

OPENING

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BASKETBALL IS BACK

Everything a fan needs to prepare is here.

SEASON PREVIEWS

A look at 35 area teams

Conversations with coaches that include preseason evaluations, team goals, returning players as well as:

- Complete season schedules
- Rosters
- District assignments
- A look back at last season

AT A GLANCE

Season primer

The players that will make the biggest impact and a rapid-fire breakdown of each team:

- Top returning players
- 10-second team summaries

A CLOSER LOOK

Saxony girls success began early

➤ Many members of the team played together since they were in the fifth grade

Jackson boys form stronger bond after year of ups and downs

➤ Indians overcame injuries and tragedy to reach state quarterfinals last season

Scott County Central girls continue to restore pride in the program

➤ Bravettes hope to build on last season's district title and return to the final four

Oran boys have work to do before making another final four run

➤ Four of the six players that played significant minutes last season return

St. Vincent boys and girls coaches in third decade leading teams

➤ Bruce Valleroy and Terry Wengert are the area's longest-tenured coaches

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It will be time for tipoff soon enough. Now is the time to talk to coaches about their teams, their dreams and their schemes this season. Here's what they have to say.

On the clock... GIRLS TEAM PREVIEWS IN 10 SECONDS OR LESS

Central

The Tigers will have to replace Southeast Missourian player of the year Alayah Cooper-Johnson and four other players who started at some point last season. Coach Sherri Shirrell, who is in her ninth season at the helm, hopes that more team speed will help her players apply more defensive pressure.

Chaffee

The Red Devils advanced to the Class 2 District 3 title game a season ago with all-Missourian team member Ellie Sigman leading the way. She and Adrienne Eichhorn are gone, but a young nucleus should put the team in a position to compete for titles for years to come.

Delta

The Bobcats had an uncharacteristically down season a year ago and finished with a 7-16 record. But second-year coach Gary Poyner believes the team, which lost just one starter from last year, will start to trend upward this season with the infusion of seven freshmen into the program.

Eagle Ridge

Coach Donna Powell, who led the Eagles from 1999 to 2006 and won a Missouri Christian School Activities Association state title, returned to the school last season and is determined to develop a tough man-to-man defense that applies maximum pressure to her team's opponents.

Jackson

The Indians will turn up the speed and turn on the pressure to make up for a lack of height. It will be a different pace than the team has played while winning back-to-back Class 5 district championships, but coach Tyler Abernathy said his players are ready for the change.

Kelly

Coach Rod McQuerter, who is leading the Hawks for a 16th season, has all five of his starters from last season back this year. McQuerter has coached some impressive teams and won a lot of games, but competing and having fun are at the top of his list of team goals.

Meadow Heights

The Panthers finished a game above .500 last season, but could struggle to match that production this season. Nine new players, including three freshmen that will likely contribute on varsity, have first-year coach Charlie Doublin focusing on cohesiveness and fundamentals.

Notre Dame

It would be hard to overstate coach Renee' Peters' excitement entering the season. Eight seniors willing to contribute equal parts of enthusiasm, focus and fun plus an up-tempo pace and defensive pressure should help the Bulldogs make up for a lack of size, according to Peters.

Oran

All five starters return from a much-improved Eagles' team that finished with a 10-13 record last season, just a year after the school had to cancel games because of a shortage of players. Second-year coach Ethan Evans has 17 players combined between the junior varsity and varsity level this year.

Perryville

The Pirates have eight sophomores, four seniors and a junior on their roster this season. Coach Vicki Lohmann, who is in her 17th season at the school, expects her sophomore class to make significant contributions and help ease the pain of losing all-Missourian team member Natalie Gremaud.

Saxony Lutheran

The Crusaders could emerge as the area's premier girls team this season. The school's elite sophomore class, which include eight of the nine players on the roster, helped the team win a Class 3 district title last season. The players have their sights set on a deeper postseason run this season.

Scott City

Kerry Thompson returns to the sideline this season to lead the Rams, who won just four games and lost 23 a year ago. Thompson thinks the team has the talent to make big strides during the season and develop into a threat by the time postseason play starts.

Scott County Central

Four of the five starters who helped the Bravettes collect a district title and 20 victories last season are back for their senior year. Second-year coach Matt Limbaugh stops short of listing advancing to the Class 1 final four as a goal, but it's clear that that's a realistic possibility for the team this season.

St. Vincent

Four starters, including all-Missourian team member Katie Mattingly, return to an Indians team that finished 9-15 last season under long-time coach Terry Wengert. With three players standing 5-9 or taller, the Indians will actually have more size than most of their area counterparts this season.

Woodland

The Cardinals finished with an impressive 18-6 record a season ago but have the misfortune of competing in the same Class 3 district as defending champion Saxony Lutheran. It figures to take a monumental, but not impossible, upset for the Cardinals to take the title from the Crusaders this season.

RETURNING ALL-MISSOURIAN TEAM MEMBERS



Josie Long, Woodland

Long, a senior who is a threat to drive and shoot from long distance, has helped revive the Cardinals' program.



Annie Siebert, Notre Dame

Siebert is an exceptional athlete who plays three sports for the Bulldogs and excels on both ends of the basketball court.



Grace Mirly, Saxony Lutheran

Mirly averaged 10.1 points a game and shot 39 percent from behind the 3-point arc in her freshman season.



Brianna Mueller, Saxony Lutheran

Mueller led the Crusaders with 13.7 points and 4.0 rebounds a game during her freshman season a year ago.



Katie Mattingly, St. Vincent

The senior post player should provide a veteran Indians' team with leadership, points and rebounds.



Mikaela Blissett, Scott County Central

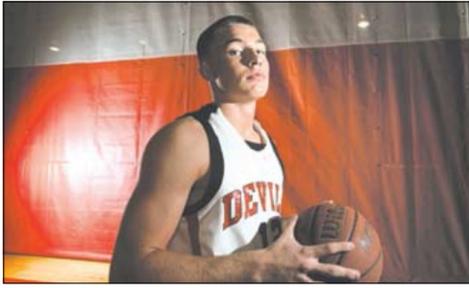
Blissett, now a senior, scored an average of 27 points and had seven rebounds a game for the Bravettes last season.

Good Luck to All Teams!



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RETURNING ALL-MISSOURIAN TEAM MEMBERS



Peyton Montgomery, Chaffee

The junior will make the transition from quarterback to point guard but will remain his team's between-the-lines captain.



Ryan Below, Oak Ridge

Below enters his fourth year as a starter for the Blue Jays' varsity team and is a double-double machine in the post.



Blake Reynolds, Jackson

Reynolds, now a 6-foot-7 junior, averaged 11.6 points and a team-best 6.8 rebounds during his sophomore season.



Karson King, Jackson

King, a three-year starter, enters his senior year after averaging 15.5 points, 5.2 rebounds and 3.5 assists a game last season.



LaRandis Banks, Scott County Central

Banks is the only member of the Braves team to play a significant role on the school's last state championship two years ago.



Lane Below, Advance

Below averaged 19.5 points and 5.2 assists a year ago as a junior and will be the Hornets' undisputed leader this season.

On the clock... BOYS TEAM PREVIEWS IN 10 SECONDS OR LESS

Advance

The Hornets have a roster full of juniors and seniors, but only one starter back from last year's team that fell to Oran in the district final for a third consecutive season. First-year coach Bubba Wheelley, who was an assistant for the team last season, will try to help it claim that elusive title.

Bell City

New coach CJ Hadley won a state title as a member of the Cubs team, but those days seem like a long time ago for a program that collected just three wins last season. Hadley knows it will take time, but he hopes to restore the former glory.

Chaffee

The Red Devils bowed out to final-four bound Oran in a close district semifinal a year ago and almost all the Red Devils production returns this season. Sixth-year coach Josh Govreau said winning the district title is the team's No. 1 goal this season.

Central

The Tigers, who should be formidable in Class 4 by the end of the season, will need a little more time than usual to round into form this year. Multiple members of the team starred for the school's football team deep into the fall, meaning basketball practice has had to wait.

Delta

First-year coach Robert Vazquez, a former Scott City assistant, is focused on getting his under-sized lineup to play an up-tempo style and laying the foundation for an improved future for the Bobcats, who have been hobbled by injuries and small roster sizes in recent years.

Eagle Ridge

The Eagles, who play in the Missouri Christian Schools Activities Association, start their season earlier than schools that play under MSHSAA rules and have already collected their first win of the season. Seventh-year coach Andrew Mellies expects his team to excel at defense.

Jackson

The Indians pulled off a big upset of Chaminade to advance to the Class 5 quarterfinals last season, and most of the team returns this season. The players spent a lot of time in the weight room this offseason getting stronger, something coach Darrin Scott thinks will help them this season.

Kelly

The Hawks lost three starters from a team that finished with five wins and 15 losses last season. Coach Josh Eftink, who is in his fourth season at the school, expects it to take some time for his younger players to adjust to varsity-level play.

Leopold

The Wildcats are coming off the best season in the school's history. They won a school record 24 games before being upset in the district championship by Scott County Central, but four starters and seven seniors are gone, making it hard to predict how the team will fare this season.

Meadow Heights

Mark Verticchio, who coached the school's girls team the past three seasons, will lead the boys team this season. Verticchio, a former Delta girls and Oak Ridge boys coach, said a culture change is needed for a program that won just one game two years ago and eight last year.

Notre Dame

Coach Kevin Roberts plans to use most of his bench again this season and play 10 or 11 players every game. He used the tactic last season, during which six sophomores played regular minutes. He hopes a year of experience will help the Bulldogs improve on their 15-12 record.

Oak Ridge

Senior Ryan Below, a premier player in the area who missed the end of last season with a foot injury, will be back to lead the Blue Jays this season. He should be surrounded by enough talented players to help the team match or beat last season's 20-win total.

Oran

The Eagles reached the school's first final four since 1969 last season and finished fourth in Class 2. Stars Alex Heuring and Kody Moore graduated, but the rest of the team's core is back for coach Joe Shoemaker, meaning the Eagles should be tough to eliminate again this season.

Perryville

Second-year coach Justin Dreyer expects a big increase in his team's win total this season. The Pirates won six games a year ago, but Dreyer said that could increase to 15-20 wins. Three members of the school's soccer team, which reached the state quarterfinals, joined practice late.

Saxony Lutheran

Coach Tim Winkler is back for a second season after the Crusaders' previous two leaders moved on after one year. Winkler got a late start with the team last year, so it's well ahead of last season's learning curve. Six-foot-8 senior Jack Lake could emerge as a star this season.

Scott City

The Rams' young team may take some lumps early, but that hasn't dampened coach Mark Dannemueller's enthusiasm entering the season. With a group of players who are working hard and eager to learn, Dannemueller expects his team to be an upset threat by season's end.

Scott County Central

The Braves should look more like the team that advanced to the state quarterfinals at the end of last season than the team that struggled at the beginning of the year. Second-year coach Frank Staple will use a 10-man rotation to keep the Braves fresh while playing their trademark full-court press.

St. Vincent

The Indians will have plenty of challenges to face this season. All five starters from last year graduated, and they will have just six full-time varsity players. The players and long-time coach Bruce Valleroy will try to make up for a lack of depth with familiarity and continuity.

Woodland

Scot Davis is the latest coach to lead Woodland, which has had a seemingly endless string of one-year coaches of late. The Cardinals, who won five games last season and lost 18, are focused on learning another new offense and defense before the start of the season.

Zalma

First-year coach Bryant Ferneti wants the Bulldogs to turn up the pressure on opponents on defense. The team has just one starter back from a team that went 4-18 last year, but Ferneti is more focused on improvement this year that he can build on in the future than anything else.

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ADVANCE BOYS

Opening statements by...

COACH BUBBA WHEETLEY

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Wheetley: Well, they're working hard, they really are. Like I said, this is a rebuilding year for us. We have one starter back, he'll be an all-stater, he's good, [Lane] Below's good, but the other kids have no varsity experience except [Matt] Hood and [Austin] Miller. They got a little experience last year on the varsity but very little. But they're both hurt. Hood's going to be out a while, he had knee surgery and Austin Miller has tendinitis in his knee, he hasn't done any conditioning, he's just not ready. Hopefully as we go on he'll come around. We're going to be small, we're going to be slow. It's a rebuilding year, but I will say these kids have a lot of heart and guts, so they're going to play hard, they're going to fight out there, I like that.

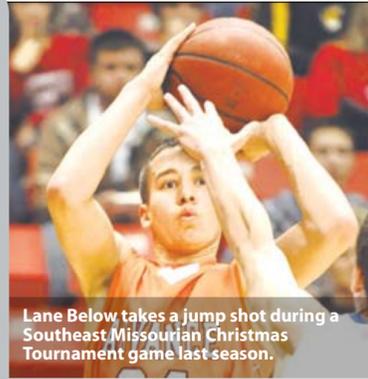
SM: As the season goes on how do you look for these kids to grow and take on the varsity level?

