some valuable game

experience as well which will have them prepared to shine this season as it is now their time. “I believe this team has plenty of people who are ready when it comes to continuing to contribute to what has been built here over the last two to three seasons,” Wilson continued. Our players are hungry and ready for their opportunity to make their mark on this program and they are looking forward to the challenge of having some big shoes to fill. We competed well this summer and it gave me a confidence and excitement about what this team can be and become by the end of the upcoming season.” Both Kylie Clem and Raegan Walker return as starters for Corbin while Wilson’s also returns a lot of experienced talent as well. Clem is one of the top players in the region, averaging 14.2 points per game last season while Walker averaged 6.9 points and a team-best 6.4 rebounds per game. “Kylie Clem and Raegan Walker bring a wealth of experience and leadership into this team and we expect them to each have a big imprint on this team,” Wilson

said. “We also have some experience returning with Izzy Walker, Lydia King and Addy Wilson as they have been able to fill some spots when injuries have occurred in the most recent seasons. “This is a team that I would consider young and will have a learning curve early as kids find their new roles and impacts on the current team,” he added. “We have graduated five seniors from last year’s team who all played massive roles for us. With this, it is only natural to expect it to take a little time to figure some things out, but as I have already mentioned, I feel that we have some experience to fill some of these spots which will speed up the process a little.” Wilson said he believes he has a good number of kids that that have a chance at finding themselves in a role for the upcoming season. “All of the following kids can find themselves giving us a lot of minutes and finding roles to help this basketball team win games,” he said. “These kids would be Izzy Walker, Lydia King, Addy Wilson, Sayde Mobley, Michaela Williams, Kalley Stewart, Paityn Creech, and Raylen Lester.” Wilson acknowledged strengths of this year’s basketball team is the ability to play physical and be gritty especially when the going gets tough. “I believe because of these kids have been waiting their time to make an impact gives them a sense of being hungrier than maybe some other kids,” he said. “Most of them are excited about the possibilities ahead and are proving each day in practice that they want to be the ones who step into the new roles available and do whatever it takes to help make this team successful.” Wilson also has come concerns. “With any team that graduates as many as we did, with each player having impactful roles, it is only natural for me to worry and have concerns about how to fill those roles,” he said. “Early on, especially, is a concern on how we will handle some increased roles and how that is going to translate over to the court,” Wilson added. “We have the utmost confidence in our kids accepting the challenge and not lowering the bar when it comes to our goals as a team and what we want to achieve

SEE LADY HOUNDS, PAGE 13




Eli Pietrowski averaged 11.8 points per game last season. | FILE PHOTO

Redhounds set to defend 50th District crown while eyeing another deep postseason run


BY LES DIXON
CORBIN — It looks to be an exciting season ahead for Tony Pietrowski’s Corbin Redhounds. His squad posted a 23-9 record and reclaimed their spot on top of the 50th District by defeating South Laurel in the 50th District title game before falling short to eventual state runner-up Harlan County in the 13th Region title game. The Redhounds are looking to build on the momentum they gained from last season, and take another step forward, this time capturing the 13th Region championship. “I really thought we had a great season last year,” Pietrowski said. “We developed continually throughout the year and played our best basketball in the postseason. That said, we graduated a lot of seniors that played big minutes during those times. We will need the few remaining guys that played to be leaders for us this season. “I’m excited about our team,” he added. “We will have a good amount of new faces on the floor this season, but I think with a good amount of work we can be in the hunt again.” Corbin returns three starters from last season in Eli Pietrowski, Ryder Akins and Conner Middleton along with a solid nucleus of players that are expected to contribute to the Redhounds’ success. Pietrowski averaged 11.8 points per game last season and is expected to share most of the scoring load with Akins 8.9 points per game), and Middleton (7.5 points per game). “I think once Eli gets his basket-

ball legs under him, he will have a chance to be on of the top players in our region. He offers size and athleticism our team needs,” Pietrowski said. “Ryder is one of the top freshmen in the state. He’s gotten stronger and more athletic. I expect a break out season for him. Conner is our most veteran player. He’s got a tremendous work ethic and a high ceiling. “Overall, I think we have a chance to be really good,” he added. “We are missing some key components currently with football, but I expect great things for our team.” Pietrowski is also counting on Dawson Farmer, and Zack Reynolds to contribute as well. “This kid has really developed his body and all around game during the offseason,” Pietrowski said when asked about Farmer. “He has a high skill level and I expect him to put his name on the map this season. Zack will be a senior leader for our team. His strength and athleticism is something we need.” Pietrowski expects to have solid depth and his team play extremely hard and be able to score in numerous positions this season. He does have concerns, though. “We will need to make progress daily in practice,” Pietrowski said. “I think we have a huge upside, but we are going to have to work hard to reach it. Another tough schedule will have Pietrowski’s squad ready to defend their 50th District crown and a deep

SEE REDHOUNDS, PAGE 13



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SOUTH LAUREL



Starters Maci Messer, Skeeter Mabe (pictured), Jaime Buenaventura, and Aubrey Bundy return to the mix along with a solid nucleus of even more talent. |FILE PHOTO

Coach Windlan set to guide South Laurel to another successful season

BY LES DIXON

LONDON — Tod Windlan takes over as new coach of the South Laurel Lady Cardinal basketball program, and once again, they appear to be one of the top-ranked teams in the 13th Region.

Windlan takes over for former coach Chris Souder, who stepped down as the Lady Cardinal coach during the offseason to return to coach at Mercer County.

Windlan has a solid resume, and is set to lead South Laurel to lots of success this season.

He is a native of Anderson, Indiana with 20 years of head coaching experience (including 18 seasons as a girls’ head coach) and tremendous success at several schools in the state. He has an overall record of 250-160 for an overall .610 winning percentage.

Windlan’s teams have won numerous sectional, regional, and semi-state championships. His 2013 team was the class 3A state runners-up at Hamilton Heights, and Coach Windlan was named the ICGSA Class 3A Coach of the Year. His teams at Carmel High School won three consecutive sectional championships from 2016-2018.

Twenty-nine players under Windlan have gone on to play collegiately in the Big Ten, Big East, ACC, MAC, Missouri Valley, and Big 12 conferences among others.

He coached 2018 Indiana Miss Basketball Amy Dilk and Indiana All-Star team members Dakota Weatherford in 2013 and Tomi Taiwo in 2018. Windlan also coached more recent Indiana All-Star team members Jasmine McWilliams (2020), Bridget Dunn (2021), and Kate Clarke (2022).

With that said, Windlan admitted this team has responded well heading into the season.

They have responded very well and are working hard,” he said. “Putting in a new system takes time, and we are slowly getting there. I’m settled in and ready to go.

I actually got hired late and did not have a summer with them,” he added. “I think by the end of the year we will be a good competitive team.”

The Lady Cardinals return a solid nucleus of talent that posted a 20-14 record. They fell to Corbin in the 50th District finals while dropping a 48-27 decision to North Laurel in the 13th Region Tournament’s semifinals.

Starters Maci Messer, Skeeter Mabe, Jaime Buenaventura, and Aubrey Bundy return to the mix along with a solid nucleus of even more talent.

“Maci Messer is an all-around player, who I expect to take a leadership role and expand her game to reach the next level,” Windlan said. “Skeeter Mabe has great court vision, creates match up issues and has worked very hard on her conditioning. She can be a difference maker for us.

Jaime Buenaventura is our only senior, and I expect strong leadership from her and a more expanded role on offense as she is a very good shooter,” he added. Aubrey Bundy is a tough hard-nosed player who we expect to lead us by example. She has worked hard to develop her shot and all-around offensive game. The other starting spot is up for grabs and players competing for that are Emma Adams, Callie Jones, Shelby Smith, Kenna Andes and Ryleigh Bretz.

