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STORIES WRITTEN AND COMPILED BY SAM KOMBRINK, SPORTS EDITOR
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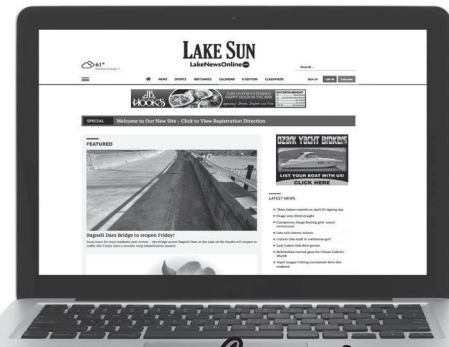
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CAMDENTON BOYS BASKETBALL



IT'S SHOWTIME FOR THE YOUNG AND GRITTY LAKERS

The Camdenton boys basketball team returns just two varsity players after losing 10 seniors, but second-year head coach Daniel Eidson is eager to showcase what this young Lakers squad can do.

"We're going to play as fast as we can and we're going to try to press non-stop," Eidson said. "What we lack in size, we are going to try to gain with our grit and our tenacity."

Camdenton finished last season with a record of 14-14, losing 60-44 to St. Francis Borgia in the second round of the Class 5, District 5 Tournament in Jefferson City.

"Last season I had 10 seniors that have graduated and moved on, and this year I got two guys that have varsity experience," Eidson said. "I say that to profess it with we really don't know how it's going to look yet. Early on it's just going to be a conglomeration of trying to put a puzzle together, hopefully with these young guys stepping up."

According to Eidson, If there is one focal point for improvement it's for the depth to gain more experience.

"And that's not something you can coach," he said. "So, where we need to improve instantly is just believing in ourselves, trusting our training, buying into the system and just playing as hard as we can every single day."

Camdenton will play six seniors, led by shooting guard Jackson Basham and forward Oscar Robbins. Forwards Dylan Kerr, Kyle Eidson, Brayden Sheppard and guard Charles Sherman are all varsity newcomers that will get playing time.

"I hope they are ready to play and show these younger guys just the way we want them to play," Eidson said. "I'll need my seniors mainly to put in the work and then the rest will form from there hopefully."

Eidson noted that Basham and Robbins have a good chance to lead the Lakers in scoring in his fast-paced offense, that will rely on consistent shooting.

"Those are the two guys that have had a lot of good experience on the varsity level,"

Eidson said. "So, they understand the pace and the magnitude of the game. But I really think that we have guys night-in and night-out that could have a stellar shooting night and step in and be my leading scorer."

Junior guard and varsity newcomer Owen Borbe has been competing for the Lakers starting point guard position and is eager to help guide this team to improvement.

"We're looking really athletic this year," Borbe said. "We got a good group of guys that get along very well socially. It's going to take some time, but we just need to pick it up and improve on more of the little things right now. We have



the skillset, we just need to put it all together and I'm looking forward to it."

Other newcomers joining the varsity squad include, junior forwards Jonny Semau and Sterling Sederwall, along with sophomore guard Krasi Petrov-Diaz.

"Jackson Basham is one of the only ones who really got varsity time and he's going to be a key factor because he's a solid shooter," Borbe said. "Oscar Robbins is a big threat down low and I don't think anyone can really guard him this year. Jonny Semau, I've been playing with him for a long time and he's a super skilled guy that can score in all three levels. Dylan Kerr is another senior who can finish at the basket really well and is a smart player, but his defense stands out the most to me."

Borbe noted that the Lakers focused primarily on shooting in the offseason.

"We focused on getting a lot of shots up because we're smaller this year," he said. "So, shooting is going to be a key factor for us this season along with conditioning, just because we want to be super fast down the court in transition and on defense."

He added that the expectations are to keep improving as the Lakers enter the season.

"I think just getting better as basketball players is going to be huge for us," Borbe said. "Obviously every team has that State mindset to go and compete at the highest level, but I think for us this year it's just about being the best version of ourselves and the best team that we can be."

2023/2024 SCHEDULE

CAMDENTON BOYS BASKETBALL

11/27-12/2	.....Tipton Tournament (Tipton, MO)	.....Neutral	.....V
11/27-12/2	.....Nixa Club Martin JV Tournament (Osage Beach,MO)	.....Neutral	.....JV
12/4-12/9	.....Osage 9th Grade Tourney (Osage Beach, MO)	.....Neutral	.....Fr
12/8	.....Aurora	.....Home	.....V, JV, Fr .....5:00 PM
12/12	.....Marshfield (Marshfield, MO)	.....Away	.....V, JV, Fr .....5:00 PM
12/15	.....Salem	.....Home	.....V, JV, Fr .....4:30 PM
12/18	.....Osage (Osage Beach, MO)	.....Away	.....V, JV, Fr .....5:00 PM
12/25-12/29	.....Blue and Gold (Springfield, MO)	.....Away	.....V
1/2	.....Lebanon	.....Home	.....V, JV, Fr .....4:30 PM
1/5	.....Kickapoo (Springfield, MO)	.....Away	.....V, JV, Fr .....4:30 PM
1/9	.....Rolla (Rolla, MO)	.....Away	.....V, JV, Fr .....5:30 PM
1/16	.....West Plains	.....Home	.....V
1/20	.....Laker Shootout Varsity (Camdenton, MO)	.....Home	.....V, JV .....5:00 PM
1/25-1/27	.....Liberator Tournament (Bolivar, MO)	.....Neutral	.....V
1/30	.....Waynesville	.....Home	.....V, JV, Fr.....4:30 PM
2/2	.....Parkview (Springfield, MO)	.....Away	.....V, JV, Fr.....4:30 PM
2/6	.....Hillcrest	.....Home	.....V, JV, Fr.....4:30 PM
2/7-2/10	.....Waynesville 9th Grade Boys BB Tournament	.....Neutral	.....Fr
2/9	.....Bolivar (Bolivar, MO)	.....Away	.....V, JV, Fr.....4:30 PM
2/13Central (Springfield) (Springfield, MO)AwayV, JV, Fr.....4:30 PM
2/16GlendaleHomeV, JV, Fr.....4:30 PM
2/22CaliforniaHomeV, JV5:30 PM

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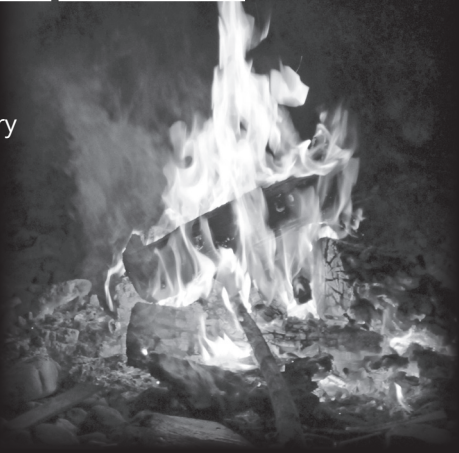
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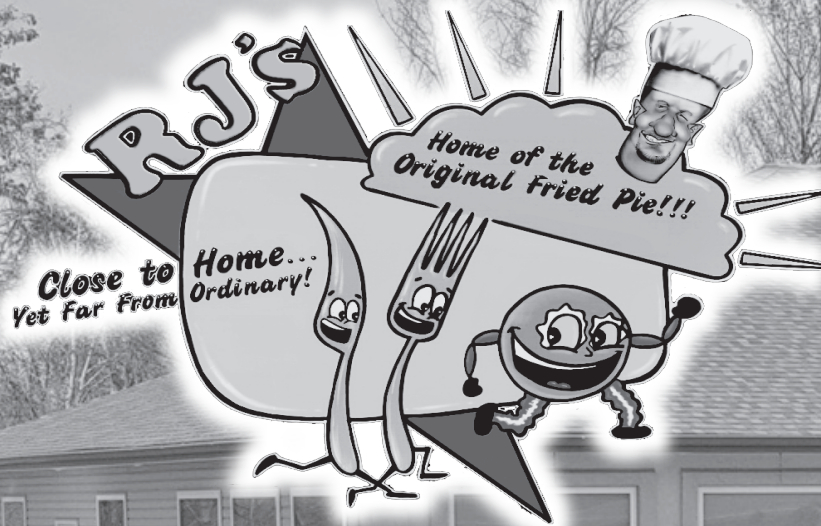
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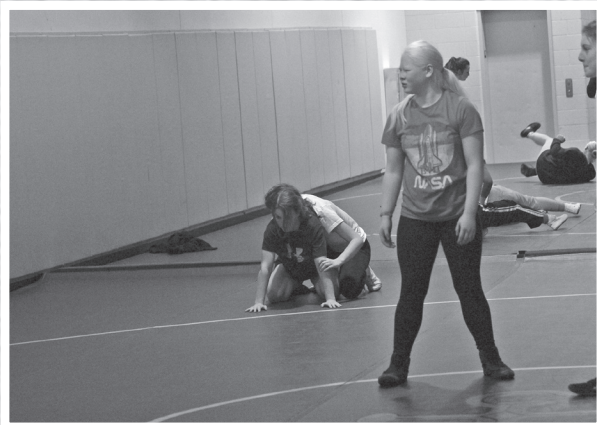
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CAMDENTON GIRLS SWIM AND DIVE



JASNOCH FOCUSED ON DEVELOPMENT

The Camdenton girls swim team will be guided by first-year head coach Kira Jasnoch who is eager to build a winner in the pool, but knows it will take time.

The Lady Lakers return eight swimmers from last season and welcome eight newcomers. Seniors Taylor Fleming and Claire Echternacht will lead the way as team captains, with juniors Conner Bishop and Ava Woods serving as co-captains.

Newcomers are juniors Elizabeth Hamilton, Kaci Wood, Carrielle "Quaid" Enoch and Josie Kunkel, along with sophomore Jordyn Galland and three freshman, Camilla Foster, Averie Hotle and Mia Aufdenkamp.