CW: I really think, and I might be stuffing my head too full, I think we have enough. Like I

said, we're a little slow and we're not very big but with Lane Below, he can control a lot of the stuff. If these kids can fill their roles, and I think they will, I think we can surprise some people before the year is up, I really do. But that's yet to be seen, if these kids keep working hard like they are, I really think we can step up and contend with some of these [Class 1] and [Class 2] schools. I know we can.

SM: Below is one of the premier guards in the area, what will be his role this year?

CW: What I want him to do, and he will, he's a leader. I don't want him to try and do too much. There are teams out here that are going to box-and-one him and double team him. That's why these other kids are going to have to pick up the slack, and I think they will. He will find these kids, and I told him I want him to do as much as possible. You got five kids on the floor, we have to use them all. He can make it all happen, he sees the floor very well, he passes very well, there's nothing much he doesn't do good. He's a good ballplayer. The only thing I've been working with him now is pick up defensively and rebound a little bit for me because that's two areas that I think he needs to improve at, everything else he does really, really well. He's a good ballplayer.



Lane Below takes a jump shot during a Southeast Missourian Christmas Tournament game last season.

Coach: Bubba Wheetley, first season
Last season's record: 21-8
Postseason result: Lost 81-74 to Oran in Class 2 District 3 title game.
District assignment: Class 2 District 3 with Bismarck, Chaffee, Meadow Heights, Oran, Southern Reynolds, Valley and Viburnum
Starters gone: Ethan Barr, Curtis Gilliland, Tyler Middleton, Trey Wallace
Starters back: Lane Below

ROSTER

No.	Player	Year	Ht.
15	Zane Eggiman	Sr.	5-11
21	Austin Miller	Sr.	5-9
22	Garrett Walker	Sr.	5-6
23	Richard Nixon III	Jr.	6-1
24	Lane Below	Sr.	6-0
32	Eli Segger	Jr.	6-0
33	Alex Morse	Jr.	5-9
35	Dalton Wilson	Jr.	6-0
42	Ben Trout	Sr.	5-11
43	Grant Woodfin	Jr.	5-10
45	Matt Hood	Sr.	6-0

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
Dec. 26	Oran Invitational	Away
Dec. 10	Bell City	Away
Dec. 13	Puxico	Home
Dec. 17	Scott County Central	Away
Dec. 20	Bloomfield	Home
Dec. 26-30	Southeast Missourian Christmas Tourney	SMC
Jan. 7	Scott City	Home
Jan. 10	Bernie	Away
Jan. 14	Chaffee	Home
Jan. 17	Richland	Away
Jan. 21	Zalma	Home
Jan. 23	Notre Dame	Away
Jan. 27-31	SCAA Tourney	Dexter
Feb. 4	Egyptian, Ill.	Home
Feb. 6	Risco	Home
Feb. 7	Dexter	Away
Feb. 11	Woodland	Away
Feb. 14	Leopold	Away
Feb. 18	Oran	Home

Coach: Renee' Peters, seventh season

Last season's record: 21-6

Postseason result: Lost 48-46 to Dexter in the Class 4 District 1 title game

District assignment: Class 4 District 1 with Central, Dexter, Kennett, Perryville and Sikeston

Starters gone: Miranda Fowler

Starters back: Karsen Powers, Annie Siebert, Shelby Beussink, Kaitlin Welter



Notre Dame's Annie Siebert drives to the basket during the Kelso Supply Holiday Classic last year.

NOTRE DAME GIRLS

Opening statements by...

COACH RENEE' PETERS

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Peters: I would give our team — I mean, I might be a little biased, but overall high marks. I look at our team — we've got eight seniors this year and a lot of experience, a lot of two to three sport athletes. We're very athletic, very quick and a lot of experience. The grade we'd get a low mark in is probably height. We don't have a lot of height, but we've not had a lot of height in the last few years. The cohesiveness on the team is outstanding since these girls have been playing together for a number of years. I've got eight seniors — eight of which can be interchanged and play — and unfortunately I can only start five. I'm really excited about the depth and the athleticism of the team this year.

SM: How is the leadership of your eight seniors going to play a role in your season?

CP: It's going to be huge because these girls feed off each other. The great thing that I treasure about these girls is that on any given night last year anyone could lead in scoring or rebounding, and there's such an unselfishness on the team and it's all about the win and doing well. And the underclassmen see that, and they see the hardwork. My seniors are probably one of the hardest-working groups I've ever had, and they're fun. There's a balance there between enjoying each others company and working hard, and the underclassmen see that and see that if you focus when it's time to focus and laugh when it's time to laugh. They just feed off each other and all of the different combinations that I've put in and worked with, they adapt. It's really a positive, energetic thing on our part. I've never had this many seniors, and I've never had this many core athletes and it's not like we have that one go-to girl. We've got a lot of ammunition from a lot of different parts of the court. They all have to handle the ball, they all have to be able to shoot, they all have to run the floor, so it's wonderful and they're teaching the younger girls a lot. We're physical, we're aggressive, we're quick and the lessons for these young ladies are wonderful.

SM: How are you going to use your speed to your advantage this season?

CP: Well if you've ever seen us play you know we press — full-court press. Speed, transition is probably 60 to 70 percent of our offense. We want to score off of layups and press breaks and turnovers. Our defense is our offense. We're looking to create a lot of turnovers, force a lot of miscues, so we can hit that layup in transition. Speed is very effective on that, especially in girls. Trapping and back-tipping and everything we need to do to get the ball to our players, and like I said I have five girls that when they're on that floor everyone has to run that floor. So speed is going to be a very powerful element of our game.

ROSTER

No.	Player	Year	Ht.
4	Chase Urhahn	Jr.	5-11
10	Brendan Boswell	Jr.	5-9
14	Hunter Ethink	Jr.	6-2
20	Tanner Shively	Jr.	6-3
22	Jordan Williamson	Sr.	5-5
24	Quinn Poythress	Jr.	6-6
30	Trenton Schumer	Jr.	6-4
32	Grant Ressel	Jr.	6-0
34	Jordan Barber	Sr.	6-2
40	Thomas Himmelberg	Jr.	6-3
42	Derek Hulshof	Jr.	6-2
44	Dean Crippen	Jr.	6-5
50	Bobby Jansen	Jr.	6-5

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
Dec. 6	Duchesne	Away
Dec. 9-13	SEMO Conf. Tourney	Sikeston
Dec. 17	NWC	Home
Dec. 20	Sikeston	Home
Dec. 26-30	Southeast Missourian Christmas Tourney	SMC
Jan. 3	Charleston	Home
Jan. 7	Fredericktown	Away
Jan. 11	Tiger Shootout	Central
Jan. 17	Kennett	Away
Jan. 23	Advance	Home
Jan. 24	Saxony Lutheran	Away
Jan. 28	Park Hills Central	Away
Jan. 31	Jackson	Home
Feb. 4	Central	Away
Feb. 7	Bernie	Home
Feb. 14	Poplar Bluff	Home
Feb. 18	Farmington	Away
Feb. 21	DeSoto	Away
Feb. 25	Dexter	Away
Feb. 28	DeSmet	Home

Coach: Kevin Roberts, sixth season

Last season's record: 15-12

Postseason result: Lost 61-55 in overtime to Central in a Class 4

District 1 semifinal

District assignment: Class 4 District 1 with Central, Dexter, Kennett, Perryville and Sikeston

Starters gone: Cody Debrock, Luke Mocherman, Patrick Williamson

Starters back: Jordan Williamson, Jordan Barber, Quinn Poythress



Notre Dame's Quinn Poythress handles the ball during a home game last year.

NOTRE DAME BOYS

Opening statements by...

COACH KEVIN ROBERTS

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Roberts: We return a lot of experience. We had six sophomores on the varsity last year, so those guys are juniors and we return two really quality seniors that started for us last year. And then our JV was undefeated, so we should have a good team this year.

SM: How are you hoping to use that experience to your advantage?

CR: Our system isn't new to these kids now. They know what we expect, and it's not so much of a teaching aspect

and the execution should be there right from the start.

What do you think are some of your team's weaknesses?

CR: Weakness is, I just think, playing together. Like I said we're returning eight guys, but we're bringing in new guys too, so we have to just learn to play together.

SM: What are some of your team's goals?

Obviously our goals are to win every tournament that we're in, to win our district, to get better as the year goes on. I think our depth is probably the biggest strength that we have — we'll play 10, 11 guys every game, so our goals are just to get better every day.

NOTRE DAME

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Below #24

Miller #21

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Segger #32

SENIORS 2014

Good Luck Teams!
Go Advance Hornets!

OAK RIDGE BOYS

Opening statements by...
COACH ADAM STONEKING

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Stoneking: I guess we're going to be more athletic than we have been in the past — a little bit of a mystery as we'll add in a couple players that weren't with us last year. I think that we're going to be competitive in just about every game and just a lot more athletic than what we have been the last couple years.

SM: Are you doing anything differently because you have a more athletic team?

CS: Our style of play will stay the same. We're always going to attack. We like to attack the rim, we like to get to the free throw line. That's always been what we've done, so I think this year with the athleticism that we have returning and coming in I think that we'll be able to just do that a little bit better than what we have in the past. It won't be as much of a struggle as it has been. We'll be able to attack a little bit more than we've been able to.

SM: What are some of your team's goals this year?

CS: Win districts. Play on the last day of every tournament and win districts. That's been our goal since I've been here. We've finished second a few times and last year we came in with [Ryan] Below breaking his foot — we were without him in districts — and we couldn't get past Scott County, a team we'd beaten earlier in the year. So win districts and from there it's all kind of crazy.

SM: You told me your team's athletic and that's a strength, so what are some weaknesses or things to improve on?

CS: This early in it's kind of hard to really say, "This is going to be an issue with us." Depth could be an issue for us. We have quite a few players, but very few of them have varsity experience, so depth could be an issue. We only really bring back three players from last year's team that played quality minutes and we bring back a kid who couldn't play last year due to injury who's a senior for us and he started as a sophomore, but he didn't play last year. Then we have a kid that transferred in. So just how good is our depth going to work out for us once we start playing games.



Oak Ridge's Ryan Below tries to shoot against St. Vincent during a game last year.

Coach: Adam Stoneking, sixth season
Last season's record: 20-7
Postseason result: Lost 76-55 to Scott County Central in a Class 1 District 2 semifinal
District assignment: Class 1 District 2 with Bell City, Delta, Leopold, McKinley Classical Leadership Academy, Richland, Scott County Central and The Fulton School at St. Albans
Starters gone: Ethan Seyer, Hunter Seyer, Lance Rohde
Starters back: Ryan Below, Andrew Puchbauer, Kelby Brown

ROSTER

No.	Player	Year	Ht.
2	Steven Masterson	Fr.	5-0
3	Nathan Bolin	So.	6-2
4	Joey Jaster	Sr.	6-2
11	Andrew Puchbauer	Sr.	6-0
12	Gabe Shroat	Jr.	5-10
14	Jacob Seabaugh	Jr.	6-2
20	Joe Grieme	Jr.	6-1
21	Kelby Brown	Sr.	6-0
22	Ryan Below	Sr.	6-4
23	Jake LeGrand	Sr.	6-1
24	Kolt Metje	Jr.	6-2
30	Chris Seyer	Jr.	6-1
31	Jacob Hengl	Sr.	5-10
35	Clay Maintz	Jr.	6-3

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
Dec. 2-6	Woodland Tourney	Away
Dec. 10	Delta	Home
Dec. 13	Saxony Lutheran	Away
Dec. 17	Bell City	Away
Dec. 20	East Prairie	Away
Dec. 26-30	Southeast Missourian Christmas Tourney	SMC
Jan. 3	Scott City	Home
Jan. 10	Scott County Central	Away
Jan. 13	St. Vincent	Away
Jan. 14	Leopold	Away
Jan. 17	Zalma	Home
Jan. 23	Marquand	Home
Jan. 24	Greenville	Away
Jan. 28	Oran	Home
Jan. 31	Kelly	Home
Feb. 3-7	Miss. Conf. Tourney	Zalma
Feb. 11	Meadow Heights	Home
Feb. 14	Chaffee	Away
Feb. 17	St. Genevieve	Home

ORAN GIRLS

Opening statements by...
COACH ETHAN EVANS

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Evans: Right now everybody's putting in good effort, working hard. We've got 17 total out this year, which is triple what they had a couple years ago. It's good to be able to have a full practice and get everybody through all the drills and be able to run some meaningful things. I'd say right now we're working hard. Our quickness is one of our big strengths. Hopefully we just keep getting better.