“While we bring back four starters, we are very young — one senior, one junior, three sophomores, five eighth graders and one seventh grader,” Windlan continued. “I think with the young team learning a completely new system we will start slow but be very competitive come District and Region.”

Windlan also mentioned that Callie Jones , Emma Adams, Shelby Smith, Kenna Andes and Ryleigh Bretz could all play major minutes for South Laurel.

“Performance in practices and games will separate who earns the playing time,” he said.

SEE LADY CARDS, PAGE 12



Jordan Mabe averaged 16.3 points per game last season while establishing himself as the best defender in the region. |FILE PHOTO

Cardinals enter season with high expectations, tagged as top-ranked team in 13th Region

BY LES DIXON

LONDON — A new basketball season, means new beginnings and high expectations for the South Laurel Cardinals.

Jeff Davis’ squad enters the 2024-25 campaign ranked as the preseason No. 1 team in the 13th Region, searching for its first regional championship since 2016 when the Cardinals reached the Final Four of the Sweet Sixteen.

South Laurel is coming off a 19-11 campaign that saw its streak of five consecutive 50th District championships come to an end before falling, 38-34, in the first round of the 13th Region Tournament to eventual regional champion, and Sweet Sixteen runner-up, Harlan County.

With most of his roster returning from last season, Davis hopes the experience his team has gained will allow them to be even better this winter.

“Hopefully, we have gained the experience and mindset that when we play together, share the basketball and defend for 32-plus minutes, we can play with anyone,” he said. “But this has to be an every day thing in practice, just not in games. We aren’t making any promises to anyone other than we are going to work hard, we are being honest with ourselves and holding each other accountable, following what we also have done for years.”

The key to South Laurel’s success is improving each day, and according to Davis that is happening.

“We are getting better each day,” he said. “One percent better and learn from the day before and correct those mistakes to make us better. It was a good summer and guys got a lot of valuable experience.”

The Cardinals return four starters from last season, which includes the

region’s top ranked player in senior Jordan Mabe.

Mabe averaged 16.3 points per game last season while establishing himself as the best defender in the region. He averaged 4.9 rebounds per game along with numerous blocks and deflections while guarding the opposing teams’ best player throughout the season.

Colton Rawlings averaged 14.2 points per game, and 3.7 points per game, and is one of the most-versatile players to watch in the 13th Region.

Rawlings can hurt teams with his shooting and driving to the basket abilities along with being one of the top defenders in the region.

Joshua Steele averaged 9.4 points per game along with a team-best 5.2 rebounds per game average. He gives South Laurel another strength in the post area while Jordan Steele averaged 5.8 points per game and 3.8 points per game.

Davis will also rely on some younger players as well this season.

“We will have some experience and we will have some youth,” he said. “We are going to count on a lot of guys and they are given the opportunity everyday in practice to show that they can help this team be successful.

“This is a really close group and they are a bunch of great young men and they believe in each other,” Davis added. “They are about whatever it takes to help the team. They will play hard and are unselfish.”

David said his main concerns entering the season are how his team defends, rebounds, and how mentally tough the Cardinals will be while the keys to success are to “get better each day and play one play at a time.”

Aschedule that include teams such

SEE CARDINALS, PAGE 12

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WHITLEY COUNTY



Aaron Rowe returns as one of the big men for Eric Swords' Colonels. | FILE PHOTO

Young but talented team returns for Whitley County

BY LES DIXON

WILLIAMSBURG

— When Eric Swords took over to become the Whitley County Colonels head coach, his goals were to turn the boys' basketball program into 50th District and 13th Region contenders.

He has done just that.

The Colonels are coming off a 20-10 campaign while returning another roster filled with young, talented players.

“The last two years we have had 20 win seasons, just the fourth and fifth such seasons in school history,” Swords said. “The standard of winning and the culture is in place and we expect our young guys to continue that.

“We had a good summer playing a lot of top competition,” he added. “We have a ton of young guys, so it was important for them to have a good summer. We have really put in a lot of work in the weight room as well so we are hoping that will help as well.”

Despite losing five of his top six scorers from last season, Swords likes what he has returning.

“Freshman Tootie Mahan returns after a great 8th eighth grade year on varsity,” he said. “We have a group of nine players after that fighting for playing time. Henry Bowling, pending eligibility, Dee Parker who was a great defender for us last season, Levi Jackson a freshman, and Tucker Hale, each will battle it out as the guards. The bigs we return are Aaron Rowe,

SEE COLONELS, PAGE 12



Aubree Clemens averaged 13 points and a team-best 9.6 rebounds per game last season. | FILE PHOTO

Lady Colonels look to make noise in district and region play with four starters returning

BY LES DIXON

WILLIAMSBURG — First-year coach Michael Petrey takes over a young and talented Whitley County Lady Colonel team that possessed 16-14 record last season.

Petrey likes the way his team has responded so far, and expects big things out of his Lady Colonels.

“I feel like the team has really responded in a very positive manner to the new coaching staff,” he said. “We have a very talented team that has seemed to really buy in to what we are trying to accomplish.

“We had a very productive summer,” Petrey added. “Our players really worked to develop their fundamen-

tals and skills, as well as worked hard to improve their strength and conditioning. I really think the summer set the tone for our preparation for the season.”

Whitley County returns four starters — Madisyn Hopkins, Jonna Rice, Autumn Sawyers and Aubree Clemens.

Hopkins led the team with a 14-point scoring average last season and 7.7 rebounds per game while Clemens averaged 13 points and a team-best 9.6 rebounds per game. Jonna Rice tossed in 9.9 points per game along with a 6.7 scoring average while Sawyers


SEE LADY COLONELS, PAGE 12

WHITLEY COUNTY COLONELS SCHEDULE	
- Tue, Dec. 3 Wayne County (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Sat, Jan. 18 Madison Central (at Berea) - 6:30 p.m. Bill Smallwood Classic
- Fri, Dec. 6 Lynn Camp (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Tue, Jan. 21 Corbin (Home) - 7:30 p.m.
- Sat, Dec. 7 Cosby, Tenn. (at Adair County) - 1:00 p.m.	- Fri, Jan. 24 Red Bird (Home) - 6:00 p.m.
- Tue, Dec. 10 Middlesboro (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Sat, Jan. 25 Cordia (Home) - 3:00 p.m.
- Fri, Dec. 13 Jackson County (Home) - 6:00 p.m.	- Tue, Jan. 28 South Laurel (Home) - 7:30 p.m.
- Sat, Dec. 14 Marion County (Home) - 3:30 p.m.	- Fri, Jan. 31 Williamsburg (Away) - 7:30 p.m.
- Mon, Dec. 16 Clay County (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Sat, Feb. 1 Owsley County (Home) - 12:01 a.m.
- Thu, Dec. 19 Clayton-Bradley Academy (at Clayton-Bradley Academy) - 7:15 p.m.	- Tue, Feb. 4 Corbin (Away) - 7:30 p.m.
- Fri, Dec. 27 Todd County Central (Home) - 5:15 p.m. Bsn Borderline Classic	- Fri, Feb. 7 Pineville (Away) - 7:30 p.m.
- Sat, Dec. 28 Green Valley Christian (Henderson, NV) (Home) - 1:45 p.m. BSN Borderline Classic	- Tue, Feb. 11 Lynn Camp (Home) - 7:30 p.m.
- Sun, Dec. 29 Gallatin County (Home) - 3:30 p.m. BSN Borderline Classic	- Fri, Feb. 14 Knox Central (Away) - 7:30 p.m.
- Tue, Jan. 14 Williamsburg (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Thu, Feb. 20 North Laurel (Away) - 6:00 p.m.
- Fri, Jan. 17 South Laurel (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Fri, Feb. 21 Bell County (Home) - 7:30 p.m.
	• From KHSAA Team Website

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WILLIAMSBURG



Lorelei Coleman is ready for this season after having a big impact for her team last year. | FILE PHOTO

Douglas excited to see what Lady Yellow Jackets can bring to the table

BY LES DIXON

WILLIAMSBURG — Melissia Douglas’ first season as head coach of the Williamsburg Lady Yellow Jackets saw the girls’ basketball program turn in a competitive year while also gaining much-needed experience.

