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Hermitage Hornets Cheer



Hermitage 2023-2024 Basketball Cheer Squad- The Hermitage R-IV 2023-2024 Basketball season is in full swing with both teams having played at least two games. On the sidelines cheering them on is this year's Hermitage Cheer Squad coached by Tracy Lampe. Pictured front row, from the left: Kyliya Hannah (freshman), Isabelle Boyer (sophomore), Samantha Swint (sophomore), Savannah Rexrode (freshman), Hailey Weathers (junior); back row, Elijah Ward (sophomore), Lily Carr (sophomore), Makayla Mumm (junior), Amparo Payne (senior), Rebekah Irby (senior), and Stormie Saby (senior). Not pictured are Richella Harrell (freshman) and Taylor Sandow (freshman), who were on a FBLA trip the day photos were taken, and Emily Gonzalez (sophomore) and Serenity Miller (sophomore) who were ill the day of photos.

Hornets Cheer Squad looks to improve stunting

The Hermitage High School Cheerleaders have helped to kick off the 2023-2024 basketball season by cheering the Hornets and Lady Hornets' most recent ball games against Miami (Amoret) and Greenridge. They are being coached by Tracy Lampe.

Lampe reported that they have 10 returning cheerleaders, including two seniors: Amparo Payne and Rebekah Irby, as well as their mascot "Beezer" who is played by sophomore Elijah Ward.

In addition to these familiar faces, the squad has also welcomed four new members who have moved up from the middle school squad this year, and one new member. This includes Kyliya Hannah, Savannah Rexrode, Richella Harrell, and Taylor Sandow. Other squad members include Sophomores Emily Gonzalez, Serenity Miller, Isabelle Boyer, Samantha Swint, and Lily Carr, and juniors Hailey Weathers and Makayla Mumm.

"We are very excited to have a large team this year, and we're excited about perfecting our stunting as well," said Lampe. "Part of the squad was able to attend a one day camp over the summer, which gave us good guidance on how to add to our stunts and make them better. Our squad wants to be known for being classy, clean, and loud. I am so excited that our school has such an interest in our cheer program."



Rebekah Irby- SR.



Amparo Payne- JR.



Stormie Saby- SR.



Makayla Mumm- JR.



Hailey Weathers- JR.



Isabelle Boyer- SOPH.



Lily Carr- SOPH.



Samantha Swint- SOPH.



Elijah Ward- SOPH.



Kyliya Hannah- FM.




Richella Harrell- FM.



Savannah Rexrode- FM.



Taylor Sandow- FM.

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Hermitage Hornets Basketball



Hermitage Hornets Boys' Basketball- The Hermitage Hornets 2023-2024 Boys' Basketball team kicked off their season Friday, Nov. 17, with an away game where they played Miami (Amoret). They are competing in Class I District VII this year, and the Polk County League. Coaching the Hornets this year are Head Coach Matt Moulder and Assistant Coach Zac Sutt. Pictured above, front row, from the left: Logan Whittle (junior), Kraig Ballerstein (freshman), Justin Weather (freshman), Ashton Sawyer (freshman), Holten Madden (freshman), Joel Earwood (freshman), (back) Devin Lancaster (sophomore), Bennett Mantooth (senior), Gabriel Mantooth (senior), Justus Yates (senior), Jaxon Wheeler (junior), and Cash Turner (junior).



Bennett Mantooth- SR.



Gabriel Mantejo- SR.



Justus Yates- SR.



Cash Turner- JR.



Jaxon Wheeler- JR.



Devin Lancaster- SOPH.



Kraig Ballerstein- FM.



Joel Earwood- FM.



Holten Madden- FM.



Ashton Sawyer- FM.

Hornets look to improve upon last year

The Hermitage Hornets High School Basketball team has kicked off their 2023-2024 basketball season. So far they have faced off against Miami (Amoret) and Green Ridge. Coaching the Hornets this season is Matt Moulder. Moulder is in his third year as a coach at Hermitage, 30th year overall in education. He has a coaching record of 443-334. Assisting Moulder is Zac Sutt, who is in his second year as a coach. They will be competing as part of Class I District VII, and in the Polk County League.

Hermitage had a fair season last year, ending with an 18-11 overall record. They had a 5-3 record in the Polk County League. Their season came to an end when they lost in the district finals to St. Elizabeth,

who went on to place second in state. They lost two starters to graduation last year- Justin Horn and Kavon Wright.

“Every year is different, but the constant in our program is that we want to continue to get a little better every day, and focus our energies on what we can control: our effort and our attitude,” Coach Moulder said. “There will be highs and lows, as there are every year, but we want our kids to have fun, be great teammates, and love the process of competing to win every day. If we can string together a bunch of these daily wins, in the end we will have a successful basketball season.”

This year the Hornets are returning three starters, including seniors Justus Yates and Bennett Mantooth, and

junior Cash Turner. Yates is a four year starter who averaged 13 points per game, and 3.7 rebounds per season last year. He led the team in three pointers and free throw percentages. He will be playing as a guard.

Mantooth is also a four year starter for the Hornets. He will be playing as a guard/forward and his coach calls him a “versatile inside and outside performer.” Turner is a three year starter who will be playing as a guard. He averaged 13.1 points per game and 5.6 rebound per game last season. He was also the team leader in assists.

“As three time defending state champions in cross country, and also champions last spring in track, our biggest strength is obviously

team speed,” Coach Moulder stated. “We want to use our speed to play fast and aggressively, and are hoping to be able to use our depth to press a bit more this year and really get after people. In many ways our biggest strength can also be a challenge for us. I always joke that we have a state champion cross country team playing basketball. This can certainly be an asset with team speed and endurance. However, playing teams that are big, strong, and physical can sometimes be a challenge for us. We have to continue working hard to gain strength, along with the physical and mental toughness necessary to compete consistently at a high level.”

Also returning to the floor this year are lettermen senior

Gabriel Montejo and junior Jaxon Wheeler. Montejo is a forward who brings length and a defensive presence, with an expanding offensive game according to his coach. Wheeler will be serving as a guard and was described as a versatile performer who will be counted on in a larger role this season.

When asked about his top newcomers, Moulder pointed towards junior Logan Whittle, and freshmen Ashton Sawyer and Justin Weather. Whittle is a transfer to the team who they expect to have a big impact on the team, and will be playing as a guard. Sawyer will be serving as a guard as well and will be counted on to contribute significantly as a freshman. Weather is described as a high energy play-

er who is expected to play a role on the board and with his hustle.

Other players include sophomore Devin Lancaster, and freshman Joel Earwood, Holten Madden, and Kraig Ballerstein.

