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# 1921 Leslie Bulldogs were improbable state champions



**JEFF BRASEL**  
jeffb@harrisondaily.com

LESLIE — A stroll through the Heart of the Ozarks communities will produce some of the finest high school gyms in the state of Arkansas. Even small schools with only 200 students have quality facilities that are capable of hosting crowds in excess of 2,000 people.

Basketball has always been a crazy sport and the Heart of the Ozarks fans live and breath with the quality of their high school team.

However, a journey back in time has produced one of basketball's great history lessons.

In the 1920-1921 school year, the Leslie Bulldog basketball team had made a name for itself. The Bulldogs were very skilled and the team knew how to win.

As the season progressed, the squad had earned a trip to the state basketball tournament that was held in Little Rock.

Arkansas started crowning state basketball champions in 1909 and this was to be Leslie's first trip.

School administrators had given the squad permission to go to the tournament, but the team had to travel on the train to Little Rock. Rail service to the small Searcy County town

was erratic.

The athletes waited with their bags packed on Monday, a week before the tournament started. No train.

Tuesday came and went. So did Wednesday and Thursday.

If the train didn't come on Friday, the team could not go.

The entire morning passed, then the afternoon came and just as the players were starting to leave, the sound of the train whistle in Marshall was vaguely heard by a couple of the players.

The players started pacing with anticipation until the train arrived.

The nine-member team and their coach loaded the train and headed to Little Rock and the unknown.

Upon arriving in Little Rock, the Bulldogs saw other teams from large cities across the state.

The Little Rock High School coach took pity on the squad that looked to be out of their element. He arranged for them to practice and helped them to find lodging.

As the team was preparing for the tournament, a huge epiphany was realized. The tournament was going to be held indoors.

The Leslie coach quickly scrambled to find their new friend from Little Rock and to pick his brain on the ins-and-outs of playing indoors. The Bulldogs had never played inside a gym before. All of their games had been outside in the elements.

Adjusting quickly to the indoor game, the

team was ready for their first contest. After an easy first win, the team's trip to the big city was becoming even more exciting.

As the tournament progressed, the Little Rock coach began to realize that the Leslie team was very good, and that they were going to meet in the finals.

Little Rock High School had won six of the first 12 titles, and that included three of the last four.

Sure enough the two teams met with Leslie winning, 24-21, in what was described as the best game of the tournament.

The Bulldogs celebrated their first title.

Leslie entered the tournament with many odds stacked against them according to the scholars of the times. They were from a small town and the team was coached by a woman.

Irene Jones became the first woman to lead a boys team to a state title. She was the only one to do so for more than 90 years of play. However in 2001, Barbara Wilburn led Marked Tree to a title to join the ranks.

*COVER PHOTO is of the 1921 Leslie High School state basketball champions*

## INDEX:

Alpena Leopards.....	pg 4
Alpena Lady Leopards .....	pg 5
Bergman Panthers .....	pg 6
Bergman Lady Panthers .....	pg 7
Deer Antlers .....	pg 8
Deer Lady Antlers.....	pg 9
Jasper Pirates .....	pg 10
Jasper Lady Pirates .....	pg 11
Kingston Yellow Jackets.....	pg 12
Kingston Lady Yellow Jackets.....	pg 13
Lead Hill Tigers .....	pg 14
Lead Hill Lady Tigers .....	pg 15
Mt. Judea Eagles.....	pg 16
Mt. Judea Lady Eagles .....	pg 17
Omaha Eagles .....	pg 20
Omaha Lady Eagles .....	pg 21
Ozark Mountain Bears .....	pg 22
Ozark Mountain Lady Bears.....	pg 23
Valley Springs Tigers .....	pg 24
Valley Springs Lady Tigers .....	pg 25
Schedules.....	pgs 32, 33, 34

## BOYS STATE TITLES

- Valley Springs (6) 1950, 1951, 1952, 1961, 1982, 1997
- Green Forest (2) 1967, 1968
- Harrison (2) 1967, 1984
- Pyatt (2) 1959, 1968
- Bergman (1) 1953
- Jasper (1) 1960
- Leslie (1) 1921
- Marshall (1) 1942
- Western Grove (1) 1930

## GIRLS STATE TITLES

- Harrison (4) 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004
- Valley Springs (4) 1994, 2010, 2016, 2020
- Flippin (3) 1984, 1985, 1988
- Leslie (2) 1962, 1963
- Marshall (2) 2007, 2008
- Alpena (1) 1992
- Kingston (1) 2008



# ALPENA LEOPARDS ROSTER

No.	Athlete	Class
00	Bryce Martin	11
2	Cody Block	10
3	Dylan Rose	12
5	Ethan Hilton	10
10	Brayden Pouncil	10
11	Nicholas Stone	12
13	Landon Savage	10
21	Kolbe Hicks	11
24	Kent Bruce	11
32	Lucas Anderson	12
33	Barron Ohler	12



## Alpena finding ways to get it done

By JEFF BRASEL  
jeffb@harrisdaily.com

ALPENA — The Alpena Leopards have found a way to get it done.

This season, getting it done has taken on a new meaning for the Leopards. Innovation has become a part of basketball at the west Boone County school.

With the COVID-19 concerns, the Leopards found themselves on the sidelines for two weeks. That didn't stop veteran coach Phillip Roberts from coaching his team.

"We have been quarantined for two weeks," said Roberts. "We didn't sit around. We have had a lot of changes, but we have found ways to still have practices."

One of those ways was to have individual practice virtually.

"We had Zoom practice for two weeks," said Roberts. "I watched them on their home goals and we worked on some things. We also sent their kettle irons home with them so that they could continue their workouts."

Roberts and the Leopards took Zoom to another level of basketball.

"I had plays online and we went through those," he said. "We had everyone join in and we studied what we wanted to do for those two weeks."

"We had to get some things done," continued the coach. "We are not just sitting around. The two weeks off has affected us, but we have tried to lessen it. The kids have been on board."

COVID has also changed the schedule for the Leopards.

"We have games every week of the season," the coach said. "There are only two

weeks we only have one game and the rest of the time there are two."

Roberts went on to express his opinion about the upcoming basketball season.

"I think the season will continue," he said. "There may be a hiccup here or there, but I am confident that we are going to get to play."

That confidence has spilled over to his team. He likes this version of the Leopards.

"I like the willingness to work and get better," he said. "Even during quarantine and even last spring when they were homebound, I had some kids that were working their tails off to get better."

"When they were allowed to come back in, they were here and working hard."

The Leopards, like all teams across Arkansas, didn't get to have summer camps or scrimmages. The approach for this year may change the way the coach thinks about offseason workouts.

"We got our summer time," said Roberts. "I will be honest with you, coming in and working on ball handling and fundamental things has helped us. We got better than we would have scrimmaging. It will change our approach in the upcoming years."

Coming into the season, Roberts has aspects of his team that he points to as a strength.

"Our guard play is going to be the strength of this team," he said.

With solid guards, usually a weakness of a team will be inside play. That is true for the Leopards.

"We lack size inside," the coach said. "Our inside game is still developing. We have some kids that can, but they have to develop more."

When looking at covering his weakness, the coach looked to the University of Arkansas.

"We have tried to take notes from Coach (Eric) Musselman in Fayetteville," said Roberts. "We will go about playing defense different. When you are smaller you have to do things to make up for it."

The Leopards plan on using a variety of defenses this season. The team will use a matchup, 1-3-1 and some man-to-man.

Offensively, the coach would like to speed up the tempo.

"We are going to try to get up and down the floor," he said. "We will look for early opportunities before the defenses get set."

Alpena will be looking at some tough competition this year to prepare themselves

ALPENA BOYS cont' pg 26

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# ALPENA LADY LEOPARDS ROSTER

No.	Athlete	Class
2	Cheyenne Higginbotham	10
4	Katherine Rodas	10
11	Desiree Deitrich	12
12	Amelya Cook	12
21	Kalea Valentine	11
23	Emma Johnson	10
25	Anniston Armer	11
32	Bella Phillips	11

## Lady Leopards have new coach this season

By JEFF BRASEL  
jeffb@harrisdaily.com

ALPENA — There are a lot of new things at Alpena this season.

There is a new conference, a new region, a new look to the team and a new coach. Michael Smith is the new Alpena coach. He comes into a team that is deep in tradition.

Alpena made a run in the Class 1A State Tournament last season and look to do the same when moving up to Class 2A this year.

The Lady Leopards have really impressed the coach in the early going.

“They are hard workers,” he said. “Every since I have been here, they are trying to learn my system. They have been high energy trying to catch on. I like to run set plays and they are not use to it, but they are working hard to learn.

“They really want to be here,” continued the coach about his team. “They don’t really miss any. They want to be here and they want to be better. They are giving me everything that they have.”

When looking at his team, the coach was quick to point out the strength — guard play.

“All of my girls are able to shoot consistently,” he said. “They handle the ball well. The ability to shoot the basketball will help us most nights.”

When looking at the weakness of the team, Smith pointed to size and inside play.

“We don’t have a lot of size,” he said. “We have to really use our guard play as our strength. We have to neutralize teams that have some bigs. We are going to do some of the things like (Eric) Musselman did last year with the Razorbacks.”

When it comes to defense, teams will have to be ready for what the Lady Leopards will throw at them.

“We will do some man,” started the coach. “Then we will play a 1-3-1 matchup and some 2-3.”

The coach says the team will run a continuity offense similar to Princeton’s offense. A new conference will have new teams. The schedule is full of tough opponents.

“Flippin will be pretty good,” started Smith. “Cotter will be good. They have some bigs. Berryville will be pretty good.

“When we go down south we will see a different style of basketball,” said the coach about the team’s trip to Drew Central. “Rural Special returns several from last year and of course there is Valley Springs and Bergman. That will be two tough

games for us.”

Alpena will be playing in a balanced conference.

“I like our conference. I think we have a chance to compete,” he said. “The bottom teams will be competitive with the top teams. We will have to bring our A game every night or there is a chance of getting upset.”

Smith pointed to Mountainburg, Lavaca and Magazine as some of the better teams from the other conference that will compete in the regional tournament. “I feel like we got a good placement regional-wise.”

The Lady Leopards only have eight players this season, but those players have a lot of experience.

Anniston Armer will be one of the team’s starters.

“This year she will be one of our main ball handlers,” said the coach. “She is a good defender. She will draw one of the better guards from the other team. She is a good shooter.”

Katherine Rodas will handle some paint play for the Lady Leopards.

“She will be an inside out person,” said the coach. “She can handle it pretty well. She can play outside and she shoots it pretty well. She can score on the inside for us.”

ALPENA LADIES cont’ pg 26



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# BERGMAN PANTHERS ROSTER

No.	Athlete	Class
0	Erick DeDear	11
1	Tristen Pritchett	10
2	Mingo Kennedy	10
3	Kaden Henson	11
10	Asher Fultz	12
13	Trevor Little	12
22	Marcus Bryant	11
32	Elijah Royce	12
34	Anthony Hodge	12
55	Walker Patton	10



## Bergman ready to take next step in state

By JEFF BRASEL  
jeffb@harrisdaily.com

BERGMAN — Bergman got a taste of the Class 3A State Basketball Tournament last season. Now, the team wants to take a big bite.

The exciting thing for Panther fans is that the squad has the manpower to make a deeper run into the tournament.

Bergman's coach Bo Martin, who is entering his ninth-year at the helm of the Panthers, has some things about his team that he really likes.

"We are a good blend of returners and some that were role players," said the coach. "We are going to be the most athletic team that I have had here."

There were other things that the coach likes about his team.

"I like the depth of the bench," he said. "We have some good senior leaders with a lot of experience and a lot of playing time."

That playing time should amount to wins for the Panthers. Bergman completed last season with a 32-9 mark.

When asked what the strength of his team was going to be, Martin answered "Athleticism and we are very fast," he started. "We will be able to play at a high speed this year."

Even with the experience of some returning players, there is a weakness that will have to be overcome as the season begins.

"We will be replacing three three-year starters," he said. "Anytime that you have to replace that much experience and scoring it will take time for people to learn their role and fill the voids. That will be a process."

The Panthers have the skill set this year to put different defenses on the floor.

"We are going to mix it up and use some variety," said Martin. "We are going to do several different things."

While on the offensive end, the Panthers would not need a shot clock.

"We will play fast and shoot a lot of 3s," the coach said. "We are going to use Elijah (Royce) inside."

Royce is a two-time All-State player for the Panthers.

"He has averaged a double double the last two years," said the coach. "He is a great teammate. He is unselfish. Sometimes he is too unselfish. He impacts the game in a lot of ways. He can rebound, pass, score and defend."

Another senior star and returning to the lineup this year is Asher Fultz.

"He is a really hard worker," stated Martin. "He improved a lot between his 10th and 11th grade year. He made an even bigger step this year. He is a great scorer that can get other guys involved. He can score outside and get to the rim."

Another pair of Panthers have earned their starting spots this year — Anthony Hodge and Walker Patton.

"Anthony (Hodge) played good minutes the last two years," said Martin. "He has worked hard and has improved. He is 6-foot-3 so he adds length. "He can impact the game. He will have a much bigger role this year."

"Walker is a special sophomore," continued the coach. "He is very athletic. He can do a lot. He will also take on a much bigger role this year."

There is a fifth spot up for grabs for the team and according to the coach, any of four players could fill the position.

Marcus Bryant is a junior that has really improved and will start some. Even if he doesn't start, he will see a lot of minutes.

Mingo Kennedy is a sophomore that is very athletic and a good defender. The coach said that he could be a good playmaker on offense.

Junior Kaden Henson is a long player. He has a nice touch with the ball and can be an athletic scorer at the basket. He has a little bit of experience.

Senior Trevor Little is a 6-3 senior that can shoot the basketball and offers some size for the team off of the bench.

Bergman's bench doesn't stop there. Erick DeDear and Tristen Pritchett will be fighting to see the valuable minutes for the Panthers.

The Panther development may have been slowed a little this season by the COVID-19 virus. "Not having team camps have hurt us," said Martin. "This year in particular we have a lot of guys that haven't played or guys in different roles. So, team camps were

**BERGMAN BOYS cont' pg 26**

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# BERGMAN LADY PANTHERS ROSTER

| No. | Athlete         | Class |
|-----|-----------------|-------|
| 2   | Katlyn Campbell | 10    |
| 3   | Kara Ponder     | 11    |
| 10  | Abigail Hodges  | 11    |
| 12  | Maddi Holt      | 11    |
| 14  | Jalen Burleson  | 10    |
| 21  | Braylen Collins | 11    |
| 22  | Taylor Cartwell | 10    |
| 24  | Tru Cartwright  | 12    |
| 25  | Karsen Edwards  | 11    |
| 32  | Kessa Willis    | 11    |
| 35  | Madeline Moon   | 10    |

## Youthful Lady Panthers will be solid team

By JEFF BRASEL  
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BERGMAN — As teams face the COVID-19 virus this season, the Bergman Lady Panthers hope to not face the same bug that they had last season.

The “injury bug” hit the squad and created an interesting season for the team.

This year, seventh-year head coach James Halitzka is looking for his team to be very competitive. The coach likes what he sees on the floor.

“This group is competitive,” he said about his team. “They bring a competitive atmosphere to the floor every day. They are willing to put in extra time outside of what is required. They are the most dedicated group that I have had.”

Put the team’s dedication with the strengths of the team and fans get excited about the upcoming season.

“They are physical, strong and they can shoot,” said the coach about his team. “There are a lot of scorers on this team.”

This season the Lady Panthers will run a man defense and while on offense they will be approaching the game in a quick manner.

“We will be shooting the first good shot and then we go get it if it misses,” said Halitzka.

The Lady Panthers will be playing in a new conference this season. The coach likes the change.

“I think it will be good for us,” he said. “The drives will be a little further, but it will be easier. It is a good conference, but it is not as tough as last year. Last year’s conference was tough top to bottom.”

A top four finish in the district tournament will get a team to regionals. This cycle the region for the conference moves to the southwest.

“The region will be about the same for us,” said Halitzka. “It think it will be a little down. That conference had an adjustment. There are some teams that moved up from 2A that return a lot of players from last year.”

Halitzka pointed to Charleston, Danville and Cossatot as some of the teams to look for in the other region.

COVID concerns has hurt the Bergman schedule, but the school almost filled it.

“It has been miserable,” said Halitzka about the schedule. “We lost 17 games. We had to replace games from three tournaments and seven classic games. Haas Hall dropped its program this year. We found 14 games, but we are still three games shy.”

The Lady Panthers have not had many problems with the “Q” word.

“We have had two players quarantined this year,” he said. “They were both at

the same time at the beginning of the school year. We have been able to practice together.”

Now that the schedule is completed, the coach looked at some of the teams on his scheduled. He looked at Viola, Norfolk, Elkins and Valley Springs as all being quality opponents.

There are 11 Lady Panthers on the roster this season, and seven of them could be in the lineup.

“There will be several player that will be rotating in and out of the starting lineup,” said the coach.

Kara Ponder averaged 18.3 points a game last season for the Lady Panthers. She is a junior that is a good shooter. She was injured late in the season.

Maddi Holt is a sophomore that averaged 15.2 points a game last year as a freshman on the varsity squad. According to the coach, she is a natural scorer.

Karsen Edwards is a good athletic, well-rounded post player.

Kessa Willis didn’t play much last season due to an injury. She did get to play in the postseason.

Abigail Hodges is a junior transfer from Mountain Home. “She will be a good addition,” said Halitzka.

Tru Cartwright is a transfer from Western Grove. She is the only senior on the team.

BERGMAN LADIES cont’ pg 27



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# DEER ANTLERS ROSTER

| No. | Athlete         | Class |
|-----|-----------------|-------|
| 4   | Kieran Carey    | 12    |
| 5   | Bobby Holt      | 10    |
| 11  | Evan Williams   | 10    |
| 12  | Jonah Windel    | 12    |
| 13  | Dale Dotson     | 12    |
| 15  | Mason Williams  | 11    |
| 20  | Landon Rhoades  | 11    |
| 23  | Avery Young     | 11    |
| 32  | Brayden Clement | 12    |
| 42  | Nate Spivey     | 12    |



## Antlers have a wealth of talent for new coach

By JEFF BRASEL  
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DEER — The Deer Antlers are getting a slow start, but expect the team to finish fast.

This season the team is being coach by Rick Napier.

“I didn’t get the job until a few weeks before school started,” said Napier. “We have to hit the ground running.”

Running is at a slower pace than what the coach would like. Injuries have limited the amount of players in practice.

“We have eight players available right now,” he said. “Two are injured.”

Another concern that may slow down the Antlers is the COVID-19.

“It will take longer to get games completed,” said the coach. “They will have to do some cleaning between games and everyone will have to leave. Our entry point for the games will be around the office area of the school. The exit will be through the gym lobby.”

Another area of concern for the coach was getting a completed schedule put together. The team is not allowed to play in tournaments and classics.