With only a few practices in, Jasnoch has been impressed with the Lady Lakers' ability to build up their team chemistry.

"All the girls are supporting each other," she said. "They already feel like a team."

Jasnoch expects this squad to be well conditioned in order to finish out the season on a strong note.

"I would like to develop strokes, skills, lots of conditioning and maybe win a few ribbons in the process," she said. "We have some new swimmers that are still developing their strokes."



2023/2024 SCHEDULE

CAMDENTON GIRLS SWIM AND DIVE

12/21/23.....Carthage Iron Woman Meet.....V.....Carthage
 1/13/24.....Tiger Invitational.....V.....Sedalia

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CAMDENTON GIRLS BASKETBALL



LADY LAKERS READY TO BOUNCE BACK

The Camdenton girls basketball team aims to improve after a disappointing 2023 campaign plagued by injuries, returning eight varsity players and adding two newcomers.

The Lady Lakers went 7-19 last season and lost 66-32 to Marshfield in the first round of the Class 5, District 6 Tournament. This season, Camdenton will rely on its experienced players and depth.

"I think we're looking strong," said Lady Lakers coach Staci Caffey, who is 14 wins away from 200 for her career (186-127). "Last year we came in and we were young and I felt like we were undersized and unexperienced. So, this year I feel like we're coming in a lot stronger. The girls seem very energetic and just having fun and working hard."

Caffey noted that in order for this team to improve, they must build up their chemistry. "I think growing that basketball IQ and just learning how to work together," she said. "We didn't have any seniors last year so we tried to find that leadership... So, it was just one of those things where I felt like we focused this summer on playing together and learning how our teammates play, not just how we play."

Looking to help lead this Camdenton squad is senior point guard Kileigh Vavruska and junior forward/guard Jacee Peterson. Vavruska was out all of last season due to injuring her ankle at the jamboree and Peterson is recovering from a torn ACL she suffered in their last home game where they lost to Waynesville 58-46.

"For my last year I'd really like to go into the postseason," Vavruska said. "It's been a rough couple of years, but we're just trying to build off of that and become better day-by-day. We've been working on our team building and being able to read each other on the court. Communication has also been big for us and then being able to finish under the basket."

According to Caffey, it's still too early in the season to choose a starting five, but she's anxious to see how it will play out.

"I love to press and I love to play a fast tempo game," she said. "I feel like almost every year our top seven average about the same amount of minutes, whether they start or they are the ones finishing a game and that kind of looks different with our personnel. We

have some girls that can start off strong and then we have some girls that are more consistent and solid with the ball at the end of a game, depending on what the situation is."

She added that she went into the offseason with a pretty good idea of who to implement into the starting lineup, but though the summer and the first few practices the team has given her a plethora of possibilities.

"So far, you got the ones that you think will start and then I feel like there is always girls stepping up and challenging that," Caffey said. "A good example of that is Jacee Peterson who played post for us last year and she's a very strong three guard (small forward/wing) who really likes to get outside, but we had to keep her inside last season."

Peterson led the Lady Lakers in scoring last year and she's eager for the season to start.

"I am so ready to get back to my team," she said. "I have another doctors appointment in a few weeks and hopefully I'll be good to go. Last year we didn't really connect as a team that well and kind of wanted to play me-ball and not working together. But this year we are playing together and hopefully it's going to be our season."

Depth will be key as the Lady Lakers welcome two new players, freshman guard Kinzie Vavruska and sophomore forward Addison Knoeck, who just transferred from Richland.

"Kinzie is a freshman who is the younger sister of Kylie and she's also one that saw the varsity court over the summer," Caffey said. "And I just love how hard she plays. She's very aggressive and just gets after it and it's fun to watch and fun to coach in that aspect of it."

Caffey noted that once Knoeck is fully recovered from her knee injury, she will be expected to help alleviate the pressure of having to play Peterson in the post.

"She moved in from Richland and hasn't played yet, but I feel like she's going to be able to give our team some size inside," she said. "We haven't seen the injury level yet, so we will kind of wait and see on that. But either way I feel like the girls are keeping high spirits and they feel like they are coming out with something to prove. We won seven games last year and that didn't sit well with any of us. And I know my assistants and I have talked about that all summer."

Senior forward Zoe Lockhart and junior forward Mia McGuire are also expected to lead Camdenton in the paint.

"They can also be our bigs inside and then that will allow Jacee to be more on the perimeter," Caffey said. "When we came into this season we didn't know we were going to have that and that's kind of exciting too."

She added that it will be good to get more depth at the guard positions to give Camdenton flexibility.

"I feel like this group is fast, they're athletic and that's going to be a strength of ours this year and to be able to press and get after it," Caffey said. "So, hopefully we stay healthy and we're able to do that."



2023/2024 SCHEDULE

CAMDENTON GIRLS BASKETBALL

11/30-12/2	Elite 8 Tournament (Rogers, AR)	Away	V, JV, Fr	5:00 PM
12/7	Marshfield	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
12/11	Osage (Osage Beach, MO)	Away	Fr	
12/12	Eldon	Home	V, JV	5:30 PM
12/26-12/29	Pink and White Tournament (Springfield, MO)	Away	V	
1/4	Lebanon (Lebanon, MO)	Away	V, JV, Fr	6:00 PM
1/8	Rolla	Home	V, JV, Fr	4:30 PM
1/11	West Plains (West Plains, MO)	Away	V, JV, Fr	4:30 PM
1/15-1/18	Gary Keeling Invitational	Neutral	V	
1/22	Kickapoo	Home	V, JV, Fr	4:30 PM
1/29	Waynesville (Waynesville, MO)	Away	V, JV, Fr	4:30 PM
2/1	Parkview	Home	V, JV, Fr	4:30 PM
2/5	Hillcrest (Springfield, MO)	Away	V, JV, Fr	4:30 PM
2/8	Bolivar	Home	V, JV, Fr	4:30 PM
2/12	Central (Springfield, MO)	Home	V, JV, Fr	5:30 PM
2/15	Glendale (Springfield, MO)	Away	V, JV, Fr	4:30 PM
2/20	Blair Oaks	Home	V, JV, Fr	4:30 PM
2/22	St. James (St. James, MO)	Away	V, JV	5:30 PM



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CAMDENTON GIRLS WRESTLING



CHESTER LOOKS TO GUIDE COMMITTED LADY LAKERS

The Camdenton girls wrestling team will look to build on last season's success after sending two wrestlers to the Class 2, District 3 State Tournament guided by first-year head coach Ryan Chester.

Last year, the Lady Lakers finished their dual season 8-6, with senior Lucinda Baker and Abigail Fuglsang making it to State at Mizzou Arena in Columbia. Baker lost in the opening round wrestling in the 140 pound weight class, while Fuglsang made it to the finals, wrestling in the 100 pound weight class and finished second. Fuglsang will be wrestling in the 105 pound weight class this season.

"Coach Doran did a great job with the girls last year," Chester said. "We won two tournaments including Bolivar, where the girls led the way and scored 125+ points more than our closest competitors."

Newcomers are junior Allie Holliday, senior Iris Michaelree, freshman Kenleigh Virtue and sophomore Morgan Schwach.

Baker said she expects Camdenton to have a complete team by the start of the season and she's impressed with what she's seen from her teammates.

"So far it's looking strong," she said. "We got some really committed wrestlers who are willing to put in the work and I'm excited to see how the season goes."

One improvement she would like to see is more girls on the team.

"I think our recruitment could be better," Baker said. "We started with half the amount of girls we did last year and that's kind of a bummer, but other than that I think we have pretty good team this year."

Baker added that she focused on staying in shape in the offseason.

"I was just trying to improve as much as possible, trying to stay fit and get that endurance up before the season starts so that we're not killing ourselves during the season."

Expectations for the 2023-24 season remain high with Chester taking over for Kit Doran.

"This year's goal is to build on last year's successes," Chester said. "We hope to get at



least five girls to the State tournament and finish in the top 10."

Baker and Fuglsang led the squad last season and Chester wants other upperclassmen to step up as well.

"We expect senior Taelyn Waldren and junior Ursula Sandford to really step up this year and be a good mentor for the younger girls," he said.

Through the first two weeks at practice, he said he's impressed with how much passion the girls have this season.

"I've been impressed by how much the girls are enjoying the sport, especially some of our newcomers," Chester said. "Most of them have taken the time out of their schedule to come to a lot of the preseason practices and are eager to learn."

He added that he would like to see the team be more consistent in giving it their all. "The biggest thing we need to improve on is consistently grinding it out in practice," Chester said. "Putting in hard work everyday for the two and a half hours we are on the mats. My old head coach always used to say, 'the sport of wrestling pays you back.' So, if you practice poor, skip practice and aren't dedicated you'll end up getting your butt kicked."

Chester has a 13-year background coaching wrestling with stops in Lafayette County and Waynesville.

"In 1999, I helped start the first Wrestling kids club in Camdenton and volunteered the next couple years at the high school," he said. "I coached three years at Lafayette County C-1 where we finished runner-up in Class 1 in 2006. I also coached at Waynesville for six years. This is my second year as a contracted coach and last year I was an assistant boys coach."

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GOOD LUCK LAKERS!