“Although we are very proud of our kids for their success they have had in cross country and track, we want to be much more than that,” Moulder explained. “We strive to be a tough, hard-nosed group who plays with togetherness, selflessness, and class. We want to do things the right way for the right reasons, and understand that we do that, the wins will take care of themselves.”



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Hermitage Lady Hornets Basketball

Lady Hornets welcome new coach Harley Maxwell

The Hermitage Lady Hornets High School Basketball team kicked off their 2023-2024 season by competing against Miami (Amoret) Friday, Nov. 17, Lincoln on Monday, Nov. 20, and Green Ridge on Tuesday, Nov. 21. They will be competing as part of Class I District V, and in the Polk County League. Coaching them this year is Harley Maxwell, who is in her first year coaching for Hermitage.

Returning to play for the Lady Hornets is their sole senior, Izzy Sabala. Sabala is described by her coach as a “great all around player, who defends well, is a great outside shooter, and can also compete inside if needed.” Her coach also remarked that Sabala is a great leader both on and off the court and, “I am excited to see what she can accomplish this season for us in her senior season.”

Junior Kenzie Antle is also a familiar face on the team and is a hustle player that is known to defend well. According to Maxwell, Kenzie is a great shooter/attacker for her team and will be “detritmental” part of their offensive and defensive game.

Junior Chloe Friedman is also a returning player to the varsity team. This young athlete is known for being a great defender and is her team’s clutch shooter. “She does the little things that you need to have on the varsity court,” Maxwell explained.

Sophomore Chloe Clemmer will be returning for the Lady Hornets’ post game. She is described by her coach as “super coachable,” and Maxwell reports she has improved tremendously over the summer. “I’m excited to see her both compete on the inside and work to get points,

boards, and shorter open for us.”

Sophomore Gracelynn Antle is Kenzie’s younger sister, but has made her own undeniable mark on the team by being a fierce attacker and great ball handler for the Lady Hornets on the offensive side. She will also play a huge part in putting the pressure on for their defense.

“We have a lot of aggressive defenders and are a fast team,” Maxwell explained. “I think the girls can be scrappy on defense and we can push the ball on offense. We need to be more confident on our shots taken from the outside, and be more aggressive on the boards.”

Hermitage is gaining some much need depth to their bench this year with several newcomers joining their ranks. Among these newcomers are sophomore Calie

Heiser, and freshmen Megan Crawford, Kyla Hannah, and Allison Simmons.

Crawford played a major role on her middle school team last year and is noted as a great ball handle who will be a great addition to the high school varsity team this year. She will serve as their shooting guard.

“I believe these girls have the potential to compete with every team we play this season. I’ve got a lot of confidence in the girls, and I want to win, and they want it too, they can do it,” Maxwell said. “As long as we just focus on establishing culture and working to get better everyday, I will consider it a successful season. We have some great girls. I am looking forward to these girls being the start of building a great program at Hermitage.”



Izzy Sabala- SR.



Mackenzie Antle- JR.



Chloe Friedman- JR.



Gracelynn Antle- SOPH.



Chloe Clemmer- SOPH.



Calie Heiser- SOPH.



Megan Crawford- FM.



Kyla Hannah- FM.



Allison Simmons- FM.



Lady Hornets 2023-2024 High School Basketball team- The Hermitage Lady Hornets 2023-2024 basketball team have kicked off their season and are three games deep having played against Miami (Amoret), Lincoln, and Greenwood. Their coach this year is Harley Maxwell, who is in her first year coaching at Hermitage. Pictured front row, from the left: Kyla Hannah (freshman), Allison Simmons (freshman), Megan Crawford (freshman), and Chloe Friedman (junior); back row, Chloe Clemmer (sophomore), Calie Heiser (sophomore), Gracelynn Antle (sophomore), Mackenzie Antle (junior), and Izzy Sabala (senior).



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Skyline Tigers Basketball



Skyline High School Boys' Basketball- The Skyline High School Boys' Basketball team will kick off their 2023-2024 season by participating in the Warsaw Basketball tournament Monday, Nov. 27. They are coached by Tommy Egan and Steve Sanders. Pictured front row from the left: Logan Moppin (freshman), Noah Long (freshman), Carter King (freshman), Aiden Meade (sophomore), AJ Dampier (senior), Camden West (junior), Tyler Henry (junior), and Jayden Moppin (junior); back row, Parker Owen (freshman), Landen Hodges (freshman), Conner Millbern (junior), Isaiah Pippins (junior), Carter Millbern (junior), Paxton Foster (sophomore), Ethan Brewer (freshman), and Blake Millbern (freshman). Photo provided by Kelli Cheek.



AJ Dampier- SR.



Tyler Henry- JR.



Carter Millbern- JR.



Conner Millbern- JR.



Jayden Moppin- JR.



Isaiah Pippins- JR.



Camden West- JR.



Paxton Foster- SOPH.



Aiden Meade- SOPH.



Ethan Brewer- FM.



Landen Hodges- FM.



Carter King- FM.



Noah Long- FM.



Blake Millbern- FM.



Logan Moppin- FM.



Parker Owen- FM.

Skyline Tigers set sights on having a comeback year

Hickory County R-I Skyline High School Boys' Basketball will kick off their season Monday, Nov. 27, by participating in the Warsaw Basketball tournament. Coaching them is Head Coach Tommy Egan and Assistant Coach Sean Kelley. Egan has 19 years coaching experience, seven of which have been at Skyline School. He has a career record of 287 wins to 231 losses, and a record at the school of 113 win to 57 loss.

The 2022-2023 season was a rough showing for the Tigers, ending the season with an overall record of four wins to 24 losses, and a conference record of 0-4, finishing fifth in conference. They had a 1-1 district record, having beat Windsor 67-63 in the first round, then lost to Cole Camp 64-41 in the semi finals. They lost two starters/letterman to graduation, forward Weston Owen and forward Ricky Woodhouse. Owen received honorable mention in both All-Conference and All-District in the post season.

With that being said they are gearing up to make a comeback this season, returning several players with varsity experience. This includes three starters, and six lettermen: senior AJ Dampier; juniors Tyler Henry, Jayden Moppin, and Camden West; and sophomore Aiden Meade and Paxton Foster. Also returning to the courts are twin brothers Carter and a Conner Millbern.

As the lone senior, Dampier comes in at 5'10", 160 pounds. He participated in 28 games last season, averaging 6.5 points, 1.9 rebounds, 2.4 assists, and .7 steals per game.

"AJ is a tremendous leader. He has taken on the role as the guy that will guard the other team's best player, and can help provide scoring and playmaking ability," Egan described.