“We have had to work on our schedule,” he said. “We have 32 games in senior high and the limit is 34. We may add some more. We hope to play all of our games, but that could change in the blink of a second if someone comes down with it.”

The Antlers just missed the regional tournament last season. The team has that and the state tournament on its mind this season. It’s a goal that seems reachable for the squad.

“This league is going to be so equal from top to bottom,” said the coach. “There will be exciting games every night.”

Napier pointed to Ozark Mountain as the team to beat.

“Jasper has a lot of talent,” he said. “You can never look past Coach (Mike) Parker. He is a good coach wherever he is coaching. His team at Jasper will be good.”

“Kingston will be in the hunt,” continued the coach. “Coach (Pat) Summers does a good job. They have a good pee wee program and that helps build his team. Lead Hill will be loaded. Rocky Dodson (Omaha) will be in the hunt. Mt. Judea

will be a little down, but they will get better.”

Who ever makes it to the regional tournament will have some teams to watch.

“New School will always have a good team,” stated Napier. “County Line and the Future School in Fort Smith could be tough.”

Deer will be looking to use its natural attributes this season.

“We have some quickness and some great size,” said Napier. “We are working extremely well together. We have four seniors that are baring down and playing hard.”

With the injuries, the team is missing a key component.

“We don’t have much depth,” said the coach. “If we get in foul trouble, we are in trouble. We only have eight.”

The veteran coach has a plan to cover his weakness.

“We are trying to use our speed as much as possible and get a little stronger on defense,” stated the coach. “Instead of reaching, we will play better. We have to do a better job on the defensive end.”

Deer will play a variety of defenses depending on the foul situation for the squad. The team will use man to matchup zones.

On the offensive end, the Antlers will have a game plan in mind before the game starts.

“We will do a lot of isolation,” Napier stated. “We will isolate some of our better players. We will try to score on our entry into the offense. If we don’t, we will work into our offense.”

The Antlers will be looking for senior leadership this year. The squad has four seniors.

“Dale Dotson is a senior that can play any position,” said the coach. “He can rebound it and get it up the floor. He goes to the board and gets the ball to the open person. He is deceptive around the basket. He is smart and can finish at the rim.”

Another senior is Jonah Windel.

“He is a quiet kid,” said the coach. “He has a 34 ACT. He is shooting about 55 to 60 percent behind the 3-point line. If he is open, he can shoot it. He will be a real big surprise.”

Another player that will be a surprise for the Antlers is Kieran

*DEER BOYS cont’ pg 27*





# DEER LADY ANTLERS ROSTER

| No. | Athlete          | Class |
|-----|------------------|-------|
| 3   | Bryliegh Davis   | 10    |
| 4   | Skyli Martin     | 11    |
| 5   | Olivia Heffley   | 10    |
| 10  | Ashlyn Denniston | 12    |
| 11  | Jalyn Denniston  | 10    |
| 21  | Jade Williams    | 11    |
| 23  | Jessica Dotson   | 12    |
| 24  | Ashlyn Davis     | 12    |

## Deer girls are accustomed to change

By JEFF BRASEL  
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DEER — One thing that has been consistent for the Deer Lady Antlers is change. This season the Lady Antlers will have another new coach.

“I am their sixth coach in six years,” said new coach Rick Napier, who stated that this is his 40th year to be involved in coaching.”

However, with the new coach there is optimism for the upcoming season.

“We have potential,” said the coach. “If we can keep silly turnovers — one’s where we don’t have a chance to stop them — we will have a chance in our games.”

The development of the Lady Antlers has grown over the course of the school year.

“They are coming on,” stated Napier. “If they get a couple of key wins early, I feel that it will build some confidence. They will have a shot at being in the top four of the conference this year.”

Finishing in the top four of the district tournament will earn the Lady Antlers a bid in the regional tournament. This year the 1A-1East takes on a different look.

Coming back to the league is Omaha, Lead Hill and Ozark Mountain. The trio spent time in the 1A-2 before being placed back into the conference by the Arkansas Activities Association.

Napier handicapped the league race this season.

“Ozark Mountain will be good,” he started. “Kingston is always well coached and they return a lot of players. Jasper has a new system with a new coach and they would be good.

“Omaha’s coach (Joe) McKinney will have his team ready,” continued Napier. “They will be in the game. Lead Hill should be a little down this year.”

When looking to the other region, the coach liked the chances of his conference.

“We barely got beat out of regionals last year by that conference’s top team,” he said. “Our region will be down a little bit. The other conference should be down. I wouldn’t be surprised if all of our conference’s team make it state.”

Entering the season, Napier stated that the Lady Antlers will have a strategy to get things accomplished.

“We have to do things by committee,” he said. “We really have to work together as a team.”

Napier pointed to team speed as one of the things that the squad will have to overcome.

Another area that concerns the coach is his team not playing with confidence.

“I don’t want them to revert back to how they were,” he said. “Our goal is make the state tournament. We have to finish ahead of some teams to get there.”

As the goal is the state tournament, Napier likes what he sees in the team.

“They are a great group of girls,” he said. “I think they are tired of losing. They are going to surprise a few teams this season.”

Deer is getting prepared for the postseason run with a tough schedule. The team has scheduled several Class 2A and 3A schools this season. Cotter, Bergman, Eureka Springs, Hector, Green Forest and Decatur all play in higher classifications than the Lady Antlers.

The Lady Antlers have several returning players from last season. There are three seniors, a pair of juniors and three sophomores on the squad.

DEER LADIES cont’ pg 28



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# JASPER PIRATES ROSTER

| No. | Athlete         | Height | Class |
|-----|-----------------|--------|-------|
| 3   | Mason Morgan    | 5-7    | 10    |
| 11  | Warren Clark    | 6-0    | 11    |
| 12  | Cole Villines   | 5-11   | 11    |
| 14  | Jesse Harrison  | 5-11   | 11    |
| 15  | Nate Watts      | 5-7    | 10    |
| 20  | Tyler Tibbs     | 6-1    | 10    |
| 21  | Joseph Lindsey  | 5-9    | 10    |
| 23  | Calvin Smith    | 5-11   | 11    |
| 24  | Huston Davidson | 6-2    | 10    |
| 25  | Jarrett Willis  | 5-11   | 10    |
| 32  | Layton Smith    | 6-2    | 12    |
| 35  | Sam Helmuth     | 5-10   | 11    |
| 42  | Sam Parker      | 6-0    | 12    |



## Pirates will continue success on hardwoods

By JEFF BRASEL  
jeffb@harrisdaily.com

JASPER — The Jasper Pirates will blend classes this season.

Veteran basketball coach Mike Parker looks for athletes from every class to contribute to the team this year as the Pirates play in the revamped 1A-1East.

Alpena and New School have left the league and Lead Hill, Omaha and Ozark Mountain (a combination of Bruno-Pyatt, St. Joe and Western Grove) have joined the league.

“It is the same conference that I have been in before several times,” said Mike Parker, who is entering his 24th season as a head coach and second at Jasper. “There are several up and coming teams in the league.”

When asked to handicap the conference race, Parker replied.

“Ozark Mountain is pretty loaded this year,” he said. “Omaha has a good bunch of young ones coming up. Lead Hill has most of their team back and should be good. Kingston has some good players and Deer has some athletes.”

While the conference has a lot of familiar faces, the league will have a new

conference to compete against in regional play.

“It is going to be a tough region,” Parker said. “New School got a new transfer from Lincoln that is going to be good. County Line is always loaded. They are both well coached. There will be no gimmes in the regional tournament.”

To get prepared for conference and regional play, the Pirates have a tough non-conference schedule.

“We go to Viola,” said the coach. “We are going to Berryville and Farmington. We also play Bergman. We have a tough schedule.”

Part of the scheduling difficulty is to be blamed on the COVID-19 virus. The virus has created cancellations of all in-season tournaments and classics.

“With us not getting to do tournaments, we had to find games,” said Parker. “We can schedule 34 games and we have 31 on the schedule now. We are playing teams that we wouldn’t normally play. We are going to a couple of 4A schools this year.”

Keeping social distance guidelines followed, Parker stated that his team missed out on some activities.

JASPER BOYS cont’ pg 28

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## Jasper girls under new management with Grice

By JEFF BRASEL  
jeffb@harrisondaily.com

JASPER — Jasper will have a new director this season.

Taking over the Jasper program is assistant coach Ben Grice. This will be Grice's first year as a head coach of a senior high team.

Grice's first year with the team has the coach hoping to get his system installed before the season gets completely underway.

# JASPER LADY PIRATES ROSTER

| No. | Athlete          | Class |
|-----|------------------|-------|
| 3   | Zalia Phillips   | 12    |
| 10  | Kaylee Reynolds  | 10    |
| 12  | Aubrey Henderson | 10    |
| 15  | Haley Sexton     | 11    |
| 22  | Halle Emerson    | 11    |
| 23  | Brooklyn Flud    | 12    |
| 25  | Skylea Lager     | 10    |
| 32  | Madison Johnson  | 10    |
| 34  | Brielle Brasel   | 10    |
| 40  | Haley Daniels    | 10    |

"I think we are going to be prepared," said Grice about his team. "We have had to back off some because of COVID, but we are getting there."

The pandemic has changed some of the plans that the coach has had for his team.

"COVID has hurt our preparation," he said. "I feel like we won't be where I wanted us to be until December. If we get everyone back and keep them. I think I feel so behind because it is my first year. I feel that I am better prepared in junior high. Those girls had me as their

**JASPER LADIES**

*cont' pg 28*

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# KINGSTON YELLOW JACKETS ROSTER

| No. | Athlete          | Class |
|-----|------------------|-------|
| 0   | Payton Harntess  | 11    |
| 1   | Isaac Weaver     | 11    |
| 3   | Xander Stokes    | 11    |
| 4   | Brayden Anderson | 11    |
| 5   | Canton Clark     | 10    |
| 10  | Caiden Fancher   | 10    |
| 14  | Darian Alexander | 12    |
| 22  | Ethan Sprinkle   | 11    |
| 23  | Trey Bowen       | 12    |
| 33  | Keith Lichti     | 11    |
| 40  | Zac Root         | 12    |
| 41  | Colton Farrar    | 11    |



## Kingston is ready to take another step forward at state

By JEFF BRASEL  
jeffb@harrisdaily.com

KINGSTON — Kingston returned to the Class 1A State Basketball Tournament last season.

This year, the team is ready to take a step forward.

Getting prepared for the upcoming season, the Yellow Jackets have a better feel for what second year boys coach Pat Summers wants from the team.

“They are a little more bought into what we are trying to do,” said Summers about his team. “They are working better as an unit.”

The squad comes into the season with a strength that Summers likes. He stated that the team has solid guard play.

Despite having height, the coach is concerned with aggressiveness out of the paint area.

“Physicality,” said the coach when asked about his team’s weakness. “We are a little more physical, but we get shoved around some.”

When asked how he was going to cover his weakness, the coach replied. “We are

working on it. It will effect us inside. Our post players are tall and slim. We may have to double down a lot on defense.”

When playing defense this season, the Yellow Jackets are planing on using a 1-2-2 zone and a man.

While on offense, the coach is planning on the players making decisions with his read and react offense.

The Yellow Jackets have shuffled around some this year because of COVID-19. “We had to rework the entire schedule except for conference games,” said Summers.

However, the coach pointed to something else that has not been in favor of the team due to the outbreak.

“The biggest problem was not being able to go all summer,” he said. “It has put us behind where I thought that we would be.”

The Yellow Jackets graduated a bulk of their players from last season and getting the extra summer camp and summer ball has been instrumental in the team’s development.

Summers still thinks that he knows who will be in the lineup at the beginning of the game.

Trey Bowen will be on the floor. The senior started some last year for the Yellow Jackets.

“His calling card has been his shooting,” said the coach of his point guard. “His shooting has improved from last year. He does the dirty work on the team.

“Zac Root started most of the time last year,” continued the coach. “He is quick and has the ability to be a good defender. His shooting has improved.”

Inside will be senior Darian Alexander. “He will be our biggest inside presence,” stated Summers. “Being a senior, he has a little more confidence. He ended last year pretty strong and we are hoping to build on that.”

A sophomore will give the Yellow Jackets quality minutes. Canton Clark is that tenth-grader.

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KINGSTON BOYS cont' pg 29





# KINGSTON

## LADY YELLOW JACKETS

# ROSTER

| No. | Athlete           | Class |
|-----|-------------------|-------|
| 2   | Layla Rothwell    | 10    |
| 4   | Mary-Grace Cooper | 10    |
| 5   | Renee Pittman     | 11    |
| 12  | Aliya Reynolds    | 12    |
| 15  | Libbie Johnson    | 12    |
| 21  | Makenna Clemons   | 11    |
| 22  | Megan Parker      | 11    |
| 23  | Mellia Johnson    | 12    |
| 34  | Alivia Hasty      | 10    |
| 40  | Brooke Villines   | 11    |
| 44  | Paige Pavis       | 10    |
| 45  | Hannah Johnson    | 12    |
| 50  | Jaidyn Head       | 10    |

## No quit in Lady Yellow Jackets in upcoming season

By JEFF BRASEL  
jeffb@harrisondaily.com

KINGSTON — When a coach brings back an entire team that went to the state tournament the year before, optimism runs high for the squad.

When a coach claims that a team has “no quit” in them, the sky could be the limit. The Kingston Lady Yellow Jackets fit that bill.

Pat Summers, the Lady Yellow Jackets coach, is excited about the upcoming season. He was very quick to heap praise on his team.

“They work hard,” he started. “They always have and always will work hard. They always think that they have a chance to win. They have no quit.”

Even though the team has no quit, the COVID-19 situation has slowed the process down a little.

“There were a few girls that were taking big steps forward,” said Summers. “Then the COVID thing hit and it has slowed that process down.”

With the COVID, the Arkansas Activities Association eliminated all tournaments and classics to keep a handle on attendance. Gyms will be filled to 25 percent capacity. With the cancelation of tournaments, Kingston and all other high schools were left looking for basketball games.

Kingston kept the conference schedule intact and started finding other games. That has created some tough competition for the Lady Yellow Jackets.

“We will see real fast how good we are,” joked Summers. “We added Viola that will be one of the top four teams in the state. Then we have Valley Springs and Berryville. It is a tough schedule.”

Heading into the tough schedule the Lady Yellow Jackets have one thing in their corner. They will bring a veteran squad to the floor.

“Experience,” was the first thing that Summers said when asked what the strength of the team was. “Defense. We will be able to press a lot.”

The Lady Yellow Jackets plan on using a 1-2-2 zone and some man defense as well.

On offense, Kingston will use a version of read and react.

Kingston has several new conference members this season and they bring a wealth

of talent into the league.

Summers pointed to Ozark Mountain (Bruno-Pyatt, St. Joe and Western Grove combined) as a team to watch in the league.

When it comes to the region, he expected County Line to be good.

With a veteran team comes veteran players. Three Johnsons, a Pittman and a Villines will be in the starting lineup.

Mellia Johnson is back for her senior year.

“She is a power forward,” said the coach. “She is great at attacking the basket. She has really improved her outside shooting. That will add depth to her game.”

Renee Pittman is an outside threat for the Lady Yellow Jackets.

“She is our best outside shooter,” stated Summers. “She is a good ball handler.”

Hannah Johnson will have duties inside the paint for Kingston.

“She will be the 5,” commented the coach. “She is a good shooter on the outside as well and she is a good inside defender.”

Brooke Villines is an aggressive player for Kingston.

“She has improved her shot,” said Summers. “She is more aggressive on offense and

*KINGSTON GIRLS cont' pg 29*

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# LEAD HILL TIGERS ROSTER

| No. | Athlete         | Class |
|-----|-----------------|-------|
| 0   | Isaiah Burleson | 11    |
| 1   | Pierce Marshall | 12    |
| 3   | Will Mancinelli | 11    |
| 4   | George Sindland | 10    |
| 5   | T.J. Catron     | 12    |
| 10  | Kaden Greenhaw  | 11    |
| 11  | Matthew Sawyer  | 12    |
| 15  | Dustin Turner   | 11    |
| 21  | Mason Cain      | 10    |
| 25  | Quintin Sewell  | 10    |
| 32  | Jonathan Fulton | 12    |
| 33  | Jayce Williams  | 10    |
| 34  | Cody Paul       | 11    |



## High hopes for Lead Hill boys this season

By JEFF BRASEL  
jeffb@harrisdaily.com

LEAD HILL — A perfect storm could be brewing in Lead Hill.

The Tigers are moving to another conference this season and they are taking with them one of the best senior boys teams that have worn the red-and-white in a while.

The combination of the two items have Tiger coach Derek Rogers happy to be on the sideline this year.

“This group plays really hard,” said Rogers about the Tigers. “I think that they are hungry. They are winners and they want to win. They practice really hard and I expect them to play really hard.”

This is Rogers’ seventh year at Lead Hill. The squad has not been to the state tournament since 1999. The team last appeared in the regional tournament in 2018.

This season the Tigers are back in the 1A-1East after moving from the 1A-2.

“I really like the move to the new conference,” said Rogers. “It is much nicer travel wise. We got better playing in the other conference, but I like playing in our old home conference.”

It didn’t take Rogers long to point to some of the teams that will be the early front-runners in the league.

“Right now Ozark Mountain, Kingston and Jasper have to be the front-runners,” he said. “Omaha will be better later in the season. It is going to be a tough conference

race.”

A trip to regionals await the top four teams from the district tournament. Rogers pointed to New School and County Line as the top two teams from the other district in the region.

To get prepared for the postseason, the Tigers will have a tough schedule playing some old conference foes and some local teams.

The coach pointed to IZARD Co. Consolidated and Viola, Yellville-Summit, Valley Springs and Bergman as tough games for his team this season.

Scheduling this year was made a little difficult after all tournaments and classics were canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

“We can’t play in tournaments, so we had to find games,” said the coach. “At the end of the day, it has added more travel. We are going a long way to play, so COVID has added more travel to our schedule.”

COVID has been a contributing factor for the Tiger basketball team in other ways.

“It has killed our offseason weight program,” said the coach. “I feel the quality of basketball will be down because of no off summer. We are all playing catch up. I am lucky to have a veteran team.”

Having a team with experience is one of the strengths that Rogers sees for the squad.

“We are veteran,” he said. “We have experience and we have depth. We are all 5-foot-11 to 6-3. We are not huge. We are very long. We are really deep. We have eight or nine that play.”

While the team has depth, it has to rely on that depth if fouls become an issue. “Our defense,” was Rogers’ answer when asked what was going to be the weakness of the team. “Also relying on the 3-pointer. We can shoot it. Sometimes we can’t shoot it well.”

To help cover the weakness of the team, Rogers has a plan. “We are going to play some junk defenses,” he said. “We will try to get our best defenders on their best players and hide some of the others. We will play inside out.” Besides junk defenses, Rogers plans on being a man team and then maybe a 2-3 zone.

The team will run a Five Out motion offense. Lead Hill have four returning starters. One of those players almost averaged a double double.