SM: What are the ways you hope to use that quickness?

CE: We hope to get up and get after people full court — full-court press and to really, really push the ball up the floor. That's one thing we preach. We want to score quick. We want to get a shot quick. We want to use our athleticism to try to get to the hole, to get to the line, to get some open jump shots for our shooters.

SM: Has having every player back from last season made preseason preparation easier this year?

CE: If you're running a drill when we start practice — you might have to mention it once, 'Hey, do you remember this from last year?' This is what we do. But you don't have to stop and show them everything that you want done. You don't have to stop to perfect little minor things. You don't have to stop and explain the whole drill to everyone.

Coach: Ethan Evans, second season
Last season's record: 10-13
Postseason result: Lost 64-46 to Bismarck in a Class 2 District 3 quarterfinal
District assignment: Class 2 District 3 with Bismarck, Chaffee, Meadow Heights, Southern Reynolds, Valley and Viburnum
Starters gone: None
Starters back: Addie Kielhofner, Chrissie Saucedo, Taylor Nenninger, Allie Cummins, Aubrianna Jones

ROSTER

No.	Player	Year	Ht.
10	Aubrianna Jones	Jr.	5-1
12	Addie Kielhofner	Sr.	5-6
15	Ashlyn McIntosh	So.	5-9
21	Taylor Nenninger	Sr.	5-8
22	Allie Cummins	Jr.	5-9
23	Tatum May	So.	5-9
34	Chrissie Saucedo	Sr.	5-5
50	Kaylen Glastetter	Jr.	5-8
54	Toni Hency	Jr.	5-10

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
Nov. 26	Scott County Central	Home
Dec. 9-14	Lady Red Devils Classic	Chaffee
Dec. 16	NMCC	Away
Dec. 19	South Pemisot	Home
Jan. 6-9	New Years Tourney	Delta
Jan. 13-17	Scott-Miss. Conf. Tourney	SCC
Jan. 20	Saxony Lutheran	Home
Jan. 23	Delta	Home
Jan. 27	Meadow Heights	Away
Jan. 28	Kelly	Home
Feb. 3	Chaffee	Home
Feb. 6	Charleston	Home
Feb. 10	Woodland	Home
Feb. 13	East Prairie	Away
Feb. 17	St. Vincent	Home
Feb. 20	Scott City	Away



Oran's Addie Kielhofner drives against St. Vincent last season.

ORAN BOYS

Opening statements by...
COACH JOE SHOEMAKER

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Shoemaker: We need to improve our conditioning. We're practicing hard, trying to replace our seniors we lost last year.

SM: Is improving conditioning something you always work on at this time of the year or is that something you're having to work a little extra on?

CS: We're having to work a little bit extra on it.

SM: You mentioned replacing seniors. How many of many of your players will have to change roles and how significant will the changes be?

CS: Our two seniors' leadership and the rebounding that they did for us is going to be something that we really have to work as a team to replace. I don't expect one individual to do it, but as a team we're going to have to take that on.

SM: Last year you mostly used a six-man rotation. Do you plan on having that again this year?

CS: I'm not sure. There's a possibility of it expanding this year. We've got several guys in that seven, eight, nine spot that could play some minutes for us.

ROSTER

No.	Player	Year	Ht.
12	Thomas Trankler	Jr.	5-10
21	Jacob Priggel	Jr.	6-0
22	Chance Tenkhoff	Sr.	6-1
23	Seth Ressel	Sr.	6-0
32	Garrison Mangels	So.	6-1
33	Hunter Schlosser	Jr.	6-2
34	Jason Bennett	So.	6-2
35	Eric Westrich	Jr.	5-11
43	Chase Asmus	Sr.	6-1
45	Anthony Pobst	Jr.	6-4
55	Cash Kinney	Sr.	6-3

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
Dec. 2-6	Oran Invitational	Home
Dec. 10	Risco	Home
Dec. 13	Scott City	Away
Dec. 17	East Prairie	Away
Dec. 20	Delta	Away
Dec. 26-30	Southeast Missourian Christmas Tourney	SMC
Jan. 3	Woodland	Away
Jan. 7	Bernie	SMC
Jan. 10	Saxony Lutheran	Home
Jan. 14	Kelly	Home
Jan. 17	St. Vincent	Home
Jan. 20-24	SMC Tourney	Delta
Jan. 28	Oak Ridge	Away
Jan. 31	Leopold	Away
Feb. 4	Chaffee	Home
Feb. 7	Bell City	Away
Feb. 11	Bloomfield	Home
Feb. 14	Scott County Central	Home
Feb. 18	Advance	Away

Oran coach Joe Shoemaker watches from the sideline during the Eagles' Class 2 third-place game against Iberia last season.



Coach: Joe Shoemaker, sixth season
Last season's record: 27-5
Postseason result: Lost 65-63 to Iberia in the Class 2 state third-place game
District assignment: Class 2 District 3 with Advance, Bismarck, Chaffee, Meadow Heights, Southern Reynolds, Valley and Viburnum
Starters gone: Alex Heuring, Kody Moore
Starters back: Seth Ressel, Chance Tenkhoff, Hunter Schlosser

A CLOSER LOOK

Oran boys team leaves trip to state in the past

By RACHEL CRADER
SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

The coaches and members of the Oran basketball team don't talk much about last year's final four appearance, which was the first since 1969 for the school.

"We don't bring it up because it's a new team, and they know that," Oran coach Joe Shoemaker said. "What happened last year was last year. This group hasn't accomplished anything as a group yet. That's kind of where we're at."

Still, Shoemaker hopes his players keep a lesson or two from the trip in the back of their mind as they prepare for this season.

"Just the experience of being there — the hard work that it took us to get there to realize that it's not just going to happen," Shoemaker said. "They're going to have to put the time and effort in to get there."

Four of the six players who saw significant playing time last season return to the team this season, but the two that are gone — Scott-Mississippi Conference player of the year and all-Missourian team member Alex Heuring and all-Missourian team member Kody Moore — will be hard to replace. The pair were the team's leading scorers and rebounders.

"I guess you expect your two seniors that return as starters — [Chance] Tenkhoff and [Seth] Ressel — to take on a bigger role this year," Shoemaker said. Ressel hit the jumper to send the Eagles to the final four last season, and averaged 13 points a game. Tenkhoff averaged about nine points, and both regularly wreaked havoc on defense.



Oran controls the ball in the first quarter during the Eagles' Class 2 third-place game against Iberia last season at Mizzou Arena.

Juniors Hunter Schlosser, who started last season, and sixth-man Jacob Priggel also return to the team. Schlosser averaged double digits scoring and rarely looked outmatched on the court as a sophomore, although he didn't always share the same outward confidence as most of his teammates.

"He's really stepped up and playing well. I don't want to put any pressure on him or anything, but he's definitely going to have to absorb a lot of the stuff that we lost to graduation," Shoemaker said of Schlosser.

"It took him a little bit to realize that he belonged at the varsity level. Like I said, he's going to get stronger and rebound

a lot more for us this year."

All four returning players started for the school's state champion baseball team in the spring after their fourth-place finish in basketball. A return trip to Mizzou Arena would be nice, of course, but that's not what Shoemaker focuses on.

"Basically what we want to do is give our best effort, have a great attitude and play smart every game," Shoemaker said.

"I want to see kids act right when they're out there, handle the adversity the right way — win or loss. I want to see them handle it. Good citizens and good character that they can keep with them in society as they graduate high school."

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Coach: Mark Dannenmueller, fourth season
Last season's record: 15-13
Postseason result: Lost 68-45 to Clearwater in a Class 3 District 2 semifinal
District assignment: Class 3 District 2 with Arcadia Valley, Clearwater, Jefferson, Saxony Lutheran, St. Pius X, West St. Francois County and Woodland
Starters gone: Jonathan McFall, Ryan Brock, Ryan Fortner, Nick Bollinger
Starters back: Trent Pobst



Scott City's Trent Pobst goes in for a shot against Oak Ridge's Ryan Below during the Southeast Missouriian Christmas Tournament last season.

ROSTER			
No.	Player	Year	Ht.
1	Dylan Keller	Fr.	5-11
2	Brennan Job	Jr.	5-9
3	Trent Pobst	So.	5-11
11	Jordan Kluesner	So.	5-11
21	Drew Short	So.	5-9
22	Isiah Berry	So.	5-11
23	A.J. Bollinger	Jr.	5-9
24	Brock Uelsmann	Jr.	6-0
32	Braden Cox	Fr.	6-2
33	Dominic Hooper	Sr.	6-0
50	Tyler Rogers	Jr.	6-0

SCHEDULE		
Date	Opponent	Location
Dec. 2-6	Woodland Tourney	Away
Dec. 10	Bernie	Home
Dec. 13	Oran	Home
Dec. 17	Kelly	Away
Dec. 19	Grandview	Away
Dec. 26-30	Christmas Tourney	SMC
Jan. 3	Oak Ridge	Away
Jan. 7	Advance	Away
Jan. 10	Chaffee	Away
Jan. 13	Portageville	Home
Jan. 14	Delta	Home
Jan. 20-24	Scott-Miss. Conf. Tourney	Delta
Jan. 31	Perryville	Away
Feb. 4	Saxony Lutheran	Away
Feb. 7	East Prairie	Home
Feb. 10	Zalma	Home
Feb. 11	Egyptian, Ill.	Away
Feb. 18	Scott County Central	Home
Feb. 20	Dexter	Home

SCOTT CITY BOYS

Opening statements by...

COACH MARK DANNENMUELLER

Southeast Missouriian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Dannenmueller: We're really, really young. We've got five upperclassmen, one senior and two of the juniors didn't play last year, so it's a little bit of a learning curve for them right now. But yesterday we had a practice that was one of the best practices I've ever had as a coach. The kids were awesome. They practice really, really hard and just did a lot of little stuff. It was really impressive for how young they are. They were pushing one another. We had some drills where they have a couple penalties, maybe a leg lift here or there if they don't get the goal. It looked like they weren't going to get their goal in about two or three of those drills, and they came out of nowhere and put it all together at the end. They never got down. Somebody would drop a pass or whatever — they kept going. It was just really cool to see. I was really, really surprised just with how young they are that they were able to do that, to come together like that, but I've had a lot of these guys since they were seventh graders. Even though they're young they know how we want to do things, and it's made things a lot easier. I tell you what, I know I'm going to have a lot of fun coaching these guys because they do everything you ask them to and they're great kids. They work hard. I have a feeling it's going to be fun coaching them.

SM: Did any of them get experience last year at the varsity level?

CD: Trent [Pobst], he started as a freshman. He was the starting point guard. Isiah Berry is a sophomore. He played, especially at the end of the year, he was getting some time on varsity. Drew Short's a sophomore. He played last year. He actually played really big in our district win against Arcadia [Valley] and came off the bench and played really well. And then Dominic Hooper is a senior. He was our first guy off the bench, so we have a few guys that have a little bit of experience. We have a junior named Brock Uelsmann. He dressed up on varsity. He never got in, but those guys all practiced against varsity guys last year because we had everybody together, and you can tell. Like I said, we're young, but it's kind of weird because we seem mature for how young we are. I really like what I see. I really have. I can sit here and throw out all the clichés in the world, but I'm not one that's impressed a lot, but I'm impressed with where we are right now considering we started late.

SM: What are your goals for this team?

CD: I just want them to get better. I know that's another one of those cliché answers. I honestly, with us being so young, I just want us to get better. I think they will because they have a willingness to learn and they're coachable. They don't feel like anything is owed to them. Even though they've been really, really successful at the junior high level and they've been a part of some great teams, they come out and they work hard every day. When you have great kids, you just want them to be successful. That's what my expectations are. I really believe that we can be a good team at the end of the year. I think early on we've got a tough schedule, especially against Oran and Bernie early. It's going to be tough, but I think if they keep progressing I really think we're going to be a good team at the end of the year. I think we're going to be a team that many of those teams that are favorites — maybe in a district or whatever the case may be — I don't know if they'll look forward to playing us because we might be kind of young and naïve, so to speak.

BELL CITY BOYS

Opening statements by...

COACH CJ HADLEY

Southeast Missouriian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Hadley: We're young. We're short-handed. I've got a group of guys that want to work hard for me. They're competitive at times, but we're just young. I would say my JV will be my stronger team, and our varsity — we have like five people.

SM: How will that affect what you try to do this season?

CH: I'm going to end up having to play some kids that are on my JV team. I'm going to have to play them up some.

SM: You played at Bell City, do you feel like you're starting the program over?