Henry comes in at 6'0" tall, 180 pounds, and participated in 28 games last season as well. He averaged 1.88 points per game, four rebounds, 1.6 assists, and .5 steals.

"Tyler missed out an all important JV season as a freshman with an injury, and was thrown right into the varsity fire and started as a sophomore," explained Egan. "He is a smart, hard nosed competitor, and we really feel he is going to make huge strides in his play this season."

Moppin stands as one of the tallest players on the Tiger team at 6'1", and weighs 195 pounds. He participated in 25 games last season, and averaged 2.2 points, 2.7 rebounds, .9 assists, and .3 steals per game.

"Jayden provides toughness to this team. He has the ability to be one of our better post defenders and is one of the best rebounders on our team," Coach Egan said.

West tops the chart at 6'0", weighing in at 150 pounds. He played in 26 games last season, averaging 2.2 points, .9 rebounds, .8 assists, and .3 steals per game.

"Camden showed he could provide us with some scoring last season," Egan noted. "With improved defense and ball handling he should be in the mix for more varsity minutes this year."

Meade stands 5'7" tall, and weighs 135 pounds. He was a starter last year as a freshman, playing in 28 games. He averaged 13.9 points, 1.6 rebounds, 1.5 assists, and 1.7 steals per game.

"We put a ton on Aiden's shoulders last season as a freshman, and will be expecting even more out of him this year. He led us in scoring, provided ball handling, and was one of our best defenders," Egan praised. "We will be

looking for more of this season. Aiden was an honorable mention all conference selection, and made the all-district team."

Foster stands at an even 6'0", and weighs in at 210 pounds. He played in 24 games last season, averaging .9 points, 1.5 rebounds, .2 assists, and .3 steals per game.

"Paxton was able to get some varsity minutes as a freshman last year. He had a really good summer, and we are excited to see that transfer over in his second year," Egan stated.

Carter Millbern stands 6'3" and weighs in at 170 pounds. Conner Millbern is 6'2" and weighs 145 pounds. "They are tremendous individuals," Coach Egan explained. "They are team first guys and very coachable. Carter is our best rim protector and will provide depth at the post position. Conner is a good shooter that has really improved in the other aspects of the game. He will provide depth at the guard position."

Along with these returning faces, the team also has seven newcomers, each of whom appear to be promising young talents that will only aid in Skyline's efforts to have a successful season. Among the newcomers is junior Isaiah Pippins, who stands 6'1", and weighs 265 pounds. Joining him are freshmen Park Owen, Carter King, Landen Hodges, Ethan Brewer, Logan Moppin, and Noah Long. All six of the of these freshmen played for their junior high basketball team last year.

Owen stands 5'10" and weighs in at 160 pounds. His coach describes him as an "absolute gym rat."

"He is constantly working on his game, and has earned the respect from his teammates. He is extremely self motivated, and it will be fun to see the type of career he ends up having," Egan said.

King is also 5'10", and weighs in at 155 pounds. Described as "a true point guard that looks to fill a much needed void" King is a very talented young athlete who served as the Tigers main quarterback during the 2023 football season. On the court he is beginning to understand the constant effort that is required to play at the varsity level, and has a chance to have a solid high school career.

Logan Moppin stands 5'7", weighing 165 pounds. Noah Long stand 5'11" and weighs 140 pounds. They were described by their coach as being highly competitive individuals who will provide depth at the guard position. Brewer stands in at 5'11" and also weighs in at 140 pounds.

"We return some experience and have a lot of young talent," noted senior AJ Dampier. "We are excited to get to work this season."

"We will be pretty young," added Coach Egan. "But at the same time, we have more returning varsity experience than we had last year. We had far too many ball turnovers last season and did not force many turnovers on the defensive end. This will have to improve if we want to take a step forward. We will not be very big so team rebounding will be extremely important. To a man, I think every single person in our program was disappointed in how last season turned out, and wants to get back to a high standard. So far this group has really shown a willingness to put in the work it takes to get back to the program we want to be. We have a long road ahead of us, but this a hardworking, motivated, and enjoyable group to be around and we are all ready for the season to get started."



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Skyline Tigers JH Basketball



Skyline Junior High Boys' Basketball- The Skyline Junior High Boys' Basketball season will kick off Friday, Dec. 8, with an away game against Osage. The team is coached by Christopher Logan. Pictured front row, from the left: Ramsey Wood (7th grade), Wyatt Hahs (7th grade), Cole Poynter (7th grade), Rayce Mitchell (7th grade), Owen Wilson (8th grade), Maddox Redding (7th grade), Isaac Acker (7th grade), Zach Meade (7th grade), Jackson Settle (7th grade), Austin Morales (8th grade), and Bryar Evans (7th grade); back row, Dylan Benedict (7th grade), Byron Smith (8th grade), Ryder Williams (7th grade), Owen Brewer (8th grade), Chace Acker (7th grade), Kenton Owen (8th grade), TaeVon Harris (8th grade), Trey Reed (8th grade), Mason Bibeau (8th grade), Zephyr Chitwood (7th grade). Photo provided by Kim Logan.

Skyline Tigers JH Cheer



Skyline Junior High Cheerleaders- The Skyline Junior High Cheerleaders have spent the last month cheering on their Skyline Junior High Lady Tigers Basketball team, and will continue to do the same for the junior high boys' basketball team beginning Dec. 8. They are coached by Kathy Jo Davis. Pictured front row, from the left Jaylen Helmig (7th grade), Aleigha Adams (7th grade); back row, Marissa Butts (8th grade), Emma Wagner (8th grade), Arieana Slentz (7th grade), and Makayla Grimes (8th grade). Photo provided by Kim Logan.

Skyline Tigers JH Lady Basketball



Skyline Junior High Girls' Basketball- The Skyline Junior High Girls' Basketball team began their 2023 season Oct. 17, with a home game against Marion C. Early, and will end their season Tuesday Nov. 28, with a home game against Fair Grove. They are coached by Kevin Cheek. Pictured front row, from the left: Adena Acker (8th grade), Aleah Acker (6th grade), Abbi Leslie (7th grade), Piper James (8th grade), Cara King (8th grade), Sage Redd (8th grade), Daylee Phillips (7th grade), Callie Pratt (7th grade), and Kinzley Morehead (6th grade); back row, Katylena Wheeler (8th grade), Payton Meade (8th grade), Breanna Johnson (8th grade), Josie Danforth (8th grade), MaKaylyn Sanders (7th grade), Brystall Williams (6th grade), Jaylee Gruber (8th grade), Roma Phillips (7th grade), and Brilee Hunt (7th grade). Photo provided by Kim Logan.