Williamsburg returns another young roster with only two seniors and no juniors returning to the mix, but Douglas said “there is a lot of room for growth and development, which can be exciting.”

“This allows a great opportunity to build the program on fundamentals, developing teamwork, and fostering a positive team culture,” she admitted. “The challenge though is balancing teaching them while still pushing to improve them. I understand that as the season begins each game will bring a mix of surprises and learning moments. Last year we had to rebuild a lot of players that came from previous year and learn team chemistry again.

“With a young team there’s a lot of potential and fresh energy to work with,” Douglas added. “This year may have its ups and downs as they get used to the competitive play, but that makes it the perfect time to establish strong fundamentals. Last year, we really struggled with anyone really wanting to shoot. With a focus on shooting and confidence, they’ll get a chance to experience success in areas they can control. Our practices have

SEE **BURG GIRLS**, PAGE 11



Coach Anthony Hibbard said, “Andrew Smith (pictured) is a four-year starter who has grown into an all-region caliber player.” | FILE PHOTO

Hibbard remains optimistic with what his Yellow Jackets can accomplish this season

BY LES DIXON

WILLIAMSBURG — Williamsburg coach Anthony Hibbard looks to build off last season’s success with hopes of competing for the 50th District and 13th Region championships.

The Yellow Jackets finished with a 17-14 mark while capturing the 13th Region All ‘A’ Classic championship.

Williamsburg has high expectations to do even better this season with a solid core of players returning.

“We are excited about the upcoming season,” Hibbard said. “Last season, I feel like we were one of the best stories of the 2023-2024 basketball season. Our team made significant strides individually and collectively and we achieved several milestones that very few people thought were possible. We

have a solid core of returning players who have experience in our system and have been a part of some big wins. We are looking to build off that momentum this year.

“Although we had a very limited summer, some of our players were able to gain valuable experience,” he added. “Health has been and continues to be one of the main priorities for us this offseason. We have several multi-sport athletes on our roster and we must have healthy athletes. With our numbers, we cannot afford any injuries. At this point, we have not had a full roster at practice, so we are looking forward to getting everyone together.”

Hibbard is excited with who returns

SEE **JACKETS**, PAGE 11

WILLIAMSBURG YELLOW JACKETS SCHEDULE

- Mon, Dec. 2 Ligon Cogo (Home) - 6:00 p.m.	- Tue, Jan. 21 South Laurel (Home) - 6:00 p.m.	
- Fri, Dec. 6 Oneida Baptist Institute (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Fri, Jan. 24 Mount Pisgah Christian Academy (Oliver Springs, Tenn.) (at Mount Pisgah Christian Academy) - 6:00 p.m.	
- Tue, Dec. 10 Lynn Camp (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Sat, Jan. 25 Paris (Away) - 3:00 p.m.	
- Thu, Dec. 12 Cordia (Home) - 6:00 p.m.	- Mon, Jan. 27 Somerset (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	
- Tue, Dec. 17 Barbourville (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Tue, Jan. 28 Corbin (Away) - 6:00 p.m.	
- Fri, Dec. 20 Beechwood (at Boone County) - 6:00 p.m. Nell Fookes Classic	- Fri, Jan. 31 Whitley County (Home) - 6:00 p.m.	
- Fri, Dec. 20 TBA (at Boone County) - 6:00 p.m.	- Sat, Feb. 1 Estill County (Home) - 3:30 p.m.	
- Sat, Dec. 28 McCreary Central (at Middlesboro) - 4:00 p.m. Magic City Winter Classic	- Mon, Feb. 3 Owsley County (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	
- Mon, Dec. 30 Clay County (at Middlesboro) - 4:45 p.m. Magic City Winter Classic	- Tue, Feb. 4 South Laurel (Away) - 6:00 p.m.	
- Sat, Jan. 11 Middlesboro (Away) - 4:00 p.m. 2025 13th Region All A Classic	- Tue, Feb. 11 Berea (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	
- Tue, Jan. 14 Whitley County (Away) - 6:00 p.m.	- Thu, Feb. 13 Clay County (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	
- Thu, Jan. 16 Oneida Baptist Institute (Home) - 6:00 p.m.	- Tue, Feb. 18 Lincoln County (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	
- Fri, Jan. 17 Corbin (Home) - 6:00 p.m.	- Thu, Feb. 20 McCreary Central (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	
	- Fri, Feb. 21 Berea (Away) - 6:00 p.m.	
	• From KHSAA Team Website	
Cumberland Christian Home (Home) - 7:30 p.m. - Mon, Dec. 30 Owsley County (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Fri, Jan. 31 Whitley County (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	
- Thu, Dec. 5 Knoxville Ambassadors (Away) - 7:00 p.m.	- Sat, Feb. 1 Leslie County (at Buckhorn) - 4:00 p.m.	
- Mon, Dec. 9 Harlan (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Tue, Feb. 4 South Laurel (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	
- Tue, Dec. 10 Apostolic Christian School (Knoxville, Tenn.) (Away) - 6:30 p.m.	- Thu, Feb. 6 Knoxville Ambassadors (Home) - 7:00 p.m.	
- Thu, Dec. 12 Cordia (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Tue, Feb. 11 Oneida Baptist Institute (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	
- Fri, Dec. 13 Lynn Camp (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Thu, Feb. 13 Harlan (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	
- Mon, Dec. 16 Barbourville (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Mon, Feb. 17 Owsley County (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	
- Fri, Dec. 20 Lee County (at Lynn Camp) - 6:00 p.m. Wildcat Classic	- Fri, Jan. 24 Mount Pisgah Christian Academy (Away) - 7:45 p.m.	
- Fri, Dec. 27	- Sat, Jan. 25 Paris (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	
	- Tue, Jan. 28	
		• From KHSAA Website

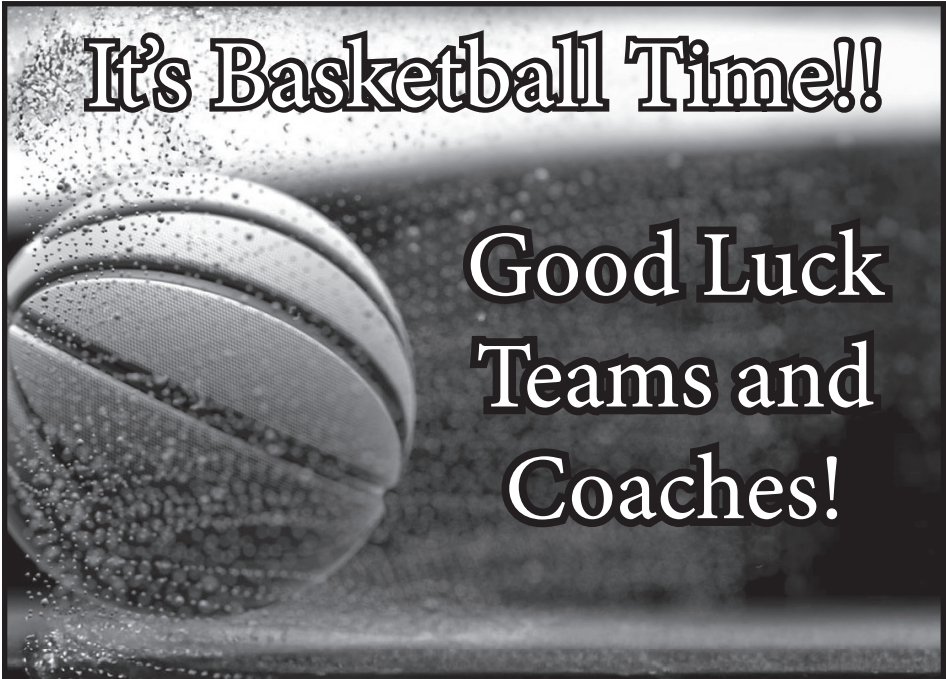


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LYNN CAMP



Lillian Henize will be a starter at the guard position. | FILE PHOTO

Prewitt hopes experience pays off for Lady Wildcats

BY LES DIXON

CORBIN — Stability is a big key to success, and Lynn Camp first-year coach James Prewitt is looking to Provide that while rebuilding the Lady Wildcat basketball program into a district and regional contender.