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2023/2024 SCHEDULE	
CAMDENTON GIRLS WRESTLING	
11/28.....Smith-Cotton.....	Home.....V.....5:00 PM
12/1.....Bolivar Tournament (Bolivar, MO).....	Away.....V
12/5.....Branson (Branson, MO).....	Away.....V.....5:00 PM
12/7.....Rolla (Rolla, MO).....	Away.....V.....5:00 PM
12/8.....Union Girls Tournament.....	Away.....V
12/11.....Nixa Girls Tournament.....	Away.....V
12/15-12/16.....Lady Mustangs Christmas Clash.....	Neutral.....V
1/2.....Buffalo (Buffalo, MO).....	Away.....V.....5:00 PM
1/5.....Capital City Girls Tournament.....	Neutral.....V
1/9.....Blair Oaks/Rock Bridge/Centralia/Camdenton.....	Away.....V.....5:00 PM
1/11.....Kickapoo (Springfield, MO).....	Away.....V, JV.....5:30 PM
1/13.....Republic Invitational (Republic HS, MO).....	Away.....V
1/15.....Mexico Girls Duals (Mexico, MO).....	Away.....V
1/16.....Camdenton/LoRog/Osage.....	Away.....V.....5:30 PM
1/17.....Waynesville.....	Home.....V.....5:00 PM
1/17.....St. James.....	Home.....V.....5:00 PM
1/27.....Ozark Conference Tournament (Camdenton, MO).....	Home.....V
2/1.....Camdenton/Marshfield/Willard Tri.....	Away.....V.....5:30 PM

CAMDENTON BOYS WRESTLING



LAKERS ARE COMING AFTER IT

The expectations are as high as ever for the Camdenton boys wrestling team since Grant Leighty took over as head coach and the Lakers expect to find more success in 2023-24.

Camdenton loses just three seniors from last season and brings in 19 freshman that Leighty is eager to coach as he enters his 13th season at Camdenton and 42nd year of coaching.

“We’re extremely pleased with the numbers and this is absolutely the most I have had to start a season since I’ve been here,” he said.

The Lakers return three out of four state qualifiers — senior John Holt (165 pounds), and juniors Finnegan McNitt (132 pounds) and Aidan Neal (150 pounds). Holt and McNitt both won a match at the Class 3, District 3 State Tournament at Mizzou Arena in Columbia, before losing in the bubble round.

According to Leighty, seniors Payton Hinton (175 pounds), Noah Sousley (138/144 pounds) and Nathaniel Beeson (190 pounds), along with Holt and McNitt are expected to be captains.

“We’re looking to have a really good year with some good numbers coming back,” Hinton said. “We got a solid lineup with a bunch of upperclassmen who have been wrestling a long time.”

McNitt said that staying in good shape in the offseason has been key to keeping an edge.

“Building up that gas tank and that endurance and conditioning,” he said. “It’s really just being motivated from last year. We didn’t get what we wanted and this year we’re coming after it.”

Beeson said that he focused on improving his technique in the offseason.

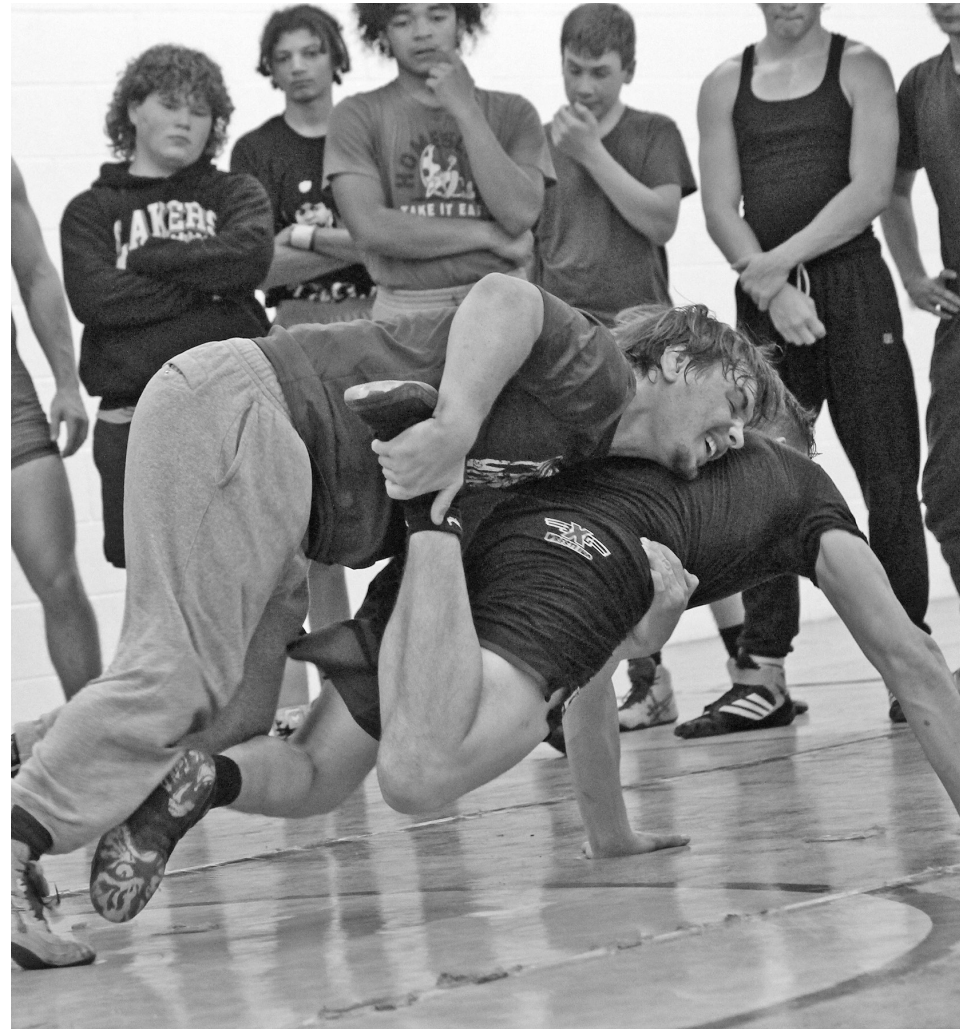
“All around I was working on technique,” he said. “Rather than getting the move fast, I was really working on what I needed to do, being technical with that move and mastering it.”

Hinton added that he’s been working on chain wrestling.

“Just working on more than one move at a time, two moves at a time, three or four moves at a time,” he said.

Leighty noted how impressed he’s been with some of his team captains.

“Beeson had a monster weight class last year,” he said. “We wrestled several times and he came out with the short end of the stick coming out of the bubble match at districts. Beeson has the ability to get himself up on that podium, how high he wants to go is



going to be up to him.”

“That kid (McNitt) has been a work horse since last season ended,” he said. “He’s gone to camps and he worked out on Sundays every weekend at the University of Iowa. So, he has put in the time and I expect him to really have a great year. You can’t say enough good things about John Holt. He’s a special kind of kid and excels at whatever he does. Two years ago he was a JV wrestler with a .500 record, worked his tail off all season and went 1-2 at State, I have all the confidence in the world with him this year.”

Last season the Lakers went 9-5 in duals, which Leighty says put them on a fast track to success.

“As a coaching staff, we felt like last year was a season that we started getting back on track where we should be,” he said. “We went 9-5 in duals and placed at almost every tournament we entered in. We qualified four wrestlers for the state tournament and had two other wrestlers that lost in the bubble match to qualify.”

Leighty said that the team was plagued by injuries last season, but he remains optimistic due to the increase in numbers.

“We are returning all but three wrestlers and we are getting a couple of wrestlers back that were out for the ’22-’23 season,” he said. “We suffered a season like I had never experienced before. We lost nine wrestlers that were returning starters or had spent time in the starting line up, the most costly was returning runner up Dakota Davis. That would be a devastating blow for any program. It feels pretty good for the program to be back on the upward swing.”

He added that the team expectations for this season are the same as always, to work hard and get better.

“If we do the little things right, the big things take care of themselves,” Leighty said. “We strive to improve everyday in all aspects of our wrestling. One bright spot is our number of wrestlers seems to be larger than normal this year.”

2023/2024 SCHEDULE

CAMDENTON BOYS WRESTLING

12/1.....	Bolivar Tournament (Bolivar, MO).....	Neutral.....	JV
12/2.....	Bolivar Tournament (Bolivar, MO).....	Neutral.....	V
12/5.....	Branson (Branson, MO).....	Away.....	V, JV.....5:00 PM
12/7.....	Rolla (Rolla, MO).....	Away.....	V, JV.....5:00 PM
12/9.....	Versailles Invitational (Versailles, MO).....	Neutral.....	V
12/13.....	Lebanon.....	Home.....	V, JV.....5:00 PM
12/15-12/16.....	Harrisonville Tournament (Harrisonville, MO).....	Away.....	V
12/16.....	Lebanon JV Wrestling Tournament (Lebanon, MO).....	Neutral.....	JV
12/27.....	Hallsville Holiday Wrestling Tournament.....	Neutral.....	V
12/28.....	Eldon JV Tournament (Eldon, MO).....	Neutral.....	JV
1/2.....	Buffalo (Buffalo, MO).....	Away.....	V.....5:00 PM
1/6.....	Rookie Round Up (Sedalia, MO).....	Neutral.....	V
1/6.....	Rookie Round Up (Sedalia, MO).....	Neutral.....	Fr
1/9.....	Blair Oaks/Rock Bridge/Camdenton (Warsville, MO).....	Away.....	V.....5:00 PM
1/11.....	Kickapoo (Springfield, MO).....	Away.....	V, JV.....5:30 PM
1/13.....	Republic Invitational (Camdenton, MO).....	Home.....	V
1/16.....	Osage Tri (Osage Beach, MO).....	Neutral.....	V
1/17.....	Waynesville-St.James-Camdenton, TRI.....	Home.....	V.....5:00 PM
1/23.....	Logan-Rogersville.....	Home.....	V, JV.....5:30 PM
1/27.....	Conference Tournament (Springfield, MO).....	Away.....	V
2/1.....	Camdenton/Marshfield/Willard Tri.....	Away.....	V.....5:00 PM
2/8.....	Sullivan.....	Home.....	V.....5:30 PM





OSAGE BOYS BASKETBALL



School of the Osage
Home of the Indians

INDIANS ARE HUNGRY FOR A WINNING SEASON

The School of the Osage boys basketball team looks to bounce back after losing six seniors, while returning six upperclassmen with their eyes set on a district title.