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Wheatland Mules Basketball

Wheatland Mules welcome back several experienced players as they kick off the 2023-2024 basketball season

Wheatland R-II Boys' Basketball kicked off their season Monday, Nov. 20, with their first away game against Climax Springs. They also hosted a jamboree Tuesday, Nov. 14, where they played against Climax Springs, Osceola, and Humansville.

They are being coached by head coach Brian Pearson, and assistant coach Jacob Morlan. Pearson has 13 years coaching experience, four of which have been at Wheatland. They will be playing in the Polk County League.

The Mules are returning four of their starters from last season, which ended with 16-13 season record, a 3-5 conference record, and 2-1 district record. In the first round of district, Wheatland beat Halfway 59-43, beat Humansville in the semifinals 29-27, but lost in the championship game in overtime 50-47.

They said goodbye to one starter from last season, losing Davin Sawyer to graduation. Sawyer was a four year starter for the Wheatland boys playing guard, averaging 13.7 points and 4.2 rebounds per game. At the end of last season he earned All-District First Team and All-Conference, Polk County League First Team. He was a letterman as well and is currently attending College of the Ozarks on a baseball scholarship.

"His leadership and athletic abilities will be missed," said Coach Pearson.

Also lost to graduation was letterman Michael Piper, who played as a forward for the Mules. He is currently attending Ozarks Technical College, with reported plans to be-

come a firefighter/EMT.

"Michael provided a positive attitude on and off the court," Coach Pearson explained. "Last year's season class provided a great example of leadership and helped raise the level of expectations for our program. They will be missed."

Returning starters and lettermen included senior Dan Murphy; juniors Tucker Shaddox, Andrew Murphy, Braden Sawyer; and sophomores Nathan Sawyer and Daniel Jones.

Senior Dan Murphy is returning having earned Polk County League Honorable Mention last season and will be acting as a team leader this year. He measures in at 6'0" and 180 pounds. He played in 29 games, averaging 5.1 points, 4.4 rebounds, one assists, and .9 steals per game.

"Dan is a gritty kid and has been our best defender the past two seasons," Pearson explained.

Junior Andrew Murphy returns having earned First Team All District Team and Second Team All Conference from last season. He measures in at 6'2", 185 pounds. He played in 29 games last season, averaging 8.5 points, 6.9 assists, and .9 steals per game.

"Andrew has improved his overall game tremendously," Pearson explained. "He looks to have a breakout season as a junior."

Junior Tucker Shaddox measured in at 6'0" and 180 pounds. He played in 29 games last year, averaging five points, 2.8 rebounds, 1.7 assists, and 1.1 steals per game.

"Tucker has gained confi-



Wheatland Mules Basketball- The Wheatland R-II High School Boys' Basketball team kicked off their 2023-2024 season under the direction of head coach Brian Pearson and assistant coach Jacob Morlan. Pictured front row, from the left, are: Robert Iniguez (sophomore), Damien Johnson (sophomore), Leland Johnson (senior), Nathan Sawyer (sophomore), Lukas Gautieri (freshman), and Tucker Shaddox (junior); Back row, Braden Sawyer (junior), Dan Murphy (senior), Tristan Clark (freshman), Mathew Dalton (junior), Daniel Jones (sophomore), and Andrew Murphy (junior).

dence with his outside shot and will be asked to contribute more on both ends of the court," Pearson stated.

Junior Braden Sawyer measures in at 6'1" and 150 pounds. He played in 29 games last season, averaging 3.8 points, 2.3 rebounds, 1.1 assists, and one steal per game.

"Braden may have taken the biggest leap forward over the summer," Pearson said.

Sophomore Nathan Sawyer measures in 5'11" and 155 pounds. He played in 29 games last season, averaging 5.6 points, 2.6 rebounds, 1.6 assists, and .6 steals per game.

"After a season as our starting point guard and playing valuable minutes in big games as a freshman, Nathan

comes in with high expectations for a solid sophomore season," Pearson noted.

Junior Daniel Jones measures 6'2" and 190 pounds. He played in 23 games last season, averaging 1.7 points, 2.2 rebounds, .6 assists, and .4 steals per game.

"Daniel earned more varsity minutes as the season progressed. He is not battling an injury at the beginning of this year and should be a valuable asset," Pearson said.

"Most of us have been playing together since we were little," Dan Murphy explained. "If we put in the work we will have a great season."

Adding to this statement Senior Leland Johnson stated, "We're a hard working team that is hungry to prove

itself."

Joining the Mules team this year are four newcomers: junior Mathew Goodloe, sophomore Robert Iniguez, and freshmen Damien Johnson and Lukas Gautieri. Goodloe measures in at 5'11" and weighing in at 160 pounds. Johnson comes in at 6'0" and weighing 155 pounds. Iniguez measures in at 5'11" and 145 pounds. Gautieri measures 5'11".

"Mathew had a nice sophomore campaign on the junior varsity side and should begin to see more varsity minutes," Pearson explained. "Damien has constantly been in the gym and weight room, and the results are beginning to pay off. He should split time with junior varsity and varsity. Robert is continuing

to improve. Lukas has had a solid summer and is an above average shooter for a freshman. He should split time between junior varsity and varsity."

"We've had a solid off-season and made improvements both offensively and defensively," Pearson continued. "Our younger guys are now juniors and sophomores, and have had the experience of playing in big games. We've got a good mix of upperclassmen and younger players and must be willing to buy-into defensive mindset and share the basketball offensively."



Leland Johnson- SR.



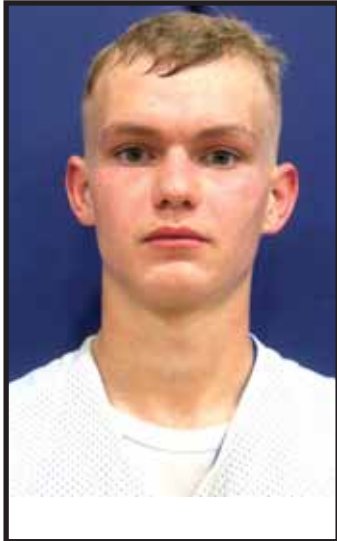
Dan Murphy- SR.



Mathew Dalton- JR.



Andrew Murphy- JR.



Braden Sawyer- JR.



Tucker Shaddox- JR.



Robert Iniguez- SOPH.



Damien Johnson- SOPH.



Daniel Jones- SOPH.



Nathan Sawyer- SOPH.



Tristan Clark- FM.



Lukas Gautieri- FM.



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Wheatland Lady Mules Basketball

Lady Mules Basketball finds strength in their experience

The Wheatland R-II Lady Mules kicked off their 2023-2024 basketball season Monday, Nov. 20, by battling the Climax Springs Lady Cougar. They are being coached by Head Coach Jeremiah Bryan and assistant coach Alicia Morlan. They also attended a jamboree in Nevada Tuesday, Nov. 14, where they played Nevada and Seneca.