Prewitt becomes Lynn Camp’s sixth coach since 2018, and hopes to become the first Lady Wildcat coach to lead the girls’ basketball program to its first winning season since the 2019 season.

“I think the girls have been pleasantly surprised about my knowledge of the game,” Prewitt said. “They have done a great job listening and trying to learn new things. We have only had a full team since Nov. 4. All of our returning, and experienced players were running cross country. There were also a few playing volleyball, so we got them about a week earlier. So, needless to say, we are settling in, but we are going to be pushing hard to be ready when the season starts.

I didn’t know I was coaching until summer ball in June was over,” he

added. “I took over in July and we started having workouts. The girls that came to workouts really grew and got better in their individual skills. We are definitely building on the individual growth they committed to this fall.”

Lynn Camp returns four starters from last season’s 4-24 squad — senior Cambree Prewitt, and juniors Lauren Partin, Lillian Henize, and Madison Weymers.

“Lauren Partin is a starter at the forward/power forward position,” Prewitt said. “She was the leading scorer from last year as a sophomore, and she brings a lot of length and great interior presence. Lillian Henize is a starter at the guard position. She is a physical defender and plays with intensity. We will rely in her and others to help take care of the ball handling responsibilities this season.

“Madison Weymers is also another starter at the guard position,” he added. “She is a great shooter at times. She has length and will also be taking part of our

SEE LADY CATS, PAGE 11



Caleb Woods averaged 7.5 points per game last season. | FILE PHOTO

Dinky Phipps returns to the sideline to lead Lynn Camp

BY LES DIXON

CORBIN — After a four-year retirement, one of the best coaches in the mountains is back and ready to give it one final go.

Dinky Phipps will lead the way for the Lynn Camp Wildcats as their interim coach this season after former coach Tyler Wagner resigned in October.

Phipps, who retired as the Wildcats’

head coach in 2020, decided to give it a go once again after posting an 86-60 record as Lynn Camp’s coach while leading the Wildcats to a 13th Region All ‘A’ Classic championship in 2018.

He also spent 33 years as Barbourville’s coach before taking Lynn Camp’s job. He will enter this season with a career coaching record

SEE WILDCATS, PAGE 11

LYNN CAMP WILDCATS SCHEDULE

- Mon, Dec. 2 Owsley County (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	Red Bird (Away) - 6:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	- Sat, Feb. 8 Jackson City (at Jackson City Ind) - 1:00 p.m.
- Tue, Dec. 3 Middlesboro (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Fri, Dec. 20 Cumberland County (Home) - 8:05 p.m. Wildcat Classic	- Fri, Jan. 10 Jackson City (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Tue, Feb. 11 Whitley County (Away) - 7:30 p.m.
- Fri, Dec. 6 Whitley County (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Fri, Dec. 27 Corbin (Away) - 8:00 p.m. Cumberland Falls Invitational Tournament	- Sat, Jan. 18 Model (Away) - 11:30 a.m. Bobby Keith Classic	- Fri, Feb. 14 Owsley County (Away) - 7:30 p.m.
- Mon, Dec. 9 Corbin (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Sat, Dec. 28 Little Miami (Morrow, OH) (Away) - 6:00 p.m. Cumberland Falls Invitational Tournament	- Thu, Jan. 23 Pineville (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Tue, Feb. 18 Middlesboro (Away) - 6:00 p.m.
- Tue, Dec. 10 Bell County (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Thu, Jan. 2 Williamsburg (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Tue, Jan. 28 Barbourville (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Thu, Feb. 20 South Laurel (Away) - 7:30 p.m.
- Thu, Dec. 12 Somerset Christian School (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Sat, Jan. 4 Red Bird (Home) -	- Fri, Jan. 31 Knox Central (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Fri, Feb. 21 Casey County (Away) - 7:30 p.m.
- Fri, Dec. 13 Williamsburg (Away) - 7:30 p.m.		- Sat, Feb. 1 Trinity Christian (at Trinity Christian Academy) - 1:30 p.m.	• From KHSA Team Website
- Tue, Dec. 17			

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WILDCATS

Continued from page 10

of 708-386 with a combined six 13th Region All ‘A’ Classic championships. “This is an incredible opportunity to work with a talented group of kids and I have Mr. Merida and Mr. Canady there to support me and the program,” Phipps said when he was hired a few

LYNN CAMP LADY WILDCATS SCHEDULE

- Mon, Dec. 2 Somerset Christian School (Away) - 6:00 p.m.	- Tue, Jan. 7 Clay County (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	Knox Central (Away) - 6:00 p.m.
- Tue, Dec. 3 Somerset (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Sat, Jan. 11 TBA (at Middlesboro) - 6:00 p.m.	- Thu, Feb. 13 Barbourville (Away) - 7:30 p.m.
- Tue, Dec. 10 Williamsburg (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	2025 13th Region All A Classic	- Sat, Feb. 15 McCreary Central (Away) - 2:30 p.m.
- Thu, Dec. 12 Somerset Christian School (Home) - 6:00 p.m.	- Fri, Jan. 17 Bell County (Home) - 7:00 p.m.	- Tue, Feb. 18 Middlesboro (Away) - 7:30 p.m.
- Fri, Dec. 13 Oneida Baptist Institute (Away) - 7:00 p.m.	- Thu, Jan. 23 Pineville (Away) - 6:00 p.m.	- Thu, Feb. 20 Clay County (Home) - 7:30 p.m.
- Fri, Jan. 3 Berea (Away) - 6:00 p.m.	- Tue, Jan. 28 Barbourville (Home) - 6:00 p.m.	• From KHSAA Team Website
	- Fri, Jan. 31	

LADY CATS

Continued from page 10

ball handling duties. Cambree Prewitt is a senior starter at the forward position. She has really grown into a team leader. We will be relying on her in many areas of the game.” With four starters returning, Prewitt feels his team should be experienced. “But there are a few young players that we are hoping to get some productivity out of this year, too. Emily Gray is a senior center. She is a transfer from last school year. The team will be looking to her, along with Lauren Partin, to really dominate in the paint. They should be difficult to handle in the interior. “Aubrey Hollin is a freshman guard/forward,” he added. “She transferred in last year after the season. She has a great shot and is smart with the basketball.Izabella Fox is a freshman guard. She saw some playing time last year as an 8th grader. She will contribute both offensively and defensively.Destiny Chancellor is a sophomore forward/center. The team will be looking for her to contribute with her post presence and rebounding. “We have a lot of length and interior post play,” he continued. “We look to cause issues for other teams by getting the ball the block and making plays. We

weeks ago. “I will expect my players to act in a professional manner both in the classroom and on the court. “I have never set goals as long as I have been coaching,” he added. “I just expect kids to give 110 percent and leave it all on the floor. When the game is over, we will know that we have done our best. I want parents to know that