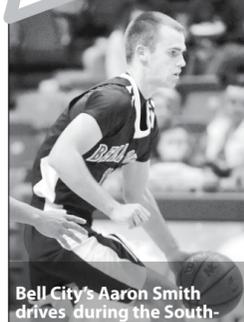
CH: I feel like I'm trying to start over. I'm trying to rebuild from the ground up. I'm trying to get the program back the way it was when I used to play. Yes, it might take four, five, six years — maybe even seven. Who knows? But I want the basketball to be like when I played and won a state championship.

SM: Do you plan to use the same [up-tempo] style of play that you played in high school?

CH: Sort of. It's like I'm taking some from everything where I played at. I played for a lot of good coaches, like Bell City coaches, Three Rivers and Gene Bess and [in] Texas. I'm kind of taking some from everything that a coach gave me and putting it all together.

SM: What progress do you want the team to make this year?

CH: I want us to come together as a team. I want our defense to be better, and I just want us to grow, grow together as a team.



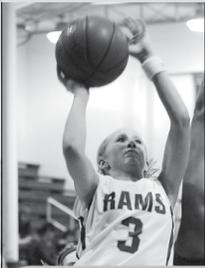
Bell City's Aaron Smith drives during the Southeast Missouriian Christmas Tournament last season.

ROSTER			
No.	Player	Year	Ht.
1	Taylor Ogden	Fr.	5-11
2	Nate Finney	So.	5-9
3	Kolten Siebert	So.	5-7
4	Brandon Abner	So.	5-8
5	Tyler Evans	So.	5-9
10	Nolan Schaefer	Jr.	5-11
11	Aaron Smith	Sr.	6-1
12	Cole Nichols	Fr.	5-5
13	Austin Hicks	Fr.	5-8
14	Bobby Wright	Fr.	5-10
20	Cameron Polley	Jr.	5-11
22	Colbey Gammons	Jr.	5-9
24	Royce Liggins	So.	6-2
25	Payton Maddox	So.	5-10
41	Quinton Herkenhoff Jr.	Jr.	6-2

SCHEDULE		
Date	Opponent	Location
Dec. 2-6	Oran Invitational	Away
Dec. 10	Advance	Home
Dec. 13	Leopold	Home
Dec. 17	Oak Ridge	Home
Dec. 20	Bernie	Away
Dec. 26-30	Southeast Missouriian Christmas Tourney	SMC
Jan. 3	Chaffee	Away
Jan. 7	East Prairie	Away
Jan. 10	Richland	Home
Jan. 14	Puxico	Away
Jan. 17	Delta	Away
Jan. 21	Woodland	Away
Jan. 23	Zalma	Home
Jan. 27-31	SCAA Tourney	Dexter
Feb. 4	Bloomfield	Home
Feb. 7	Oran	Home
Feb. 11	Dexter	Away
Feb. 18	Saxony Lutheran	Home
Feb. 21	Kelly	Away

Coach: CJ Hadley, first season
Last season's record: 3-18
Postseason result: Lost 101-73 to Scott County Central in a Class 1 District 2 quarterfinal
District assignment: Class 1 District 2 with Delta, Leopold, McKinley Classical Leadership Academy, Oak Ridge, Richland, Scott County Central, The Fulton School at St. Albans
Starters gone: Jerad Yates, McKenzie Vires, Michael Geiger
Starters back: Aaron Smith, Nolan Schaefer

Coach: Kerry Thompson, first season
Last season's record: 4-23
Postseason result: Lost 61-22 to Saxony Lutheran in a Class 3 District 2 quarterfinal
District assignment: Class 3 District 2 with Arcadia Valley, Clearwater, Jefferson, Saxony Lutheran, St. Pius X, West St. Francois County and Woodland
Starters gone: Alexis Spriggs, Alicia Kern, Lindsey Rendleman
Starters back: Shea Martin, Lyndsie Robert, Natalie Woods



Scott City's Lyndsie Robert drives to the basket.

ROSTER			
No.	Player	Year	Ht.
2	Shea Martin	Sr.	5-2
3	Lyndsie Robert	Jr.	5-5
4	Bella Bowers	So.	5-4
5	Morgan Pettit	So.	5-4
10	Anina Kern	Jr.	5-5
11	Natalie Woods	Jr.	5-11
13	Hannah Shemonia	So.	5-8
22	Carly Howell	Jr.	5-7
25	Liz Hensley	Jr.	5-8
30	Michaela Kiefer	Jr.	5-8

SCHEDULE		
Date	Opponent	Location
Dec. 2	Chaffee	Home
Dec. 5	Charleston	Away
Dec. 9-14	Lady Red Devils Classic	Chaffee
Dec. 16	Woodland	Away
Dec. 17-19	Holiday Classic	SMC
Jan. 4	Clearwater	TRCC
Jan. 9	Arcadia Valley	Home
Jan. 13-17	Scott-Miss. Conf. Tourney	SCC
Jan. 20	Kelly	Home
Jan. 23	Scott County Central	Away
Jan. 27	Puxico	Home
Jan. 30	Saxony Lutheran	Away
Feb. 3	East Prairie	Home
Feb. 6	Sikeston	Home
Feb. 10	Delta	Home
Feb. 11	Perryville	Home
Feb. 12	Meadow Heights	Away
Feb. 19	St. Vincent	Away
Feb. 20	Oran	Home

SCOTT CITY GIRLS

Opening statements by...

COACH KERRY THOMPSON

Southeast Missouriian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Thompson: Well we've got a whole new coaching staff, so coming into the season we're kind of blind to what we have. But so far in the early season practices our girls have been working hard and the attitude's been fantastic. So I don't really know. I don't know how strong the other teams are just yet, but I do like where our girls are at right now. If we can continue doing what we're doing I think we could have a positive season. Not sure where we're going to be record-wise, but as far as the season's concerned I think we could have a positive season.

SM: What are some of the strengths you've seen with this team?

CT: I think work ethic has been one. I think we could be a good rebounding team. Our key is going to be how we handle the rock, how we handle the ball and turnovers. As far as our strengths so far I think we can be a decent shooting team, and I think we're going to be a good rebounding team. Hopefully we'll be a pretty strong defensive team, but that's yet to be determined.

SM: So what types of players do you have? Tall, fast, etc.?

CT: We do have some decent size. We're not very quick, so we're hoping to utilize our basketball knowledge. The knowledge of the game will help us to play a little bit quicker, but as far as actual speed and quickness, we're not a quick team. We have a few players that have some quickness, but overall we're not real quick. But we do have some size.

SM: What are some of the team's goals?

CT: We definitely want to be a team that nobody wants to play come district time. That's always a goal of ours. We always want to compete in the regular season conference. We want to win the regular season conference and compete well in the districts. A few years ago when I coached the girls — it's been four or five years ago now — that was one of the things I told that bunch that first year I coached them. We started off slow at the beginning of the season, and I said we want to be a team come district time that no one wants to play. We went in to that district the fifth seed and actually won the district tournament. I see a lot of resemblance from that team to this team.

Opening statements by...

COACH ROD MCQUERTER

Southeast Missouriian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach McQuerter: The attitude has been very positive, the girls are really working hard. That's the main thing, they have a positive attitude so far.

SM: You said you had a lot of young starters last year, how does that experience help those young girls going into this year?

CM: Well basically they're still working on the fundamentals. Like I said, the girls are still young, they're still learning varsity intensity. Like I said, we just want to come out with a positive attitude and play as a team, that's our main goal this year.

Coach: Rod McQuerter, 16th season
Last season's record: 7-9
Postseason result: Lost 64-33 to New Madrid County Central in a Class 3 District 1 quarterfinal
District assignment: Class 3 District 1 with Caruthersville, Charleston, Doniphan, East Prairie, Malden, New Madrid County Central and Twin Rivers
Starters gone: None
Starters back: Tessa Johnson, Morgan LeDure, Kristi Brucker, Payton Jones, Stephanie Worth

KELLY GIRLS

ROSTER	
No.	Player
10	Samanthan Ratledge
11	Mogan LeDure
15	Kaylee Scherer
20	Tessa Johnson
21	Stephanie Worth
23	Tori Duanne
24	Kristi Brucker
25	Tiffany Gibson
30	Dakaria Johnson
33	Payton Jones
34	Aleisha Kelley
40	Logan Ivie

SCHEDULE		
Date	Opponent	Location
Dec. 3	Malden	Away
Dec. 5	Chaffee	Home
Dec. 9-14	Lady Red Devils Classic	Chaffee
Dec. 16	East Prairie	Away
Dec. 19	Portageville	Away
Dec. 21-28	Christmas Classic	Twin Rivers
Jan. 2	Meridian, Ill.	Away
Jan. 10	NWCC	Home
Jan. 13-17	Scott-Miss. Conf. Tourney	SCC
Jan. 20	Scott City	Away
Jan. 23	Puxico	Home
Jan. 28	Oran	Away
Jan. 31	Campbell	Home
Feb. 3	Charleston	Home
Feb. 4	Caruthersville	Home
Feb. 10	Puxico	Away
Feb. 17	Scott County Central	Away
Feb. 20	Delta	Home

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SAXONY LUTHERAN GIRLS

Opening statements by... COACH SAM SIDES

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Sides: Basically I think we're ahead of where we were last year. I got almost everybody back. I graduated two seniors, but I did have one player that's a junior this year that decided not to play and had a couple of underclassmen that decided not to come out, but they wouldn't have played varsity anyway probably. So I've got the majority, probably 90 percent, of my team still intact from last year that was 25-3. I've got pretty high expectations, but we've got some work to do. I think we're ahead of where we were last year, but like I said, we've got plenty of things to work on to get ready for the season.

SM: What are some of those things that you're working on right now?

CS: Just execution. I think our knowledge of what we're trying to accomplish and things we did last year, but we're just not executing. We've only had a few days of practice, I understand, but still we've got a ways to go as far as getting where we're supposed to be

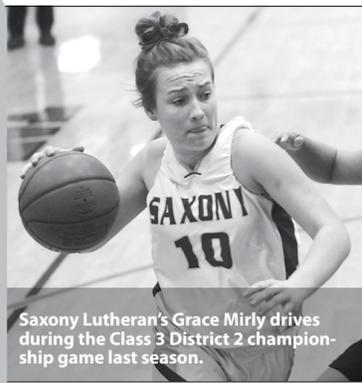
when we're supposed to get there and just trying to get things executed — and not only as far as plays but effort and working together as a group.

SM: You won districts last year, what's the confidence like this year?

CS: I hope it's pretty high. Like I said, we did have not exactly the same makeup as last year, but the bulk of our players that played most of the minutes are back, so I would think having success last year would help us confidence-wise. But also, we did lose our last game, and I don't think that set very well. I think we thought that we should've won that. We just didn't play as well as our opponent, but I think our confidence is pretty good.

SM: What are your team's goals this year?

CS: My goals don't change much from year to year. As far as I'm concerned our goal is to win a district tournament and move on past there. I think we're capable of doing that, but there's no guarantee — just because you did it last year there's no guarantee you're going to do it this year. A lot of things can happen. People get better, some people get worse. You've just got to keep pushing every game to improve.



Saxony Lutheran's Grace Mirly drives during the Class 3 District 2 championship game last season.

Coach: Sam Sides, third season
Last season's record: 25-3
Postseason result: Lost 66-51 to Twin Rivers in a Class 3 sectional
District assignment: Class 3 District 2 with Arcadia Valley, Clearwater, Jefferson, Scott City, St. Pius X, West St. Francois County and Woodland
Starters gone: Natalie Mueller, Lauren Hecht
Starters back: Tess Daniel, Brianna Mueller, Grace Mirly, Raegan Wieser, Maddie Brune, Ashlynn Collier

ROSTER			
No.	Player	Year	Ht.
10	Grace Mirly	So.	5-7
11	Jordan Hecht	So.	5-9
12	Maci Daniel	Sr.	5-3
13	Ali Galemno	So.	5-8
15	Brianna Mueller	So.	5-7
23	Tess Daniel	So.	5-4
25	Ashlynn Collier	So.	5-8
35	Raegan Wieser	So.	5-10
41	Maddie Brune	So.	5-8

SCHEDULE		
Date	Opponent	Location
Nov. 25	Sikeston	Away
Dec. 5	St. Pius X	Away
Dec. 9	Egyptian, Ill.	Home
Dec. 12	North County	Home
Dec. 14	Notre Dame	Home
Dec. 17-19	Holiday Classic	SMC
Jan. 2	Poplar Bluff	Home
Jan. 6-9	New Years Tourney	Delta
Jan. 14	St. Vincent	Home
Jan. 18	Cor Jesu Academy	Away
Jan. 20	Oran	Away
Jan. 23	Central	Home
Jan. 27	Festus	Away
Jan. 30	Scott City	Home
Feb. 4	Dexter	Away
Feb. 6	Meadow Heights	Away
Feb. 11	Viburnum	Away
Feb. 14	Scott County Central	Home
Feb. 18	Chaffee	Away
Feb. 20	Woodland	Home

A CLOSER LOOK

Saxony girls developed winning ways at early age

By ERIN UNERSTALL
SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

Eight of the nine players on the Saxony Lutheran girls basketball team are sophomores, and although they came from two different elementary schools they had plenty of experience playing together prior to their successful freshmen season last year, during which they reached the state sectional round.