Returning to the court this year are seniors Chloe Pearson, Taylor Gant, and Jaz'Myn Baldwin; junior Kiarah Blation; sophomores Jayce Dampier, Charley Crouch, Alyssa Roberts, and Macy Pearson; freshmen Kate Murphy, Shelby Shaddox, Jayla Wilkerson, and Elisa Johnson.

Chloe Pearson measures in at 5'6", and averaged 18.1 points per game, 4.6 rebounds, 3.8 assists, and 2.5 steals. Bryan noted that Chloe is coming off a hugely successful junior year and that he is excited to see what her senior year brings.

Baldwin measures 5'8" tall, and averaged six points per game last season. She also averaged 5.5 rebounds, 0.4 assists, and 1.1 steals per game. Bryan noted that she has developed a good post game, and is going to be looked upon to get a bunch of rebounds this year.

Gant is 5'8" tall, and averaged 3.5 points per game last season. She also averaged 2.1 rebounds, .3 assists, and .4 steals. Bryan noted that Gant has led the team in three point field goals percentages last year, and will be looked upon to hit big shots for her team, along with getting some time in the paint.

Blation is a 5'9" junior who is returning to the court after averaging 9.1 points per game last season, 9.6 rebounds, .6 assists, and one steal per

game. Bryan stated, "She had a great sophomore year and has turned into one of the best rebounders in the area. We look for her to have a monster junior year."

Dampier stands 5'5" tall, and averaged 4.7 points per game last year. She also averaged 2.1 rebounds, 2.1 assists, and 1.5 steals per game. As a freshman last year she was a strong leader for her team and one of their smartest defenders and a decent threat behind the arch. Her team is relying on her to have a big sophomore year as well.

Crouch also stands 5'5" tall, and had a 3.9 point average per game last season. She also averaged 3.5 rebounds, 1.6 assists, and one steal per game. "She had a big freshman year and has really turned into an all around scoring threat," Coach Bryan stated.

Roberts stands 5'5" tall as well, and averaged five points scored per game last season. She also averaged 4.8 rebounds, 2.6 assists, and 2.2 steals. Her coach referred to her as one of the team's best defenders last year who also hit some big shots for her team.

"Our biggest strength this year will be our experience. We will be returning our top eight players from last year's team," Coach Bryan explained. "I feel like last year's squad played some of the best defense in the Conference. However, we struggled to score on a consistent basis. Our main focus this year is going to be on being more consistent at scoring, and running offense more efficiently. I hope we have the reputation as being a team that you don't want to play at the end of the season. Our goal this year is winning districts."



Lady Mules Basketball- The Wheatland R-II Lady Mules Basketball team has officially kicked off their 2023-2024 season under the direction of head coach Jeremiah Bryan and assistant coach Alicia Morlan. Pictured front row, from the left, are: Jaz'Myn Baldwin (senior), Chloe Pearson (senior), Taylor Gant (senior), and Kiarah Blation (junior); back row, Alyssa Roberts (sophomore), Jaycee Dampier (sophomore), Kate Murphy (freshman), Macy Pearson (sophomore), Charley Crouch (sophomore), Shelby Shaddox (freshman), and Jayla Wilkerson (freshman). Not pictured is Elisa Johnson (freshman).



Jaz'Myn Baldwin- SR.



Taylor Gant- SR.



Chloe Pearson- SR.



Kiarah Blation- JR.



Kate Murphy- FM.



Shelby Shaddox- FM.



Charley Crouch- SOPH.



Jaycee Dampier- SOPH.



Macy Pearson- SOPH.



Alyssa Roberts- SOPH.



Jayla Wilkerson- FM.

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Weaubleau Tigers Basketball

Weaubleau Tigers to rely on their speed and accuracy for a successful season

The Weaubleau Tigers High School 2023-2024 basketball season will begin Monday, Nov. 27, when the Tigers will travel to Warsaw to face off against the Wildcats. They also attended a jamboree at Willard High School Thursday, Nov. 16, where they played against Willard, Parkview, and Branson.

Last season the Tigers played with out a single senior on the team. This year they return with nine seniors on their team, three juniors, four sophomores, and no freshmen. Coaching them is Head Coach Blake Allen, who has 10 year coaching experience, eight years as an assistant and two years as a head coach. Weaubleau was his first head coaching job, and he is entering his third year.

"Last season we started out rather slow to a 3-5 record heading into Christmas. Once we all started to buy in and establish roles, we were able to win 21 of our last 23 games making it to the quarterfinals

before falling to Plattsburg 24-7," Coach Allen explained. "Our goal every year is to play for championships and to be playing our best basketball come February, and we were able to not only achieve that but to make a run in the state playoffs. We bring every player back this upcoming season and being able to make a run and get that experience will help all these guys that get to return to try and make another run."

Among the list of returning players are the five starters from last season: Senior Gage Johnson, Blane Durnell, and Dawson Stewart; and juniors Clayton Ginnings and Gunner Freeman.

Johnson measures in at 5'10" and will be playing as a guard. He averaged 19.2 points per game, 5.1 rebounds, 3.2 assists, and 1.7 steals per game last season. He made 118 threes last year. Averaging almost four threes a game at 45.4 percent he presents a decent a decent

threat from behind the arch. He is a four year starter.

"He brings back a three level scoring threat and aggressive on ball ball defense," Allen explained.

Durnell is a 5'11" forward who averaged 15.1 points per game, 7.2 rebounds, 3.7 assists, and 1.6 steals last season. Durnell has led our program in rebounds his freshman, sophomore, and now junior year. He brings a very physical presence for the Tigers, and is returning as the second leading scorer for a second year in a row. He is also a four year starter for the Tigers.

"He takes a lot of pride in wearing Weaubleau across his chest, which shows on and off the court," Allen explained.

"Gage and Blane have the most experience, but the others aren't far behind," Allen explained. "With that being said, when things aren't going well, I expect them to hold not only themselves, but everyone around them accountable. If we can have a player led team

this year, then we can really take the next step."

Stewart is a 5'10" guard. He averaged 10.1 points per game, 3.9 rebounds, 3.7 assists, and 2.2 steals last season. He is a two way player that shot 44 percent from three last year.

"Stewart is our most athletic player at 5'10" with a 33 inch vertical," Allen explained. "He gets some of our hardest assignments night in and night out and is always ready for the challenge."

Ginnings is a 6'1" guard and last season he averaged 5.6 points per game, 6.2 rebounds, 2.7 assist points, and .5 steals. He was the second leading rebounder last year, running the point guard position for the team a lot last year and can guard all five positions.