SEE CAMP, PAGE 12

hope to be much improved defensively this year and we are looking to bring some pressure.” Prewitt s main concern entering the season is his team’s struggles turning the ball over. “If you watched this team last year, you are aware that we struggled with taking care of the basketball,” he said. “We have to do a better job taking care of the basketball, making smart passes, and decreasing our turnovers.” A challenging schedule will have Lynn Camp prepared for not only the 13th Region All ‘A’ Classic but also the 51st District Tournament. “I think the schedule is a great mix of teams with which we can be competitive,” he said. “We hope to build confidence as the season wears on, and then, ultimately, be ready to compete in our district before the end of the year. “I think Knox Central is going to be really tough in the region this year,” Prewitt added. “Pineville has been really good for a few years now too, and Coach Shields has a much-improved Barbourville squad. We really hope to win our first district game in a few years this year. I think our team is capable of surprising some folks, especially before the season comes to an end. We are definitely going to have the goal to get Lynn Camp girls basketball back to the regional tournament.”

BURG GIRLS

Continued from page 8

definitely consisted of different finishes around the goal working our way out. “Confidence building will also be huge, especially with younger players who might still be finding their place on the team,” she continued. “As for the summer, our challenge here at a smaller school and sharing so many players conflicts with volleyball. I just work with what I have and develop those that can attend.” A young but talented roster returns which Douglas feels, “will add some great opportunities for our team to grow competitively.” “My players returning this season that impacted last season are seniors Hannah Creekmore and Lorelei Coleman,” she said. “The sophomores are Abby Moses, Presley Spicer, and freshmen Ellie Breeding. Hannah Creekmore is an exceptional well rounded athlete that succeeds in any sport she participates in. She is disciplined and coachable on and off the court. Lorelei Coleman is my other senior who has just recently been released from a knee injury. Unfortunately for her she had to sit her senior volleyball season out. I am so excited that she is having the chance to compete with basketball. She brings a great energy to the floor. Both of these ladies are excellent leaders as well for our younger players. “Moses and Spicer are two veterans as well that like to give some time in the off season,” Douglas added. “They both love the game and numbers are very important to them. They both have great shots and work well with moving in the paint. Ellie Breeding is also a returning guard that as an eighth grader had a lot of playing time last year. She is developing every day and speed along with defense is her game. She will be a great asset this season as we mold her to continue as a guard for the years to come. I’ve also had some players to return once again, Braylee Evans, Lacey Bray, and Gracie Bray all sophomores. This richly blesses the sophomore class.” Douglas pointed out three things that will be team strengths for her squad.

- Eagerness to Learn: “Young players are often very open to coaching and eager to improve,” she said. “They haven’t developed as many habits yet, so it’s easier to teach them the right fundamentals from the start. They’re often more receptive to trying new things and adjusting their techniques, which is ideal for skill-building.”
- Energy and Enthusiasm: “Younger teams often bring a lot of energy and excitement to practice and games,” Douglas added. “They tend to be resilient, bouncing back quickly from mistakes or losses, and they’re typically ready to hustle. This energy can be contagious, fueling team morale and creating a lively atmosphere in practice.”
- Long-Term Growth Potential: Since they’re early in their development, you have a lot of time to work on skills and team dynamics that will carry them through future seasons,” she continued. “With the right guidance, you’re not just preparing them for this season but setting up a foundation that could make them a strong team in future years as well.”

Inexperience, and confidence issues are Douglas’ main concerns entering the 2024-25 campaign. “Young players may struggle with game situations, especially under pressure,” she said. “They might be unfamiliar with things like setting up plays, managing the clock, or making smart decisions during high-stakes moments. This inexperience can lead to turnovers or hesitation, which are normal but can be frustrating in close games. “With inexperience often comes a lack of confidence, especially if players compare themselves to more seasoned athletes,” Douglas added. “A couple of losses or mistakes can impact morale quickly. Building resilience and focusing on positive reinforcement are key to helping them develop a growth mindset and bounce back from setbacks.” Douglas said a successful team often thrives on a blend of strong fundamentals, effective teamwork, and a positive culture. “Communication is crucial both on and off the court,” she said. “Team members need to communicate during games to call out screens, defensive switches, and play calls.”


JACKETS

Continued from page 8

to the table this season for the 2024-25 campaign. “We are fortunate to return a solid core of players this season, many of whom have been with me since the beginning, which makes it bittersweet to reflect on how far we have come together,” he said. “I am incredibly proud of each of them and feel both thankful and honored to be part of their senior season. “Andrew Smith is a four-year starter who has grown into an all-region caliber player,” Hibbard added. “He had an outstanding season last year, and I was genuinely disappointed he was not more widely recognized in postseason accolades. Andrew was one of the few players in our region to rank in the top 10 for both scoring and rebounding. We are expecting another big year from him, and by the time his high school career concludes, he will finish as one of the top scorers and rebounders in Williamsburg history. “Conner Saylor is another key player we will rely on this year,” continued. “His growth has been remarkable, and he played a vital role in some of our biggest wins last season. We are expecting Conner to take another significant leap this season and contribute even more across the board.” Hibbard also welcomes back Cooper Prewitt, Lakin Cunagin, Nate Goodin, Peyton Hamilton, and Jacob Taylor along with a strong nucleus of underclassmen. “Cooper Prewitt is back with us this year, and while his impact may not always show up in the box score, he is invaluable to our team,” he said. “Cooper is a great teammate and brings a physical presence to every game. Unfortunately, injuries have limited his play the past two seasons, so we’re hoping for a full, healthy year from him. Lakin Cunagin also returns and was a key contributor last season. We anticipate Lakin stepping into a larger role this year, and we are excited to see him continue to develop. “Nate Goodin will be joining us this season as well,” Hibbard added. “Nate is also the quarterback for our football team and is incredibly athletic. His versatility will add a new dimension to our playstyle, and I am looking forward to seeing what he can bring to the basketball court. “In addition, Peyton Hamilton and Jacob Taylor, both juniors, are back, and we are excited to see how much progress they can make this season,” he continued. “Rounding out our roster are sophomores Chase Meddles and Mason Rountree, along with freshmen Reece Hatcher, T.J. Cornett, and Andy Shelton. We are eager to see how these young players develop and contribute to the team’s success this season. Altogether, we have a mix of experienced upperclassmen and hungry younger players, and we are excited to see how they come together and build on our progress from last season.” Hibbard also stated this year’s roster is the most experienced group he has had since being named coach at Williamsburg. “Again, it is bittersweet to talk about it because of some of these guys have been with us since day one,” he said. “Even though we have been together for a while, we still have to develop an identity for this season and try to mesh some of our less experienced teammates. However, I am excited about the process.