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# LEAD HILL LADY TIGERS ROSTER

| No. | Athlete        | Class |
|-----|----------------|-------|
| 1   | Kelsey Rogers  | 12    |
| 2   | Presley Lemon  | 10    |
| 10  | Lily Norman    | 12    |
| 15  | Cameron Berlin | 11    |
| 22  | Harley Lee     | 12    |
| 24  | Faith Schultz  | 12    |
| 25  | Malia Pearce   | 10    |
| 32  | Izzy Bear      | 11    |

## Lead Hill girls looking at a return to postseason

By JEFF BRASEL  
jeffb@harrisdaily.com

“Kingston, Norfolk and Viola are on our schedule,” said the coach. “Those  
*LEAD HILL LADIES cont’ pg 30*”

LEAD HILL — Lead Hill girls coach Andy Munday is a tall man. However, when he is pictured with his team, he looks even taller. This season the Lady Tigers have only one player that is over 5-foot-7. Even with a short squad, the Lady Tigers will be ready to do damage on the hardwoods when the ball is tossed up.

“Lack of inside scoring and height,” was the answer from the coach when asked what was going to be the weakness for the Lady Tigers this season. “We also lack depth on the bench. It seems like that is common for us.”

The fifth-year Lead Hill coach has a plan to cover his team’s vertical challenges. “This year we will be changing our defense,” he said. “We are going to play more zone. We are usually a man team, but we have to change that some this year.”

Don’t let the height issue write off the Lead Hill team. While height is a problem, the team has characteristics that will help the squad.

“Our guard play is our strength,” the coach said. “We also have good senior leadership and good team camaraderie. That is because we have a couple of good senior leaders this year.”

The Lady Tigers will use a “block and move offense,” said the coach. “We will use some continuity stuff and play to the strength of our guards.”

Lead Hill has had some COVID-19 issues this season.

“We haven’t been able to condition like I wanted,” said the coach. “We have not been able to do team activities like we normally do. It has also hurt us to not have a basketball in our hands.

“Practice has not been affected for us,” said the coach. “We haven’t had any player sick.”

Another side effect of the virus has been scheduling. There will be no tournaments or classics this season. That has left teams scrambling to find games.

“We lost a lot of games with the classics and tournaments being canceled,” said Munday. “But we got a full schedule now.”

That full schedule may not be in the favor of Lead Hill. Besides playing Valley Springs and Bergman, who are two of the state powerhouses in Class 3A, the Lady Tigers will play three highly regarded teams in Class 1A.

# GOOD LUCK

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# MT. JUDEA EAGLES ROSTER

| No. | Athlete          | Class |
|-----|------------------|-------|
| 2   | Jacob Eddings    | 10    |
| 5   | Jayden Dotson    | 12    |
| 11  | Matthew Cook     | 11    |
| 12  | Chase Clayborn   | 11    |
| 13  | Chase Campbell   | 12    |
| 14  | Trenton Faught   | 11    |
| 15  | Lucas Campbell   | 10    |
| 20  | J.D. Johnson     | 12    |
| 24  | Dakota Recoy     | 12    |
| 30  | Devan Richardson | 12    |
| 40  | Tyler Smith      | 11    |
| 54  | Landon Smith     | 12    |



## Eagles putting a veteran team on floor

By JEFF BRASEL  
jeffb@harrisdaily.com

MT. JUDEA — The Mt. Judea Eagles are ready for the upcoming basketball season.

Coming into the season, the Eagles will have a veteran team that will be ready for the changes that have occurred in the conference membership.

Mt. Judea is being coached by second-year head coach Calvice Casey. The coach points to what he likes about his squad this season.

“We return most of our players from last year,” he said. “They gained a lot of experience. We are little faster this year and we have more depth.”

When asked what was the strength of the team, Casey replied, “Depth. I can play most our players and never really have to change anything.”

When looking at the team the coach pointed to a weakness.

“Rebounding,” Casey said. “We struggled with it last year and we still struggle with it. Our transition defense will be a little rough as well.”

“We are getting as many drills in as we can to help with our rebounding,” he said. “We work on it every day. It is helping. We are also working on getting up and down the court every day.”

One thing that has hurt the team, but it is not on the court is COVID-19.

“My senior boys have been alright,” he said. “Once in a while one has been quarantined. I had to miss most of Sept. for the virus. I have had a few at home, but it has not been so bad so far.”

Due to canceling tournaments, the Eagles have room to make adjustments as the season progresses if needed.

“We have about two games a week,” said the coach. “It gives us room to move games around if someone has to postpone a game.”

When the Eagles take the court, the team will be playing a 2-3 zone. The team may play some man and also will execute in a halfcourt press.

On offense, the team will use a motion. “We are going to be moving the ball consistently,” said Casey. “No one will be standing still.”

The change in the conference will help the Eagles this season.

“We don’t have to travel so much,” he said. “That is pretty nice. I think

the kids will like it as well. This is the conference that I played in when I was in school. There are a lot of coaches that are still there from when I played.”

This season the three returning starters for the Eagles are Chase Campbell; Matthew Cook and Trenton Faught.

“Chase Campbell is very ball smart,” said the coach. “He knows how to get to the ball. He has a good jumper and is a senior so he knows how to play.”

The coach commented on the pair of returning junior starters.

“Matthew Cook is really quick,” he said. “He played the point guard spot. He can get up and down the court and he is really good on defense. He is one of the smartest ball players.”

“Trenton is long and lanky,” continued Casey. “He has grown some. When he is under control he can shoot. He can play any spot. He is very versatile.”

Jumping into the lineup will be Tyler Smith and Devan Richardson.

“Smith was a part-time starter last year,” commented the coach. “He is big and tough. He can play inside and out a little bit. He is really strong. If he gets the ball down low, he will score, He isn’t tall, but he can score at the rim.”

“Richardson is a senior that can shoot the 3,” continued Casey. “He can score down low as well. He is a good rebounder for us and he will hustle after every loose ball. If he is on the court, he will go get the ball.”

There are several players that Casey thinks will help the team.

Dakota Recoy can play the point guard spot. He is really good on defense. He can guard any position. He can play rough with the big boys.

Senior Landon Smith is a 6-foot-5 post. His speed is picking up and he will help the Eagles in the paint.

Sophomore Jacob Eddings has shown improvement over the summer according to the coach. He has a good shot and can play defense.

Chase Clayborn is another really good Eagle defender. He is always around the basketball.

Casey expects to get help from three other players. Seniors Jayden Dotson and J.D. Johnson will be counted on as well as sophomore Lucas Campbell.





# MT. JUDEA LADY EAGLES ROSTER

| No. | Athlete           | Class |
|-----|-------------------|-------|
| 1   | Ashton Gibson     | 10    |
| 10  | Olivia FitzGerald | 9     |
| 11  | Karsyn Clayborn   | 11    |
| 14  | Alissa Middleton  | 12    |
| 15  | Rhonda Stills     | 9     |
| 32  | Jeannie Madison   | 11    |
| 33  | Ashton Collins    | 11    |
| 50  | Halle Brewer      | 10    |

## Lady Eagles will be much improved

By JEFF BRASEL  
jeffb@harrisdaily.com

MT. JUDEA — The Mt. Judea Lady Eagles are learning to put it all together. This could be a successful season for the team as they are under the direction of Calvice Casey for the second year.

Playing in the 1A-1East, the Lady Eagles are in a crowded conference. This season, two teams are out of the league and several have joined.

New School was moved to a different conference and Alpena moved to Class 2A.

However, other teams were added to the league. Lead Hill, Omaha and Ozark Mountain were moved into the conference. Ozark Mountain is the combination of St. Joe, Western Grove and Bruno-Pyatt.

Other league members include Jasper, Deer and Kingston.

“I like the conference,” said Casey. “It is very familiar. It brings back some of the old rivalries.”

The coach pointed to Ozark Mountain, Kingston and Jasper as being really good teams. He commented that Omaha is young and Lead Hill and Deer can also play.

Then looking at his own team, Casey liked what he is seeing on the floor.

“They are really quick,” he said. “We are a lot quicker than we were last year. We had some move ins and that was really nice. I am glad that they came in.

Casey looked at the strength of the team.

“I think our defense will be a strength,” he said. “We can transition better this year because of our quickness. We have much better team chemistry.”

One of the issues for the team will be height.

“Size,” was the answer from Casey when asked what was a team weakness. “We are not very tall. That will hurt us with rebounding and playing in the middle.

“We will use pressure defense to help with our lack of size,” continued the coach. “We will try to keep the ball out of the middle.”

The Lady Eagles will use a 2-3 and a 3-2 with the objective of keeping pressure at the top of the zone.

Mt. Judea will use a motion offense and the team will try to spread the ball out more.

There are two returning starters for the Lady Eagles. Jeannie Madison and Karsyn Clayborn are both juniors.

“Jeannie is a three-year starter,” said the coach. “She knows what to do on offense. She will be busy on defense. She has a lot of experience that will help us a lot.

“Karsyn started a lot of games last year,” continued Casey. “She is smaller, but very quick. She is an outside shooter that has improved her shot. She really wants to play.”

Joining the duo of juniors is senior Alissa Middleton.

“She is our only senior,” he stated. “She is real quick. She will take over the point guard spot. She is a good rebounder and can handle the ball, shoot it or drive.”

Ashton Gibson and Halle Brewer are sophomores that will round out the lineup.

“Halle is very aggressive,” started the coach. “She is solid on defense and will step outside and shoot the basketball. She wants to play down low. She likes to bang inside.

“Gibson’s shot keeps improving,” said Casey. “She has range. She is tall and long which will help with our small lineup.”

Ashton Collins, Olivia FitzGerald and Rhonda Stills will all play valuable minutes for the Lady Eagles.

“This is Collins’ third year in senior high,” stated Casey. “She had an injury last year. She moves better and can shoot it. She really likes playing post.”

FitzGerald started last year in junior high and is a quick player. Stills was one of Mt. Judea’s best junior high players last year as an eighth-grader. She is aggressive and loves to play hard and tough.



# New year with new rules

By JEFF BRASEL  
jeffb@harrisonsdaily.com

It has started. I am so happy that the basketball season is underway. I am one of the skeptics that though the football season would be over by Week 5. I thought the ripple effect would create a reason to cancel basketball. I was wrong. I am happy that I was.

This marks the 100th year celebration of Leslie High School winning the first state basketball championship for this area.

It was a great accomplishment. The story is something out of the movies. To me the best thing was the team was coached by a women in 1921.

That is an amazing feat. Irene Jones led the Bulldogs to the first title just four years after women were allowed to vote in Arkansas.

State basketball titles have been hard to come by in this area. The boys and girls have each claimed 17 titles. The boys state tournaments began in 1909 and the girls started in 1946.

Harrison has won four girls championships and two boys titles.

Valley Springs leads the area with six boys titles and four girls banners.

The Flippin girls have won three and Marshall and Leslie have two each. Kingston and Alpena have one apiece.

Green Forest and Pyatt have two state title each while Jasper, Bergman, Marshall, Western Grove and Leslie have one apiece.

Titles seem to come in clusters. Valley Springs' boys won a title in 1950, 1951 and 1952. Green Forest's two titles were in 1967 and 1968.

Harrison scored their four titles in a five-year span. The Lady Goblins won a title in 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2004. Over a five year period, Flippin won its three titles. The Lady Bobcats claimed a title in 1984, 1985 and 1988.

Marshall got its two girl titles in 2007 and 2008 and Leslie got its two titles in back-to-back years in 1962 and 1963.

The Valley Springs Lady Tigers have won three of their titles since 2010. The last boys title in the area came in 1997. Valley Springs won it.

It has been almost a quarter of a century since we had a boys winner. Valley Springs was the last boys team to play in the finals. They were there in 2009.

This year basketball is going to be different. It can no longer be a social event. Most fans will not get a ticket to watch a game.

The Arkansas Activities Association has limited the seating capacity in most gyms to prevent the spread of the virus. Some gyms will only

NEW YEAR cont' pg 19

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NEW YEAR cont' from pg 18

hold less than three dozen people.

A school may schedule three games in one night, but the facility will be emptied after each game. The gym will be cleaned before fans are allowed to enter again. It will not be the same fans either. You will have to purchase another ticket to see the next game.

Some schools are limiting the purchase of tickets to two per player. Mom and Dad can watch. If Mom and Dad have a junior and senior boy, then they will get to spend the senior girls game sitting in the car waiting for the gym to be cleaned.

Valley Springs was smart in moving its home games to North Arkansas College. It allows more people to watch the teams play.

The virus has changed things and I don't see it getting any better in the respect of seating for the rest of this school year.

I hate no tournaments. Tournaments were the opportunity to see a lot of teams play and the chance to visit with a lot of people.

This season, schools were allowed to book 34 games. Teams are

hoping to get most of those played. However, a two-week quarantine here and there may greatly reduce the number of contests.

Each year I make predictions of who will go to the regional tournaments. This year, that will not be the case. There is no way of predicting which team will have players during crucial conference games. There is no way of telling who will have a team when the regional tournament comes along.

This is a crazy year. It looks like 2020 will carry over in the sports world to 2021.



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# OMAHA EAGLES ROSTER

| No. | Athlete        | Height | Class |
|-----|----------------|--------|-------|
| 3   | Jacob Williams | 6-1    | 10    |
| 10  | Gabe Morrison  | 5-11   | 10    |
| 14  | Ezra Hayes     | 5-10   | 11    |
| 20  | Kaden Lee      | 6-3    | 10    |
| 21  | Levi Rogers    | 6-2    | 11    |
| 22  | Jayden Barber  | 6-3    | 11    |
| 24  | Chase Curtis   | 6-3    | 10    |
| 25  | Edden Moon     | 5-11   | 10    |
| 30  | Devon Wolf     | 5-11   | 12    |
| 35  | William Gray   | 6-4    | 10    |



## Omaha Eagles starting from scratch

By JEFF BRASEL  
jeffb@harrisdaily.com

OMAHA — Even for longtime Omaha Eagles basketball fans planning on attending a game this season, a program might be helpful.

The Eagles are starting from scratch as all five starters from last year's team graduated.

However, don't feel sorry for veteran coach Rocky Dodson, he will have a team that will tower over its opponents this season.

"We have relatively good height this season," he said. "We have several 6-foot-2 and 6-3 kids. We are a tall team for Class 1A."

The Eagles also bring another characteristic to the court that will help the team this season — hard work.

"They are really hard working kids," started the coach about his squad. "They are good kids. You expect that out of Omaha kids. They are good young men to work with. They show up every day and do what I ask them to do. They really want to win."

Winning has been in the Omaha blood line. The team was a regional squad last year and three years ago the squad won a contest in the state tournament.

This season has not been like most seasons with the possible threat of COVID-19. However, the Eagles have dodged the threat so far.

"It has really effected us," said the coach. "We had a couple of boys catch it over the summer, but we haven't had any this school year. We have had a few junior high kids that were quarantined this year."

As the team looks for a new set of starters this year, one of the obvious weaknesses shows its head.

"We don't have any experience," said the coach. "Outside of one player that played some last year, we don't have anyone with senior high experience. We are so young that we are going to be inconsistent. We only have 10 boys on the roster, so we don't have a lot of depth.

"They do work well together," continued the coach. "I think we will surprise some people."

With the new pandemic, high schools are not allowed to host tournaments or

play in events. This created some work for Dodson to fill up the schedule. He has strengthened the contests for the Eagles this year.

"It may not be the year to play our schedule," he said. "But we lost four games when Ozark Mountain consolidated. We lost our tournaments. We may take some lumps early, but it will pay off in the end.

"We have added Valley Springs and Bergman to our schedule," continued the coach. "We are taking a tour of the local bigger schools. We also have Berryville, Marshall, West Fork and the New School out of Fayetteville. We also play Hollister (Mo.) as well."

With a tough schedule, the team will have to be ready to defend.

"That is a good question," said Dodson when he was asked about what type of defense the team would play this season. "We have been pressure defense and some full court, but with this group we will probably do a halfcourt defense. We will use a matchup."

A matchup zone is familiar to the Eagles.

"We have used it some in junior high last year," said the coach. "They are familiar with it. It could be a trial and error thing this season."

On the offensive end, the team is planning to take advantage of its size.

"We are going to be more of a ground and pound team," Dodson said. "We aren't quite as much of an up and down team as we were the past few years. We are going to try to get to the free throw as much as we can."

After spending the last two years with teams to the east in conference play, the Eagles are back in the Heart of the Ozarks.

"I like our travel a lot better than before," said the coach as the team has lost several two hour bus rides this year. "We are back to the familiar."

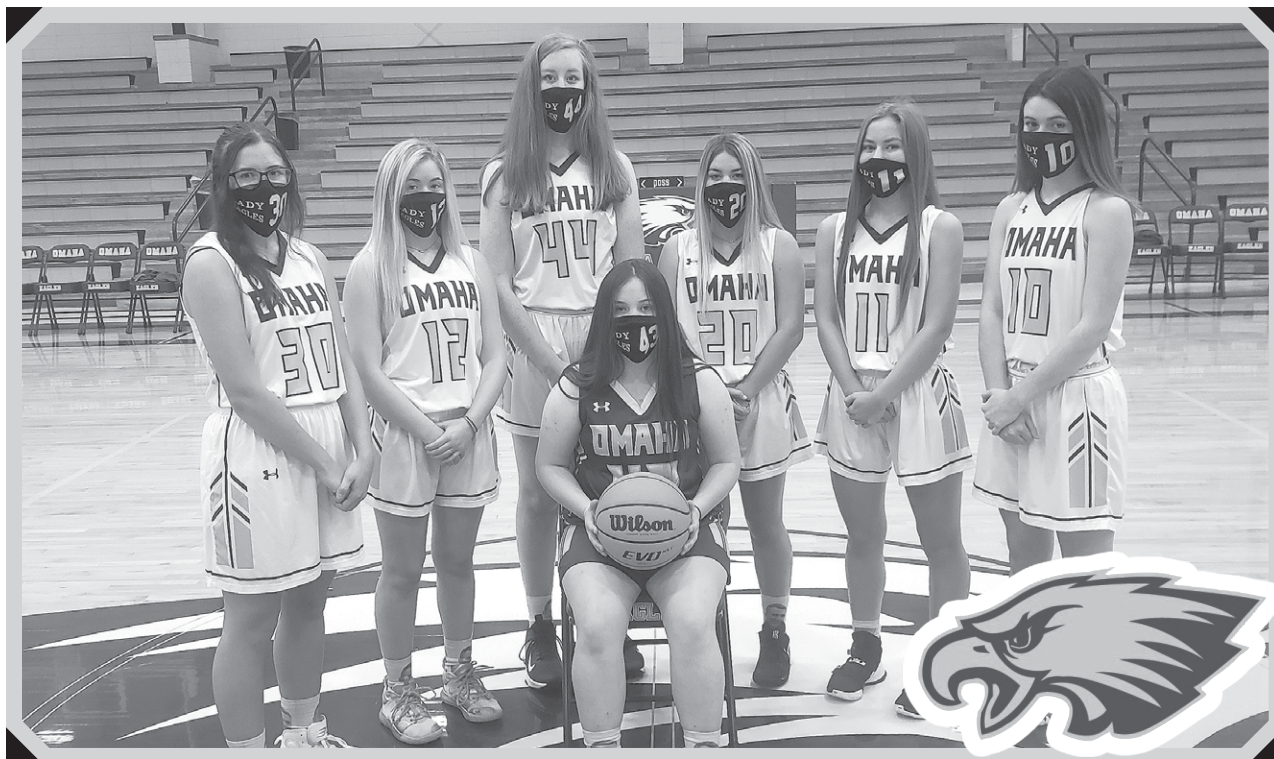
The coach sees a clear front runner in the race, but not a clear top tier of teams.