"He does a lot of the things for our team that doesn't always show up in the stat sheet. He also led the team in blocks last season," Allen said. Freeman is a 6'2" guard. He

averaged 9.8 points per game, 2.1 rebounds, 1.4 assists, and 1.2 steals. Freeman was counted on to be a three point threat for the Tigers last year.

"He has really started to grow into his body and is becoming more comfortable attacking offensively at all three levels," Allen stated. "He has grown another four inches since the start of last season, and will be asked to do a lot more for us during his junior campaign."

"The one challenge we must overcome is trying to match the past. Just because of last year's success, doesn't mean we just get to show up and have the same success this season," Allen explained. "We have all the tools to have a great season this year. As long as we continue to stay bough into 'the team is bigger than myself' and have each other's back, then we can have a lot of success. Improving our rebounding as a whole will also be very important to our teams success."

The Tigers plan for this season is to focus on their speed. They have fast kids and want not only to get great shots every possession, but want to get them quickly and then "get up in your face defensively." However, their biggest strength has been their shooting capabilities. They shot 39.8 percent from the three point line last year as a team.

"These guys can really score while also buying in to getting the job done defensively in the half court," Allen said. "Our biggest X-factor with this team though is the relationship. These guys do a lot together off the court as well. We need to continue that sense of wanting the guy next to me to succeed and embracing the hard days together knowing that the results at the end will be worth it."



Zach Brown- SR.



Landen Chaney- SR.



Blane Durnell- SR.



Owen Hicks- SR.



Mathias Hillebrand- SR.



Gage Johnson- SR.



Keith Marquis- SR.



Dawson Stewart- SR.



Jovan Tomasevic- SR.



Trapper Tucker- SR.



Gunner Freeman- JR.



Clayton Ginnings- JR.



Lee Lambeth- JR.



Bryce Caufield- SOPH.



Brady Medina- SOPH.



Haritz Nunez- SOPH.



Weaubleau Tigers Basketball- The Weaubleau Tigers 2023-2024 High School Boys' Basketball season will kick off their season Monday, Nov. 27, by competing in the Warsaw Basketball Tournament. They are being coached by Blake Allen. Pictured front row, from the left, are Haritz Nunez (sophomore), Bryce Caufield (sophomore), Owen Hicks (senior), Brady Median (sophomore), and Peyton Hostettler (eighth grader team manager); middle row, Mathias Hillebrand (senior), Lee Lambeth (junior), Keith Marquis (senior), Landen Chaney (senior), Trapper Tucker (senior), and Jovan Tomasevic (senior); back row, Clayton Ginnings (junior), Zach Brown (senior), Gage Johnson (senior), Blane Durnell (senior), Gunner Freeman (junior), and Dawson Stewart (senior).

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Weaubleau Lady Tigers Basketball

Weaubleau Lady Tigers kick off basketball season with a good mix of new and returning players

Weaubleau Lady Tigers Basketball 2023-2024 season will kick off Monday, Nov. 27, when they compete in the Warsaw Tournament. Heading up the team is head coach Sue Ann Ginnings. They hosted their jamboree Wednesday, Nov. 14, playing Humansville, Warsaw, and Climax Springs.

The Lady Tigers will be returning several players this year including seniors Sutton Mitchell, Jaylee Daggett, and Tayler Ashlock. Mitchell plays as a guard and was her team's leading scorer and ball handler last year. She is expected to help set the tempo for her team this year. Daggett plays forward and is one of the most athletic kids on her team. Ginnings stated Dag-

gett "does a great job handling the ball and knows how to get to the rim." Ashlock is also a guard for her team and is described as "a scrappy player that has a nose of the ball." Ginnings says that Ashlock bring out the team's energy and was the lead in assists last year.

Also returning to the court is senior Nicole Carney, a post player that is just in her second year of playing but has come a long way. She is expected to have a big impact defending the post and rebounding this year. The lone junior on the team, Julianna Hensley, will also be returning to play for the Lady Tigers. A second year player Hensley is going to be a forward for

the team. She is noted to do a great job rebounding and defending the post. The last of the returning players include sophomore Sophia Weaver and sophomore Kylie Richards.

Coach Ginnings also provided stats for each of the returning players from last season. Beginning with the seniors, Ashlock participated in 24 games last season, averaging four points per game. She also had an average of 1.2 steals per game, 4.3 rebounds, and 2.9 assists. Mitchell participated in 24 games as well, averaging 14.8 points per game. She also had an average of five rebounds, two assists, and 1.8 steals per game. Daggett played in 24 games

as well, averaging 13.9 points per game. She also averaged 1.3 steals, nine rebounds, and 1.3 assists per game. Carney played 21 games last season, averaging .8 points per game. She also had .2 steals, 2.3 rebounds, and .3 assists per game.

Hensley participated in 23 games last season, averaging .5 points per game. She also averaged 1.8 rebounds, .5 rebounds, and .4 steals per game. Weaver participated in 24 games, averaging 5.9 points per game. She also had an average of 2.5 rebounds, 1.9 assists, and 1.8 steals per game.

New to the Lady Tigers team are freshmen Masyn Ashlock, Anna Bellew, Destiny He-

bert-Sadler, Mara Hilliard, Bella Stites, and Saylor Tucker. All of them are expected to do some great things this year having performed well in their middle school years. They will be working hard to come into their own and find their place on the team this season. Masyn Ashlock is expected to see some varsity time playing guard and will have a strong influence on the team's speed and defense.

"Our numbers are the biggest strength for our team this year," Ginnings explained. "We are up from eight to 14 this year, and most of them could see some varsity time. Last year was rebuilding year for us. Everyone was learning their roles on the team. I

believe that we are comfortable with them now, and can continue to grow within those roles. We need to work on being more consistent scorers. We get the opportunities. We just have to take advantage of them. These girls have the no quit attitude, so I hope that they get the reputation of 'don't count us out' because you never know what can happen."

Ginnings noted she hopes to see her team truly be competitive in all of their games, and that they will be working hard to figure out how to win those close games."



Weaubleau Lady Tigers Basketball- The Weaubleau R-III Lady Tigers High School Basketball Team will kick off their season Monday, Nov. 27, by competing in the Warsaw Tournament. They are being coached by Sue Ann Ginnings. Pictured front row, from the left, are Kylie Richards (sophomore), Anna Bellew (freshman), Mara Hilliard (freshman), Saylor Tucker (freshman), Masyn Ashlock (freshman), and Sophia Weaver (sophomore); (back) Destiny Hebert-Sadler (freshman), Bella Stites (freshman), Nicole Carney (senior), Jaylee Daggett (senior), Tayler Ashlock (senior), Sutton Mitchell (senior), and Julianna Hensley (junior).