“After evaluating our roster and reflecting on our progress from last season, it is clear that the camaraderie and unity within our team will continue to be a key factor in our success,” Hibbard added. “We expect that same energy and togetherness to carry us through this season. Scripture, particularly (John 15:13), teaches us the power of selfless love, teamwork, and sacrifice—values that are just as essential on the basketball court as they are in life. We firmly believe that the best teams are those who prioritize the collective good, encourage one another, and are willing to make sacrifices for the team’s success. We feel like we have a group of players who just do that. They are willing to make the extra pass, dive for loose balls, and—most importantly—lift each other up. As a coaching staff, that’s all we ask for. Regardless of the outcome, we know we can count on our players to give their best, both for the team and for each other.” As with any season, Hibbard said there are areas his team needs to continue to improve, particularly consistency. “However, how we start the season collectively is always a concern,” he admitted. “We have many multi-sport athletes, so we usually have a delayed start compared to many teams in our region. How fast can we come together? After that, the concerns become more directed towards health. Health and recovery have to be a premium in our program. “Looking at success from a holistic perspective, we want to make sure we are checking the boxes in a lot of areas,” Hibbard added. “Yes, we want to win games, but if our success is just defined by which team has the most points at the end of the fourth quarter, our success will be short-lived. We hope to continue to build a foundation of trust, communication, and mutual respect among teammates. A united team that shares a common goal and supports each other in every situation—whether it is a victory or a tough loss—will be more resilient and more effective. Every great team that I have ever been around possesses this distinctive quality. That is what we hope to build this season. It is a demanding, but rewarding process.” Hibbard said when he made out his slate, he had to consider our schedule of district games. “We play in the toughest district in the 13th Region,” he said. “Not only is our district loaded with talented teams, but Williamsburg is the only All ‘A’ school in the 50th District. All other districts in our region possess at least two All ‘A’ schools. “In that regard, most schools in our region play at least one district game with another school with a similar enrollment,” Hibbard added. “Our district games are challenging and help bolster our schedule. Our primary goal is to make sure we are hitting peak form at the right time. “The last major basketball realignment took place in the 2005-2006 season, and with a new realignment on the horizon, it is hard to predict how it will impact the 13th Region,” he continued. “One thing that remains clear is the challenge of Williamsburg’s placement within the current 50th District. The 50th District is one of the toughest in the entire region. We are fortunate to have some outstanding coaches and incredibly talented players. Last season, we were able to secure a district win, and our goal this year is to build on that success and add more wins to the column.”

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CAMP

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our team will be committed to teamwork, integrity, effort, respect and growth. I believe that success comes from not just athletic ability, but from the character we develop both on and off the court. We are aiming to create an environment where every player can thrive and grow, not only as an athlete but also as a person.”

Phipps will be taking

ing over a Lynn Camp team that posted an 8-20 record last season.

The Wildcats took a hit due to graduation, graduating eight seniors, including leading scorer Shelby Mills.

According to Lynn Camp’s roster on the KHSAA web site, the Wildcats return Caleb Wilburn, and Ethan Simpson along with junior Caleb Woods, sophomores Jordan Cawood, Ethan Curry, Shawn Reyes, Clayton White, and freshman

Kayden Powers.

Woods averaged 7.5 points per game last season while Wilburn averaged 2.1 points per game.

Lynn Camp’s schedule will be a tough one with games against Whitley County (twice), Corbin (twice), Bell County, Williamsburg, and South Laurel just to name a few.

Lynn Camp will face an uphill battle in the 51st District with Knox Central, Pineville and Barbourville return veteran teams.

SOUTH LAUREL CARDINALS SCHEDULE

- Tue, Dec. 3 Harlan (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	Classic	p.m.	Corbin (Home) - 7:30 p.m.
- Sat, Dec. 7 Clay County (Home) - 7:00 p.m. Ted Cook Classic	- Sat, Jan. 4 Knox Central (Home) - 7:00 p.m.	- Fri, Jan. 17 Whitley County (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Tue, Feb. 4 Williamsburg (Home) - 7:30 p.m.
- Tue, Dec. 10 North Laurel (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Tue, Jan. 7 Perry County Central (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Sat, Jan. 18 Clay County (Away) - 7:00 p.m. Bobby Keith Classic	- Mon, Feb. 10 Harlan County (Away) - 7:30 p.m.
- Sat, Dec. 14 Montgomery County (at Bell County) - 4:30 p.m. Pride Of The Mountains Showcase	- Thu, Jan. 9 North Laurel (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Tue, Jan. 21 Williamsburg (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Fri, Feb. 14 Great Crossing (Away) - 7:30 p.m.
- Fri, Jan. 3 Evangel Christian (Home) - 7:00 p.m. Raymond Reed	- Sat, Jan. 11 Huntington, WV (at Ashland Blazer) - 2:30 p.m. Larry Conley Classic	- Sat, Jan. 25 Danville Christian (Home) - 3:30 p.m.	- Mon, Feb. 17 Madison Central (Away) - 7:30 p.m.
	- Tue, Jan. 14 Corbin (at Corbin Gymnasium) - 7:30	- Tue, Jan. 28 Whitley County (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Thu, Feb. 20 Lynn Camp (Home) - 7:30 p.m.
		- Fri, Jan. 31	• From KHSAA Team Website

CARDINALS

Continued from page 6

as Evangel Christian, Huntington, West Virginia, Danville Christian, Great Crossing, Montgomery County, Madison Central, North Laurel, Knox Central and Harlan County will have Davis’ team prepared for his team’s district battles with Coebin, Whitley County, and Williamsburg.

“We have a tough district and hopefully we have provided enough games that will get ready for those games and the tournament,” he said.

“I’ll leave it to those people to determine what our schedule looks like. I know there is always that guy that says we play a soft schedule, so I’ll let you see what they think about our schedule. I know some like to say it’s a cup cake Schedule, so I have tried this year cut out on the cup cakes and add some beef to the schedule.

“We are in the toughest district year in and out,” he added. “It’s

always a battle and if you are not ready, you will get beat and beat badly. The teams, coaches and players in this district are tough and battle tested.”

With his team primed and ready to make runs at the district, and region titles along with a deep run in post-season play, Davis said doesn’t pay attention to any type of preseason rankings, and focuses on his team and what they need to do to get better.

“We are in the 13th Region and that is all I know,” he said. “I don’t look at rankings or polls. That is for you all to determine and have fun with, I believe it is just rat poison. I know some coaches, players and fans lose their minds if they aren’t ranked where they believe they should be. I definitely don’t follow or read that stuff. All that stuff is click bait and it’s someone’s opinion that probably doesn’t attend a game or see a game all year. Just rank us 17, 18, 19 or whatever last place is because I could care less.”

SOUTH LAUREL LADY CARDINALS SCHEDULE

- Mon, Dec. 2 Rockcastle County (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Mon, Jan. 6 North Laurel (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Fri, Jan. 31 Corbin (Home) - 6:00 p.m.
- Sat, Dec. 7 Pikeville (at North Laurel) - 4:30 p.m. Legacy Nissan Classic	- Sat, Jan. 11 Cooper (at Franklin County) - 7:45 p.m.	- Mon, Feb. 3 Jackson County (Home) - 7:30 p.m.
- Fri, Dec. 13 Southwestern (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Tue, Jan. 14 Corbin (Away) - 6:00 p.m.	- Tue, Feb. 4 Williamsburg (Home) - 6:00 p.m.
- Sat, Dec. 14 Henry Clay (Home) - 7:00 p.m. Lisa Collins Classic	- Fri, Jan. 17 Whitley County (Home) - 6:00 p.m.	- Thu, Feb. 6 North Laurel (Away) - 7:30 p.m.
- Fri, Dec. 20 Raceland (at Montgomery County) - 6:45 p.m. 2024 Girls Gateway Holiday Classic	- Sat, Jan. 18 TBA (Home) - 8:00 p.m. Roy Bowling Classic	- Tue, Feb. 11 Pineville (Home) - 7:30 p.m.
- Fri, Dec. 27 Breckinridge County (at Allen County-Scottsville) - 12:45 p.m. Lady Invitational Of The South	- Tue, Jan. 21 Williamsburg (Away) - 6:00 p.m.	- Fri, Feb. 14 Frederick Douglass (Away) - 7:30 p.m.
- Thu, Jan. 2 Jackson County (Away) - 6:00 p.m.	- Thu, Jan. 23 Harlan County (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Mon, Feb. 17 Russell County (Away) - 6:30 p.m.
	- Sat, Jan. 25 Bell County (Away) - 2:30 p.m.	- Fri, Feb. 21 Campbell County (Away) - 8:00 p.m.
	- Tue, Jan. 28 Whitley County (Away) - 6:00 p.m.	• From KHSAA Team Website

LADY CARDS

Continued from page 6

Windlan likes his team’s strengths, noting that his players are “used to winning.”