The Indians are coming off a 11-15 season where they got bounced by Eldon 66-53 in the first round of the Class 4, District 10 Tournament, and head coach Craig Engelbrecht says he has high expectations for this squad.

“I feel like we have high expectations for the upcoming season because we played a lot of younger players last season,” Engelbrecht said. “We feel like with a year of experience and with our incoming freshmen we have an excellent nucleus to build around. We expect to compete for a conference and district championship, and we expect to improve as the year continues.”

Engelbrecht likes to run a fast-paced offense that spreads the floor and presses on defense and junior Dayne Depee will lead the way. Depee has made the shift from shooting guard to taking over the point guard position for the Indians. As a sophomore, Depee earned All-District First Team honors and Tri-County Conference Honorable Mention, averaging 11 points per game, 3.7 rebounds per game, 2.2 assists per game and 1.6 steals per game.

“Practices have been good and there’s a lot of positivity this year,” Depee said. “I think we’re going to build up some team chemistry early in the year and have it all figured out by the start of the season.”

He added that the expectations remain high despite the young roster.

“Our expectations are pretty high,” Depee said. “We want to be over .500 this year and win around 13 to 15 games. Last year got kind of toxic in the locker room and were just working to be more positive and work more as a team this year. And a personal goal for myself would be to shoot over 40 percent this year.”

Sophomore guard Maverick Trusty, along with junior center Andrew Groos and junior guards Landon Childs and Noah Northrip outline the potential starters for the Indians. Groos averaged 5.8 points per game and 3.3 rebounds per game, followed by Trusty who averaged 5.0 points per game. Northrip averaged 3.7 points per game and Childs averaged 2.5 points per game.

Groos said that he’s never started a season with this many injured starters, but remains hopeful for what the season will bring.

“I’m hopeful for what this season is going to be because in the first couple practices half of our starting lineup is out, and hopefully they will be ready by the first game,” he

said. “We don’t have a super deep bench like last year and hopefully this will be enough time for the bench to get some reps in and see what it’s like to play at the varsity level.”

Groos added that he’s eager to compete for more playing time this season in whatever position coach wants him to play.

“I’ll play center or power forward, anything down low — and I know about four people will probably get a lot of minutes,” he said. “So, there’s always competition there and it will keep me going at practice for sure.”

He added that he would also like to see the team go .500 or above and get more playing time.

“I think its a good goal for us because we were close last year and if we don’t this year, then I know we can get it next year since we’re only losing two seniors,” Groos said. “Personally I’d like to see the floor more and improve my court vision. So, when I get the ball down low, I want to improve on looking for the someone that’s open.”

Engelbrecht noted that he’s been impressed with Groos, who recently competed for a second straight district championship on the soccer team.

“When Andrew got here for his first practice he wasn’t rusty and was moving well,” he said. “So, he’s been very impressive.”

Newcomers are sophomore guards Brady Clark and Robert Dubbs, along with freshman guards Lane Stokes and Jackson Long.

“Ideally I’d like to play nine to 10 players and I’ve been impressed with the two freshman guards Lane Stokes and Jackson Long, who handle and shoot the ball well and could see some varsity minutes,” he said. “Brady Clark does a good job of handling the ball and Robert Dubbs plays with passion and is an excellent defender.”

Engelbrecht added that he would like to see the team improve their offensive efficiency.

“I think we have to improve offensively because for the most part our defense was pretty decent last season,” he said.

2023/2024 SCHEDULE

OSAGE BOYS BASKETBALL

11/27-12/2	.....37th Annual Eugene Basketball Tournament (Eugene, MO)	..... Neutral	..... V
12/4-12/9	.....Osage 9th Grade Tourney (Osage Beach, MO)	.....Home	.....Fr
12/8	.....Norm Stewart Classic (Columbia, MO)	.....Away	..... V
12/11-12/16	.....62nd Annual Linn High School Holiday Basketball Tournament	.....Neutral	..... V
12/18	.....Camdenton	.....Home	..... V, JV, Fr.....5:00 PM
12/21	.....Knob Noster	.....Home	..... V, JV, Fr.....5:00 PM
12/30	.....Moberly	.....Neutral	..... V.....8:00 PM
1/2	.....Dixon	.....Home	..... V, JV, Fr.....5:00 PM
1/4	.....Rolla (Rolla, MO)	.....Away	.....Fr.....6:00 PM
1/5	.....Stoutland	.....Home	..... V, JV.....6:00 PM
1/8	.....Salem (Salem, MO)	.....Away	..... V, JV.....5:30 PM
1/12	.....Lebanon	.....Home	..... V, JV, Fr.....5:00 PM
1/16	.....California (California, MO)	.....Away	..... V, JV, Fr.....5:00 PM
1/19	.....Eugene (Eugene, MO)	.....Away	..... V, JV.....6:00 PM
1/22-1/27	.....93rd Annual Eldon Boys Basketball Tournament (Eldon, MO)	.....Neutral	..... V
2/6	.....Southern Boone (Ashland, MO)	.....Away	..... V, JV, Fr.....5:00 PM
2/9	.....Mexico	.....Home	..... V, JV, Fr.....5:00 PM
2/13	.....Hallsville	.....Home	..... V, JV, Fr.....5:00 PM
2/14	.....Eldon (Eldon, MO)	.....Away	..... JV, Fr.....5:00 PM
2/15	.....Eldon (Eldon, MO)	.....Away	..... V.....7:30 PM
2/16Blair Oaks (Jefferson City, MO)Away V, JV, Fr.....5:00 PM
2/19Boonville (Boonville, MO)Away V, JV, Fr.....5:00 PM

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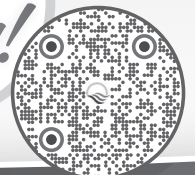
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OSAGE GIRLS WRESTLING



School of the Osage
Home of the Indians

CORDIA ENTERS FIRST SEASON AS HEAD COACH

The School of the Osage girls wrestling team enters a new season under the guidance of former Lady Indian wrestler Abbey Cordia, who is eager to build something special.

“We’re looking good, we’re all excited about the season and everybody has been working hard,” Cordia said. “I’m excited that we got some young girls out and hopefully we can bring more in.”

Junior Caitlyn Sullivan and sophomore Teighan Carson have unfinished business as they lead the Lady Indians this season. Carson made it to the Class 1 State Tournament last year in the 135 pound weight class with a fourth-place finish at the Class 1, District 3 Tournament. Newcomers are freshman Lily Neal and Aala Jamison, and the roster could continue to grow.

Sullivan is hungry to get to state after going 2-2 and falling in the bubble round at districts last year, wrestling at 140 pound weight class.

“My personal goal is to make it to state,” she said. “I got to the last match before state and lost it, I was one match away. So, this year I’m for sure wanting to go for that.”

Sullivan’s biggest takeaway from the first two weeks of practice is the growth in numbers, but she also wants the newcomers to show up and focus on improving on a daily basis.

“Last season, I’d say there was maybe 20 kids in this wrestling room and now we have probably around 35. So, that’s a big jump,” she said. “I think we need to take it more seriously. I feel like people overlook wrestling, even wrestlers do, and a lot of new people coming in aren’t taking it so seriously. I think one thing we need to focus on is showing up to practice everyday and making sure we’re learning our skills and we’re working our

hardest at practice.”

She is also eager to learn from her new head coach.

“I know Abbey; she’s pretty cool, and I’m excited to have her here,” Sullivan said. “This is her first time coaching and I think she is doing a really good job so far.”

Through two weeks of practice, Sullivan said Cordia has the girls learning the basics.

“We’re just kind of still going over the basic stuff and teaching the two new girls our stuff,” she said. “So, she’s just kind of having me and Teighan help teach the younger girls coming in. But we’re starting to get into learning the harder skills and actually going live and seeing where we stand against everyone else.”

Cordia said it’s all about this young roster gaining experience and winning their matches.

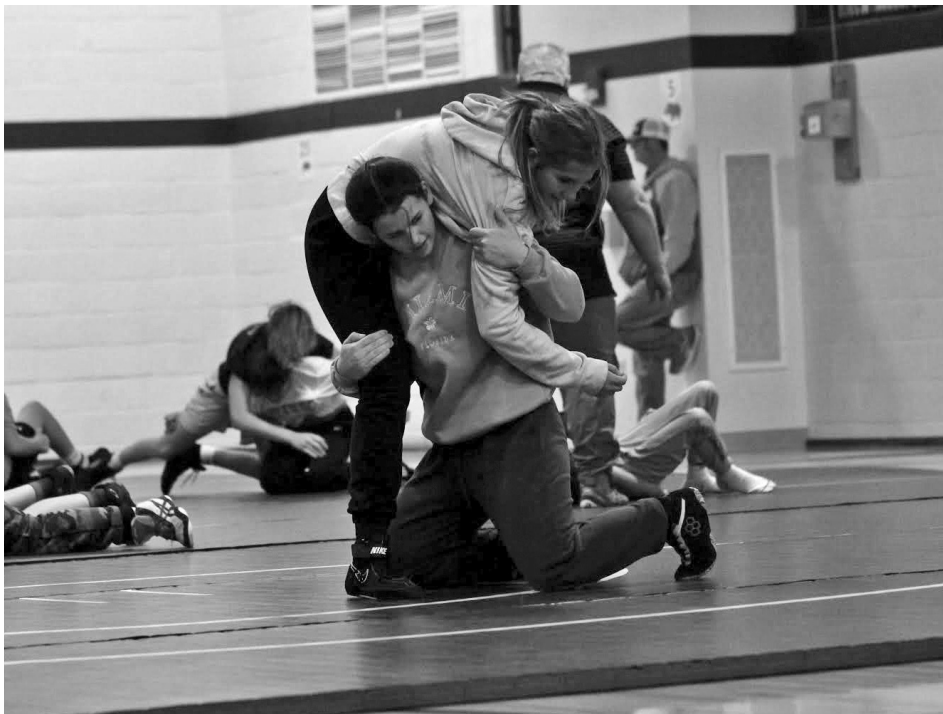
“We just need to get as many matches as we can and get experience, especially for the freshman,” she said. “Just as long as we’re learning something every day, it’s not always about winning. Just go out there, have fun and work your hardest, have confidence in yourself and then the technique and winning will come with it. But we’re doing good and the new girls are catching on from our more experienced members and they’re getting back into the groove of things.”