"Ozark Mountain will be the team to beat," he said. "Those three schools coming together really helped them. After that, it is pretty well wide open.

"Kingston is back in our conference and they will be pretty good," said Dodson. "Deer has some talent. Lead Hill will be good, Coach (Mike) Parker at Jasper always puts a good product on the floor. It is pretty wide open. It

OMAHA BOYS cont' pg 30





# OMAHA LADY EAGLES ROSTER

| No. | Athlete           | Class |
|-----|-------------------|-------|
| 10  | Drew McKinney     | 10    |
| 11  | Shelby Whitehurst | 10    |
| 12  | Taylor Evans      | 10    |
| 20  | Tristan Kimberlin | 10    |
| 22  | Robbi Jean Jones  | 11    |
| 30  | Maria Bearden     | 11    |
| 33  | Katelyn Rogers    | 10    |
| 43  | Taryn Kimberlin   | 12    |
| 44  | Elaine Rasmussen  | 10    |

## Youth abounds for Lady Eagles

By JEFF BRASEL  
jeffb@harrisondaily.com

OMAHA — The Omaha Lady Eagles will be starting from scratch this season.

After graduating almost the entire team from last season, the Lady Eagles will depend heavily on sophomores this season to boast the team in its move back to its old conference.

After being a member of the 1A-2, the Lady Eagles will be moving back to the 1A-1East. It is a move that is welcomed by third-year head coach Joe McKinney.

“We came out of one the toughest conferences in the state,” said McKinney about the move. “We are back in our home grown conference. There are a lot of good rivalries here. I think it will be real competitive.”

McKinney handicapped the race of good teams.

“Ozark Mountain combined all of their schools this year,” started the coach. “Kingston is going to be really tough. Jasper is historically good. Lead Hill will be tough as well.”

With the change in conferences, the Lady Eagles will also be playing in a new region. The other conference is located in northwest Arkansas.

“I honestly don’t know what the other region looks like,” said McKinney. “I am worried about competing with our conference to get to compete at regionals.”

Omaha went to regionals last in 2018 and it has been four years for a state tournament bid.

To get prepared for the postseason, the Lady Eagles will be looking at a very tough schedule. This schedule will season the young players.

The coach pointed to defending state champion Valley Springs, Bergman, Norfolk and West Fork as some of the teams that will provide tough competition for Omaha.

The stiffer competition has been brought on by COVID-19. The Lady Eagles lost some tournaments and classics.

“We canceled our tournament and the others that we were playing in,” said the coach. “We had to pick up some extra games. It has been hard to replace

tournaments with more opponents.”

Omaha has had to suffer through some situations like other schools due to the pandemic.

“We have had some out on quarantine,” said McKinney. “We lost some time during the summer. It seems that we are almost a month behind since we started school late. We have had only one kid out so far.”

The youth movement will be apparent at Omaha. The squad has nine players with six of those being sophomores.

“We are young,” stated the coach. “But, they all love being at practice and they work really hard. They have a lot of potential, but we lack experience.

“They are smart kids,” continued McKinney. “They are great students and I love being around them.”

McKinney pointed out the strength of his team.

“They desire and are committed to get better every day,” he said. “They show up and work hard. What ever play that we call, they will make it work. I like that. We did miss summer camps and summer ball, so I am waiting to see what we do.”

With a young group, it is not hard to pick out the potential weakness of the

OMAHA LADIES cont’ pg 30

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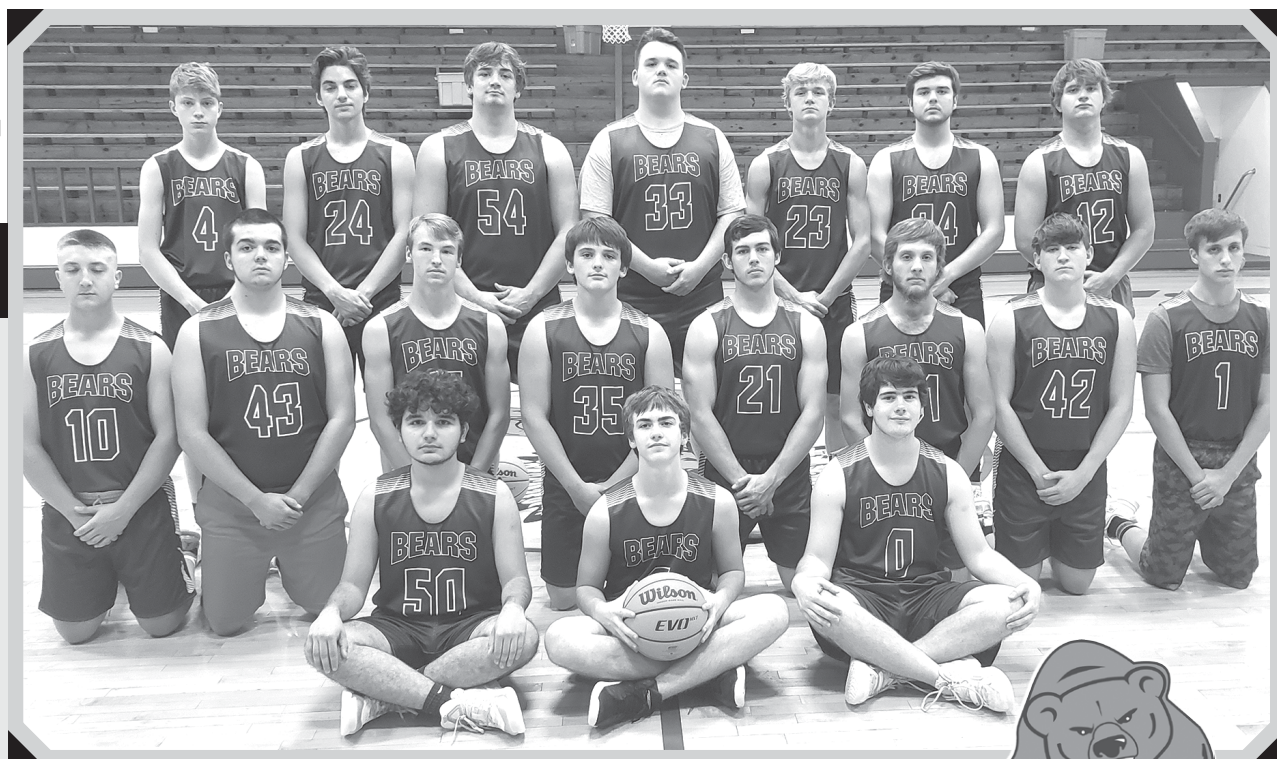
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# OZARK MOUNTAIN BEARS ROSTER

| No. | Athlete          | Height | Class |
|-----|------------------|--------|-------|
| 0   | Brooks Willis    | 5-9    | 12    |
| 1   | Payton Sisco     | 5-9    | 10    |
| 2   | Anthony Martinez | 5-9    | 11    |
| 4   | Briggs Reddell   | 6-0    | 10    |
| 10  | Keagan Ricketts  | 5-9    | 11    |
| 12  | Quinton Willis   | 5-10   | 12    |
| 13  | Evann Dean       | 5-11   | 12    |
| 21  | Zack Bolin       | 5-11   | 12    |
| 23  | Marcus Bunch     | 6-0    | 11    |
| 24  | Keagan Middleton | 6-3    | 11    |
| 25  | Kendell Smith    | 5-7    | 10    |
| 30  | Aidan Fletcher   | 5-11   | 11    |
| 31  | Clayton Gilley   | 5-10   | 12    |
| 33  | Walker Robinson  | 6-4    | 12    |
| 34  | Dom Giles        | 6-2    | 12    |
| 35  | Gavin Freeman    | 5-10   | 10    |
| 42  | Ethan Brumley    | 5-11   | 10    |
| 43  | Evan Baker       | 6-2    | 10    |
| 50  | Randy Ramirez    | 5-10   | 10    |
| 54  | Gage Freeman     | 6-4    | 12    |



## Bears roaring onto scene

By JEFF BRASEL  
jeffb@harrisondaily.com

ST. JOE — The Bears are on the prowl.

This will be the first

season that the Ozark Mountain School District will combine all schools into one basketball team.

The results of that is that there are 10 returning starters.

Noah Chagnon has been selected to be the senior high boys coach for the team. He is excited about his team this season.

“The kids are handling it better than I anticipated,” said Chagnon. “They are working well together. With three schools coming together, I thought there would be some awkwardness. We are more comfortable with each other now than we were in July.”

With so many returning starters, the large group has actually lightened the load for everyone.

“To a degree everyone’s job has gotten easier,” said the coach. “I can’t speak for the St. Joe kids, but my Bruno-Pyatt kids had to do several things for the team to

be successful. Now, they can focus on one part. They have an entire team.”

The COVID-19 virus has had little affect on the team.

“We have had one case over the summer where a kid was isolated,” said Chagnon. “I have been super thankful that we haven’t been sick. We are expecting our turn to come, but I am thankful.”

Ozark Mountain has to make some changes to the schedule due to the virus.

“We had to find a lot of games,” said the coach. “We are traveling because we added a lot of road games. We have Valley Springs. We added a second game with Bergman. We play Southside Bee Branch, St. Paul, Elkins and Viola. Our game with Viola was suppose to be a jayvee game, but now it is varsity.”

The Bears will have four home courts this season. There will be games at each of the schools and some of the home games will be played at North Arkansas College in Harrison.

“I know that some of the kids were worried about it, but we have to get use to playing on multiple rims, stated the coach. “Homecourt advantage is for the fans.”

With 20 players on the team, it is easy to pick out what the coach likes about his squad.

“We are athletic and deep,” he said. “I think we are tough and gritty.”

The strength of the squad was also easy to pick out.

“We are best at scoring,” he said. “We are going to be able to score the ball well.”

With all of the good things that the team can do, there will be an area that will suffer from growing pains.

“Our weakness may be understanding what I am wanting them to do,” said the coach. “It is almost everyone’s first year with me and we didn’t get started until July because of COVID. So, getting adjusted to my coaching and expectations may take a while.”

To cover the weakness, Chagnon has a plan.

“It is something that we continue to communicate and teach each day,” he said. “We will need to have that down to play our best basketball in February.”

Defensively, the Bears will present different looks.

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# OZARK MOUNTAIN LADY BEARS ROSTER

| No. | Athlete          | Class |
|-----|------------------|-------|
| 1   | Skylar Shatswell | 12    |
| 2   | Brooklynn Baker  | 12    |
| 10  | McKenzie Holder  | 12    |
| 11  | Lilly Buresh     | 10    |
| 13  | Jailyn Jackson   | 9     |
| 22  | Maranda Campbell | 10    |
| 23  | Jordyn Jackson   | 11    |
| 30  | Amara Collins    | 11    |
| 35  | Macy Young       | 11    |
| 40  | Kylie Wilson     | 10    |

## Ozark Mountain girls blending well together

By JEFF BRASEL  
jeffb@harrisondaily.com

ST. JOE — Being picked to be the first coach of a consolidated school is an honor.

When the season starts at the Ozark Mountain School District, Kelsey Hudson will be the leader of the first consolidated team. St. Joe, Bruno-Pyatt and Western Grove have been combined athletically for basketball beginning this season.

The three schools already competed as one team in basketball, softball, track and field and other fall sports when there was interest.

St. Joe had been without a senior girls team for two seasons, but had a junior high squad. Now, any girl in the school district that wants to play will be a Lady Bear.

“It feels good to be the coach of the Lady Bears,” said Hudson. “It is different having kids come together from three different schools. The girls have come together really well. There has not been any drama issues at all. I feel like these girls have played together for years.”

When the schools combined, the team has a total of three returning starters.

Blending the athletes together has taken some hits though. The COVID-19 virus canceled some time that the team would have had together blending their talent.

“At times it has been hard to get going,” said Hudson. “We lost some camps and scrimmages over the summer and now we lose some to quarantine. We have 10 girls and when two or three are out, it is hard. It has set us back a time or two.”

COVID also gave the new team a different look in scheduling.

“We are playing some teams that we don’t typically play. We have Guy Perkins and Elkins. We have tried to fill the gaps the best way possible.”

The Lady Bears will be members of the 1A-1East moving from the 1A-2. The team will meet some of those old conference teammates.

“We will play Viola and ICC (Izard County Consolidated),” said the coach. “We kept those games.”

As a member of the 1A-1East, the Lady Bears are expected to be a competitive squad in the conference.

“Kingston is the team to beat,” said Hudson. “Jasper will be up in the rankings as well.”

Hudson pointed to a characteristic of the new conference that she likes.

“It is going to be nice to not travel two hours to travel to a game,” she said.

Ozark Mountain will now be in a different region as well. The team will travel to the River Valley area for competition.

“I like the new region,” she said. “It is different than what we have been use to.”

When blending the team, the coach likes the identity that the group has reflected on the floor.

“I feel like I have good guard play,” said the former collegiate point guard. “We are working on having a better inside out game. Most of the girls can handle the ball. We have several different scoring threats.”

Hudson also likes how the team is adapting to different roles.

“Some of team is being put into different roles than what they have normally played,” said the coach. “They have had a great attitude with the change and are

OZARK MOUNTAIN LADIES cont’ pg 34

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# VALLEY SPRINGS TIGERS ROSTER

| No. | Athlete         | Height | Class |
|-----|-----------------|--------|-------|
| 0   | Maddax Johnson  | 5-9    | 10    |
| 1   | Tate Honer      | 5-11   | 12    |
| 2   | Brock Lippe     | 5-10   | 12    |
| 3   | Donnie Acuff    | 5-11   | 10    |
| 5   | Trell Trammell  | 6-4    | 12    |
| 10  | Colby Ketchum   | 6-5    | 12    |
| 11  | Jordan Cape     | 6-7    | 12    |
| 12  | Payton Carnahan | 5-9    | 10    |
| 13  | Colin Phifer    | 5-11   | 11    |
| 14  | Jim Reed        | 5-10   | 10    |
| 15  | Kaden Horn      | 5-8    | 10    |
| 20  | Ethan Slechta   | 5-8    | 10    |
| 21  | Hunter Reese    | 5-10   | 11    |
| 22  | Griffin Stuart  | 5-11   | 12    |
| 23  | Dason Hensley   | 6-2    | 10    |
| 24  | Jon Racic       | 5-7    | 11    |
| 32  | Easton Henry    | 5-10   | 11    |



## Valley Springs will bring height to floor

VALLEY SPRINGS  
— The Valley Springs  
Tigers have spent the

Batesville and Mayflower.

“We were scrambling to find games like everyone else,” said the coach. “It will get better playing these teams.”

Coming into the season, the Tigers have some characteristics that the coach likes.

“We are senior laden,” he said. “We can shoot the ball pretty well. We have a good mix of guard and post play. We lost some good players, but we will have five pretty good players on the floor.”

The Tigers boast of three players that are over 6-foot-4. That is the one thing that Hanney feels is a strength of his team.

When looking at his squad, he can find a weakness.

“We are inexperienced and need some depth,” said Hanney.

To cover those weaknesses, the coach has a plan.

“We have to get eight, nine or 10 kids into the game to get some time,” he said. “There are a few sophomores that can help.”

The Tigers plan to use a man defense this season and will use a passing game offense.

Valley Springs will change conferences this season. The 3A-1East is no longer and the Tigers join Bergman and Green Forest in a move to the west for league play.

“The conference does well for us,” said the coach. “In the future it will be a good move.”

After winning the regional tournament last year against Elkins, the Tigers will have the Elk in the conference play this year.

Hanney thought the conference that the Tigers will matchup against is a little down this year.

“I don’t think it is as tough as in the past,” said Hanney. “Paris, Cossatot River, Charleston and Cedarville are some of their top teams.”

The Tigers will have a very tall lineup on the floor with one returning starter. “Trell Trammell has a lot of experience,” said the coach. “He has been in big game situations. He is a big scoring threat. He is a great rebounder and a good defensive player.”

There were a couple of players that saw time last year at the guard positions.

“Brock Lippe got a lot of playing time last year,” said the coach. “He is a good

VALLEY SPRINGS BOYS cont’ pg 35

last two years as an Elite Eight team.

This season the squad is hoping to get past the quarterfinals.

The team lost a lot of players from last season, but the squad will still be a formidable threat on the court.

Valley Springs is like all the Arkansas schools that have missed summer practices and scrimmages due to COVID-19. The Tiger coach is already feeling the affects of the missed time.

“We didn’t get a normal offseason,” said Blake Hanney, who is leading the Tigers for the fourth season. “It has already taken two week of our preseason away.”

Hanney and the Tigers needed the extra work before playing one of their toughest schedules. Valley Springs had to pick up several games because of the cancelation of tournaments and classics.

“Our record may not look very good,” said Hanney. “Our schedule is brutal. It will make us much better.”

The Tigers picked up a pair of Class 1A schools that have been a force in the classification for some time. Valley Springs added IZARD COUNTY CONSOLIDATED and VIOLA.

Also appearing on the schedule will be Pulaski Academy, Shiloh Christian,

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# VALLEY SPRINGS LADY TIGERS ROSTER

| No. | Athlete            | Class |
|-----|--------------------|-------|
| 2   | Kamey Horn         | 11    |
| 3   | Haylie Fry         | 12    |
| 4   | Emma Graddy        | 11    |
| 5   | Maura Moore        | 12    |
| 10  | Bethany Richardson | 12    |
| 12  | Chloe Avery        | 12    |
| 13  | Tarra Lovell       | 10    |
| 15  | Aidan Gorton       | 10    |
| 20  | Cayley Patrick     | 11    |
| 22  | Halle Miller       | 11    |
| 23  | Whitney Coffelt    | 12    |
| 25  | Brinkly Matlock    | 10    |
| 32  | Tia Morris         | 10    |
| 33  | Karyce Flud        | 10    |

## Valley Springs ready to defend state title

By JEFF BRASEL  
jeffb@harrisdaily.com

VALLEY SPRINGS — The Valley Springs Lady Tigers were declared the 2020 Class 3A State Basketball Champions.

With a complete team back, the pressure is squarely on the back of the Lady Tigers to be in the hunt for another title.