"They know each other well," Saxony coach Sam Sides said. "They competed against each other in grade school, but they also played with each other in the summertime and competed. Their chemistry and I'd say their overall team unity is pretty good, that type of thing. They get along."

Tess Daniel, Raegan Wieser, Maddie Brune and Ali Galemno went to school at Trinity Lutheran while Grace Mirly, Jordan Hecht, Brianna Mueller and Ashlynn Collier attended St. Paul Lutheran.

Tess Daniel's dad and former Saxony Lutheran boys basketball coach, John Daniel, and Raegan Wieser's dad, Rick Wieser, coached the Trinity team that won the Lutheran Grade School National Championship.

Daniel, whose daughter Maci is the lone senior on Saxony's team, coached all eight girls on a traveling team during the summers after fifth grade until after eighth grade.

"I knew that the Trinity girls had potential, and I knew that the St. Paul girls had potential and knew that they were all likely headed to Saxony," Daniel said. "And I felt like if we could get them together for the summers and have a highly demanding program that expected them to be committed and intense,

that they could develop and do great things."

The team played teams from as far away as Nashville, Springfield, Ill., and Memphis as well as local teams like Poplar Bluff and Sikeston.

"It was over a period of four years and we typically in the summers played up one year in age," Daniel said. "We only lost two games out of all those summers, and it was to the same team — a team that was a year older from Nashville. They beat us twice in a camp in Paducah."

John Daniel left his position as the boys basketball coach at Saxony after the 2007-2008 season so that he could spend time with his kids and coach them.

Sides then took over as the boys coach.

"Then, later I asked him — I begged him — to coach the girls because I really wanted the girls to have someone that was committed and that was going to expect everything out of girls that you would expect out of boys," Daniel said, "because these girls could handle that kind of expectation and commitment."

This year will be Sides' third season as the Saxony girls coach and second year coaching several of these sophomores.

Sides coached girls basketball at Jackson from 2003-2008 and had coached boys basketball for five years at Leopold and six years at Meadow Heights prior to that.

"I was counting my blessings and thankful that I was going to be having them to work with for a few years," Sides said.

Last year as freshmen the girls were part of the Saxony team that finished 25-3 and won the Class 3 District 2 tournament.

"It's been a blessing to me to have these girls as a whole working as they are," Sides said.

Coach: Josh Eftink, fourth season
Last season's record: 5-15
Postseason result: Lost 65-27 to New Madrid County Central in a Class 3 District 1 quarterfinal
District assignment: Class 3 District 1 with Caruthersville, Charleston, Doniphan, East Prairie, Malden, New Madrid County Central and Twin Rivers
Starters gone: Brent Forck, Austin Wadlington, Gabe Felter
Starters back: Josh Roberts, Gaven Ray, Derrick Garner

Kelly's Gaven Ray takes a shot against Woodland during a consolation quarterfinal game at the Southeast Missouri Christmas Tournament last year.



KELLY BOYS

Opening statements by... COACH JOSH EFTINK

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Eftink: My team's a very hard-working team. They've got some younger kids, but they are an athletic group, and they're working hard right now.

SM: What is your style of play going to be like this year?

CE: Kind of the flow of the game determines that. We've got to be able to play up-tempo and be able to slow it down, so we've got to be able to do it all.

SM: You mentioned you have some younger players, how are they getting into the system and getting used to playing with the older players?

CE: They're still learning. It's some new stuff to them, especially the style of play on varsity. Each day's a learning curve for them, and right now they're adjusting to it pretty well in practice. The next step

is adding more to it — what they need to learn — and adjusting to that. So just keep learning.

SM: What will some of your team's strengths be this season?

CE: Our team strength is that we have some athletic kids up and down the lineup on our floor. I mean, anybody I put in is some pretty athletic kids. We've got some kids that can move a little bit, so that'll be a strength.

SM: What do you think this team might struggle with?

CE: Some of these might struggle with just the varsity atmosphere and the varsity physical play as a whole. It's a new thing to some of them, so that's going to be the first big adjustment for them.

SM: What are some of the team's goals this year?

CE: Our goals just go more along the lines of we're going to work hard every day and we're going to do the best we can every day.

SM: How is the leadership of your returning players going to help?

CE: Their experience is going to help us. They're helping bring some of these younger ones up that are first-time varsity players, and they're really helping them out on teaching them how to play the game the way the game is played on the varsity level.

ROSTER			
No.	Player	Year	Ht.
2	Gaven Ray	Sr.	5-8
3	Maurice Davis	So.	5-10
10	Anthony Klunk	Sr.	5-11
12	Dalton Huffman	Jr.	6-3
13	Jerrold Lynn	Sr.	5-9
15	Evan Abernathy	Jr.	6-0
20	Riley Stark	Jr.	6-0
21	Josh Roberts	Sr.	5-10
23	Jacob Riley	Jr.	6-1
32	Derrick Garner	Sr.	6-0
33	Ty Householder	So.	5-9
34	Clay Williams	Sr.	6-0
44	Conner Dittlinger	So.	6-2

SCHEDULE		
Date	Opponent	Location
Dec. 26	Oran Invitational	Away
Dec. 13	Clearwater	Away
Dec. 17	Scott City	Home
Dec. 20	Woodland	Away
Dec. 26-30	Southeast Missouri Christmas Tourney	SMC
Jan. 6	Bloomfield	Away
Jan. 7	Puxico	Home
Jan. 10	Jefferson	Home
Jan. 14	Oran	Away
Jan. 17	Chaffee	Home
Jan. 20-24	Scott-Miss. Conf. Tourney	Delta
Jan. 28	Saxony Lutheran	Away
Jan. 31	Oak Ridge	Away
Feb. 4	Scott County Central	Home
Feb. 7	Delta	Home
Feb. 11	Richland	Home
Feb. 14	East Prairie	Away
Feb. 17	Marquand	Home
Feb. 21	Bell City	Home

SAXONY LUTHERAN BOYS

Opening statements by... COACH TIM WINKLER

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Winkler: I feel so much better about things right now than I did this time last year because I got hired late July to coach, so I didn't get to take the guys to any kind of team camps or anything like that. Everything was brand new at this time of the year because I didn't have any chance to introduce anything, so we're miles ahead of where we were last year and that makes me very optimistic.

The kids kind of felt like the man-to-man offense that we used last year, they felt that it was complicated, and apparently it was for them. I didn't think it was, but apparently they thought it was. We didn't start running it well until probably mid-January or somewhere around there.

This year we've already got a year under our belts, so we're miles ahead there and the kids are working hard. They really have dedicated themselves in the offseason with the weight room and open gyms. So I guess I'm guardedly optimistic. Things are going really well. Everybody's been healthy to this point, hopefully it'll stay that way. I mean, things are going really well.

SM: You mentioned getting the chance to work with the players over the summer, what did that consist of?

CW: Mainly getting in the weight room and our open gyms. We really didn't have a chance to sit down and work Xs and Os, like on the man-to-man offense I was talking about. But they had a year under their belt. We would talk about it in open gyms — when a kid would be taking his turn out we'd start talking about, "Well, where do you need to be offensively?" and just different things like that.

You could tell that they had a grasp on it or at least a much better grasp than we had a year before. We didn't do anything really out of the ordinary, but just me spending more time with them is probably the biggest thing. Like I said, last year I got hired, it was July 26 — and the reason I can remember that is it's my birthday — so the summer was basically over, so really all I had with them was the fall and then practice started. I'd been out of coaching for I think nine years, so I was rusty. So I just feel so much better.

It's not so much what we did, but just spending time together — them knowing me, me knowing them — and all of us feeling more comfortable with each other and especially from my standpoint, feeling more

comfortable after a nine-year layoff.

SM: What are some of the team goals?

CW: We really haven't sat down and talked specific team goals, but I know we finished 10-16 last year and we felt we could've been so much better, so I know at the very least I think in the back of everyone's minds, whether it's been spoken or not, I think everybody at the very least would like to turn that around to 16-10 at the very least. I would say if we could stay healthy and stick together, play hard, play smart, play together. I think a 20-win season is a very realistic goal for us. I think contending for a district title is a very realistic goal.

I just wish we didn't have to go all the way to Clearwater and possibly play them deep into the district tournament on their home floor. But I think right now as hard as these kids are working and as well as they're listening and the attitudes they have, any goal that we would sit down and think that we had a realistic ability to achieve it there's a very good possibility that we could because of their hard work and their dedication, and the kids get along so well and they listen so well. I can't speak highly enough of them at this point.



Saxony Lutheran's Jack Lake drives past Meadow Heights Josh Douglas for a basket last season.

Coach: Tim Winkler, second season
Last season's record: 10-16
Postseason result: Lost 59-54 to St. Pius X in a Class 3 District 2 quarterfinal
District assignment: Class 3 District 2 with Arcadia Valley,

ROSTER			
No.	Player	Year	Ht.
3	Zach Beal	Sr.	6-2
10	Chase Steffens	Jr.	5-10
11	Gray Hallman	Jr.	5-8
13	Ryan Palmer	Jr.	6-1
14	Zach Schneider	Sr.	5-11
22	Evan Moll	Jr.	5-11
23	Luke LeGrand	Jr.	5-7
25	Taylor Richmond	Sr.	6-0
30	Elwood Voss	Jr.	6-4
35	Hunter Coe	Sr.	5-9
45	Jack Lake	Sr.	6-8

SCHEDULE		
Date	Opponent	Location
Dec. 2-6	Crystal City Classic	Away
Dec. 10	St. Genevieve	Home
Dec. 13	Oak Ridge	Home
Dec. 17	Chaffee	Away
Dec. 20	Perryville	Away
Dec. 26-30	Christmas Tourney	Bloomfield
Jan. 3	Egyptian, Ill.	Away
Jan. 8	St. Pius X	Home
Jan. 10	Oran	Away
Jan. 13-18	Chester Invitational	Chester, Ill.
Jan. 15	Jefferson	Away
Jan. 21	Central	Away
Jan. 24	Notre Dame	Home
Jan. 28	Kelly	Home
Jan. 30	East Prairie	Away
Feb. 4	Scott City	Home
Feb. 11	Crystal City	Home
Feb. 14	Meadow Heights	Away
Feb. 18	Bell City	Away

Clearwater, Jefferson, Scott City, St. Pius X, West St. Francois County and Woodland
Starters gone: Gabe Bohner, Logan Sprandel, Brandon Fritsche
Starters back: Zach Beal, Jack Lake

A CLOSER LOOK

St. Vincent coaches stick with teams through decades

By ERIN UNERSTALL
SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

Not many basketball coaches in Southeast Missouri can say that they've coached a program at one school for more than 20 years.

St. Vincent boasts two coaches that have spent two decades coaching — Bruce Valleroy is in his 21st season as the boys coach and Terry Wengert is in her 22nd season as the girls coach.

Valleroy, a 1981 graduate of St. Vincent, took a job at St. Vincent after graduating from Southeast Missouri State 27 years ago. He was the assistant basketball coach for six years before taking the position of head basketball coach and athletic director in 1992.

Wengert knew that she wanted to

be a basketball coach and after the opportunity arose to be an English teacher and coach, she took it.

Valleroy and Wengert have seen a lot of basketball during their 20-plus years of coaching and have seen things change about the game — from players' attitudes to the competition level.

"It's changed quite a bit," Wengert said. "The games are more upbeat. Kids have changed in that they work very hard at it — they really take it a little more seriously now than they did before."

"And we try to do a lot more. We've added a lot of things — a little bit different defenses and trying to be able to change defenses during the game and that kind of thing. Basically it's just the game has improved on the girls side."

Valleroy thinks that technology has played a role in how the sport has changed, saying that kids don't focus as much on improving their skills because they have other things to do.

"Before I used to have kids that would come in every day and shoot," Valleroy said. "It's tough now in the offseason to get them in here and do stuff because they have other interests and other things they need to do. You're kind of got to change your philosophy on what you want to do."

Valleroy and Wengert have each coached numerous teams during their careers and struggled to pick out a favorite season.

"I guess doing this as long as I've done it every team I've had is special to me," Valleroy said.

He decided that his most memorable game was a state quarterfinal game against South Pemiscot in 2005. St. Vincent hit a half-court shot at the buzzer to win the game and go to the state final four.