Cordia noted that she’s still adjusting to her new coaching role.

“It’s definitely weird being on the other side of it,” she said. “I mean I’ve always loved the sport. I wrestled at Missouri Valley University for two years, but that stopped due to injuries. But I’m excited to be back in it.”

Cordia graduated with the Class of 2020 at The School of the Osage, where she was a two-time state medalist and finished with a 61-7 high school record. She added that during her time attending Osage she wanted to pursue a teaching career and stay involved with wrestling through coaching, she just never thought it would play out this way.

“I always wanted to be an education major just so that I could coach, but I’m still getting used to it,” Cordia said. “I’m still in school trying to earn my degree.”



2023/2024 SCHEDULE

OSAGE GIRLS WRESTLING

11/27	Osage Tri (Osage Beach, MO)	Home	V	5:30 PM
12/1	Osage Quad (Osage Beach, MO)	Home	V	5:00 PM
12/6	Osage Quad (Osage Beach, MO)	Home	V	5:30 PM
12/9	Noel Women’s Invitational (Rolla, MO)	Neutral	V	
12/12	Buffalo Quad (Osage Beach, MO)	Home	V	5:00 PM
12/15-12/16	Lady Mustangs Christmas Clash (Eldon, MO)	Neutral	V	
1/5	Tri-County Conference Tournament (Hallsville, MO)	Neutral	V	
1/6	Rookie Round Up (Sedalia, MO)	Neutral	JV	
1/16	Osage Tri (Osage Beach, MO)	Home	V	5:30 PM
1/19	Clinton Tourney (Osage Beach, MO)	Home	V	
1/23	Eldon Tri/Quad	Away	V	5:30 PM
1/25	Osage Tri (Osage Beach, MO)	Home	V	5:30 PM
2/6	Osage Tri (Osage Beach, MO)	Home	V	5:30 PM

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OSAGE GIRLS BASKETBALL



School of the Osage
Home of the Indians

TIME TO BUILD FOR THE LADY INDIANS

The School of the Osage girls basketball team enters its second season under head coach Jaryt Hunziker with six upperclassmen and a group of 10 freshman who went 35-0.

The Lady Indians return eight and lose three seniors from last season, where Osage fell to its rival Eldon 63-37 in the first round of the Class 4, District 10 Tournament.

"It's baby steps with this team," said Lady Indians coach Jaryt Hunziker, who enters his second season at Osage and his 20th season coaching at the varsity level.

"First of all, I thought we had a really great summer even though we didn't have everybody at times, but we got a lot of valuable time in the gym and played quite a few games where we got them experience," he said. "And we are process-oriented so we know our daily habits will determine our future success."

Osage ushers in 10 freshman who know how to win and Hunziker said he's been impressed with the depth and competitive spirit of this squad.

"We have eight girls returning who made huge strides skill wise last year and are very knowledgeable in what the vision of the program is. Now add in a group of fresh-

men who have height and length and went 35-0 in middle school and you get some intense practices. If we bring intensity to every practice, like we should be doing, then we will see huge gains this season. What's nice about this group is you have a handful or two that are in their second year with me in my system and they kind of know what I expect."

He said that any of his 18 players could step into a leadership role during the season, but expects seniors Halle Helton, Marysa Stoecklein and Lauren Bartlett to lead this team.

"To me, player-led teams are so much better and successful than coach-led teams," Hunziker said. "You have something special when players hold each other accountable and to a high standard."

He noted that he always

likes to be aggressive with a full-court press defense that leads to transition offense.

"Defensively we like to attack and disrupt by applying pressure with our presses and traps and try to speed you up a little bit to maybe force some quick shots," Hunziker said. "Then, if we rebound well, we get into transition on offense. And on offense we just try to push the ball as fast as we can and get up court. We're always trying to put pressure on the opposing team whether it's on offense or defense."

Hunziker added that the offense will primarily focus around Bartlett, who earned postseason All-Conference and All-District honors averaging 13.0 points per game and 12.0 rebounds per game at the center position.

Bartlett is within distance of possibly breaking her sisters all-time rebounding record. "It's something big I have looked forward to ever since I was watching her play," she said. "And I want to score 1,000 points."

She said she's sitting at 611 career points at Osage and thinks she can eclipse that mark by the end of the season if she averages 20 points per game.

Bartlett added that she's eager to see this team make forward steps in 2023-24.

"I'd say our team is looking pretty good for this year," Bartlett said. "We have a bunch of freshman coming up with some good height, so that really makes a difference and they help contribute and help in every which way."

Last season was a foundation year adjusting to Hunziker's system, but now it's time to build.

"We had a winning season but I think it was more of a season where we could get our feet underneath us and to come out this season stronger and better," Bartlett said.

Bartlett would like to see the team work on communication and finishing games strong.

"Sometimes after halftime we get a lead and come out in the second half a little too relaxed," she said. "But I think if we know this year that we can fight for it and go it, I think that's going to be a big thing for us."

During Hunziker's first season coaching Osage girls basketball, the Lady Indians made vast improvements after a five-win season the previous year. Osage finished in second place at the Eugene Tournament and third place at the Osage Tournament.

"With a new coaching staff and system in place, they had quality wins against Linn, St. Elizabeth, Macks Creek, Hallsville, Versailles and Camdenton just to name a few," Hunziker said.



2023/2024 SCHEDULE

OSAGE GIRLS BASKETBALL

11/27-12/2	37th Annual Eugene Basketball Tournament (Eugene, MO)	Neutral	V
12/4	Richland (Richland, MO)	Away	V, JV 6:00 PM
12/7	Waynesville	Home	V, JV 6:00 PM
12/8	Norm Stewart Classic (Columbia, MO)	Away	V
12/11	Camdenton	Home	V, JV 6:00 PM
12/14	St. Elizabeth (St. Elizabeth, MO)	Away	V, JV 6:00 PM
12/18	Mt. Vernon	Home	V 6:00 PM
12/19	Stoutland	Home	V, JV 6:00 PM
1/5	Buffalo (Buffalo, MO)	Away	V, JV 6:00 PM
1/9	Blair Oaks (Jefferson City, MO)	Away	V, JV 6:00 PM
1/11	Iberia	Home	V, JV 6:00 PM
1/15-1/20	Osage GBB Tourney (Osage Beach, MO)	Home	V
1/25	Skyline	Home	V, JV 6:00 PM
1/29	Hallsville	Home	V, JV 6:00 PM
2/2	Versailles (Versailles, MO)	Away	V, JV 6:00 PM
2/5	Southern Boone (Ashland, MO)	Away	V, JV 6:00 PM
2/8	Linn	Home	V, JV 6:00 PM
2/12	California	Home	V, JV 6:00 PM
2/14	Eldon (Eldon, MO)	Away	JV 6:15 PM
2/15	Eldon (Eldon, MO)	Away	V 6:00 PM
2/20	Boonville (Boonville, MO)	Away	V, JV 6:00 PM

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OSAGE BOYS WRESTLING



School of the Osage
Home of the Indians

WINNING BREEDS MORE WINNING FOR INDIANS IN 2023-2024

The School of the Osage boys wrestling team is loaded with underclassmen hungry to finish the season on top as the roster grows.

“It’s a young team, but I haven’t seen these type of numbers,” said Indians coach Matt Fuglsang, who enters his second season as head coach. “And even our junior high has around 34 kids out there right now. I don’t know what’s going on, but I like it. And winning breeds more winning. So, I think that’s what we got going on and they’re just catching on pretty well.”

Fuglsang said the Indians started last season with close to 25 wrestlers on the boys squad and this season they are starting with close to 35 wrestlers, returning seven upperclassmen, seven sophomores and 17 freshman.

“We got a bunch of really good freshman and sophomores coming up, but we’ll still have some good leadership with seniors that have been around,” he said. “We got a good future here at Osage right now, it’s looking good.”

Sophomore Brock Arrowood, senior Zach Green and junior Amos Mundy are ready to lead this young squad.

“We’re looking pretty good so far, we’re getting some new people in and should have a full team even though we’re really young,” Arrowood said. “But we should be having a pretty good year. The expectations are high for everyone and we gotta keep each other accountable.”

Last season, Tanner Gardner, Arrowood and Green all finished in the top four at the the Class 2, District 3 Tournament, with Arrowood placing sixth in the 106-pound weight class at the Class 2 State Tournament. Arrowood earned All-Conference honors, making the Tri-County Conference second team along with Mundy who wrestles at 157 pounds.

“What I love about him (Arrowood) is he helps everybody on the team,” Fuglsang said. “He’ll work with anybody, he will show them a move and that helps me out too. It’s just another eye and he’s a great teacher and motivator for the rest of the kids and helped get a bunch of kids out. And we got some other kids who were right on the cusp of making it to state and I expect them to get out this year.”

Arrowood, Green and Mundy are all hungry to punch their tickets to state in 2024. “I’ve been learning on some more moves, while working to be smarter on the mat and improving my mentality and consistency during the offseason,” Arrowood said.