It will be Ryan Johnson's second season at the head of the storied basketball program that has been to the state title game more than any other team in Class 3A over the last decade.

"There is some pressure," said the coach. "We expect a lot of ourselves."

Expecting a lot of themselves in a very crowded classification is something that has become common place for the Lady Tigers. Johnson feels that the state tournament will be a crowded affair.

"There are so many good teams on the state level," he said. "Mayflower returns their entire team. Mountain View has won a lot of games and Bergman is very good. There are a lot of good teams."

Valley Springs' basketball program will be the only area team that has been affected by COVID-19 in two different seasons. This season it means that the squad will get to play a different schedule without tournaments or classics.

"We lost about 11 games in tournaments and classics," said Johnson. "Then Haas Hall announced that they wouldn't play this year, so we lost two conference games. We added some, so we are at 30 games. We have room for a few more."

Valley Springs will be readying themselves for postseason play with their revised schedule. The Lady Tigers have added Batesville, who won a Class 4A state title two seasons ago; Pulaski Academy, a consistent team in the final four of Class 4A; Vilonia, who is a top five team in Class 5A; along with Mayflower, Bergman and Mountain View in Class 3A. The Lady Tigers have also added Mt. Vernon-Enola, who is a powerhouse team in Class 1A.

"We will have our fair share of tough games," said Johnson.

Another affect of COVID-19 has been summer workouts.

During the summer we had small group practices," said Johnson. "We had to get more creative. It separated who wants to be there and who doesn't. The kids had a lot of opportunities to work on their own. The standouts will be the

ones that worked on their own.

"You had to get creative," continued the coach. "We have to keep kids healthy and space them out as much as you can. This really keeps you on your toes."

Another change this year is that the Lady Tigers will be moving conferences. The team is now headed west to meet teams from the Fayetteville area. Only Green Forest and Bergman remain with the Lady Tigers from the 3A-1East.

"Last year our conference was one of the best in 3A," said the coach. "This year, we are going to need the tough games."

"We didn't gain any help in the travel," continued Johnson about the new conference. "We have some nice gyms, different teams and different looks to the new conference."

This season the region will look different for the Lady Tigers. The teams have changed with the new cycle of assignments of teams by the Arkansas Activities Association.

"I don't know a whole lot about the other conference," stated Johnson. "Cossatot River is going to be pretty good. They will have some good teams that will be moving up from Class 2A."

As the season starts, Johnson looks to his team with a smile.

"We have just about everyone back," he said. "We have the experience. We

VALLEY SPRINGS LADIES cont' pg 35



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## ALPENA: BOYS

cont' from pg 4

for the conference race.

"We are still going south at this time," said Roberts about the teams annual trip to south central Arkansas. "We are playing Drew Central and Dermott this year. We have also added Berryville to the schedule.

Alpena has moved into Class 2A this season. The team will have some adjustments in the schedule.

"I think the new conference will be very competitive every night," said the coach. "It will be a fine line between winning and losing. There will be no nights off."

A top four finish in the district tournament means that teams will go to regionals.

"We probably come out with a good region," stated the coach.

The Leopards have three starters back this season from a team that was very close to making a trip to the Class 1A State Basketball Tournament.

One of those returning starters is Nicholas Stone "He is a shooter," said Roberts. "He is known for his 3-point shooting."

Junior Bryce Martin is another returning starter. "He is going to do everything for us," said the coach. "He can play inside or outside. He can guard the other team's big man or guard. He is going to have to do everything."

The third returning starter is Kolbe Hicks. "He has tremendous work ethic," Roberts stated. "He can drive and shoot and hit the 3. He is a good rebounder and a hard worker."

Sophomore Cody Block will have his name called in the starting lineup.

"He is the most improved player," complimented the coach. "He has good ball handling and penetration skills. He is a good defender."

There are several players that are fighting for the last starting position. Barron Ohler has won the job in the early season.

"Barron has improved his shooting," said the coach.

There are four other players that are pushing to get into the starting lineup. The coach pointed to Landon Savage, Dylan Rose, Kent Bruce and Brayden Pouncil.

The coach also pointed to several other players that will be fighting for minutes on the hardwoods this season. Lucas Anderson and Ethan Hilton are working hard to help the team.

### JUNIOR HIGH

The Junior Leopards will be rebuilding this season. "We are really, really young," said Roberts. "They have already improved a lot."

The coach went on to mention that the team has some freshmen and a good looking group of seventh-graders.

"A lot of these players have a chance of really developing," said the coach. "They will grow. They will develop, but it will take a little time."

Team members include: Kaden Valentin; Jayden Stewart; Aiden Moran; Slade Harp; Brendon Adams; Keaton Toliver; Hayden Jones; Jaxon Jenkins; Aiden Chaney; Dylan Adams; Kyler Minor; Tucker Savage; Palmer Stubbs; and Hunter Wheeler.

## ALPENA: LADIES

cont' from pg 5

Emma Johnson and Armer's game mirror each other. "She will have to handle it," said Smith. "She can knock down the open shots. She can score inside despite her size. She can use a good angles."

Amelya Cook will need to score for Alpena this year. "She is a 3-point shooter," said the coach. "She will have to shoot it well for us. She does a good job of going one-on-one and getting to the basket."

Another player that will step into a starting role when she is healthy will be Desiree Deitrich.

"She will have to handle the ball when she gets back on the court," said the coach. "Hopefully she will be the old Desiree of taking it to the hole and being a good defender for us."

Filling in for Deitrich is Bella Phillips.

"She is a hard worker," started the coach. "She has to guard some bigger people. She can do it."

Cheyenne Higginbotham has a role for the Lady Leopards.

"She will fill the role of shooting the basketball," commented Smith. "She can shoot it well. She will also have to take care of the basketball."

Helping in the paint will be Kalea Valentine. "She will bring us some more size," said Smith. "She is an inside presence. She has a soft touch."

Being a coach of a new team, Smith has had some time setbacks due to COVID-19.

"It has not affected us since school started," he said. "We have had to be quarantined like the guys. It did affect us this summer."

"We didn't have that time together, so things were a little off when we played our benefit game," he

continued. "Our timing looked off. We haven't been able to do a lot of things, so our time together has been limited."

### JUNIOR HIGH

The Alpena Junior Lady Leopards will be a competitive team this season.

"I expect them to compete on most nights," said Smith. "I think we can fight to be conference or district champions."

There is a characteristic of the team that Smith likes. "We will return four starters," he said. "We have experience. They are struggling some learning the system. They will be able to compete most nights."

Kelsey Kolb, Cassidy Ohler, Laini Block and Anabelle Massengale are back for the Junior Lady Leopards. Rhonnie Jetton, Carndall Eppes, Kaylee Stephenson and Bryanna McNair will complete the roster.

## BERGMAN: BOYS

cont' from pg 6

very valuable in helping us. When you miss 20 or 30 games in the summer, it really hurts."

Another component to the quarantine situation is scheduling.

"It was very challenging to get a schedule together," said Martin. "We had an idea that the tournaments and classics would be canceled. But for a non-football school, six out of the first nine games were classics. We even started our own classic and had moved it to four days.

We had teams from across the state coming to play. That was disappointing when that went down the drain."

Bergman lost 17 games due to tournaments and classics. The squad also lost two more contests.

"We got an email from Haas Hall that they would not be fielding a senior high team," said the coach. "We picked up some games, but we have to travel more. We exhausted all of the semi-local teams trying to fill the schedule."

Bergman has a tough schedule. The team will play Izard County Consolidated, Berryville and Cedarville.

The Panthers also added Paris, which Martin stated may be the best team on the other side of the region.

The Panthers will join Green Forest and Valley Springs from the old 3A-1East and move to a new conference that will feature several schools in northwest Arkansas.

"We like the new conference a lot," said Martin. "Our previous conference five or six years ago was good when we had Cotter, Yellville-Summit, Flippin and Marshall in it. The travel was good then and the gate was good."

"Now with the conference changing," continued

BERGMAN BOYS cont' pg 27

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**BERGMAN BOYS** *cont' from pg 26*

Martin, "I think that this will be a stable conference for us. We now have more trips that will be 1.5 hours. We don't have those longer conference trips that we had last year."

Bergman's new conference will matchup with teams from the Fort Smith area.

"We will matchup with the River Valley league," said

**BERGMAN: LADIES** *cont' from pg 7*

Madeline Moon will be a sophomore that will help the team.

The team will have several other players that are expecting to get valuable minutes on the court.

Jalen Burleson, Katlyn Campbell, Taylor Cantwell

the coach. "It is good for travel as to compare to going to the northeast. It is better travel-wise. We matchup competitively."

**JUNIOR HIGH**

The Junior Panthers will keep up the tradition of being competitive.

"We will be young and inexperienced," said the coach. "We have a couple of players that started some last year.

and Braylen Collins will help the Lady Panthers.

**JUNIOR HIGH**

The Junior Lady Panthers will be an exciting team to watch this season.

"We are tiny," started the coach. "This is the smallest team that I have had. They are competitive though. The lack of size will hurt us."

We have some height with a talented group of eighth-graders. They work hard and will have a great year.

Members of the Junior Panthers are Bryson Bauer; Tyler Bednar; Calvin Cowart; Talan Hall; Landon Johnson; Kaden Ponder; Laynden Williams; Kaden Baker; Will Curtis; Garrett Dees; Dylan Friend; Zion Fultz; Caden Mills; Colby Mills; Cody Sain; Sawyer Schubert; Trae Sexton; and Bailey Hensley.

The team members are: Everli Lawrence; Tesli Johnson; Brylee Burleson; Cheyenne Dawson; Allison Jackson; Shae Lovelace; Kiersten Lowry; Brooxie Rogers; Jasmine DeDear; Jaxen Duque; Hiland Grisham; Paige Hillenburg; Madison Huskey; and Ruby Trammell.

**DEER: BOYS** *cont' from pg 8*

Carey. "Kieran will be our point guard," said the coach. "He has really improved."

Avery Young is a junior three-year starter for the Antlers.

"He has the ability to be one of the best juniors in the state," said the coach. "He can handle the ball. He is a natural scorer."

Landon Rhoades is a player that has added height to his body.

"He grew a couple of inches and is now about 6-foot-3," Napier said. "He is up front on defense. He is creating havoc because he is so lanky. He has really good lift."

Napier thinks that his team can bring some players off the bench to help.

"Nate Spivey is a senior," started the coach. "He keys on defense. He will be shutting people down. He doesn't make mistakes."

Another player to add height inside is Brayden Clement. He is another senior.

"He is going to help us some as well," said Napier. "If he keeps maturing, he will be a good player."

Bobby Holt is a sophomore that will have to help the Antlers this season.

Junior Mason Williams and sophomore Evan Williams hope to get back with the team after injuries.

**JUNIOR HIGH**

the Junior Antlers will be young this season.

The team has one freshman on the squad and the rest are seventh- and eighth-graders.

Jacob Brown is the lone ninth-grader while the eighth-grade consists of Carson Breedlove; Easton Cantrell; Jesse Gunter; Kaiden Heffley; Lane Nichols; and Ethan Williams.

The seventh-graders are: Matthew Brown; Malijah Campbell; Mason Casey; Glendon Daniels; Tyson Davis; Kaden Moore; Ty Williams; and Blake Williams.

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## **DEER:** *LADIES* *cont' from pg 9*

Leading the way for Deer is Ashlyn Denniston. "She can handle it for us and really play a lot of positions," said the coach. "She is really tall in our league."

Ashlyn Davis is back for the team.

"She was our leading scorer from last year," said Napier. "She is a combo guard. She can play the 1 or the 2."

Having started the last two years, Jessica Dotson is back for her senior year.

## **JASPER:** *BOYS* *cont' from pg 10*

"We didn't get to do camps," he said. "We had no scrimmages or five-on-five stuff. We did individual skills drills. We split up and did stations."

Those station drills may have helped Parker with some of the characteristics of the team that he likes.

"I think that we shoot it pretty well," he said. "We also have some depth."

When asked about the strength of the team, the coach replied.

"We can put up some points. We handle the ball pretty well. I say that and all of my guards are sitting on the bench with injuries. They should be back by the first of November."

Without his guards, Parker feels that his team is not very athletic.

To help cover his lack of athleticism, Parker said, "we are going to have to be patient on offense and not try to get into a running game with people."

This season the Pirates will use a 1-3-1 zone and a man defense. The coach said that the team may run four or five other defenses during a game.

On the offensive end, the team runs a lot of different things.

"It depends on the situation," Parker said. "We may use 11 to 15 sets on offense as the game progresses. Sometimes I make stuff up as we go."

## **JASPER:** *LADIES* *cont' from pg 11*

coach last year."

Quarantine is a word that is not liked by the Lady Pirates. It has prevented further development of the team.

"At times I have been down to three players at practice," said Grice. "I have not had the entire team together since the first week of school."

While the Lady Pirates have been struggling with numbers, the team has tradition to draw from. Jasper has been a staple in the Class 1A State Basketball Tournament. The Lady Pirates made it to the regional event last season.

When looking at his team, Grice has some things that he likes about his squad.

"I like our size and skill level with our three post players," he said. "They are versatile. I have two post players that can be guards if needed. I think also, I have a lot of girls that can defend a lot of different positions."

"She will be another strong senior for us," said the coach.

The coach has a plan for the underclassmen.

"They are going to have to step up and play," he said.

Jalyn Denniston is one of two little sisters on the team that will be counted on by the seniors. The other is Bryliegh Davis.

"She will start or play quiet a bit," said the coach of Jayln Denniston. "(Bryliegh) Davis will start or play some."

Skyli Martin is working hard according to the coach and Jade Williams has not played in some time.

"The other night in a benefit game our plays were not working," continued the coach. "We drew up something on the sideline and ran that the rest of the night."

There is only one returning starter from last year's team that made the Class 1A State Basketball Tournament.

Parker's son, Sam Parker, is a starting post player.

"He has a good mid-range jumper," said the father about his son. "He can shoot the 3. He can score from about anywhere."

Joining Sam Parker in the lineup will be fellow senior Layton Smith. The pair are the only two seniors on the team.

"Layton came off the bench and had some good minutes last year," said the coach. "He is a good player. He hustles and plays hard. He can score around the basket and hit 3-pointers."

Cole Villines is another starter this season.

"He is a guard that is a good 3-point shooter," said Mike Parker. "He is running the point, but he will be a guard when the others come back. He is very versatile."

Jesse Harrison and Calvin Smith are rounding out the lineup.

"Harrison is playing a guard spot, but he is a forward," started the coach. "He has good court sense and shoots it pretty well."

"Calvin is a post player that is playing guard for

The coach pointed to "onball defense" as the strength of the team.

While defense is a strength of the team, parts of that aspect of the game are also what Grice calls a weakness for the team.

"We have had trouble transitioning from our press to a halfcourt defense," he said. "It has been hard to go from a zone press to a man defense."

Grice has a plan to help in this transition.

"One thing we are going to do is to make sure to press on dead balls," he said. "It is easier to get set up. We will pull out of the press until we get use to it."

The Lady Pirates are ready to play defense this season.

"I have had 100 percent buy in," said Grice of the team. "We are playing a man defense and they are bought in. They have given me everything that they have."

On the offensive end, the team is planning to run a lot and use a four out offense with screens and pass and cuts.

The team has two seniors and two juniors. The rest of

Olivia Heffley is a post player that according to the coach is getting better every day in practice. She has some height to help the team.

### **JUNIOR HIGH**

The Deer Junior Lady Antlers will be young this season.

The team has 11 players with only one of those being a freshman.

Team members include: Charlee Breedlove; Kaylynn Bryant; Ila Casey; Leah Casey; Laney Daniels; Aurora Gilmore; Kloe Martin; Jayden Middleton; Myleigh Smith; Lily Stone; and Brooklyn Tennison.

us," continued the coach. "He can play several spots on the floor for us."

A pair of injured players that will push for a starting spot when they return is Mason Morgan and Huston Davidson.

"Morgan is our point guard," stated Mike Parker. "He is really quick and a good defender. It is hard to get the ball away from him."

"Davidson is a good outside shooter and has really developed his game to get to the rim," continued the coach. "He can shoot some pull ups now or get to the hole."

The coach feels that there will be several other players that will be pushing for playing time. He pointed to Warren Clark; Sam Helmuth; Jarrett Willis; Joseph Lindsey; Tyler Tibbs and Nate Watts as all being solid players for the black-and-white.

### **JUNIOR HIGH**

The Junior Pirates will be joining the youth movement this fall. The team will be seeing several players on the floor that will be young.

"We are inexperienced and very young," said Mike Parker. "We will be staring some young players this year."

The team members include: Spencer Traywick; Sawyer Willis; Jonas Lager; Levi Johnson; Nick Dextre; Baden Case; Espn Daniels; Max Davis; Lance Flud; Ryan Haight; Caden Hatfield; Logan Keller; Hunter Ricketts; River Roland; and Isaac Thompson.

the squad are sophomores. Those sophomores saw a lot of action last season as freshmen.

Senior Brooklyn Flud is a returning starter for the Lady Pirates.

"She is the best shooter in the conference," said the coach.

Zalia Phillips is the other senior for the Lady Pirates that will be returning later in the season.

Junior Halle Emerson started last season for Jasper.

"She is a forward/post player," stated Grice. "She is extremely gifted around the basket. She has improved over the summer."

Another returning starter is sophomore Kaylee Reynolds.

"She is super physical on the offensive and defensive end," he said.

Sophomore Aubrey Henderson will handle the One spot.

"She is our point guard," said the coach. "She has

*JASPER LADIES cont' pg 29*



## JASPER LADIES *cont' from pg 28*

worked harder than anyone this summer in improving her ball handling and decision making.”

There are three other players that are fighting for the last starting position.

Brielle Brasel, Phillips and Haley Sexton will all be looking to have their name called as a starter.

Haley Daniels, Madison Johnson and Skylea Lager are all sophomores that will see valuable court time for the Lady Pirates. Lager will be returning from an injury in December.

Jasper will have some new conference team members

## KINGSTON: BOYS *cont' from pg 12*

“He played a little last year as a ninth-grader after we moved him up at the end of the season,” said Summers. “He will help a lot. He is a utility player. He can finish at the rim despite not being the tallest kid.”

The fifth starter may vary according to the coach. However, he pointed to junior Isaac Weaver as one of the leading candidates.

Summers also pointed to Payton Hartness; Ethan Sprinkle; Xander Stokes; Brayden Anderson and Caiden Fancher as possible starters.

Juniors Colton Farrar and Keith Lichti will see valuable minutes for the Yellow Jackets.

## KINGSTON: LADIES *cont' from pg 13*

The honors of lockdown defender goes to Libbie Johnson.

“She is our overall best defender,” stated the coach. “She will try to stop the other team’s best player. She guards outside and post players. She is very hard-nosed and her offense has improved.”