“We have numerous players who can score, and most have played in some big tournament games,” he said.

He also has some concerns — “new system, very young team, so we will have some peaks and valleys,” he admitted. “How we respond to both will go a long way towards our success.

He also stated his team needs to remain injury-free, accept their roles and responsibilities, while continuing to practice hard and compete for play-

ing time.”

The Lady Cardinals face another rough slate of games which Windlan feels will prepare them for their upcoming district battles.

“We play a very difficult schedule, and I prefer it that way,” he said. “It will prepare us and challenge us.

“I think we are at the top of our district with Corbin based on returning players,” Windlan added. “But being new to the area that is a hard question for me to honestly answer. I feel we have the tools to make a run at the Region championship, North Laurel and Knox Central on paper, may be the favorites? I like my team, they will compete hard and once they learn the system they will be a sound team.”

WHITLEY COUNTY LADY COLONELS SCHEDULE

- Mon, Dec. 2 Casey County (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	a.m.	- Fri, Jan. 31 Williamsburg (Away) - 6:00 p.m.
- Thu, Dec. 5 Pineville (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Fri, Jan. 3 Jackson County (Away) - 7:00 p.m.	- Sat, Feb. 1 Somerset (Away) - 2:30 p.m.
- Sat, Dec. 7 Cosby, Tenn. (Home) - 3:30 p.m.	- Tue, Jan. 14 Williamsburg (Home) - 6:00 p.m.	- Tue, Feb. 4 Corbin (Away) - 6:00 p.m.
- Tue, Dec. 10 Owsley County (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Fri, Jan. 17 South Laurel (Away) - 6:00 p.m.	- Mon, Feb. 10 Rockcastle County (Away) - 7:30 p.m.
- Fri, Dec. 13 Madison Southern (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Sat, Jan. 18 Leslie County (at South Laurel) - 2:00 p.m. Roy Bowling Classic	- Thu, Feb. 13 Knox Central (Home) - 7:30 p.m.
- Sat, Dec. 14 McCreary Central (Home) - 6:30 p.m.	- Tue, Jan. 21 Corbin (Home) - 6:00 p.m.	- Sat, Feb. 15 Leslie County (Home) - 4:30 p.m.
- Tue, Dec. 17 Danville Christian (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Thu, Jan. 23 Barbourville (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Tue, Feb. 18 Bell County (Away) - 7:30 p.m.
- Fri, Dec. 27 Lipscomb Academy (Nashville, Tenn.) (at TBA) - 11:30 a.m.	- Sat, Jan. 25 Harlan County (Home) - 7:00 p.m.	- Thu, Feb. 20 Wayne County (Home) - 7:30 p.m.
- Sat, Dec. 28 TBA (Away) - 11:30	- Tue, Jan. 28 South Laurel (Home) - 6:00 p.m.	• From KHSAA Team Website

LADY COLONELS

Continued from page 7

averaged 2.4 points per game, and 1.6 rebounds.

“Madisyn Hopkins has really worked on here strength and developed a more consistent perimeter shot,” Petrey said. “Jonna Rice has improved tremendously in all aspects of the game, and we are looking for her to really run our team offensively. Aubree Clemens has a lot of skill around the basket, so we have been working to improve her play out on the floor away from the basket and she has showed a lot of growth in that area. Autumn Sawyers is an unbelievable athlete who has really been shooting the basketball at a higher percentage.

“This team is mostly sophomores and freshman, but our sophomores have a lot of varsity experience, and our freshman have some varsity experience,” he added. “We have two seniors who were members of last year’s team, and two seniors who have joined the team this season.

“We feel like we have a very balanced team. Khylea Ray Collier, Femke Haes, Makenna Taylor, Jaylee Cox, Lydia Hale and Cammbree Price will see varsity minutes,” Petrey continued. “We have really worked hard to develop depth at every position.”

Petrey likes the schedule his team will be playing which will prepare the Lady Colonels for the battles ahead in the 50th District.

“We play in a very competitive District, but we feel like our team can be competitive in District play,” he said. “South Laurel, Corbin and Williamsburg prepare their teams to be good at what they do, so every district game will be a challenge. We have scheduled opponents within our region and from other regions that we feel will prepare our team for those tough district matchups.”

COLONELS

Continued from page 7

Javon Rider, Jase Meadors, and Garrett Sharp. These guys have all played well at the JV level last season. Freshman Riley Fuson is a guy that can play inside and out and will be a key factor for us.

“We only have two guys that logged a lot of minutes last year,” Swords added. “We have a lot of freshmen and sophomores and will be one of the youngest teams in the region. We have a ton of quickness and toughness. I think we have great guards, and our bigs have a ton of potential. We should have a great shooting team as well.”

Swords mentioned inexperience and rebounding are two concerns he has entering the season.

“Last year, we struggled to rebound the ball at times,” he admitted. “We have put an emphasis on that in the early practices. Inexperience, the only thing we can do is learn as we go, and use everything as a teaching moment. We have to have everyone putting the team first, ball movement, and effort.

If we do those things we will have a good team.”

Swords has put together another competitive schedule that will have his team ready for 50th District play and the postseason.

“Our schedule is tough,” he said. “We will play all the top teams in the region, non region games vs Madison Central, Wayne County, and Cosby, Tennessee. We will play some tough out of state teams in our Borderline Classic and our pre-Christmas tournament in Tennessee.

Even with a young roster, Swords believes his Colonels are in the mix with everyone else in the 50th District.

“Last year, we beat each district team in the same season for the first time in a long time,” he said. “We lost a lot off of our team but we fully expect to continue with that success. The 50th District is always tough and I don’t expect it to be any different this year.

“We will play as hard as any team in the region, that will give us a chance in every game,” Swords added. “We will have to execute and get better as we go. If you make it out of the 50th District then you have a shot to win the region.”





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NORTH LAUREL JAGUARS SCHEDULE

- Tue, Dec. 3 Lexington Catholic (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	Oneida Baptist Institute (Home) - 7:30 p.m.
- Fri, Dec. 6 Jeffersonton (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Fri, Jan. 24 Clay County (Home) - 7:30 p.m.
- Sat, Dec. 7 Henry Clay (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Tue, Jan. 28 Boyle County (Away) - 7:30 p.m.
- Tue, Dec. 10 South Laurel (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Sun, Feb. 2 Trinity (Louisville) (Home) - 12:01 a.m.
- Thu, Dec. 12 Oneida Baptist Institute (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Tue, Feb. 4 Madison Central (Away) - 7:30 p.m.
- Mon, Dec. 16 TBA (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Fri, Feb. 7 Jackson County (Home) - 7:30 p.m.
- Fri, Jan. 3 Clay County (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Tue, Feb. 11 Sayre (Away) - 7:30 p.m.
- Tue, Jan. 7 Corbin (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Fri, Feb. 14 Corbin (Away) - 7:30 a.m.
- Thu, Jan. 9 South Laurel (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Sat, Feb. 15 Lafayette (Home) - 2:30 p.m.
- Fri, Jan. 17 Jackson County (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Tue, Feb. 18 Pulaski County (Away) - 7:30 p.m.
- Sat, Jan. 18 Pineville (at Clay County) - 2:30 p.m. Bobby Keith Classic	- Thu, Feb. 20 Whitley County (Home) - 6:00 p.m.
- Tue, Jan. 21	• From KHSAA Team Website

JAGUARS

Continued from page 4

Valentine is excited for the season to tip-off, and expects his team to make a deep run in postseason play this winter.