Mundy said he’s been working on technique and conditioning.

“Conditioning is a big part of it because the last few matches, I was gassed in the first round,” he said.

Green who wrestles at 113 pounds also says conditioning is something he has focused on going into the season and is eager to keep learning.

“I’d say conditioning and being knowledgeable about the sport itself, not just focusing on moves,” he said.

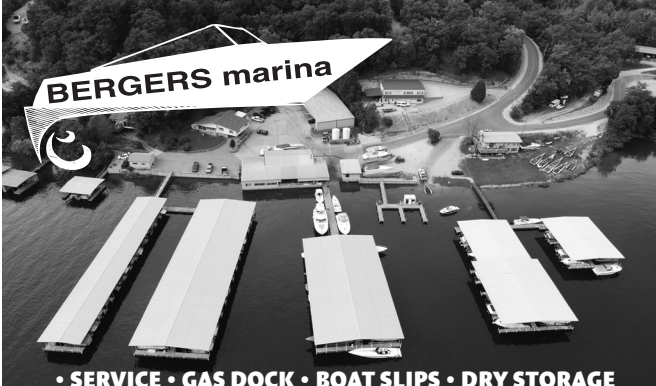
As the team expands, Fuglsang is eager to see who will step it up.

“We had some opens last year and we will be hopefully trying to fill all of those spots,” he said. “You never know, it’s a long season with injuries and sickness and kids just not making it the rest of the year. But this year we have the numbers.”

He said he has waited a long time to fill the wrestling room like it is now.

“I finally see that we’re getting the numbers where we’re going to have a varsity, a JV team and even some freshman guys going and that’s great to have. That’s what builds really good teams.”





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2023/2024 SCHEDULE					
OSAGE BOYS WRESTLING					
11/27	Osage Tri (Osage Beach, MO)	Home	V	5:30 PM	
12/1	Osage Quad (Osage Beach, MO)	Home	V	5:00 PM	
12/5	Helias Catholic (Jefferson City, MO)	Away	V, JV	6:00 PMe	
12/6	Osage Quad (Osage Beach, MO)	Home	V	5:30 PM	
12/8	Haskell JV Tournament (Rolla, MO)	Neutral	JV		
12/9	Versailles Invitational (Versailles, MO)	Neutral	V		
12/12	Buffalo Quad (Osage Beach, MO)	Home	V	5:00 PM	
12/15-12/16	Sam Richardson Duals (Moberly, MO)	Neutral	V		
1/5	Tri-County Conference Tournament (Hallsville, MO)	Neutral	V		
1/6	Rookie Round Up (Sedalia, MO)	Neutral	V		
1/12	Sullivan Friday Night Take Down Scramble (Sullivan, MO)	Neutral	V		
1/16	Osage Tri (Osage Beach, MO)	Home	V	5:30 PM	
1/23	Eldon Quad (Eldon, MO)	Neutral	V		
1/25	Osage Tri (Osage Beach, MO)	Home	V	5:30 PM	
2/6	Osage Quad (Osage Beach, MO)	Home	V	5:30 PM	

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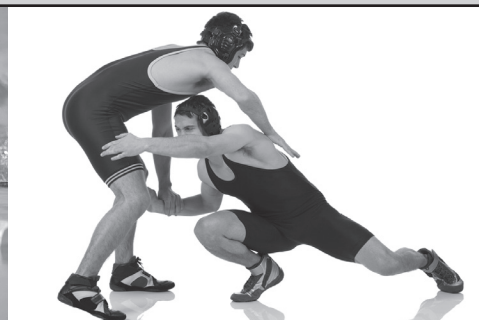
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MACKS CREEK WRESTLING

PASCHEL STARTS PIRATES WRESTLING PROGRAM



MACKS CREEK PIRATES

For the first time in school history, Macks Creek will have a boys and girls wrestling team, coached by Kris Paschel.

Paschel makes his way from Camdenton, where he spent time as an assistant under coach Grant Leighty. Paschel has seven years of coaching the sport at the high school, middle school and youth levels.

“Wrestling is a new sport to the Macks Creek School District and many of these students have never done this before,” Paschel said. “However, since practice, I have noticed a lot of natural talent. We just don’t realize what we are doing yet. But, that is okay because that natural talent will take over during a wrestling match to allow them to be more successful.”

Senior Aidyn Merchant has been chosen as team captain of the boys team that includes, junior Julian Norman, sophomore Owen Charlton and freshman Calvin Eidson.

“The team is comprehending the sport very well,” Aidyn Merchant said. “I went to three college opens placing fifth at one, but my season was cut short because I tore my ACL. This is the first year for a lot of the wrestlers, so the team needs to work on everything and my expectations are for the other wrestlers to win some matches. My personal goal is to win the State Championship. I have been wrestling for a long time now and I am glad the school is giving me the chance to wrestle my senior year.”

Sophomores Kamora Merchant and Gabbie Eversole will be the first girls wrestling team in the history of the Macks Creek School District, with Merchant serving as team captain.

“Both of our boys and girls teams are working hard everyday and we are always making progress,” Kamora Merchant said. “We will continue to make steps forward for our school and team. For our team, I expect progress and to never go backwards. Wins or losses, it’s always an opportunity to move forward and get better.”

She added that staying positive will be key for the Lady Pirates to improve.

“Keeping positivity going around to have our team looking on the bright side of progressing, I’m so excited to see what our team will bring to the table,” Merchant said. “I’ve been wrestling for about six years and for my personal goals, I’m looking for a State title to bring home to Macks Creek.”

Paschel doesn’t expect immediate success, he just wants his wrestlers to focus on learning the sport.

“This sport is very technical and difficult to pick up overnight,” he said. “You have to learn how to control your body, control another body when they are resisting you, when to let go and when to not let go. This will come with time on the mat. I just ask my wrestlers to be coachable.”

He added that there is plenty of room for improvement, but he’s focused on having this new program embrace the process of improving every day.

“The only direction is up. We are a brand new program,” Paschel said. “As long as we learn from our mistakes, our team will always be improving and getting better.”

2023/2024 SCHEDULE

MACKS CREEK GIRLS WRESTLING

12/1.....	Osage Quad (Osage Beach, MO)	Neutral	.....	V
1/5.....	Capital City Girls Tournament	Neutral	.....	V
1/9.....	El Dorado Springs	Home	.....	V.....5:00 PM
1/15.....	Brick City Girls Tournament	Neutral	.....	V

2023/2024 SCHEDULE

MACKS CREEK BOYS WRESTLING

12/1.....	Osage Quad (Osage Beach, MO)	Neutral	.....	V
12/15-12/16.....	Battle on the Katy Trail @ Sedalia (Mathewson Center) - Lathrop Host School (Lathrop, MO)	Neutral	.....	V
12/28.....	Eldon JV Tournament (Eldon, MO)	Neutral	.....	JV
1/6.....	Tipton Tournament (Tipton, MO)	Neutral	.....	V
1/9.....	El Dorado Springs	Home	V.....5:00 PM
1/30.....	North Callaway Tri (Kingdom City, MO)	Neutral	V



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MACKS CREEK BOYS BASKETBALL



**MACKS CREEK
PIRATES**

PIRATES WORK TO REPEAT SUCESS

Jeff Treat enters year two as head coach of the Macks Creek boys basketball team that loses six seniors, but the Pirates are ready to silence the doubters.

The Pirates lose four starters from last season and return a lone varsity starter in senior Jose Cortez who will lead the team at point guard.

Hermitage narrowly edged Macks Creek 49-47 in the quarterfinal round of the Class 1, District 6 Tournament in Jefferson City.

Treat, who serves as the activities director for Macks Creek, enters his fourth season of coaching basketball. In his second season he helped guide the Pirates to tie their second best season in the past 15 years.

“We finished 19-8 last year and we beat the state runners-up earlier in the regular season, won the Osceola Tournament and got third in the Skyline and Morrisville tournament,” Treat said. “Very good year and we exceeded everybody’s expectations.”

To start the season, Treat has been impressed with the Pirates work ethic through the offseason and the first few weeks of practice.

“What has impressed me so far with this group is how coachable they are and how hard they have worked,” he said. “Their physicality has impressed me and most of the players’ improvement has impressed me too. This is a really good group of guys, a lot of good coaches said you have to be able to lose with a group before you can win with them and that is true with this team. This team will make the community of Macks Creek proud.”

Macks Creek welcomes six upperclassmen newcomers to the varsity squad including three seniors — Kyler Gabriel, Dakota Willis and Cortez. Juniors include, Nicholas Hicks, Sean Green and Paxton Breshears.

Cortez will be expected to lead this Pirates squad after averaging 7 points per game, 2.5 assists per game, 2.5 rebounds per game and 1.5 steals per game last season.

“He handled the ball in a lot of big games for us last year and had a couple games that he popped off in,” Treat said.

Cortez is eager to lead this Macks Creek team and cap off his high school basketball career on a high note.

“We’re rebuilding I feel like, and we have been putting in a lot of work,” he said. “So, I think we are going to shock a lot of people.”

He noted that with five varsity newcomers, the Pirates have been focusing on getting the little things right.

“Really we have just been focusing on the fundamentals,” Cortez said. “We are a really young team with guys that don’t have varsity playing time.”

He added that he’s been impressed with some of his teammates that just joined the team.

“Paxton Breshears hasn’t played since fifth or sixth grade and he’s been putting in a lot of work and I think he’s going to be really good for us,” Cortez said.