"No one gave us a chance to win because before the season started the four teams they picked to go to state was Marionville, East Buchanan, Salisbury and South Pemiscot, and Marionville, Salisbury, East Buchanan and us was the four teams that made it to the finals that year, so that made it special," Valleroy said. "We won a district, our only second district in school history in boys basketball. We won three games in the playoffs and lost in the state championship by five to Marionville."

Wengert recalled one season

where her team won its conference and district, but laughed when she couldn't remember which year it had been.

"We didn't really have that high of expectations and just had a great, great group of young ladies that worked well together and just went out and had a good time and ended up having just a phenomenal season," Wengert said.

At this point neither coach has any intention of leaving St. Vincent in the near future and noted that they'll likely stay as long as they're wanted.

"I would say right now as long as everyone approves of what I'm doing and how I'm doing my job," Valleroy said. "I will probably be at St. Vincent until I'm in a nursing home or die."

Coach: Bruce Valleroy, 21st season
Last season's record: 17-9

Postseason result: Lost 44-42 to Elsberry in a Class 2 District 4 semifinal
District assignment: Class 2 District 4 with Barat Academy, Crossroads College Preparatory, Crystal City, Elsberry, Kingston, New Haven and Valle Catholic

Starters gone: Trent Elder, Dylan Richardet, Jesse Francis, Dylan Hellman, Trenton Gremaud
Starters back: None



St. Vincent's Kevin Mattingly drives against Oak Ridge during a game last season.

ROSTER			
No.	Player	Year	Ht.
10-10	Zach Schumer	Jr.	5-11
12-13	Trevor Leiblie	So.	6-3
14-14	Nathan Carroll	Sr.	6-0
20-20	Kaleb Schmrbusch	Jr.	5-10
22-22	Kevin Mattingly	Sr.	6-3
24-24	Jordan Buchheit	So.	6-0
30-31	Alex Winkler	Sr.	6-1
32-21	Jordan Rellergert	So.	6-2
34-33	Lance Neumann	So.	6-2

SCHEDULE		
Date	Opponent	Location
Dec. 2-6	Crystal City Classic	Away
Dec. 14	St. Genevieve	MAC
Dec. 17	North County	Home
Dec. 19	Leopold	Away
Dec. 26-30	Warrior Classic	Valle Catholic
Jan. 6	Bismarck	Home
Jan. 7	Jefferson	Home
Jan. 10	Crystal City	Home
Jan. 13	Oak Ridge	Home
Jan. 17	Oran	Away
Jan. 24	Herculaneum	Away
Jan. 25	Perryville	Perry Park Center
Feb. 1	Valle Catholic	Away
Feb. 5	Windsor	Away
Feb. 7	St. Pius X	Home
Feb. 11	DeSoto	Home
Feb. 14	Grandview	Away
Feb. 17	Fredericktown	Home
Feb. 19	Kingston	Away
Feb. 20	Meadow Heights	Home

ST. VINCENT BOYS

Opening statements by...

COACH BRUCE VALLEROY

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Valleroy: It will be an interesting season for us. We are very small on numbers on our varsity this year. We have three seniors, two juniors and one sophomore right now — six will consist of our varsity. We will dress some sophomores out — they'll play all four quarters of JV, and we'll dress them out as some emergency players. We are a little thin on our numbers with our varsity, so I guess that will be our first thing. It will probably be interesting to see how it all works out.

SM: With just six players that are varsity, have you thought about how you'll deal with fatigue during games?

CV: We're still trying — I guess until we play a couple games to wait and see how it all works out. Like I said, I'll have some sophomores sitting on the bench as emergency players just in case I need them for a break or foul trouble, injuries, etc. I did lose two seniors this year that did not come back out and did lose a freshman who probably would've started for me, but he tore his ACL in football. So we would've had nine altogether if all those kids would've played, but we'll live with what we've got and we're just going to have to be very smart and hopefully survive I guess will be the key early on especially.

SM: You don't have the depth, but what are some of the team's strengths?

CV: I guess overall would be the chemistry of our team. With three seniors, two juniors and a sophomore that's kind of a broad scope there with three different classes there, but I feel like they all get along really well with each other. They're good friends off the floor, they all get along, so I think that probably the togetherness of our team, they seem to get along with each other and want to help each other succeed.

SM: What's your style of play going to be like this year?

CV: We're not going to be afraid if we've got the chance to push it up the floor. We're not going to be afraid to take it to the basket and try to get a quick basket. If we have to play run-and-gun style for a while, we'll do that if we have to. I'm always a believer in being patient with the ball and getting a good shot. That may be one pass and a good shot, two passes, three, four, five, six, etc. Just on offense, just making sure you get a good shot every time down the floor, don't turn the ball over, make sure it's a good possession. And defense, we have to play good defense. We were very successful last year playing good defense and I know those guys, the majority of them graduated — I lost six seniors from last year and five of them started and probably our other senior was our sixth man — so we did lose a lot of experience from last year, but that was the key to their success last year. They just played very good defense. That's what we're going to have to do — be smart and don't get into foul trouble and kind of pick your spots in when you're going to pick up a foul or when you've got a chance to run with the ball, and everybody's going to have to go in and help rebound. Right now we're still working on those things.

Coach: Terry Wengert, 22nd season

Last season's record: 9-15

Postseason result: Lost 49-35 to Barat Academy in a Class 2 District 4 quarterfinal

District assignment: Class 2 District 4 with Barat Academy, Crossroads College Preparatory, Crystal City, Elsberry, Kingston, New Haven and Valle Catholic

Starters gone: Dani Hogard
Starters back: Casey Unterreiner, Katie Mattingly, Rachel Mudd, Kayla Winkler



St. Vincent's Katie Mattingly drives to the basket against Oran last season.

ROSTER			
No.	Player	Year	Ht.
12	Kylie Baer	Jr.	5-4
13	Paige Yamnitz	Jr.	5-6
14	Courtney Brown	Jr.	5-5
15	Alexana Koishor	Jr.	5-10
21	Holly Blanford	Sr.	5-5
22	Rachel Mudd	Sr.	5-2
23	Casey Unterreiner	Sr.	5-9
24	Katie Mattingly	Sr.	5-10
25	Kayla Winkler	Jr.	5-6
30	Abby Ruessler	Sr.	5-5
32	Amanda Breig	Sr.	5-5

SCHEDULE		
Date	Opponent	Location
Dec. 25	Warrior Classic	Valle
Dec. 3	Delta	Home
Dec. 11	Kingston	Away
Dec. 12	Fredericktown	Home
Dec. 16	Meadow Heights	Home
Jan. 6-9	New Years Tourney	Delta
Jan. 13	Festus	Away
Jan. 14	Saxony Lutheran	Away
Jan. 16	Grandview	Away
Jan. 23	Crystal City	Home
Jan. 25	Perryville	Perry Park Center
Jan. 28	Chaffee	Home
Jan. 29	Valle Catholic	Away
Jan. 30	Jefferson	Home
Feb. 4	St. Pius X	Home
Feb. 5	St. Genevieve	Away
Feb. 6	Chester, Ill.	Away
Feb. 13	Herculaneum	Away
Feb. 17	Oran	Away
Feb. 19	Scott City	Away

ST. VINCENT GIRLS

Opening statements

by...
COACH TERRY WENGERT

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Wengert: Well, we're upbeat, working hard. We've got some experience back and we're looking forward to the season.

SM: What are you working on at this point in the season?

CW: Right now we're just focused on putting in our plays and working on our defense and just putting it all together. Figuring out who works well together and that type of thing.

SM: What have you noticed

are your team's strengths?

CW: We've got a little bit of experience coming into the season, and we hope that that will help us out. And we've had a pretty good work ethic going on.

SM: What are your plans for the offense and defense this season?

CW: Well, we want to continue to improve each game and work together as a unit rather than try to depend on one or two people. Just getting everyone involved.

SM: What are some of the team's goals this season?

CW: The goal is just to continue to improve each game and be in that final district game and try to take a district.

ZALMA BOYS

Opening statements by...

COACH BRYANT FERNETTI

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Ferneti: Our team's going to be young. We have a lot of new faces, but it's also exciting because we can look at it as we're building a foundation for the program, so that's the way we're looking at it right now.

SM: What steps are you taking this year to build the program?

CF: First of all we're trying to get to where the Zalma name means something to the kids. Taking pride in what we're doing every day in practice and also stressing being accountable to everybody in the gym.

SM: What do you see some of your team's biggest strengths being?

CF: We've got a little bit of length and athleticism at the wing position, so I think we'll maybe be able to get out and run a little bit, and we've also got a little bit of shooting ability, so we're going to try to use those to our advantage.

SM: What do you think will be an area of

improvement for the team?

CF: Area of improvement would be just learning the new system that we're trying to do — getting more familiar with our offense and defensive schemes. That's just something that's going to be a work in progress every day. It's already something I've seen improvement in just in the first week and a half, two weeks of practice.

SM: What are you going to do on both ends of the court?

CF: Defensively we're going to try and put a little more pressure on people — whether it be full-court press or half-court or whatever. Also, on offense we're going to be running a continuity offense and also trying to look for quick shots if we have it in transition. Those are just kind of the things that we're trying to do.

SM: What are some of the team goals this year?

CF: We haven't really talked a whole lot about it. I'd like to improve on last year's win total. Also try to win a tournament game, whether it's our conference tournament, Woodland tournament or we got into a Christmas tournament this year, so I'd like to try and win a tournament game and it'd also be great to get into the winner's bracket of a tournament, just so then we can feel being on the winner's bracket side of the tournament.



Zalma's DJ Hankins shoots during a game last year.

Coach: Bryant Ferneti, first season

Last season's record: 4-18

Postseason result: Lost 45-44 to Lesterville in a Class 1 District 3 quarterfinal

District assignment: Class 1 District 3 with Bunker, Eminence, Lesterville, Marquand, School of the Ozarks, South Iron and Summersville

Starters gone: Austin Sitze, Ryan Tucker, Bradley Key, Lane Reed
Starters back: DJ Hankins

ROSTER			
No.	Player	Year	Ht.
3	Peyton Ford	Fr.	5-10
4	Jacob Steinberg	Fr.	6-1
10	Charles Freeman	Fr.	5-8
11	Cole Shelby	So.	5-10
12	Wyatt Lemons	So.	5-10
13	Caleb Hankins	Fr.	6-1
14	DJ Hankins	Jr.	6-4
15	Luke Robertson	So.	6-0
24	Logan Borders	Fr.	5-10
25	Alex Steinberg	So.	6-3
30	Christopher Lombeida	So.	6-2
31	Andrew Hovis	Jr.	6-1
32	Kollin Morrill	So.	6-0
33	Brent Overbey	So.	6-2
35	Dennis Gregory	Jr.	6-4
50	Robert Vernon	So.	6-0

SCHEDULE		
Date	Opponent	Location
Dec. 2-6	Woodland Tourney	Away
Dec. 12	East Prairie	Away
Dec. 13	Naylor	Away
Dec. 20	Greenville	Home
Jan. 10	Delta	Home
Jan. 13	Puxico	Away
Jan. 17	Oak Ridge	Away
Jan. 21	Advance	Away
Jan. 23	Bell City	Away
Jan. 24	Richland	Home
Jan. 28	Meadow Heights	Away
Jan. 31	Marquand	Home
Feb. 3-7	Miss. Valley Conf. Tourney	Away
Feb. 10	Scott City	Home
Feb. 11	Chaffee	Home
Feb. 14	Woodland	Away
Feb. 18	Leopold	Away
Feb. 20	Risco	Home

WOODLAND BOYS

Opening statements by...
COACH SCOT DAVIS

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Davis: At this point it's pretty premature. This is my first year at Woodland. But at the same time I feel like right now there's a lot of potential here. The last 10 years have not been that great for Woodland basketball, but at the same time I feel like this year could be a changing point. There is a lot of talent here, it's just getting it all together at the same time to work together.

SM: What are some of the things you're trying to do with this team?

CD: For the most part it's getting everybody on the same page. Being a first-year coach it's tough to come in and get everybody to work together, understand the philosophy of the offense and what we're trying to do defensively, and that's probably the biggest challenge as well to get everybody to play together.

It doesn't matter how much talent you have if they can't play together. That's basically the No. 1 thing that I've tried to get done. Right now, it's just get everybody to play together.

SM: Did you have any chance to work with the players over the summer?

CD: We had about 25 summer contact days and I used all 25 of those. The guys were just

basically free to come down. I probably saw 40 different guys throughout the summer, just coming in and out. I had a little bit there, but at the same time there's still some guys that didn't come this summer that are here now.

SM: What are some of the positives you've seen so far?

CD: I feel like for the most part right now we have the capability of interchanging a lot of guards. I think for the most part we're pretty deep at the guard place, which allows us to attack man-to-man or zone and be able to drive and kick and get a lot of action going on the perimeter, and I feel like as of right now there are a handful of shooters at Woodland right now that we can rely on to be able to get some things done.