The Lady Yellow Jackets are not limited to the starting

## LEAD HILL: BOYS *cont' from pg 14*

“T.J. Catron averaged 11.5 points and nine rebounds last year for us,” said the coach. “He is just an athlete that finds a way.”

John Fulton is another returning starter.

“He is the best defender,” said Rogers. “He is also our best passer. He sees things really well.”

The teams most prolific scorer is a junior.

“Cody Paul is the best scorer,” stated the coach. “He can find ways to score. He averaged 13 a game last year as a sophomore.”

Returning to the point guard position is Will Mancinelli.

“He averaged 10 points as a sophomore,” started Rogers. “He is a solid point guard and a really good shooter.”

Rounding out the lineup this season is a part-time starter from last year in Dustin Turner.

“He is 6-4,” said the coach. “He is a very good athlete that improved his shot over the summer.”

The first five had better not rest when on the floor.

this year. Ozark Mountain, Omaha and Lead Hill have joined the ranks.

“I love it,” said Grice of the addition of the teams. “This is the conference that I am use to. It is the conference that I played in when I was in high school.”

Grice pointed to his Lady Pirates, Kingston, Ozark Mountain, Omaha and Lead Hill as the top level teams.

“Anyone could win it,” he said.

To get prepared for the upcoming conference run, the Lady Pirates are finding themselves in some tall cotton. The schedule will be tough this season.

“One team that is hard to beat is Bergman,” said the coach. “They return a lot of players. Class 4A state

The Yellow Jackets hope to get ready for the rugged conference run this season. The league lost Alpena to Class 2A and New School to another conference. However, the conference may have gotten stronger. Ozark Mountain, which is the combination of St. Joe, Bruno-Pyatt and Western Grove, Omaha and Lead Hill have all rejoined the league.

Summers pointed to Ozark Mountain, Omaha, Jasper and Lead Hill as all being tough teams this year in league play.

To get to those, the team has some quality games against larger schools and Viola and Wonderview in Class 1A.

When looking at the region, Summer things that New School is strong and County Line will be pretty

lineup. Summers likes the depth that he has at his disposal.

Senior Aliya Reynolds is a good shooter. Sophomore Jaidyn Head is a good player and Makenna Clemons will help when she is fully recovered from an injury.

The team doesn’t stop there. Summer expects a lot of valuable minutes from Alivia Hasty; Layla Rothwell; Megan Parker; Grace Cooper; and Paige Pavis.

### JUNIOR HIGH

The Kingston junior high girls team will be inexperienced this season.

Under the direction of Tyler Brown-Miller the team

Rogers stated that there are players ready to step onto the hardwoods.

He pointed to Pierce Marshall who is an athlete that can do anything. Rogers calls him a “true sixth man. He will be the first one off of the bench.”

Sophomore Mason Cain will see action as well. “He is probably the second best defender on the team,” stated the coach. “He can score from anywhere.”

Rogers stated that Kaden Greenhaw is an excellent shooter and good passer. He also plays solid defense.

The Tigers are deep this season and there are several players that are pushing for time.

Matthew Sawyer, Isaiah Burleson, Kayce Williams, Quintin Sewell and George Sindland will help Lead Hill.

### JUNIOR HIGH

The Junior Tigers of Lead Hill look to improve

champion Farmington is on our schedule. Norfolk is always good and they are a favorite for the Class 1A title. I would like to give a good effort against Norfolk.”

### JUNIOR HIGH

The Junior Lady Pirates will be ready for the upcoming season.

“I think that thy are tough,” said Grice of his squad. “They are really working hard and I love coaching them.”

Team members include: Kimberly White; Rose Stanton; Neila Fowler; Maggie Thomas; Lyla Raulston; Tiana Siebert; Raye Stokes; Grace Edgmon; Natalie Watts; Emily Sexton; Abby Mefford; and Kylee Eddings.

good. He stated that Future School “showed signs of up and coming. I don’t know if there will be a stand out team.”

### JUNIOR HIGH

This season, the Junior Yellow Jackets of Kingston are being coached by Tyler Brown-Miller.

“We will be pretty good against the conference,” said the coach. “They work hard in practice and they like to learn. There are a lot of good players on the team.”

Team members include: Jaxon Woods; Ethan Clark; Caleb Parker; Josh Cooper; Chism Floyd; Blake Bowen; Colton Clemons; Baylor Phillips; Xzavier Rothwell; Koren Davidson; Hunter Farrar; Bryce Bancroft; and Eli Humphreys.

will be working hard for a successful season.

“We are pretty young,” said Brown-Miller. We have a lot of new kids. There are only five players that were on the team last year.

Brown-Miller went on to say that he has some pretty good players and some players that have never played before.

The team members are: Lila Hartness; Zoie Coger; A.J. Carlton; Paige Randall; Rilee Pittman; Hope Cooper; Emma Kivell; Madison Bellinger; McKinzey Coger; Callie Edgmon; and Lauren Fancher.

as the season moves on.

“We are really inexperienced,” said Rogers. ”But after Christmas break they could be dangerous. We are mostly eighth-graders this season.”

Team members include: Haygan Dotson; Michael Blankenship; Dillon Shultz; Desi Loomis; Nolan Turner; Clayton Hensley; Cason Bunch; Tyler Schultz; Coda Lemon; Carter Rogers; Alex Gray; Alex Getman; Kaiden Breger; and Zane Breger.



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## **LEAD HILL:** *LADIES* cont' from pg 15

three teams will be solid teams that we face this year in our classification."

The Lady Tigers were moved away from the 1A-2 league back to a familiar friend in 1A-1East. Ozark Mountain (Bruno-Pyatt, St. Joe and Western Grove combined), Omaha and Lead Hill all were transitioned back to the conference.

"I like it," said Munday about the new conference. "It is closer for travel. We have familiarity with the conference teams from before when we were in the league together."

The top four teams from the conference get a bid to the regional tournament. Munday likes the change for his team regional wise.

"This is a better region for us," he said. "The other region was tough year in and year out. I think that this

## **OMAHA:** *BOYS* cont' from pg 20

would be hard to pick a second-place guy."

The region looks tough for Omaha as well.

"Year in and year out, it is usually the same schools," he said. "Our region will be tough."

When it comes to picking a starting lineup for the Eagles this season, Dodson didn't have a clear vision of who would be on the floor.

"Devon Wolf is our only senior," said the coach. "He saw some playing time last year. He is pretty versatile. He is about 5-11."

Sophomore Edden Moon will be an important player for Omaha.

"He will be our point guard this season," said Dodson. "He will have to grow up quickly. He will have to get accustomed to the speed of senior high."

Dodson also pointed to William Gray as possible help in the middle.

"He is 6-4 and a post player," said the coach. "He can hold his own in the paint. There will be some learning for him."

Chase Curtis is another possible help for the Eagle lineup.

## **OMAHA:** *LADIES* cont' from pg 21

squad.

"Experience and being sophomore heavy," said the coach. "We lack experience. We will learn as we go. We have to learn the speed of the game as we go. We lost five starters from last year and four from the year before. We just don't have a lot of senior high court time under our belts."

McKinney has a plan to overcome the youth.

"Hopefully, I can coach up to their strengths," he said. "They will hustle and they will make mistakes. Hustling covers a lot of mistakes."

When it comes to the characteristics of the team. McKinney feels that the Lady Eagles will be a reflection of his coaching style.

region is wide open."

Munday pointed to Ozark Mountain and Kingston as being "the clear favorites." He also pointed to Jasper, Omaha and his Lady Tigers as the second tier of teams that will be working for a regional opportunity.

The Lady Tigers return two starters from last year's team that finished with a 24-17 record.

Kelsey Rogers is back. She came on strong last season and let the team in scoring in several games down the stretch.

"She scored 14.5 points a game and had 5.1 rebounds," said the coach of the senior. "She does a good job of getting her own shots. She is only 5-2, but she can score inside and out. She has picked up some more mobility after she had an injury a couple of seasons ago."

Another starter returning that averaged nearly double digits is Lily Norman.

"She got 9.9 points a game," stated Munday. "She

"He is more of a post player," stated Dodson. "He is a 6-3 sophomore."

Another possible starter is currently out.

"Kaden Lee will be out for a little while," Dotson said. "He has a doctor's appointment around the beginning of the season. We will find out if and when he will be back."

A player that can possibly score points is Ezra Hayes.

"He is one of our better shooters," said the coach. "He will be on the perimeter."

Another player that Dodson talked about was Gabe Morrison. Morrison didn't play last season, but has some athletic ability.

Dodson pointed to a hybrid player as seeing time on the floor.

"Jayden Barber is 6-3," said the coach. "He can play a lot of positions."

Junior Levi Rogers is a 6-2 player for the Eagles and 6-1 Jacob Williams is a sophomore that Dodson expects to improve as the team moves along this year.

### **JUNIOR HIGH**

The Omaha Junior Eagles have had some success

"I feel that I am a defensive-minded coach," he said. "I prefer man-to-man, but we will change to what will be working. We will use anything that works."

The coach wants to use the team's defense to generate a lot of points.

"Hopefully, we will score a lot off of our defense," he said. "We would like to shoot a lot of layups. If that doesn't work, we will find what works. I am not a huge set guy, but what works best for us is what we will use."

Omaha will use a variety of players to round out the starting lineup.

"There will be some sophomores starting this season," said the coach. "There will be some spots that will change."

will need to be consistent on offense for us this year. She had several high scoring games last season."

Rounding out the lineup will be Izzy Bear, Presley Lemon and Harley Lee.

Bear is a 5-4 wing while Lemon is a 5-6 forward and Lee will be the inside presence for the team at 5-8.

The Lady Tigers will depend on Malia Pearce, Cameron Berlin and Faith Schultz to provide quality minutes for the team.

### **JUNIOR HIGH**

The Junior Lady Tigers will be inexperienced this season.

"We are young and we are going to be working on getting better this year," said Munday. "We will have a large learning curve."

Team members include: Bella Huebner; Alexis Egger; Savana Pearce; Regan Luneau; Emma McPherson; Emilee Hampton; Khloe Pena; Jenna Criner; and Kiaya Egger.

over the last few years. They look to continue that success this season.

Two starters are back for the team including two-year starter Dylan Greenwood. The freshman is a 6-1 perimeter player for the Junior Eagles.

Also returning is point guard Briar Whitehurst.

"We have two starters back from a successful team," stated Dodson. "This group isn't overly tall, but they know how to play. They can get a little wide at times, but if they stay under control they will be fine."

Dodson pointed to Kurtis Arnold as a freshman in the lineup along with a pair of eighth-graders in Sam Edwards and Noah Morrison.

Other freshmen on the squad include: John Anderson; Colby Courtney; Brody Curtis; Bo Lange; Creyton Markoffski; Christopher Plummer; Zane Robinson; and Drayken Spiva.

The underclassmen include: Trenton Blair; Aidan Brumley; Gatlin Edwards; Darrell Greenwood; Dawson Loveday; Jonathan McKinney; Jacob Oliver; Jason Oliver; Ayden Prochaska; Joseph Rodak-Pelton; Kevin Schodrowski.

Drew McKinney is one that the coach will look for in the lineup.

"She is an above average defender," started the coach about the sophomore. "She has a good outside shot. She is a hard worker."

"Shelby Whitehurst is a very quick guard," continued the coach. "She is smart and very competitive."

The coach continued to talk of his team's skills.

"Katelyn Rogers is a hustler," he said. "She is tough, strong and developing more on offense and defense each day. Taylor Evans is a good outside shooter and getting better on defense. She is looking to improve. She has a drive to get better. She has the most range of the shooters."

*OMAHA LADIES cont' pg 31*



## OMAHA LADIES cont' from pg 30

Junior Maria Bearden saw some playing time last season for Omaha.

"She is the most experienced player on the team," said McKinney. "She is a hard worker and she is growing as a leader. She is very competitive."

Omaha does have a sizeable player in the paint in Elaine Rasmussen.

"She is the tallest kid on the team at 6-foot-1," stated the coach. "She has a good wing span. She is developing her confidence. She has a really nice form on her shot."

McKinney will look to Tristan Kimberlin to help the team. "She brings the energy to our defense," he said. "She is a bulldog. She works hard and has done

the best to develop a nice shot."

Taryn Kimberlin is the senior on the team. She is working hard to develop leadership for the squad as is junior Robbi Jean Jones. McKinney expects to see the pair on the court in key moments this season."

### JUNIOR HIGH

The Omaha Junior Lady Eagles will be a mirror of the senior team — inexperienced.

Like the senior girls, there are no returning starters this year.

"We have an all new team this year," said McKinney. "We are inexperienced. We are seventh- and eighth-grade heavy. We only have three ninth-graders."

Omaha will probably start three seventh-graders:

## OZARK MOUNTAIN:

### BOYS cont' from pg 22

"Our defense will depend on the group that is on the floor," he said. "We can play zone if we are going for size. We can play man and trap with a smaller lineup. But, I like to speed the game up."

On the offensive side of the court the Bears have a plan.

"We are not very good in a motion," he said. "We can't read and react very well. Right now, we need rules and structure and we are blending that in. Everyone should know what a good shot for them is."

Ozark Mountain is back in the 1A-1East. Chagnon pointed to several teams that will be in the running for the league title. Jasper, Kingston and Lead Hill and a

young Omaha team are in the hunt for a title.

When looking at the starting lineup for the Bears, Chagnon has had big decisions.

"I think that we have 10 to 12 kids that are good enough to see playing time," said the coach. "It will be hard to get them into the game on a consistent basis."

He pointed to Zack Bolin and Gage Freeman as a pair of players.

"They are our most consistent scoring options," stated Chagnon. "They are both strong and can score with multiple people guarding them. They have the most experience scoring against a high level of competition."

The coach mentioned two other players.

"Aiden Fletcher has showed that he is more than a catch and shoot player," he said. "He can rebound and attack the rim.

"Ethan Brumley is a player that you can put on any team and he will make them better," continued the coach. "He doesn't make a lot of mistakes and knows what he needs to do to help his team."

Payton Matlock, Remington Crouch and Lauryn Moon and two eighth-graders: Molly Crouch and Gabby Smith.

"I am pretty excited about my group," said the coach. "We are building for the future. I hope people see that. I think our future is bright. We will have to withstand some stuff to get to the future. You have to learn to win."

Freshmen members of the team include: McKenzie McCullough; Maria McCullough; and Mystika Tyndall. The eighth-graders are: Clara Alfuro; Haily Pavur; and Anastasia Johnson while the seventh-graders are Kyndall Bray, Emma Edwards and Laila Arnold.

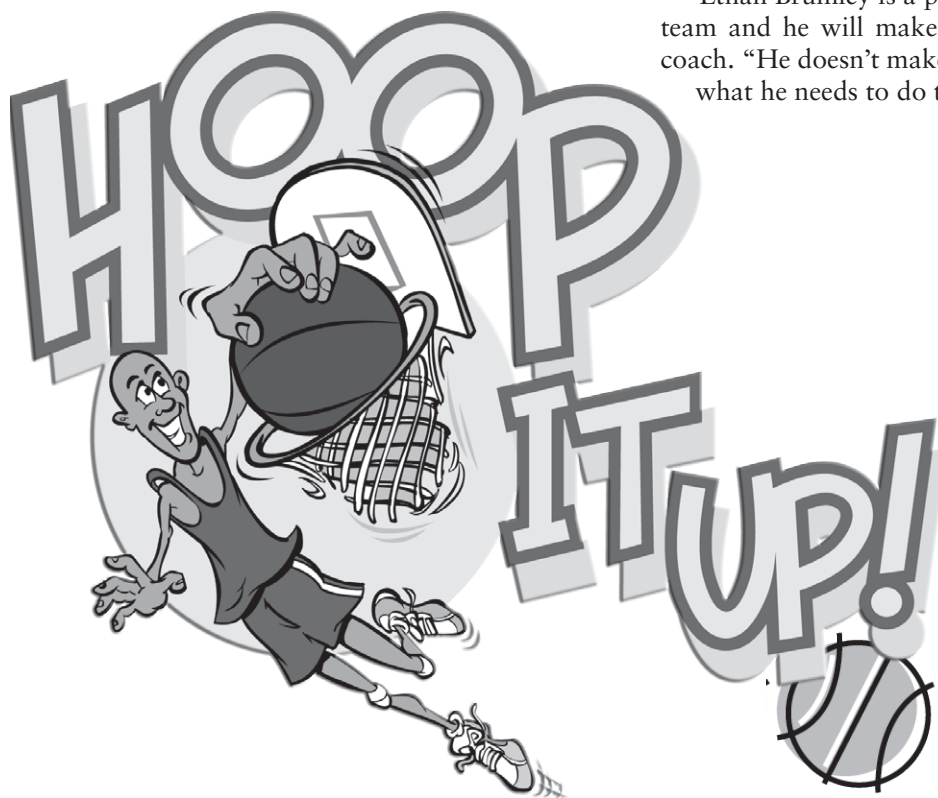
Chagnon also commented, "I have eight kids from 10th to 12th grade that are playing the right way and are making things happen whether it is on offense or defense."

Those team members include: Brooks Willis; Payton Sisco; Anthony Martinez; Briggs Reddell; Keagan Ricketts; Quinton Willis; Evann Dean; Marcus Bunch; Keagan Middleton; Kendall Smith; Clayton Gilley; Walker Robinson; Dom Giles; Gavin Freeman; Evan Baker; and Randy Ramirez.

### JUNIOR HIGH

The Ozark Mountain Junior Bears will be under the leadership of Logan Hayes.

Team members include: Marcus Fields; Keagan Wiseman; Kooper Baker; Cobie Chaney; Mason Gilmore; Gus Phillips; Canon Morgan; Jacob Campbell; Tate Dixon; Rowland Limperis; Grant Eddings; Ross Grinder; Layton Swafford; Tate Trammell; Walker Collins; Jayden Bradshaw; Dustin Carlton; Jake Zemlik; Kelton Wilson; and Blake Teague.