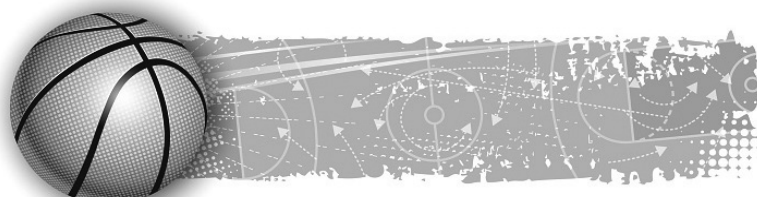
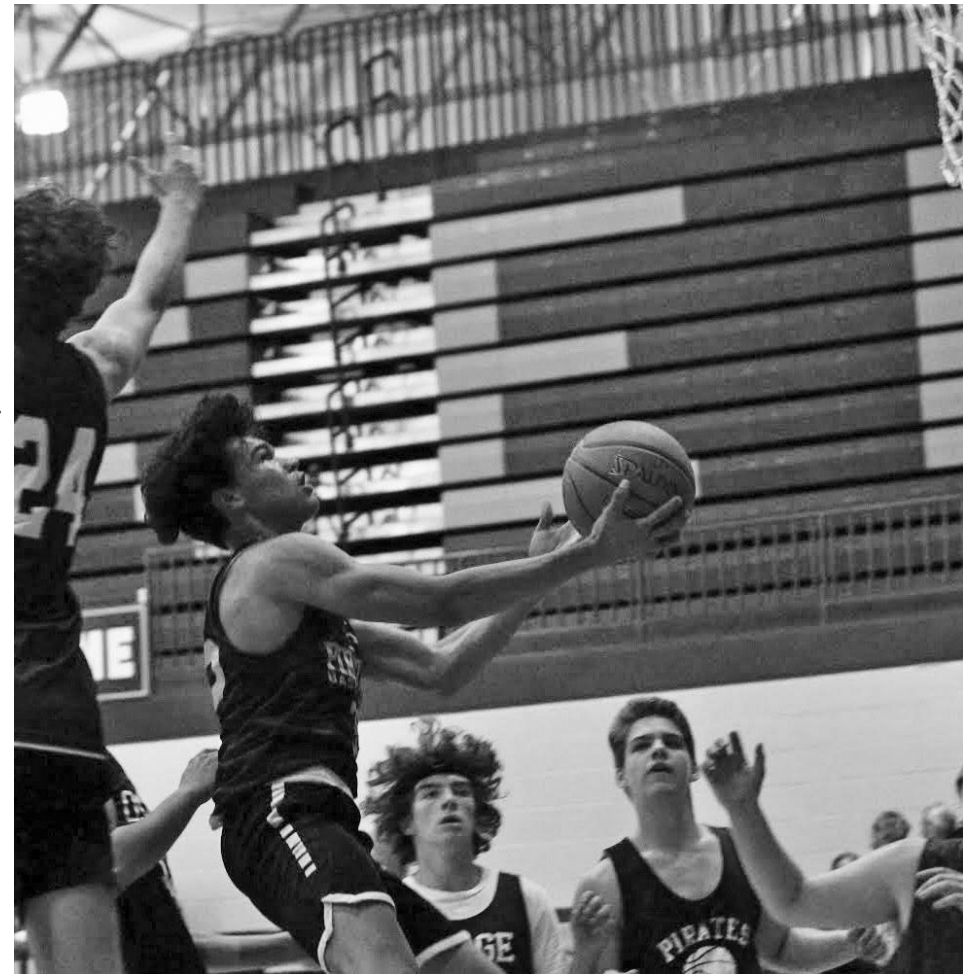
According to Treat, the expectation for this team is to keep making progress and play as far into the season as possible.

“The expectation for this team is to keep improving through the year and peak at the end of the year,” he said. “We lost four starters and two bench players and lost 49 points per game out of 55 (ppg). People are going to doubt us and I have a feeling that we are going to be better than what people think. Very excited for this group because there are a lot of guys on this team that get to prove themselves.”

“My personal goal for this team is to be better than people expect us to be and be able to compete for a District Championship,” Treat said. “I might be the only one that thinks that way, but I know that it is possible with this group. We are going to have a tough schedule at the beginning of the year, but it is going to make us stronger.”

He added that the Pirates still have room to improve on both ends of the floor.

“We can improve on being a better passing team and being able to rely on post play,” Treat said. “Defensively, we need to guard the ball better.”



2023/2024 SCHEDULE

MACKS CREEK BOYS BASKETBALL

11/27-12/2	37th Annual Eugene Basketball Tournament	Neutral	V
12/8	St. Elizabeth	Home	V, JV 6:00 PM
12/14	Humansville	Home	V 7:00 PM
12/19	Tuscumbia	Home	V 7:30 PM
12/27	Leeton	Neutral	V 4:30 PM
1/2	Sacred Heart (Sedalia, MO)	Away	V, JV 5:00 PM
1/4	Walnut Grove	Home	V 7:00 PM
1/8-1/13	62nd Annual Skyline Boys' Basketball Tournament (Urbana, MO)	Neutral	V
1/16	Climax Springs	Home	V, JV 7:00 PM
1/19	Weaubleau (Weaubleau, MO)	Away	V 7:00 PM
1/20	Laker Shootout Varsity (Camdenton, MO)	Neutral	V
1/22-1/27	38th Osceola Invitational Tournament (Osceola, MO)	Neutral	V
1/30	Chadwick (Chadwick, MO)	Away	V 7:00 PM
2/2	Wheatland (Wheatland, MO)	Away	V, JV 6:00 PM
2/5	Dadeville (Dadeville, MO)	Away	V 7:00 PM
2/6	Hermitage	Home	V, JV 7:00 PM
2/9	Fair Play	Home	V 7:00 PM
2/13	Halfway (Halfway, MO)	Away	V 5:30 PM

MACKS CREEK GIRLS BASKETBALL



**MACKS CREEK
PIRATES**

LADY PIRATES AIM TO RAISE BANNERS

The Macks Creek girls basketball team returns seven and welcomes six newcomers to a hungry squad ready to make a deeper postseason run.

The Lady Pirates won their first Class 1, District 8 Championship in 15 years last season, going (24-6). Macks Creek fell to Leeton by a narrow score of 55-54 in the quarterfinal round of the Class 1 State Tournament.

“Last year we won the first District Championship in 15 years by beating Wheatland in the Championship game 43-32,” said Lady Pirates coach Ron Duggan, who enters his third season coaching the girls team. “It was our fourth victory over them that season and each one was harder to achieve. We then beat a very good Golden City team 75-50, then played Leeton, a perennial final four team and came up short. Overall, we were 24-6, but had started the season 7-5, before winning 17 in row.”

According to Duggan, he holds a 54-26 record since taking over the girls team. This will be his 35th season coaching basketball with an overall record of 97-61. Duggan has had previous stops coaching the boys team and at the AAU level.

Through the first few weeks of practice, Duggan has been impressed with the upperclassmen leadership.

“What has impressed me the most with our practices is how our upperclassmen have taken on such a leadership role and showing the younger players how to practice hard and make yourself better,” he said. “Their strength and experience is already showing great signs.”

Returning to lead the Lady Pirates is the junior team captain duo of forward India Willis and point guard Brooklyn Duggan. Willis led Macks Creek in scoring and rebounding, averaging 21.4 points per game and 9.2 rebounds per game. Duggan averaged 12.7 points per game and led the Lady Pirates in assists, averaging 5.3 per game.

“Our team looks really good so far,” Brooklyn Duggan said. “We have our whole team returning plus seven new girls, so it should be an exciting year. This season, our team hopes to take the next step and get a Final Four banner up on the wall. We have strengthened our schedule by adding multiple state-ranked teams and we believe that this is going to help us in the long run to achieve that goal. Our team is going to be one to watch this year and I have so much confidence in my teammates.”

She added that the team has focused this offseason on improving on defense. “The main thing we are focusing on this year is defense,” Duggan said. “We all know that defense wins championships and we are putting everything into making sure we block out and rebound well this year.”

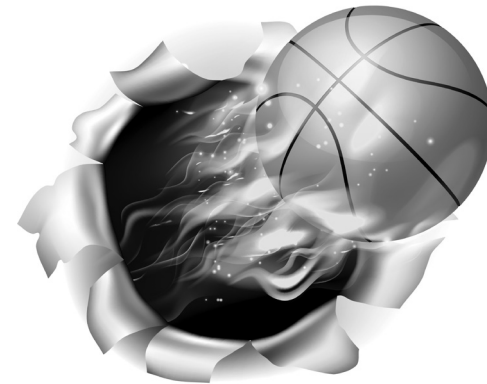
Duggan added that she has a few personal goals for the season, like joining the

1,000 point club.

“I have just under 300 points left, so I should be able to achieve that,” she said. “My second goal is to get even closer to 500 assists. I just need over 100 assists this year to reach that goal.”

Newcomers to the team are senior exchange student and forward Jessica Weyhermuller, junior guard Savannah Leach, freshman guard Madison Stoner, freshman forward Brooklyn Downing, freshman guard/forward Ava Willis and freshman guard Eva Willis.

“Our team expectations for this year are to make it back to the state playoffs and hopefully take the next step. We know that our defense, despite only giving up 35 points a game last year, must improve, along with our rebounding,” coach Duggan said.