SM: What are some of the team's goals this year?

CD: We haven't actually had a team meeting yet to talk about our goals, but I feel like our first goal — because the last 10 years have been pretty dismal for Woodland — I feel like No. 1 right now we'd like to come in and basically have a winning season. That's what we'd like to do as a whole team, really be able to get some energy going back into Woodland basketball and I think that starts with being able to win. Just having a winning season, a winning record would be a big plus for this program right now.



Woodland's Garret Reynolds goes up for a shot during the Southeast Missourian Christmas Tournament last year.

Coach: Scot Davis, first season
Last season's record: 5-18
Postseason result: Lost 73-48 to Clearwater in a Class 3 District 2 quarterfinal
District assignment: Class 3 District 2 with Arcadia Valley, Clearwater, Jeffer-

son, Saxony Lutheran, Scott City, St. Pius X and West St. Francois County
Starters gone: Aaron Yount, CJ McAllister, Dylan Miller
Starters back: Garret Reynolds

ROSTER

No.	Player	Year
3	Evan Grindstaff	Jr.
10	Collin Rhodes	Sr.
12	Tyler Yount	Sr.
14	Garret Reynolds	Jr.
20	Landry Francis	Jr.
23	Devon Ritter	Sr.
24	Cole Schlieff	So.
30	Landon Johnson	Jr.
32	Devon Gramlich	Jr.
45	Garrett Faulkner	Sr.
50	Ben Lincoln	Sr.

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
Dec. 26	Woodland Tourney	Home
Dec. 10	Leopold	Home
Dec. 13	Chaffee	Away
Dec. 17	Bernie	Away
Dec. 20	Kelly	Home
Dec. 26-30	Southeast Missourian Christmas Tourney	SMC
Jan. 3	Oran	Home
Jan. 7	Richland	Home
Jan. 10	Dexter	Home
Jan. 14	Jackson	Away
Jan. 17	Meadow Heights	Away
Jan. 21	Bell City	Home
Jan. 24	Bloomfield	Away
Jan. 27-31	SCAA Tourney	Dexter
Feb. 4	Delta	Home
Feb. 6	Clearwater	Away
Feb. 11	Advance	Home
Feb. 14	Zalma	Home
Feb. 18	Puxico	Home

ROSTER

No.	Player	Year	Ht.
3	Parker Brown	Sr.	6-0
10	Austin Bucher	Jr.	6-3
11	Garrett Thiele	So.	6-0
12	Dillon Vandeven	Sr.	6-2
20	Dillon Jones	Jr.	5-11
21	Zach Elfrink	Jr.	6-2
22	Andrew McWilliams	Sr.	5-11
23	Cameron Davis	Sr.	6-0
24	Cord Cooper	Jr.	6-3
30	Blake Eeftink	Fr.	5-9
33	Zach Beel	So.	6-6
34	Wesley Stoverink	Sr.	6-3
35	John Gray	So.	6-4
45	Damon White	Sr.	6-3

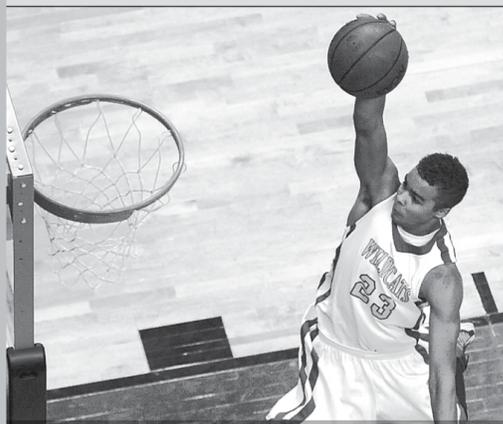
SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
Dec. 26	Woodland Tourney	Away
Dec. 10	Woodland	Away
Dec. 13	Bell City	Away
Dec. 17	Greenville	Home
Dec. 19	St. Vincent	Home
Dec. 26-30	Southeast Missourian Christmas Tourney	SMC
Jan. 7	Meadow Heights	Away
Jan. 9	Bloomfield	Home
Jan. 10	Clarkton	Home
Jan. 14	Oak Ridge	Home
Jan. 17	Marquand	Away
Jan. 23	Richland	Away
Jan. 28	Chaffee	Away
Jan. 31	Oran	Home
Feb. 3-7	MVC Tourney	Zalma
Feb. 11	Puxico	Away
Feb. 14	Advance	Home
Feb. 18	Zalma	Home
Feb. 21	Delta	Home

Coach: Andy Beck, third season

Last season's record: 24-3
Postseason result: Lost 64-58 to Scott County Central in the Class 1 District 2 title game
District assignment: Class 1 District 2 with Bell City, Delta, McKinley Classical Leader-

ship Academy, Oak Ridge, Richland, Scott County Central and The Fulton School at St. Albans
Starters gone: Kyle Stroder, Joe Elfrink, Brandon Jansen, DJ Keim
Starters back: Cameron Davis



Leopold's Cameron Davis heads in for a slam dunk last year at the Southeast Missourian Christmas Tournament.

LEOPOLD BOYS

Opening statements by...
COACH ANDY BECK

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Beck: We're pretty much where I thought we would be. We have quite a few kids returning, so it's not like we're putting in a whole new offense or anything like that. Everybody pretty much knows the system, so we're going through and refining things. Our legs are there. We had a really good preseason this year. We had a lot of kids show up, which in the past we hadn't, so it's been a lot more involved, a lot more in-depth.

I think we're ahead of the schedule as far as getting our legs beneath us and getting in shape and getting stronger, so we haven't had to spend our first couple weeks of practice getting our legs under us. I think we're pretty much there. But [we're] just kind of refining things and touching things up, putting kids in new situations and new places that haven't really had to do in the past because of the numbers we've had. Our numbers are a little bit down, so we're putting kids in new spots and making them get out of our comfort zone a little bit.

SM: You said you're where you "thought we would be." What does that mean to you?

CB: We're where we thought we'd be along the lines of putting in offenses in and going over defenses. It's not like we're starting from new. I knew we kind of had an idea. It's just kind of getting out of that summer mode and getting back into the full swing of things and getting things to where we want them to be, tightening things up — making sure we're

all on the same page instead of — you know how the summer is where they get kind of loose and they don't run things perfect. We're kind of where we thought we would be coming into practice of not having to go through everything like it was brand new to them. We're just kind of coming in and refining the things that we had put in last year and the year before.

SM: Do you have a lot of players stepping into new roles this year?

CB: Yes, I've got a lot of kids who didn't get a lot of varsity minutes last year who will get quite a bit this year, but then also guys stepping up into roles they haven't been in before — maybe the same position, but the role may not be the same. They'll kind of go from the background from having a big class of seniors last year — seven seniors — to coming in this year and now they're the guy. They're the leader, they're the defensive guy who's got to get up and make that stand. They're the guy whose got to make that big shot when in the past they haven't been that guy. It's a new role for them, gets them out of their comfort zone a little bit, which I think is good.

SM: How have they responded to that so far?

CB: Good. Practices have been great. They've been really up-tempo and our attitudes are great and our team chemistry is well far ahead of what I thought it was going to be, and that's a good sign. When you've got a whole new group, sometimes your chemistry kind of struggles. But I really think our chemistry is where it needs to be and our attitudes are where they need to be, which is exciting.

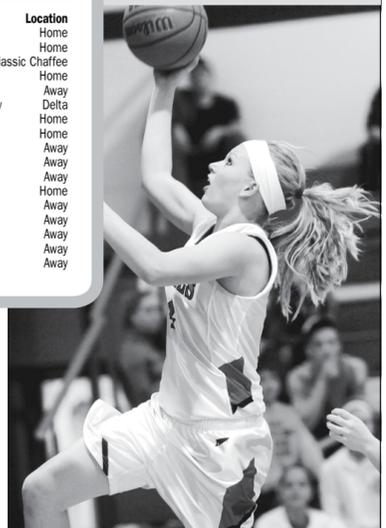
ROSTER

No.	Player	Year	Ht.
0	Kandycie Mifflin	So.	5-7
1	Whitney Lincoln	So.	5-10
2	Cheyenne Wells	Fr.	5-4
4	Josie Long	Sr.	5-9
5	Kat Cooper	Sr.	5-7
12	Taylor Toombs	Sr.	5-4
13	Rachel Poole	Sr.	5-9
14	Shelby Sawyer	So.	5-8
15	Mara Grindstaff	So.	5-7
20	Kristin Boyer	Fr.	5-11
21	Audrey Wilkinson	Jr.	5-6
22	Lindsey Craft	Sr.	5-5
24	Taylor Lincoln	So.	6-0
25	Hanna Berrong	Fr.	5-11
30	Ashley Chapman	Sr.	5-5
31	Anna Deck	So.	5-7

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
Nov. 25	Chaffee	Home
Nov. 26	Charleston	Home
Dec. 9-14	Lady Red Devils Classic	Chaffee
Dec. 16	Scott City	Home
Dec. 19	Egyptian, Ill.	Away
Jan. 6-9	New Years' Tourney	Delta
Jan. 13	Clearwater	Home
Jan. 17	Shawnee, Ill.	Home
Jan. 20	Puxico	Away
Jan. 21	Chester, Ill.	Away
Jan. 23	Meadow Heights	Away
Jan. 27	SCC	Home
Jan. 30	Perryville	Away
Feb. 10	Oran	Away
Feb. 13	Delta	Away
Feb. 17	Greenville	Away
Feb. 20	Saxony Lutheran	Away

Woodland's Josie Long goes up for a shot during the second quarter of the Lady Red Devils Invitational championship last year.



Coach: Robert Stein, second season

Last season's record: 18-6
Postseason result: Lost 44-35 to St. Pius X in a Class 3 District 2 quarterfinal
District assignment: Class 3 District 2 with Arcadia Valley, Clearwater, Jefferson, Saxony Lutheran, Scott City, St. Pius X and West St. Francois County
Starters gone: Keighlyn Lincoln, Lindsay Shell
Starters back: Kat Cooper, Josie Long, Taylor Toombs

WOODLAND GIRLS

Opening statements by...
COACH ROBERT STEIN

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Stein: Hungry. We return seven of our top nine players from last year. We return a group of girls that are very hard-working and have a desire for excellence, and we hope to be pretty competitive.

SM: What are you working on so far this year?

CS: Right now we're really just focusing on defense and being able to take our defense from where it was last year.

SM: So where do you see your defense being at?

CS: You know, we're going to be smaller than we were last year, but hopefully we'll be a little bit quicker. Hopefully we'll be a fairly good defensive team. We're trying to really

work on being aggressive and fundamental and make it hard to get shots against us.

SM: What are some of your team's goals?

CS: Last year we made it to the championship game of both tournaments we played in the regular season and then we got knocked out in the first round of the district. We're hoping to continue to get better every day in practice and work hard and get better every game. Obviously our goals are to play on championship night in every tournament we play in.

SM: You talked about defense a little bit, what are you looking at on offense this year?

CS: We graduated a 6-1 player who's playing college basketball now, so we're going to have to rely a lot more on our speed and our quickness and probably on the outside shot a little bit more than we had in the past.

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PERRYVILLE GIRLS

Opening statements by...

COACH VICKI LOHMANN

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Lohmann: For the last couple years we've been relying on Natalie Gremaud, so that's a big impact player for us. We kind of felt it this summer when we went to camps and we went to some scrimmages. We have to be able to mix together what we have, and what we have is a pretty solid sophomore class. I hate to say that coming into the varsity level, but as I look at the overall picture that might be my next best group that I have. I'm not overlooking my seniors because I think my sophomores can mix in with them and really make us a better team. Putting it all together now and having everybody there at practice really helps. Over the summer we had hit and miss with players, so it's really nice and I got a couple of transfers coming in that should give me some quality minutes, if not starting positions, for me in the next few weeks.

SM: You mentioned your sophomores taking on a larger role, as the season goes on how nice it is for them to get some more

varsity experience and game action?

CL: It's definitely important because I feel like now when we are competing we don't have somebody to compete against that can push us hard enough, and they're going to figure that out real quick. We start off with Scott County Central, and I know that their coach is going to have them ready to play and we go down there. It was a tough game for us to win last year and that's with the seniors I had last year, so I know it's going to be tough to go down there.

The biggest girl I have on the floor is probably going to be Ahnie Hoff, a sophomore, and she's listed at 5-9. I go to Desiree Brown, who's my two-year starter at center, but she's really only a 5-8 player and she's really a power forward over at center. So I think we're going to have our struggles on the rebounding side of the game. We're really focusing on that in practice. We're really focusing on shooting the ball much better and having more people being able to shoot the ball. So all summer long that's really been something we've worked a lot on. The girls have put in time on their own and I can tell that. We just have to have that confidence now when we head into the season.