**GOOD LUCK TO ALL AREA TEAMS!**



**MODERN PARTS, INC.**



# ALPENA SCHEDULE

| DATE            | OPPONENT            | TEAMS    | TIME |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------|------|
| <b>OCTOBER</b>  |                     |          |      |
| 26              | @Jasper             | 2,3,4    | 5:30 |
| 30              | @Valley Springs     | 2,3,4    | 5    |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b> |                     |          |      |
| 3               | @Eureka Springs     | 2,3,4    | 5:30 |
| 6               | @Omaha              | 1,3,4    | 5    |
| 9               | @Norfolk            | 1,2,6    | 4:30 |
| 10              | @Lifeway Christian  | 1,3,4    | 5    |
| 12              | @Lead Hill          | 2,3,4    | 5    |
| 16              | Berryville          | 3,4,     | 5    |
| 17              | Jasper              | 1,2,5,6  | 5    |
| 20              | Timbo               | 2,3,4    | 5:30 |
| 23              | Jasper              | 1,3,4    | 5:30 |
| 30              | Valley Springs      | 1,2,5,6  | 5    |
| <b>DECEMBER</b> |                     |          |      |
| 1               | @Flippin            | 1,3,4    | 5    |
| 3               | Berryville          | 1,2,6    | 5    |
| 4               | @Drew Central       | 3,4      | TBA  |
| 5               | @Dermott            | 3,4      | TBA  |
| 8               | Yellville-Summit    | 1,3,4    | 5:30 |
| 10              | @Jasper             | 1,2,5,6  | 5    |
| 11              | Bergman             | 3,4,4B   | 5    |
| 14              | @Omaha              | 1,2,5,6  | 5    |
| 15              | Cotter              | 2,3,4    | 5:30 |
| 18              | @Haas Hall          | 2, 4     | 5:30 |
| 22              | Norfolk             | 1,2,3,4  | 4    |
| 29              | Ozark Mountain      | 2,3,4    | 5:30 |
| <b>JANUARY</b>  |                     |          |      |
| 5               | Lifeway Christian   | 2,3,4    | 5    |
| 7               | Flippin             | 1B,2B,4B | 5    |
| 8               | Arkansas Arts       | 1,3,4    | 5:30 |
| 12              | @Decatur            | 1,2,3,4  | 4    |
| 14              | @Berryville         | 1,2,6    | 4:30 |
| 15              | Eureka Springs      | 1,3,4    | 5:30 |
| 19              | Flippin             | 2,3,4    | 5:30 |
| 26              | @Yellville-Summit   | 2,3,4    | 5:30 |
| 28              | Lead Hill           | 1,2,5,6  | 5    |
| 29              | Haas Hall           | 2,4      | 5:30 |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b> |                     |          |      |
| 1               | Providence Academy  | 1,2,5,6  | 5    |
| 2               | @Cotter             | 1,3,4    | 5    |
| 5               | @Arkansas Arts      | 2,3,4    | 5    |
| 8-12            | District Tournament | 1,2      | TBA  |
| 9               | Omaha               | 3,4      | 5    |
| 12              | Decatur             | 3,4      | 5    |
| 15-19           | District Tournament | 3,4      | TBA  |
| 24-27           | Regional Tournament | 3,4      | TBA  |
| <b>MARCH</b>    |                     |          |      |
| 2-6             | State Tournament    | 3,4      | TBA  |
| 11-13           | State Finals        | 3,4      | TBA  |

1-Jr. Girls; 2-Jr. Boys; 3-Sr. Girls; 4-Sr. Boys;  
5-Seventh Girls; 6-Seventh Boys

# BERGMAN SCHEDULE

| DATE            | OPPONENT                | TEAMS     | TIME |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------|------|
| <b>OCTOBER</b>  |                         |           |      |
| 23              | Jacksonville Lighthouse | 4,4B      | 5    |
| 23              | @Maynard                | 1,3       | 5    |
| 26              | Norfolk                 | 1,2,5,6   | 5    |
| 27              | Ozark Mountain*         | 3,4       | 5:30 |
| 29              | Izard Co. Cons.         | 1,3,4     | 5    |
| 30              | Deer                    | 2,3,4     | 5:30 |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b> |                         |           |      |
| 2               | @Omaha                  | 1,2,5,6   | 4:30 |
| 3               | @Lead Hill              | 3,4       | 5:30 |
| 5               | Lead Hill               | 1,2,5,6   | 5    |
| 6               | Kingston                | 3,3B,4,4B | 4    |
| 13              | @Norfolk                | 1,2,3,4   | 4    |
| 16              | Lead Hill               | 3,4,4B    | 5    |
| 17              | Pangburn                | 1,3,4     | 4:30 |
| 19              | Marshall                | 1,2,5,6   | 5    |
| 20              | Gentry                  | 1,2,3,4   | 4    |
| <b>DECEMBER</b> |                         |           |      |
| 1               | Berryville              | 3,4,4B    | 5    |
| 4               | @Paris                  | 2,3,4     | 5    |
| 7               | @Jasper                 | 1,3,4     | 5    |
| 10              | Ozark Mountain          | 1,2,5,6   | 5    |
| 11              | @Alpena                 | 3,4,4B    | 5    |
| 12              | @Cedarville             | 3,4       | 4    |
| 14              | Elkins                  | 1,1B,2,2B | 4:30 |
| 15              | @Elkins                 | 3,3B,4,4B | 4:30 |
| 17              | Flippin                 | 1,2,5,6   | 5    |
| 21              | Ozark Mountain*         | 3,4,4B    | 5:45 |
| <b>JANUARY</b>  |                         |           |      |
| 2               | Clinton*                | 3,4       | 3    |
| 4               | @Kingston               | 1,2,5,6   | 5    |
| 5               | Valley Springs          | 1,2,3,4   | 4    |
| 7               | Omaha                   | 1,3,4     | 5:30 |
| 8               | Green Forest            | 1,2,3,4   | 4    |
| 9               | @Salem                  | 2,3,4     | 2    |
| 11              | @Izard Co. Cons.        | 1,2,5,6   | 5    |
| 12              | @Greenland              | 1,2,3,4   | 4:30 |
| 15              | @WestFork               | 3,3B,4,4B | 4:30 |
| 18              | West Fork               | 1,1B,2,2B | 4:30 |
| 19              | @Lincoln                | 1,2,3,4   | 4    |
| 21              | @Elkins                 | 1,2,5,6   | 4:30 |
| 22              | Elkins                  | 3,3B,4,4B | 4:30 |
| 25              | @Cotter                 | 1,2,5,6   | 5    |
| 28              | @Green Forest           | 1,2,5,6   | 5    |
| 29              | @Valley Springs         | 3,3B,4,4B | 5    |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b> |                         |           |      |
| 1               | Valley Springs          | 1,2,5,6   | 5    |
| 2               | @Green Forest           | 3,4       | TBA  |
| 5               | Greenland               | 1,2,3,4   | 4    |
| 8-12            | District Tournament     | 1,2       | TBA  |
| 9               | West Fork               | 3,4       | 6    |
| 12              | Lincoln                 | 3,4       | 6    |
| 15-19           | District Tournament     | 3,4       | TBA  |
| 24-27           | Regional Tournament     | 3,4       | TBA  |
| <b>MARCH</b>    |                         |           |      |
| 2-6             | State Tournament        | 3,4       | TBA  |
| 11-13           | State Finals            | 3,4       | TBA  |

1-Jr. Girls; 2-Jr. Boys; 3-Sr. Girls; 4-Sr. Boys;  
5-Seventh Girls; 6-Seventh Boys  
• Game to be played at Northark

# DEER SCHEDULE

| DATE            | OPPONENT            | TEAMS   | TIME |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------|------|
| <b>OCTOBER</b>  |                     |         |      |
| 23              | @Mulberry           | 2,3,4   | 5    |
| 27              | @Cotter             | 1,2,4   | 5    |
| 30              | @Bergman            | 2,3,4   | 5    |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b> |                     |         |      |
| 2               | Lifeway             | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 6               | Thaden              | 2,3,4   | 5    |
| 9               | Hector              | 1,2,3   | 4:30 |
| 10              | @Eureka Springs     | 1,3,4   | 5    |
| 12              | Oark                | 1,3,4   | 5    |
| 17              | Ozark Mountain      | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 19              | Atkins              | 1,2,3,4 | 4:30 |
| 24              | Decatur             | 2,3,4   | 4:30 |
| <b>DECEMBER</b> |                     |         |      |
| 3               | Elkins              | 3,4     | 6    |
| 4               | Jasper              | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 8               | @Mt. Judea          | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 11              | @Lead Hill          | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 15              | @Omaha              | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 17              | Western Yell Co.    | 1,2,3,4 | 4    |
| 30              | @Hector             | 2,3,4   | 5    |
| <b>JANUARY</b>  |                     |         |      |
| 8               | @OzarkMountain      | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 11              | @Green Forest       | 1,2,3,4 | 4:30 |
| 15              | @Kingston           | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 18              | @Jasper             | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 21              | Kingston            | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 22              | Mt.Judea            | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 26              | Lead Hill           | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 29              | Omaha               | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b> |                     |         |      |
| 1               | Cotter              | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 5               | @Decatur            | 1,2,3,4 | 4:30 |
| 6               | Green Forest        | 3,4     | 5    |
| 8-12            | District Tournament | 1,2     | TBA  |
| 12              | @Lifeway            | 3,4     | 5:30 |
| 15-19           | District Tournament | 3,4     | TBA  |
| 24-27           | Regional Tournament | 3,4     | TBA  |
| <b>MARCH</b>    |                     |         |      |
| 2-6             | State Tournament    | 3,4     | TBA  |
| 11-13           | State Finals        | 3,4     | TBA  |

1-Jr. Girls; 2-Jr. Boys; 3-Sr. Girls; 4-Sr. Boys;  
5-Seventh Girls; 6-Seventh Boys

• Game to be played at Northark

# JASPER SCHEDULE

| DATE            | OPPONENT            | TEAMS   | TIME |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------|------|
| <b>OCTOBER</b>  |                     |         |      |
| 26              | Alpena              | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 27              | @Eureka Springs     | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 30              | @Viola              | 2,3,4   | 5    |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b> |                     |         |      |
| 3               | Flippin             | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 6               | Oark                | 3,4     | 5:30 |
| 9               | @Kingston           | 2,3,4   | 5    |
| 10              | @Cotter             | 3,4,4B  | 5    |
| 12              | @Omaha              | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 17              | @Alpena             | 1,2,5,6 | 5    |
| 19              | @Cotter             | 1,2,5,6 | 5    |
| 20              | @Farmington         | 1,3,4   | 4:30 |
| 23              | @Alpena             | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| <b>DECEMBER</b> |                     |         |      |
| 1               | Ozark Mountain*     | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 4               | @Deer               | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 7               | Bergman             | 1,3,4   | 5    |
| 8               | Kingston            | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 10              | Alpena              | 1,2,5,6 | 5    |
| 15              | @Mt. Judea          | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 18              | @Lead Hill          | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 21              | Shirley             | 1,2,3,4 | 4:30 |
| 22              | @Berryville         | 1,2,3,4 | 4    |
| <b>JANUARY</b>  |                     |         |      |
| 4               | Norfolk             | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 5               | @Shirley            | 1,3,4   | 5    |
| 7               | Lead Hill           | 1,2     | 5    |
| 15              | Ozark Mountain*     | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 18              | @St. Paul           | 1,3,4   | 4:30 |
| 19              | Deer                | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 25              | @Marshall           | 1,2,5,6 | 5    |
| 26              | @Flippin            | 1,3,4   | 5    |
| 29              | Mt. Judea           | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b> |                     |         |      |
| 1               | Marshall            | 1,2,5,6 | 5    |
| 2               | Lead Hill           | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 5               | Omaha               | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 8-12            | District Tournament | 1,2     | TBA  |
| 9               | Cotter              | 3,4     | 5    |
| 12              | @Norfolk            | 3,4     | 5    |
| 15-19           | District Tournament | 3,4     | TBA  |
| 24-27           | Regional Tournament | 3,4     | TBA  |
| <b>MARCH</b>    |                     |         |      |
| 2-6             | State Tournament    | 3,4     | TBA  |
| 11-13           | State Finals        | 3,4     | TBA  |

1-Jr. Girls; 2-Jr. Boys; 3-Sr. Girls; 4-Sr. Boys;  
5-Seventh Girls; 6-Seventh Boys

• Game to be played at Northark



# KINGSTON SCHEDULE

| DATE            | OPPONENT            | TEAMS     | TIME |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------|------|
| <b>OCTOBER</b>  |                     |           |      |
| 29              | @Viola              | 3,4       | 5    |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b> |                     |           |      |
| 3               | @Cotter             | 3,3B,4,4B | 5    |
| 6               | @Bergman            | 3,3B,4,4B | 4    |
| 9               | Jasper              | 2,3,4     | 5    |
| 10              | @Elkins             | 1,2       | 6    |
| 12              | @Huntsville         | 1,2,2B    | 4:30 |
| 13              | Valley Springs      | 3,3B,4,4B | 5:30 |
| 17              | Dover               | 3,4       | 6    |
| 19              | Green Forest        | 1,1B,2,2B | 4:30 |
| 20              | @Berryville         | 1,2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 23              | Elkins              | 3,4       | 6:30 |
| 24              | @Lincoln            | 1,2,3,4   | 2    |
| 29              | @Viola              | 3,4       | 5    |
| 30              | @Marshall           | 2,3,4     | 5:30 |
| <b>DECEMBER</b> |                     |           |      |
| 1               | @Greenland          | 1,2,3,4   | 4    |
| 4               | @West Fork          | 1,2,3,4   | 4    |
| 7               | @St. Paul           | 1,2       | 5    |
| 8               | Jasper              | 1,3,4     | 5:30 |
| 10              | Deer                | 1,3,4     | 5:30 |
| 11              | Mt. Judea           | 1,3,4     | 5:30 |
| 14              | Berryville          | 1,2,2B    | 5    |
| 15              | Lead Hill           | 2,3,4     | 5:30 |
| 18              | Omaha               | 2,3,4     | 5    |
| <b>JANUARY</b>  |                     |           |      |
| 4               | Bergman             | 1,1B,2,2B | 5    |
| 5               | @Elkins             | 3,4       | 6    |
| 7               | @Valley Springs     | 1,1B,2,2B | 5    |
| 12              | Ozark Mountain      | 1,3,4     | 5:30 |
| 15              | Deer                | 1,3,4     | 5:30 |
| 21              | @Deer               | 1,3,4     | 5:30 |
| 25              | Yellville-Summit    | 1,1B,2,2B | 5    |
| 26              | @Mt. Judea          | 2,3,4     | 5:30 |
| 28              | @Yellville-Summit   | 3,3B,4,4B | 5    |
| 29              | @Lead Hill          | 1,3,4     | 5:30 |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b> |                     |           |      |
| 1               | Flippin             | 1,1B,2,2B | 5    |
| 2               | @Omaha              | 1,3,4     | 5:30 |
| 4               | Ozark Mountain*     | 2,3,4     | 5:30 |
| 8-12            | District Tournament | 1,2       | TBA  |
| 9               | @Wonderview         | 3,4       | 6    |
| 11              | Oark                | 3,4       | 6    |
| 15-19           | District Tournament | 3,4       | TBA  |
| 24-27           | Regional Tournament | 3,4       | TBA  |
| <b>MARCH</b>    |                     |           |      |
| 2-6             | State Tournament    | 3,4       | TBA  |
| 11-13           | State Finals        | 3,4       | TBA  |

1-Jr. Girls; 2-Jr. Boys; 3-Sr. Girls; 4-Sr. Boys;  
5-Seventh Girls; 6-Seventh Boys  
• Game to be played at St. Joe

# LEAD HILL SCHEDULE

| DATE            | OPPONENT             | TEAMS   | TIME |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------|------|
| <b>OCTOBER</b>  |                      |         |      |
| 23              | @Eureka Springs      | 1,2,3,4 | 4    |
| 27              | Shirley              | 2,3,4   | 4:30 |
| 30              | Lifeway Christian    | 2,3,4   | 5    |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b> |                      |         |      |
| 2               | @Norfolk             | 1,2,5,6 | 5    |
| 3               | Bergman              | 3,4     | 5:30 |
| 5               | @Bergman             | 1,2,5,6 | 5    |
| 6               | Eureka Springs       | 3,4     | 5    |
| 10              | Green Forest         | 1,2,3,4 | 4    |
| 12              | Alpena               | 2,3,4   | 5    |
| 13              | @Flippin             | 2,3,4   | 5    |
| 16              | @Bergman             | 3,4,4B  | 5    |
| 20              | @Omaha               | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 23              | @Yellville-Summit    | 1,3,4   | 5    |
| 30              | @Green Forest        | 1,2,3,4 | 4    |
| <b>DECEMBER</b> |                      |         |      |
| 1               | Calico Rock          | 1,3,4   | 5    |
| 3               | @Cotter              | 3,4     | 5    |
| 8               | Ozark Mountain       | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 11              | Deer                 | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 15              | @Kingston            | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 18              | Jasper               | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 29              | @Shirley             | 1,3,4   | 12   |
| 30              | Valley Springs*      | 3,4     | 5    |
| 31              | Yellville-Summit     | 2,3,4   | 4    |
| <b>JANUARY</b>  |                      |         |      |
| 5               | Mt. Judea            | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 7               | @Jasper              | 1,2     | 5    |
| 8               | @Viola               | 3,4     | 5    |
| 12              | Omaha                | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 14              | Izard Co. Cons.      | 1,3,4   | 5    |
| 21              | Ozark Mountain*      | 1,3,4   | 5:45 |
| 22              | School of the Ozarks | 3,4,4B  | 5:30 |
| 25              | Flippin              | 1,3,4   | 5    |
| 26              | @Deer                | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 28              | @Alpena              | 1,2,5,6 | 5    |
| 29              | Kingston             | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b> |                      |         |      |
| 1               | Viola                | 1,2,5,6 | 5    |
| 2               | @Jasper              | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 5               | Mt. Judea            | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 8-12            | District Tournament  | 1,2     | TBA  |
| 9               | Norfolk              | 3,4     | 5    |
| 12              | Cotter               | 3,4     | 5    |
| 15-19           | District Tournament  | 3,4     | TBA  |
| 24-27           | Regional Tournament  | 3,4     | TBA  |
| <b>MARCH</b>    |                      |         |      |
| 2-6             | State Tournament     | 3,4     | TBA  |
| 11-13           | State Finals         | 3,4     | TBA  |

1-Jr. Girls; 2-Jr. Boys; 3-Sr. Girls; 4-Sr. Boys;  
5-Seventh Girls; 6-Seventh Boys  
• Game to be played at Northark

# MT. JUDEA SCHEDULE

| DATE            | OPPONENT            | TEAMS    | TIME |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------|------|
| <b>OCTOBER</b>  |                     |          |      |
| 23              | @Ozark Cath.        | 2,3,4,4B | 4    |
| 27              | Oark                | 1,2,3,4  | 4    |
| 29              | Cotter              | 2,3,4    | 5    |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b> |                     |          |      |
| 6               | @Oark               | 1,2,3,4  | 4    |
| 9               | @Flippin            | 1,2,3,4  | 5    |
| 12              | Yellville-Summit    | 1,2,3,4  | 4    |
| 17              | Omaha               | 1,3,4    | 5:30 |
| 20              | @Western Yell Co.   | 1,2,3,4  | 4    |
| <b>DECEMBER</b> |                     |          |      |
| 3               | Timbo               | 1,3,4    | 5    |
| 8               | Deer                | 1,3,4    | 5:30 |
| 11              | @Kingston           | 1,3,4    | 5:30 |
| 15              | Jasper              | 2,3,4    | 5:30 |
| 17              | @Ozark Mountain     | 1,3,4    | 5:30 |
| <b>JANUARY</b>  |                     |          |      |
| 5               | @Lead Hill          | 1,3,4    | 5:30 |
| 8               | @Omaha              | 2,3,4    | 5:30 |
| 12              | Dardanelle          | 2,3,4    | 4:30 |
| 14              | @Timbo              | 2,3,4    | 5    |
| 19              | Ozark Mountain      | 2,3,4    | 5:30 |
| 22              | @Deer               | 2,3,4    | 5:30 |
| 26              | Kingston            | 2,3,4    | 5:30 |
| 29              | @Jasper             | 1,3,4    | 5:30 |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b> |                     |          |      |
| 2               | Scranton            | 3,4      | 5    |
| 5               | Lead Hill           | 2,3,4    | 5:30 |
| 8-13            | District Tournament | 1,2      | TBA  |
| 15-19           | District Tournament | 3,4      | TBA  |
| 24-27           | Regional Tournament | 3,4      | TBA  |
| <b>MARCH</b>    |                     |          |      |
| 2-6             | State Tournament    | 3,4      | TBA  |
| 11-13           | State Finals        | 3,4      | TBA  |