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2023/2024 SCHEDULE			
MACKS CREEK GIRLS BASKETBALL			
11/27-12/237th Annual Eugene Basketball Tournament.....	Neutral V
12/4-12/9	.....44th Annual Hermitage Girls Tournament (Hermitage, MO).....	Neutral	..... V
12/14	.....Humansville.....	Home	..... V.....5:30 PM
12/17	.....South Iron.....	Neutral	..... V.....2:00 PM
12/19	.....Tuscumbia.....	Home	..... V.....6:00 PM
12/27	.....Leeton.....	Neutral	..... V.....3:00 PM
1/2	.....Sacred Heart (Sedalia, MO).....	Away	..... V.....6:00 PM
1/4	.....Walnut Grove.....	Home	..... V.....5:30 PM
1/15	.....Iberia.....	Home	..... V, JV.....5:30 PM
1/16	.....Climax Springs.....	Home	..... V.....5:30 PM
1/19	.....Weaubleau (Weaubleau, MO).....	Away	..... V.....5:30 PM
1/22-1/27	.....38th Osceola Invitational Tournament (Osceola, MO).....	Neutral	..... V
1/30	.....Chadwick (Chadwick, MO).....	Away	..... V.....5:30 PM
2/2	.....Wheatland (Wheatland, MO).....	Away	..... V.....5:30 PM
2/5	.....Dadeville (Dadeville, MO).....	Away	..... V.....5:30 PM
2/6	.....Hermitage.....	Home	..... V.....5:30 PM
2/9	.....Fair Play.....	Home	..... V.....5:30 PM
2/13	.....Halfway (Halfway, MO).....	Away	..... V.....5:30 PM

CLIMAX SPRINGS BOYS BASKETBALL

COUGARS FOCUSED ON RE-BUILDING

The Climax Springs boys basketball team returns just two players with varsity experience, but head coach James Butterfield remains confident in what this young team can do.

“We are super young,” Butterfield said, who is entering his 15th season at Climax Springs. “We got some good athletes and some good shooters, so as we mature a little bit, we’ll get a little better with time. We got a pretty new group with only two kids with varsity experience.”

The Cougars lose just three seniors and are hungry to improve after going 7-18 last year. Climax Springs fell 69-40 to Calvary Lutheran in the opening round of the Class 1, District 6 Tournament in Jefferson City.

“We battled and only won seven games which is a bad season,” Butterfield said. “We ended up graduating three seniors and this year we got a young group and I’m looking forward to working with them.”

He noted that he intends to start senior guard Kaiden Phillips, who is one of the two returning starters from last season.

“He’s a good athlete that can shoot it a little bit,” Butterfield said.

Joining Phillips on the varsity squad are juniors Jacob Griffith, Richard Ables, Kaleb Leonard and Michael Simmons, sophomores Cody Blanche and Ty Flowers and freshmen Ty Butterfield and Tanner Williams.

“We’re looking pretty good, we got some freshmen coming up that will help us out,” Phillips said. “We lost some good seniors and we’re just rebuilding the team right now, but we got shooters and kids that can play defense. Kids have gotten stronger, so hopefully it’s a good season.”

Butterfield is eager to see how this young Cougar squad will handle the pressure while improving on fundamentals.

“Some of our ball handlers are pretty young, so we’re learning how to handle pressure and not turn the ball over and things like that,” he said. “We got about four or five guys that can really shoot it, but that’s what they work on, so we’re trying to add to their game. JV is where you have to learn those things and we’re having to get them ready for varsity, but we’ll be alright.”

He noted that he would like to see someone step up and lead this squad.

“We’re still kind of waiting to see who comes to the top as far as leadership goes,” Butterfield said. “I have a couple of really good kids that are quiet, and then I have two to three that we have to settle down emotionally. We don’t have that one steady leader yet, but again it will come with time. They are all good kids, so we’ll get that figured out as it goes. I don’t ever look at a group and make someone the boss, it’s earned as we go through the season.”

Butterfield added that he played at Climax Springs and back then they had size, and this year’s team is small and can spread the floor.

“Hopefully they can get far like those teams,” he said. “I was on some pretty good



CLIMAX SPRINGS COUGARS

teams here and we were really big and I was the third or fourth biggest guy, and these guys are small and can shoot it well. So, hopefully we can figure it out, but we’ll see how far we can go. We got some good athletes and some solid shooters, so I’m confident that we’ll get there.”

2023/2024 SCHEDULE

CLIMAX SPRINGS BOYS BASKETBALL

11/28.....	Gloria Deo Academy	Home.....	V.....	7:00 PM
12/12.....	Halfway (Halfway, MO).....	Away	V, JV.....	7:00 PM
12/15.....	WK Shootout SFCC (Sedalia, MO).....	Away	V.....	
12/15.....	Smithton	Neutral	V.....	9:00 PM
12/19.....	Chilhowee (Chilhowee, MO).....	Away	V.....	7:00 PM
12/28-12/30...	Dough Loehr Holiday Classic (Weaubleau, MO).....	Neutral	V.....	
1/5.....	Humansville (Humansville, MO).....	Away	V.....	7:00 PM
1/8-1/13.....	62nd Annual Skyline Boys' Basketball Tournament (Urbana, MO) ...	Neutral	V.....	
1/15.....	Calvary Lutheran	Home.....	V, JV.....	6:00 PM
1/16.....	Macks Creek (Macks Creek, MO).....	Away	V, JV.....	7:00 PM
1/19.....	Fair Play (Fair Play, MO).....	Away	V, JV.....	7:00 PM
1/20.....	Laker Shootout Varsity (Camdenton, MO).....	Neutral	V.....	
1/22-1/27.....	38th Osceola Invitational Tournament (Osceola, MO).....	Neutral	V.....	
1/29.....	Warsaw	Home.....	V, JV.....	7:00 PM
1/30.....	Richland	Home.....	V, JV.....	6:30 PM
2/2.....	Hermitage	Home.....	V, JV.....	7:00 PM
2/6.....	Crocker (Crocker, MO).....	Away	V, JV.....	7:00 PM
2/15.....	Weaubleau.....	Home.....	V, JV.....	7:00 PM
2/16.....	Sheldon	Home.....	V.....	7:00 PM



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CLIMAX SPRINGS GIRLS BASKETBALL

LADY COUGARS RETURN ALL STARTERS

The Climax Springs girls basketball team returns all of its starters from last season as it looks to take the next step under third-year head coach Josh Griffith.

The Lady Cougars return two seniors, Ava Wolfe and Presley Townsend from last season. Climax Springs went 12-14 and lost 66-28 to Wheatland in the quarterfinal round of the Class 1, District 5 Tournament at Wheatland High School.

“We had a few games that we would have liked to have back that would have put us at .500 or above,” Griffith said, who enters his 16th season coaching the sport with stops at the youth level. “We were young with only two upperclassmen and no seniors, so there was some learning that took place as the season progressed.”

Griffith said that he’s been impressed with the hard work the girls have put in during the offseason.

“I have been impressed with our effort in practice,” he said. “The girls really are determined to have a great season. They have been working hard every practice and have the desire to have a great season.”

He noted that with all starters returning, he expects the team to build off the experience they have gained.

“We return all of our starters and are hopeful that the growth from last year will prepare us for a successful season,” Griffith said. “We will start two seniors, two juniors and one sophomore on most days. This experience has us hopeful that we will be competing for a District Championship.”

Wolfe and junior forward Daphne Butterfield return to lead the Lady Cougars, after both averaged 12 points per game to lead the team in scoring last year. Freshman DeNay Blanche is the lone newcomer to the girls squad.

Butterfield also led Climax Springs in rebounding, averaging 6.6 rebounds per game. Wolfe led the Lady Cougars in assists and steals, averaging 2.8 assists per game and 2.2 steals per game.

“Our team is looking way better as a team than last year,” Wolfe said. “We have all of our starters returning this year and have all gotten better, we just need to improve on working as a team, rather than by ourselves.”

With only six players this season, Wolfe expects everyone to get valuable varsity minutes. “Returning starters are Maddie Arnett who is a sophomore, junior Daphne Butterfield, Jordan Rodenbaugh who is also a junior, along with fellow senior Presley Townsend and myself,” she said.

Wolfe is embracing the leadership role and wants to do the best she can.



CLIMAX SPRINGS COUGARS

“Personally since this season will be my last, it’s to be the best leader that I can possibly be,” she said. “Last year it was a brand new role for me since it was my first year and this year I want to not have success for myself, but success for my teammates.”

She is hoping that the chemistry this team has built up will lead to more wins.

“Hopefully, this year, now that we have more experience working with each other, we will have more wins,” Wolfe said. “Last year we went 12-14, so I would like to have more wins than losses and maybe put up another banner as District Champions.”

Griffith added that he wants to see this Lady Cougars squad believe in their talents.

“I think that our team needs to improve our confidence level. We have the ability to really compete if they remain confident in themselves,” he said.

2023/2024 SCHEDULE	
CLIMAX SPRINGS GIRLS BASKETBALL	
11/28.....Northwest (Hughesville).....Home..... V.....5:30 PM	
12/4-12/9 .....43rd Annual Hermitage Girls Tournament (Hermitage, MO).....Neutral..... V	
12/12.....Halfway (Halfway, MO).....Away..... V.....5:30 PM	
12/15.....WK Shootout SFCC (Sedalia, MO).....Away..... V	
12/15.....Smithton.....Neutral..... V..... 7:30 PM	
12/19.....Chilhowee (Chilhowee, MO).....Away..... V.....5:30 PM	
1/5.....Humansville (Humansville, MO).....Away..... V.....5:30 PM	
1/6-1/13.....17th Annual Skyline Girls' Basketball Tournament (Urbana, MO).....Neutral..... V	
1/15.....Calvary Lutheran.....Home..... V.....4:30 PM	
1/16.....Macks Creek (Macks Creek, MO).....Away..... V.....5:30 PM	
1/19.....Fair Play (Fair Play, MO).....Away..... V.....5:30 PM	
1/22-1/27.....39th Osceola Invitational Tournament.....Neutral..... V	
1/29.....Warsaw.....Home..... V.....5:30 PM	
1/30.....Richland.....Home..... V, JV.....5:30 PM	
2/2.....Hermitage.....Home..... V.....5:30 PM	
2/6.....Crocker (Crocker, MO).....Away..... V.....5:30 PM	
2/13.....Stoutland.....Home..... V.....5:30 PM	
2/15.....Weaubleau.....Home..... V.....5:30 PM	
2/16.....Sheldon.....Home..... V.....5:30 PM	

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