Tayler Ashlock- SR.



Nicole Carney- SR.



Jaylee Daggett- SR.



Sutton Mitchell- SR.



Julianna Hensley- JR.



Kylie Richards- SOPH.



Sophia Weaver- SOPH.



Masyn Ashlock- FM.



Anna Bellew- FM.



Destiny Hebert-Sadler- FM.



Mara Hilliard- FM.



Bella Stites- FM.



Saylor Tucker- FM.

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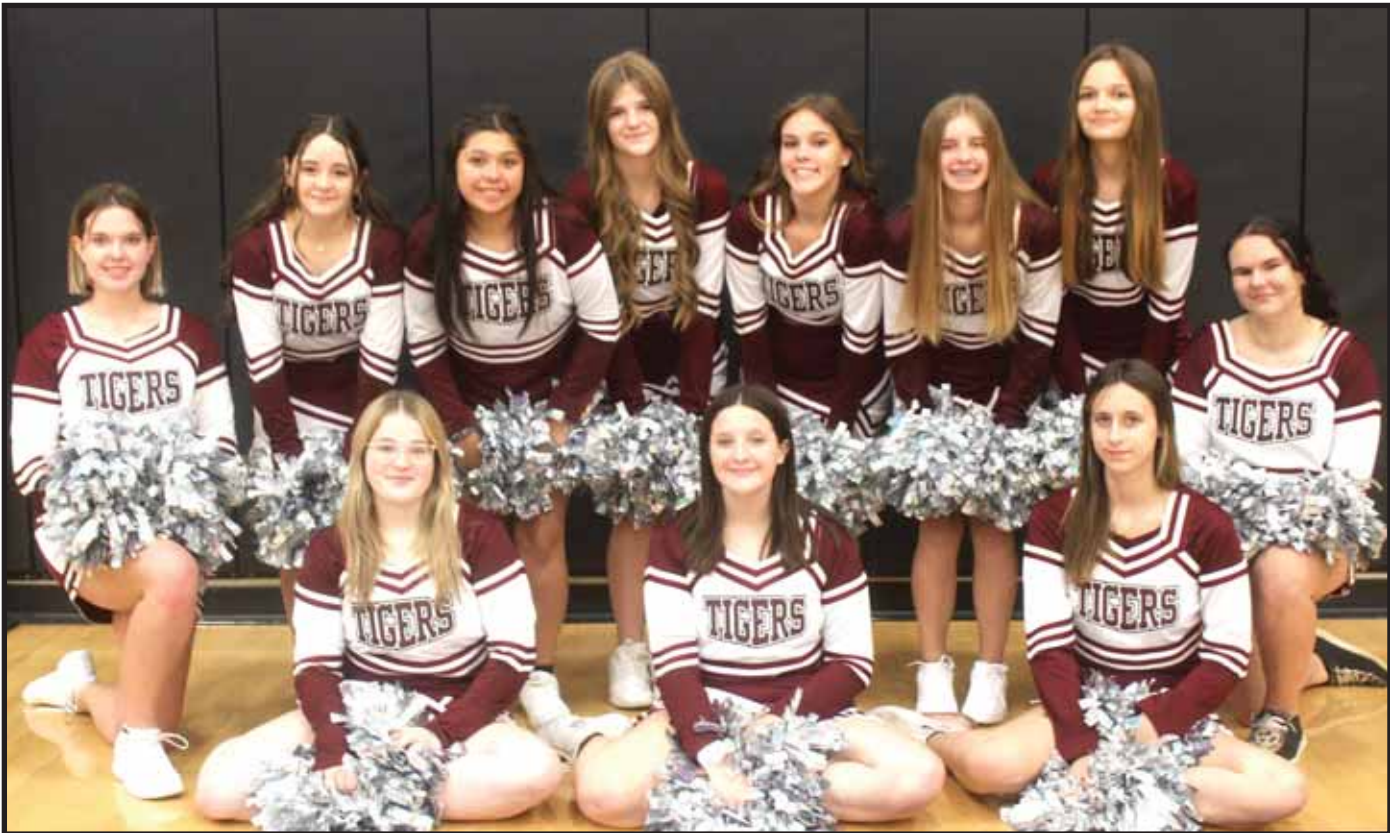
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Weaubleau Tigers Cheer



Weaubleau cheerleaders- The Weaubleau High School Cheerleades are ready for the 2023-2024 basketball season. They are being coached by Stephani Hostettler. Pictured front row, from the left: Araka Breshears (senior), Kaydence Conduff (senior), and Chloe Mantoya (senior); back row, Charlee Stokes (junior), Tessley Swaengnin (freshman), Arianna Navarro (freshman), Tianna Oldenburg (sophomore), Dayna Richa'rd (junior), Lily McCarter (freshman), Rachael Ball (freshman), and Izzy Hodgkins (sophomore).



Araka Breshears- SR.



Kaydence Conduff- SR.



Chloe Mantoya- SR.



Dayna Richa'rd- JR.



Charlee Stokes- JR



Izzy Hodgkins- SOPH.



Tianna Oldenburg- SOPH.



Rachel Ball- FM.



Lily McCarter- FM.



Arianna Navarro- FM.



Tessley Swaengnin- FM.



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Nov 20	Home	Lincoln	B/JV	6:00
Nov 21	Away	Green Ridge	B/JV/G	5:30
Nov 27	Home	Stover	B/JV/G	5:00
Nov 28	Home	Lakeland	B/JV/G	5:00
Dec 1	Home	Vieanna	B/JV	5:30
Dec 4	Home	Hermitage Tourn.	G	N/A
Dec 5	Away	Laquey	B/JV	6:00
Dec 8	Home	Warsaw	B/JV	5:30
Dec 12	Home	Humansville	B/G	5:30
Dec 14	Away	Montrose	B/G	5:30
Dec 16	Away	Otterville Tourn.	B	N/A
Dec 28	Away	Weaubleau Tourn.	G	N/A
Jan 4	Home	Warsaw	G/JV	5:30
Jan 8	Away	Pleasant Hope Tourn.	B/G	N/A
Jan 16	Home	Northeast Vernon	B/G	5:30
Jan 19	Home	Halfway	B/JV/G	5:30
Jan 23	Away	Chadwick	B/JV	6:00
Jan 26	Away	Dadeville	B/G	5:30
Jan 29	Home	St. Elizabeth	B/G	5:30
Jan 30	Home	Fairplay	B/JV/G	5:30
Feb 2	Away	Climax Springs	B/JV/G	5:30
Feb 6	Away	Macks Creek	B/JV/G	5:30
Feb 8	Away	Walnut Grove	B/G	5:30
Feb 13	Home	Weaubleau	B/G	5:30
Feb 15	Home	Wheatland	B/JV/G	5:30