1-Jr. Girls; 2-Jr. Boys; 3-Sr. Girls; 4-Sr. Boys;  
5-Seventh Girls; 6-Seventh Boys



# OMAHA SCHEDULE

| DATE            | OPPONENT            | TEAMS   | TIME |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------|------|
| <b>OCTOBER</b>  |                     |         |      |
| 27              | @New School         | 3,4     | 5:30 |
| 30              | @Flippin            | 1,3,4   | 5    |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b> |                     |         |      |
| 2               | Bergman             | 1,2,5,6 | 4:30 |
| 5               | @Cotter             | 1,2,5,6 | 5    |
| 6               | Alpena              | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 10              | Berryville          | 1,3,4   | 5    |
| 12              | Jasper              | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 13              | Cotter              | 2,3,4   | 5    |
| 16              | @Valley Springs     | 1,2,5,6 | 4:30 |
| 17              | @Mt. Judea          | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 20              | Lead Hill           | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| <b>DECEMBER</b> |                     |         |      |
| 1               | West Fork           | 3,4     | 5:30 |
| 3               | New School          | 3,4     | 5:30 |
| 7               | Yellville-Summit    | 1,2,5,6 | 4:30 |
| 8               | Hollister, Mo.      | 4       | 6    |
| 11              | Ozark Mountain*     | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 14              | Alpena              | 1,2,5,6 | 5    |
| 15              | Deer                | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 18              | @Kingston           | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| <b>JANUARY</b>  |                     |         |      |
| 4               | @Yellville-Summit   | 1,2,5,6 | 4:30 |
| 7               | @Bergman            | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 8               | Mt. Judea           | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 12              | @Lead Hill          | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 15              | @Marshall           | 2,3,4   | 5    |
| 18              | Decatur             | 3,4     | 4:30 |
| 19              | @Blue Eye, Mo.      | 3       | 5:30 |
| 21              | @Thaden             | 3,4     | 5    |
| 26              | Ozark Mountain      | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 29              | @Deer               | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b> |                     |         |      |
| 1               | Green Forest        | 1,2,5,6 | 4:30 |
| 2               | Kingston            | 1,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 5               | @Jasper             | 2,3,4   | 5:30 |
| 8-12            | District Tournament | 1,2     | TBA  |
| 9               | @Alpena             | 3,4     | 5    |
| 15-19           | District Tournament | 3,4     | TBA  |
| 24-27           | Regional Tournament | 3,4     | TBA  |
| <b>MARCH</b>    |                     |         |      |
| 2-6             | State Tournament    | 3,4     | TBA  |
| 11-13           | State Finals        | 3,4     | TBA  |

1-Jr. Girls; 2-Jr. Boys; 3-Sr. Girls; 4-Sr. Boys;  
5-Seventh Girls; 6-Seventh Boys  
• Game to be played at Western Grove

# OZARK MTN SCHEDULE

# VALLEY SPRINGS SCHEDULE

| DATE            | OPPONENT                | TEAMS     | TIME |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------|------|
| <b>OCTOBER</b>  |                         |           |      |
| 23              | @Guy-Perkins            | 1,2,3,4   | 4:30 |
| 27              | Bergman•                | 3,4       | 5:45 |
| 30              | Timbo@WG                | 1,3,4     | 5    |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b> |                         |           |      |
| 3               | @Southside Bee Branch   | 1,3,4     | 5    |
| 5               | @Flippin                | 3,4       | 5:30 |
| 10              | Viola@BP                | 2,3,4     | 5    |
| 12              | Flippin@SJ              | 1,1B,2,2B | 5    |
| 13              | @Rural Special          | 2,3,4     | 5    |
| 16              | @Mountain Home          | 1,1B,2,2B | 5    |
| 17              | @Deer                   | 2,3,4     | 5:30 |
| 19              | @St. Paul               | 1,3,4     | 4:30 |
| 23              | @Yellville-Summit       | 1,1B,2,2B | 5    |
| 24              | @Elkins                 | 1,3,4     | 5    |
| 30              | Cotter@SJ               | 1,3,4     | 5    |
| <b>DECEMBER</b> |                         |           |      |
| 1               | Jasper•                 | 1,3,4     | 5:45 |
| 3               | St. Paul@WG             | 2,3,4     | 4:30 |
| 5               | @Yellville-Summit       | 2B,4B     | TBA  |
| 8               | @LeadHill               | 2,3,4     | 5:30 |
| 10              | @Bergman                | 1,1B,2,2B | 5    |
| 11              | Omaha@WG                | 2,3,4     | 5:30 |
| 14              | Southside Bee Branch@BP | 2,3,4     | 5    |
| 17              | Mt. Judea@SJ            | 1,3,4     | 5:30 |
| 21              | Bergman•                | 3,4,4B    | 5:45 |
| 29              | @Alpena                 | 2,3,4     | 5:30 |
| <b>JANUARY</b>  |                         |           |      |
| 4               | @Berryville             | 1,1B,2,2B | 4:30 |
| 7               | Harrison@WG             | 2B,4B     | 5    |
| 8               | Deer@BP                 | 1,3,4     | 5:30 |
| 12              | @Kingston               | 1,3,4     | 5:30 |
| 15              | Jasper•                 | 2,3,4     | 5:45 |
| 19              | @Mt. Judea              | 2,3,4     | 5:30 |
| 21              | Lead Hill•              | 1,3,4     | 5:45 |
| 23              | @Mountain Home          | 1,1B,2,2B | 12   |
| 26              | @Omaha                  | 1,3,4     | 5:30 |
| 28              | @Viola                  | 1,1B,2,2B | 5    |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b> |                         |           |      |
| 2               | Valley Springs•         | 2,3,4     | 5:45 |
| 4               | Kingston@SJ             | 2,3,4     | 5:30 |
| 5               | @Izard Co. Cons.        | 1,3,4     | 5    |
| 8-12            | District Tournament     | 1,2       | TBA  |
| 9               | @Clarksville            | 3,4       | 5:30 |
| 12              | Rural Special@WG        | 3,4       | 5    |
| 15-19           | District Tournament     | 3,4       | TBA  |
| 24-27           | Regional Tournament     | 3,4       | TBA  |
| <b>MARCH</b>    |                         |           |      |
| 2-6             | State Tournament        | 3,4       | TBA  |
| 11-13           | State Finals            | 3,4       | TBA  |

1-Jr. Girls; 2-Jr. Boys; 3-Sr. Girls; 4-Sr. Boys;  
5-Seventh Girls; 6-Seventh Boys

• Game to be played at Northark

| DATE            | OPPONENT              | TEAMS     | TIME |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------|------|
| <b>OCTOBER</b>  |                       |           |      |
| 23              | ICC•                  | 1,3,4     | 5    |
| 30              | Alpena•               | 2,3,4     | 5    |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b> |                       |           |      |
| 2               | @Cotter               | 3,3B,4,4B | 5    |
| 3               | @Norfolk              | 1,3,4     | 5    |
| 6               | @Pangburn             | 1,2,3,4   | 4    |
| 9               | Cotter                | 1,2,5,6   | 5    |
| 10              | Flippin•              | 3,3B,4,4B | 5:45 |
| 13              | @Kingston             | 3,3B,4,4B | 5    |
| 16              | Omaha                 | 1,2,5,6   | 4:30 |
| 17              | @Shiloh Christian     | 1,2,3,4   | 4:30 |
| 19              | Yellville-Summit      | 1,2,5,6   | 5    |
| 20              | Southside Bee Branch• | 1,2,3,4   | 4:30 |
| 23              | Mountain View•        | 1,2,3,4   | 4:30 |
| 30              | @Alpena               | 1,2,5,6   | 5    |
| <b>DECEMBER</b> |                       |           |      |
| 3               | @Harrison             | 1,2,5,6   | 5    |
| 4               | Mt. Vernon-Enola•     | 1,3,4     | 5    |
| 8               | @Batesville           | 1,3,4     | 5    |
| 11              | @Pulaski Academy      | 1,2,3,4   | 5    |
| 15              | @West Fork            | 1,2,3,4   | 4    |
| 18              | Lincoln•              | 1,2,3,4   | 4:30 |
| 21              | @Vilonia              | 3,4       | 2    |
| 28              | Mayflower•            | 1,2,3,4   | 2    |
| 30              | Lead Hill             | 3,4       | 5    |
| <b>JANUARY</b>  |                       |           |      |
| 5               | @Bergman              | 1,2,3,4   | 4    |
| 7               | Kingston              | 1,2,5,6   | 5    |
| 12              | Elkins                | 1,2,3,4   | 4    |
| 15              | @Green Forest         | 1,2,3,4   | 4    |
| 19              | Greenland             | 1,2,3,4   | 4    |
| 22              | West Fork             | 3,3B,4,4B | 5    |
| 26              | @Lincoln              | 1,2,3,4   | 4    |
| 29              | Bergman               | 3,3B,4,4B | 5    |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b> |                       |           |      |
| 1               | Bergman               | 1,2,5,6   | 5    |
| 2               | Western Grove         | 2,3,4     | 5:45 |
| 4               | Green Forest          | 1,2,5,6   | 5    |
| 5               | @Elkins               | 1,2,3,4   | 4    |
| 8-12            | District Tournament   | 1,2       | TBA  |
| 9               | Green Forest          | 3,4       | 6    |
| 12              | @Greenland            | 3,4       | 5:30 |
| 15-19           | District Tournament   | 3,4       | TBA  |
| 24-27           | Regional Tournament   | 3,4       | TBA  |
| <b>MARCH</b>    |                       |           |      |
| 2-6             | State Tournament      | 3,4       | TBA  |
| 11-13           | State Finals          | 3,4       | TBA  |

1-Jr. Girls; 2-Jr. Boys; 3-Sr. Girls; 4-Sr. Boys;  
5-Seventh Girls; 6-Seventh Boys

• Game to be played at Northark

## OZARK MOUNTAIN: LADIES cont' from pg 23

working at getting better at the spot.”

If there is a weakness for the team it will be keeping players on the floor.

“We have to stay out of foul trouble especially with the pace that we are wanting to play,” said Hudson. “We are wanting to push the ball up and down the floor.”

The Lady Bears will play both a man-to-man and zone defense this season.

When on offense the Lady Bears will be ready to move.

“We are playing fast,” said the coach. “We will run a motion style offense and look to push the ball up the floor when the opportunity is there. When in a half-court set, we want to run the ball until we have the best look.”

Hudson feels that her team has some necessary experience.

“We have a good number of player that are use to the high intensity games and I hope we will play like that,” she said.

The three returning starters are Brooklynn Baker and Jordyn Jackson from Western Grove and Macy Young from Bruno-Pyatt. Those three will be in the lineup for the Lady Bears.

“Brooklynn is an All-Conference player from last season,” said the coach. “She is a good shooter. She is becoming a better leader on the floor. She led Western Grove in steals and assists last year. She is playing a new position. She is more a 3 or 4.”

Jackson will handle the ball for the team.

“Jordyn is our point guard,” stated Hudson. “She will also be playing the shooting guard shot. She sees the floor well and is the captain on the floor. She does a pretty good job directing traffic. She has been working on her speed.

“Macy will play forward and post,” continued the coach. “She is strong on the drive and she can step out and hit the 3. She is a good all around player.”

Skylar Shatswell will be playing a guard spot for the Lady Bears. According to the coach, “she is a tough defender that doesn’t care about the size of her opponent. She is quick on defense.”

Rounding out the lineup will be Amara Collins.

“She will run the post for us,” stated Hudson. “She is so athletic. She has been working on improving and she has a nice jump shot.”

The team is deep.

McKenzie Holder didn’t play last year but is working hard and has a nice touch from the outside.

Jailyn Jackson is a freshman that is a good defender. She shows a lot of grit and is feisty.

Lilly Buresh and Kylie Wilson have a lot of the same skill sets, stated the coach. “They have good attitudes and work hard. They are improving each day and becoming fundamentally sound.

Maranda Campbell is a quick guard that is a good defender.

### JUNIOR HIGH

The Junior Lady Bears are under the direction of Miranda Gilmore.

Team members include: Abigail Buresh; Kierra Kleintert; Anny Stewart; Hannah Wilson; Mary Nelson; Rose Augustine; Annalynn McCutcheon; Jazmin Roulain; Kelly Middleton; Holly Swafford; Chloe Marshall; Alexis Campbell; Kilee Barton; Jasmine Fletcher; Tara Yocham; Joshanna Middleton; Brooklynn Cunningham; Jenna McAdams; and Amy Roberts.





# VALLEY SPRINGS:

*BOYS cont' from pg 24*

ball handler. He is a good facilitator. He has a scoring mentality. He can be a play maker.

“Griffin Stuart will be our 2,” continued the coach about his guards. “He is crafty with the ball. He will knock down the open shot. He is a good facilitator as well. He looks to find the open guy.”

Adding height to the lineup will be a pair of seniors. Colby Ketchum and Jordan Cape are 6-5 and 6-7 respectively.

“Ketchum is long and has a big body,” said Hanney. “He will be a big presence inside. He can knock down a shot down low. He will be physical and bring a

defensive presence in the paint.

“Cape is a lefty,” continued the coach. “He is a load inside. He is a real bruiser. He is vocal on the floor and he will be another strong inside presences fo us this year.”

There are several other players that Hanney will count on for quality minutes this year.

Hunter Reese is an energy guy that is a good shooter and shifty with the basketball. Tate Honer adds a strong post presences for the team.

Easton Henry comes into the game and gives the team a scoring threat with his gritty play. Jim Reed is a sophomore that will play some. He is a pure shooter and will knock down shots.

Kaden Horn will spell Lippe at the 1 and Dason Hensley will give the team some minutes in the post.

Maddax Johnson, Donnie Acuff, Payton Carnahan, Colin Phifer, Ethan Slechta and Jon Racic will all be battling for court time.

## JUNIOR HIGH

The Junior Tigers are beginning to impress the coach.

“They are really growing on me,” said Hanney. “We are guard heavy. If we are hitting our shots, we have a chance to beat anyone that we play. At any given moment, all five players on the floor can knock down shots. We are not very big, but we are scrappy.”

Team members include: Levi Carey; Parker Spaw; Brody Raver; Keyton Carnahan; Bryer Scott; Ethan Spears; Kaedon Roberts; Logan Avery; Blain Roberson; Nate Helams; Deakon Woehl and Mason Sullivan.

# VALLEY SPRINGS:

*LADIES cont' from pg 25*

play well together. We have a bunch of really good players.”

Those really good players offer scoring threats from every individual on the court.

“We just don’t depend on one player each night,” Johnson said. “We had five girls that led us in scoring on some night during the season last year. Teams can not concentrate on a couple of players. That really helps us in the postseason.”

When asked what was the strength of the team, Johnson replied.

“We are really hard to guard. “They can all handle the ball. All of them can shoot the 3. They space the floor well and run in transition. We want to make teams adjust to us.”

There is a glaring problem for the Lady Tigers when looking at the squad.

“We don’t have enough size this year,” said the coach. “We aren’t going to be the biggest team.”

To cover the weakness, Johnson has a plan.

“We are going to space out the floor and draw the bigs out,” he said. “If they don’t come out, we will be shooting the ball. We do want to run in transition.”

This season the Lady Tigers will mix up the defenses. Johnson said that the defense would be a situational decision. The team leans toward a man defense and during the state tournament finals run it was the primary defense.

On the offensive side of the basketball, the Lady Tigers will be using some things that work to their

advantage.

“We are going to space it out and run a five out,” said Johnson. “We will have lots of movement. We don’t want to clog it in the middle. We want to play really fast paced.”

With five returning starters, it will be hard for anyone to crack the lineup. The quintet of players offer something different to the team.

Bethany Richardson is the biggest Lady Tiger on the floor despite not playing the post position.

“She is solid every night,” said Johnson. “She does so many things. She grew another inch and at 5-foot-11 she does a lot of things. She has the size of a post player, but the skills of a point guard. She can finish at the rim. She passes it well and sees the floor well. She does it all for us.”

Maura Moore was the most outstanding player in the Class 3A State Basketball Tournament last season.

“She started to figuring it out at point guard,” said the coach. “She is a great point guard that hit more than 80 percent from the free throw line. Those were usually high pressure ones. She is a good leader for us and is very solid.”

Haylie Fry led the team in rebounds last season.

“She got 25 percent of all of our rebounds last year,” commented the coach. “She does the dirty work. She takes charges. She works her tail off. She has really been working on her shot and it has paid off.”

Whitney Coffelt brings another aspect to the game.

“She is a sharp shooter,” said the coach. “She was just under 40 percent from 3 last season. She shot some shots in the Valley (Springs) gym, but she

was standing in Western Grove. She has to draw attention. She is a really good defender.”

The defensive assignment went to Cayley Patrick.

“She had the assignment of guarding the other team’s best player,” stated Johnson. “She would frustrate them. Offensively, she is a steady shooter that is good in transition and finishing at the rim. She will be even better this year.”

There are several Lady Tigers that will help Valley Springs this year. Halle Miller will be back off the bench.

“She was huge for us last year,” said Johnson. “She hit some big shots. She is always steady and can pick up the slack.”

Johnson pointed to Aidan Gorton as seeing minutes. “She has been working really well in practice fur us and she can shoot it,” stated the coach.

Johnson went on to point to Karyce Flud, Kamey Horn, Emma Graddy, Chloe Avery, Tarra Lovell; Brinkly Matlock and Tia Morris as all being able to enter the court and provide depth for the team.

## JUNIOR HIGH

The Valley Springs Junior Lady Tigers have a chance to match the success of the senior high team.

“They have a chance to be pretty good,” said Johnson. “They have been working hard. They are a really good group. The team is pretty ninth-grade heavy.”

Team members include: Macy Davis; Tayla Trammell; Katey Henson; Macy Willis; Landrey King; Katie Wilburn; Abbi Nelle; Taylor Bundy; Eliza Drewry; Camie Moore; Katelynn Bogle; Kamry Evans; Savannah Ketchum; Peyton Smith; Lillian Fairchild; and Abbi Sessions.





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