“We will have very

good balance this year offensively,” he said. “The region is extremely balanced again this year with a number of teams capable of winning. Everyone in our program has been very committed to get North Laurel back to the top of the 13th Region.”

CORBIN REDHOUNDS SCHEDULE

- Fri, Dec. 6 Harlan County (Away) - 7:30 PM	- Tue, Dec. 17 Berea (Away) - 7:30 PM	- Mon, Jan. 6 Clay County (Home) - 7:30 PM	- Mon, Jan. 27 Somerset (Away) - 7:30 PM	- Tue, Feb. 11 Lynn Camp (Home) - 7:30 PM
- Sat, Dec. 7 Madison Central (at North Laurel) - 3 PM Legacy Nissan Classic	- Fri, Dec. 27 Lynn Camp (Corbin) - 8 PM Cumberland Falls Invitational Tournament	- Tue, Jan. 7 North Laurel (Away) - 7:30 PM	- Tue, Jan. 28 Williamsburg (Home) - 7:30 PM	- Thu, Feb. 13 Bell County (Away) - 7:30 PM
- Tue, Dec. 10 Jackson County (Away) - 7 PM	- Sun, Dec. 29 Little Miami (Morrow, OH) (Corbin) - 2 PM Cumberland Falls Invitational Tournament	- Fri, Jan. 10 Jackson County (Home) - 7:30 PM	- Fri, Jan. 31 South Laurel (Away) - 7:30 PM	- Fri, Feb. 14 North Laurel (Home) - 7:30 PM
- Sat, Dec. 14 Tri-Cities Christian Academy (at Bell County) - 3 PM Pride Of The Mountains Showcase	January, 2025 - Fri, Jan. 3 Ashland Blazer (Away) - 7:30 PM	- Tue, Jan. 14 South Laurel (Home) - 7:30 PM	February, 2025 - Mon, Feb. 3 Barbourville (Away) - 7:30 PM	- Tue, Feb. 18 Pineville (Away) - 7:30 PM
		- Fri, Jan. 17 Williamsburg (Away) - 7:30 PM	- Tue, Feb 4 Whitley County (Home) - 7:30 PM	- Fri, Feb. 21 Middlesboro (Home) - 7:30 PM
		- Tue, Jan 21 Whitley County (Away) - 7:30 PM		• Schedule from KHSAA Website

REDHOUNDS

Continued from page 5

run in postseason play. “We have another tough

schedule this season. I do feel it will make us the best team we can be for the postseason,” he said. Everyone is picking South Laurel (to win the 50th District), and deservedly so. We will do

our best to defend the district title. Most have Harlan County and South Laurel as the favorites (in the region). I feel there are handful of other teams that can compete for that title.”

LADY HOUNDS

Continued from page 5

throughout this upcoming season.

“The biggest key for this basketball team and our number one focus for this year is definitely on the defensive side of the basketball,” he continued. “Our willingness to buy in to that side of the floor and get in a stance and guard someone will ultimately decide how successful this basketball team can be and how far we can make it. If we do this, I believe this team can surprise some many and can make a run.”

Wilson stated his team’s schedule has always helped prepare his team for the season and feels this year will be no different.

“We won’t have to do as much long traveling in the upcoming season,” he confirmed. “We don’t have trips to Florida and we are not participating in the Queen of the Commonwealth this season as well. With that being said, we still have a competitive schedule that will help us find weaknesses and be able to learn and grow upon them throughout the season.”

And once again, Wilson believes his team will be

participating in one of the toughest districts in the 13th Region.

“The 50th District is always very competitive and contends for the 13th Region title each year. This year should be no different, with a lot of schools having some new energy with new faces coaching them this season,” he said. “We feel that we can continue to be in the conversation as being a top team in the district and we have our sights set on winning the district for the third year in a row. We understand that at the end of the day winning the district is on all of our district teams mind, and we must prepare and be ready because nothing is ever given in life especially in sports.

“We continue to feel that we can have a say in the regional tournament come the end of the season,” Wilson added. “Our kids understand what it takes to get there and we will continue to strive to represent the 13th Region at the KHSAA State Tournament this coming spring. There are many teams who have a great chance at representing our region and at the end of the day, only one team will get to do so. We must continue to work and put ourselves in the best position possible come the end of the year in order to be that one team come March.”

NORTH LAUREL LADY JAGUARS SCHEDULE

- Mon, Dec. 2 Pineville (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	County Central) - 6:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.	West Jessamine (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	- Tue, Feb. 18 Pulaski County (Away) - 6:00 p.m.
- Thu, Dec. 5 TBA (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Mon, Dec. 30 Ashland Blazer (Home) - 3:30 p.m.	- Tue, Jan. 14 Southwestern (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Fri, Jan. 24 Clay County (Home) - 6:00 p.m.	- Fri, Feb. 7 Jackson County (Home) - 6:00 p.m.	- Thu, Feb. 20 Harlan County (Home) - 7:30 p.m.
- Thu, Dec. 5 Hazard (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Fri, Jan. 3 Clay County (Away) - 6:00 p.m.	- Fri, Jan. 17 Jackson County (Away) - 6:00 p.m.	- Sat, Feb. 1 Pikeville (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Mon, Feb. 10 Franklin County (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Fri, Feb. 21 Henry Clay (Home) - 7:30 p.m.
- Sat, Dec. 7 Rockcastle County (Home) - 6:00 p.m.	- Mon, Jan. 6 South Laurel (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	- Sat, Jan. 18 Simon Kenton (at South Laurel) - 4:00 p.m. Roy Bowling Classic	- Tue, Feb. 4 Madison Central (Home) - 7:30 p.m.	- Thu, Feb. 13 Corbin (Away) - 7:30 p.m.	• From KHSAA Team Website
- Wed, Dec. 11 Prestonsburg (at Perry	- Sat, Jan. 11 Ashland Blazer (Away) -	- Tue, Jan. 21	- Thu, Feb. 6 South Laurel (Home) -	- Sat, Feb. 15 Ryle (Home) - 4:15 p.m.	

LADY JAGS

Continued from page 4

quick and aggressive team on offense.

“We will be leaning on those areas a lot toward the beginning of the season,” he said. “We do not make any excuses in our program. We know our expectations are always extremely high. “However, the youth is a concern for us,” Mahan added. “With young players, confidence is a huge factor, and we tend to not play many teams that allow for that confidence to grow. It will be

the toughest minded players that will be able to help this team by the end of the season.

“For this team it will be two main keys to success,” he continued. “The first will be our player development. We know our players and team must be better at the end of the season, than it is going into it. The other is team chemistry and player sacrifice. We must maintain our ultimate goals of success to be team oriented.”

One thing that’s for certain, Mahan’s team will be battle-tested with a challenging slate that includes a rematch

with Franklin County, who eliminated the Lady Jaguars last season.

“We always try and make our schedule with the end of the season in mind,” he said. “We once again have some very tough opponents on our schedule. From a rematch of our state tournament game against Franklin County to teams such as Ryle, Southwestern and two games against Ashland every game is one we plan on utilizing to get our team ready for postseason.”

The tough skate will also prepare Mahan’s squad for district play. North Laurel hasn’t lost to a 49th District team

since Jan. 5, 2018.

“We never overlook our district,” Mahan said. “Through the years, many of your best teams in the region come from the 49th District. Jackson County still has one of the best players in our area and one that I think has been severely overlooked in Abby Gilbert. We will make sure we are ready for a tough district again this season.

“We have the talent and ability to make another run this year,” he added. “It will just be a matter of putting the pieces together to get ready for the challenges.”



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