Weaubleau Basketball				
Nov 27	Away	Warsaw Tourn.	B/G	N/A
Dec 4	Home	Osceola	B/JV/G/	5:30
Dec 8	Home	Marion C. Early	JV	5:30
Dec 12	Home	Warsaw	B/JV/G/	5:30
Dec 14	Away	Greenwood	JV	5:30
Dec 16	Home	Weaubleau Tourn.	G	N/A
Dec 19	Away	Fairplay	B/G	5:30
Dec 21	Home	Sacred Heart	B/G	5:00
Dec 28	Home	Weaubleau Tourn.	B/G	N/A
Jan 4	Away	Wheatland	B/JV/G	5:00
Jan 6	Away	Skyline Tourn.	B/G	N/A
Jan 8	Away	Skyline Tourn.	B/JV/G	N/A
Jan 15	Home	Lakeland	G	5:30
Jan 19	Home	Macks Creek	B	5:30
Jan 20	Away	SBU Tourn.	G	N/A
Jan 23	Home	El Dorado Springs	B/G	5:30
Jan 26	Home	Northeast Vernon	B	5:30
Jan 30	Home	Humansville	B/JV	5:30
Feb 2	Away	Halfway	B/G	5:30
Feb 6	Away	Walnut Grove	B/G	5:30
Feb 9	Away	Dadeville	B/G	5:30
Feb 13	Away	Hermitage	B/G	5:30
Feb 15	Away	Climax Springs	B/G	5:30

Wheatland Basketball				
Nov 20	Away	Climax Springs	B/G	5:30
Nov 27	Away	Humansville Tourn.	B	N/A
Nov 30	Home	Osceola	G/JV	5:30
Dec 4	Away	Hermitage Tourn.	G	N/A
Dec 8	Away	Skyline	B/JV	6:00
Dec 11	Home	Sheldon	B/G	5:30
Dec 12	Away	Pleasant Hope	B/JV/G	5:30
Dec 14	Home	Laquey	B/JV	6:00
Dec 16	Away	Weaubleau Tourn.	B/G	N/A
Dec 19	Away	Appleton City	B/G	5:30
Jan 2	Away	Hume	B/G	5:30
Jan 4	Home	Weaubleau	B/JV/G	5:30
Jan 6	Away	Skyline Tourn.	G	N/A
Jan 8	Away	Skyline Tourn.	B	N/A
Jan 16	Home	Montrose	B/G	5:30
Jan 18	Home	Walnut Grove	B/G	5:30
Jan 19	Away	Dadeville	B/JV/G	5:30
Jan 22	Home	Osceola Invitational	B/G	N/A
Jan 30	Home	Halfway	B/G	5:30
Feb 2	Home	Macks Creek	B/JV/G	5:30
Feb 6	Away	Fairplay	B/JV/G	5:30
Feb 9	Away	Greenfield	G	6:00
Feb 13	Home	Humansville	B/G	5:30
Feb 15	Away	Hermitage	B/JV/G	5:30

Skyline JH Basketball				
Nov 21	Away	Lebanon	G	5:30
Nov 27	Away	Warsaw	G	5:30
Nov 28	Home	Fair Grove	G	12:00
Dec 8	Away	Osage	B	5:30
Dec 12	Away	Lincoln	B	5:30
Dec 15	Home	Forsyth	B	5:30
Dec 18	Home	Clever	B	5:30
Jan 2	Home	Warsaw	B	5:30
Jan 5	Home	Buffalo	B	5:30
Jan 8	Away	Joel E. Barber	B	5:30
Jan 15-18	Away	Buffalo	B	N/A
Jan 22	Home	Strafford	B	5:30
Jan 23	Away	Fair Grove	B	12:00
Jan 26-27	Away	Clever	B	N/A
Jan 30	Away	Stockton	B	5:30

Skyline Basketball				
Nov 27	Away	Warsaw Tourn.	B/G	N/A
Nov 27	Away	Marshfield JV Tourn.	GJV	N/A
Dec 5	Home	Marion C. Early	G/JV	6:00
Dec 7	Away	Southern Boone	G/JV	6:00
Dec 8	Home	Wheatland	B/JV	6:00
Dec 12	Home	Buffalo	B/G	6:00
Dec 16	Away	Weaubleau Tourn.	G	4:00
Dec 16	Away	Weaubleau Tourn.	B	7:00
Dec 19	Away	Adrian	B/JV	6:00
Dec 19	Home	Tipton	G/JV	6:00
Dec 26	Away	Blue & Gold Tourn.	B	N/A
Dec 27	Away	Pink & White Tourn.	G	N/A
Jan 2	Away	Lincoln	B	6:00
Jan 4	Away	El Dorado	B/JV	6:00
Jan 6	Home	Skyline Girls Tourn.	G	N/A
Jan 8	Home	Skyline Boys Tourn.	B	N/A
Jan 15	Home	El Dorado Tourn.	BJV	N/A
Jan 16	Away	Blair Oaks	G/JV	6:00
Jan 18	Home	Butler	B/JV	6:00
Jan 20	Home	Booneville	G/JV	2:00
Jan 22	Away	Conway Invitational	B	N/A
Jan 23	Away	El Dorado	G/JV	6:00
Jan 25	Away	Osage	G/JV	6:00
Jan 29	Away	Clever	G/JV	6:00
Jan 29	Away	Stoutland	B/JV	6:00
Feb 1	Away	Fair Grove	G/JV	6:00
Feb 2	Home	Fair Grove	B/JV	6:00
Feb 5	Away	California	G/JV	6:00
Feb 6	Away	Forsyth	B/JV	6:00
Feb 8	Home	Forsyth	G/JV	6:00
Feb 9	Home	Strafford	B/JV	6:00
Feb 10	Home	Walnut Grove	G/JV	2:00
Feb 12	Away	Strafford	G/JV	6:00
Feb 13	Home	Conway	B/JV	6:00
Feb 15	Away	Sparta	G/JV	6:00
Feb 16	Home	Clever	B/JV	6:00

KEY TO WHICH TEAMS ARE PLAYING				
B=Boy Varsity				
JV= Junior Varsity				
G= Girl Varsity				
B/JV= Boys and Boys Junior Varsity				
G/JV= Girls and Girls Junior Varsity				

The Index

is proud to support
all local teams and sports!
We want to wish
the best of luck to everyone
this 2023 Winter Season!
We look forward to
reporting on your success!