Perryville's Allison Moldenhauer drives to the basket during a game against Central last season.

ROSTER

Player	Year
Allison McGarvey	So.
Abby Robinson	So.
Ahnie Hoff	So.
Emma Nelson	So.
Allison Moldenhauer	Sr.
Amiee More	Sr.
Catrina More	Jr.
Anna Huskey	So.
Reese Nations	So.
Kyle Belik	So.
Desiree Brown	Sr.
Cori Blackwood	Sr.
Ashley Hanson	So.

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
Dec. 2	SCC	Away
Dec. 9	Jefferson	Home
Dec. 10	Meadow Heights	Home
Dec. 12	Notre Dame	Home
Dec. 17-19	Holiday Classic	SMC
Dec. 26-28	Christmas Tourney	North County
Jan. 2	Valle Catholic	Away
Jan. 9	DeSoto	Away
Jan. 21	Sikeston	Home
Jan. 23	Hillsboro	Home
Jan. 25	St. Vincent	Perry Park Center
Jan. 30	Woodland	Home
Feb. 3	Jackson	Away
Feb. 6	Festus	Home
Feb. 11	Scott City	Away
Feb. 13	Windsor	Away
Feb. 17	Fredericktown	Away
Feb. 20	Central	Home
Feb. 24	Ste. Genevieve	Away
Feb. 27	North County	Away

Coach: Vicki Lohmann, 17th season

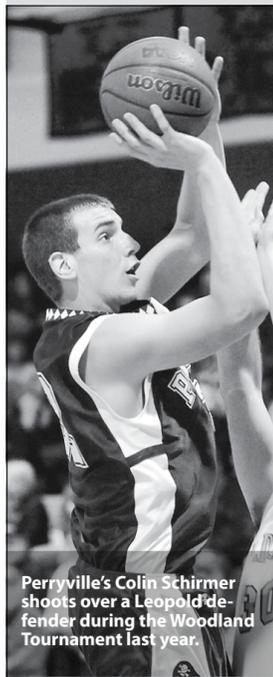
Last season's record: 14-11
Postseason result: Lost 61-27 to Dexter in a Class 4 District 1 semifinal

District assignment: Class 4 District 1 with Central, Dexter, Kennett, Notre Dame and Sikeston

Starters gone: Natalie Gremaud, Kaycee Erzfeld
Starters back: Desiree Brown, Allison Moldenhauer

Coach: Justin Dreyer, second season
Last season's record: 6-18
Postseason result: Lost 82-44 to Notre Dame in a Class 4 District 1 quarterfinal
District assignment: Class 4 Dis-

trict 1 with Central, Dexter, Kennett, Notre Dame and Sikeston
Starters gone: Nate Kinnison
Starters back: Colin Schirmer, Grant Dix, Garrett Martin, Trenton Green



Perryville's Colin Schirmer shoots over a Leopold defender during the Woodland Tournament last year.

ROSTER

No.	Player	Year	Ht.
3	Matthew Moran	Jr.	6-1
5	Grant Dix	Sr.	6-1
10	Trenton Green	Sr.	6-2
11	Luke Schlichting	Jr.	6-0
12	Brett Schnurbusch	Sr.	5-10
14	Garrett Martin	Sr.	5-10
15	Eric Lappe	Jr.	5-11
21	Collin Stief	Jr.	6-4
22	Eli Tripp	Jr.	6-4
24	Dane Weibrecht	Sr.	6-5
32	Colin Schirmer	Sr.	6-8

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
Dec. 26	Woodland Tourney	Away
Dec. 10	Valle Catholic	Away
Dec. 13	Fredericktown	Away
Dec. 20	Saxony Lutheran	Home
Dec. 26-30	Christmas Tourney	Park Hills
Jan. 3	North County	Home
Jan. 7	Dexter	Away
Jan. 10	DeSoto	Home
Jan. 13-18	Chester Invite	Chester, Ill.
Jan. 25	St. Vincent	Perry Park Center
Jan. 28	Central	Home
Jan. 31	Scott City	Home
Feb. 4	St. Pius X	Away
Feb. 7	Festus	Away
Feb. 14	Windsor	Home
Feb. 18	Hillsboro	Away
Feb. 21	Park Hills Central	Home
Feb. 25	Farmington	Home
Feb. 28	Ste. Genevieve	Home

PERRYVILLE BOYS

Opening statements by...

COACH JUSTIN DREYER

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Dreyer: This season I think we've got a lot of upside. I'm returning nine players that have seen a lot of varsity playing time last year, so we're going to be very experienced. The kids have been working hard. Our soccer team unfortunately just lost in the quarterfinals and so I just actually got my whole team back [Nov. 18]. Today was the first day that I had them. But they're working hard and with the experience we have coming back we're hoping for a good year.

SM: What have you been working on prior to having a full team?

CD: We've concentrated a lot on defense. I feel confident that we'll be able to score. We've got a lot of different weapons on the offensive end, but to win games you've got to win it on the defensive end, so we've been concentrating a lot on defense.

SM: What are some of your team's goals this season?

CD: With just getting all of our guys this week we haven't really sat down and talked about our goals. Some of the goals we talked about earlier this fall was to get anywhere from 15-20 wins and it's doable. We're going to have to play well to do that. And we're in three tournaments throughout the year and we're wanting to bring home a trophy from every tournament. So those are just some of the goals I can think of off the top of my head.

SM: Who are the players that are coming from soccer?

CD: I had three juniors that were playing soccer. Today was their first practice — five days before our jamboree. I lucked out though because they're three kids I know will work hard and they're three kids that are very, very smart basketball players, so I kind of went back to some of the basic fundamental defensive drills today and we ended up not having to spend that much time because those kids fit right in and I think they'll adjust quickly.

CHAFFEE BOYS

Opening statements by...

COACH JOSH GOVREAU

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Govreau: I'm looking forward to this year. I have five of my returning starters back from last year, so we're very experienced. We finished 16-11 last year, so we're looking to build on that and then we have a couple new bodies that are going to fill in well, so I have high expectations for them.

SM: What are some of the strengths of this team are going to be?

CG: We've got a lot of speed, a team full of athletes up and down the board. I've got quick guards, quick post players. I've got my big kid [Trevor] Morehead, so we're going to look to play fast, get to the rim a lot and play hard defense — hopefully for four quarters.

SM: What are some of your team's goals this year?

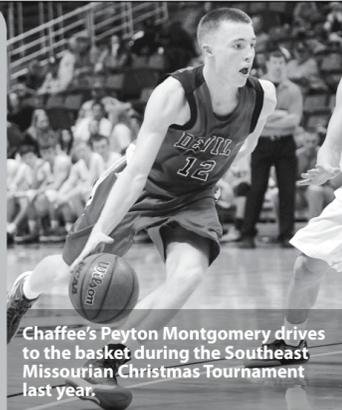
CG: First off: to play hard in every game. We don't want to look past any team. The first game we're looking at is Meadow Heights

Nov. 26, we've been talking about that the last week in practice or so. But overall, we're not gonna lie, we're at that district championship. It's been our goal the last few years and we haven't got there, so that's what our eye's on overall. We don't believe there's a game on our schedule that we can't win, so every game we expect to win when we come home.

SM: What do you think this team has that makes these goals achievable?

CG: I just think they're hungry. All of them were on that football team that just had the success, and they were hungry for a district championship in that and they fell short.

They didn't come in the following week in basketball practice and hang their heads. They're hungry for that district championship. This is something they've been working for their whole lives. They're working hard and like I said, it's an experienced group. Some of them this is their third year playing varsity. They've all seen plenty of time and they all have that one goal in mind. It's not about any individual, they all have that same goal that they want to get that district championship, so I guess just the experience and the hunger they have to win it is what I'm looking forward to.



Chaffee's Peyton Montgomery drives to the basket during the Southeast Missouriian Christmas Tournament last year.

Coach: Josh Govreau, sixth season
Last season's record: 16-11
Postseason result: Lost 68-60 to Oran in a Class 2 District 3 semifinal
District assignment: Class 2 District 3 with Advance, Bismarck, Meadow Heights, Oran, Southern Reynolds, Valley and Viburnum
Starters gone: Jared Walker
Starters back: Peyton Montgomery, Charlie Montgomery, Layton Tenkhoff, Trevor Morehead, Jimmy Golden

ROSTER

No.	Player	Year	Ht.
2	Blake Gilmore	Jr.	5-9
3	Layton Tenkhoff	Sr.	6-3
12	Peyton Montgomery	Jr.	6-0
20	Dalton Flanigan	Jr.	5-9
22	Strom Estes	Sr.	5-8
31	Jimmy Golden	Sr.	5-10
32	Tyler Golden	Jr.	5-10
35	Charlie Montgomery	Sr.	6-1
42	Devon Yahn	Sr.	5-8
45	Trevor Morehead	Jr.	6-2

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
Nov. 26	Meadow Heights	Away
Dec. 26	Oran Invitational	Away
Dec. 10	East Prairie	Home
Dec. 13	Woodland	Home
Dec. 17	Saxony Lutheran	Home
Dec. 20	Marquand	Away
Dec. 26-30	Southeast Missouriian Christmas Tourney	SMC
Jan. 3	Bell City	Home
Jan. 10	Scott City	Home
Jan. 14	Advance	Away
Jan. 17	Kelly	Away
Jan. 20-24	Scott-Miss. Conf. Tourney	Delta
Jan. 28	Leopold	Home
Jan. 31	Scott County Central	Away
Feb. 4	Oran	Away
Feb. 11	Zalma	Away
Feb. 14	Oak Ridge	Home
Feb. 17	Greenville	Home
Feb. 18	Delta	Away

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A CLOSER LOOK

Scott County Central girls want to add banner to gym

By RACHEL CRADER
SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

Second-year Scott County Central girls basketball coach Matt Limbaugh encourages his players to look upward a lot during practices inside Ronnie Cookson Gymnasium.

"I show them the '95 banner all the time — 'Look up at the '95 banner,'" Limbaugh said. "I say, 'Hey, it's been that long since any kind of Bravette team has placed. That's quite a few years ago.'

The banner from 1995 honors a team that finished second at the final four, and it's the most recent of its kind for the girls basketball program.

The Bravettes have hopes of changing that this year, but that seemed like a far-fetched goal when the four seniors on this year's roster were freshmen just trying to survive at the varsity level a year after the school didn't even have enough players to field a team.

"It would be great for them," said Limbaugh, referring to seniors Mikaela Blissett, Johniqua Fort, Derien Ditto and Abby Ross. "With everything they've went through — the hard times as freshmen and sophomores to winning 20 games last year. It would be great for those seniors to be able to put up a banner and kind of end the streak of the Braves because there's a lot of Braves and not as many Bravettes as there used to be."

There was a time when the Bravettes were as big of a threat to bring home a state title as the school's boys team, which is the most deco-

rated program in state history. The girls team has won seven state titles and made 13 final four appearances.

The Bravettes romped to their first district title in years with a 79-25 victory over Delta last season before being upended by Naylor in the state sectional round. They hope to get another shot at the Eagles this season and a chance to fully restore the program's proud tradition.

"I think it's huge to them because since they were freshmen they've been on varsity," Limbaugh said.

"They took a beating as freshmen and sophomores trying to build up that program, and now it's time for their senior year, and I really think that they care about wanting to bring that back."

Limbaugh, whose mother graduated from Scott County Central but did not play basketball at the school, said that many of the girls on the team have family members who have played for state championship teams at the school.

Being connected to that history is nice for his players but being a part of it would be better.

"History is great, and it's good to look at," Limbaugh said. "But it doesn't mean anything to the girls if you're not a part of it, and right now they're just one of the 700 district championships."

"I'm trying to motivate them that maybe at one program your district championship hangs a banner up there — at Scott County Central your district championship trophy is basically put in the storage unit."

"History is great, and it's good to look at it. But it doesn't mean anything to the girls if you're not a part of it, and right now they're just one of the 700 district championships"

— Scott County Central coach Matt Limbaugh

SCOTT COUNTY CENTRAL GIRLS

Opening statements by...

COACH MATT LIMBAUGH

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Limbaugh: We feel like that we high expectations. We have four of five returning starters from a team that won 20 games. We have big shoes to fill in an all-stater in Ann Dennis, and you cannot replace Ann. You can only hope to just continue to move on and continue to get better. We were very excited to win a district title last year because it was their first in a while, but we were disappointed with the way it ended, and we're hoping to use that as momentum to try to continue every day in practice to use that to get better and know that we have a target on our back this year. We kind of were able to sneak up on people last year, and this year we know that people are going to be gunning for us. We have to get mentally and physically prepared to have a fight every night. It's definitely going to be a test for the girls, but I feel like we've put in the time at practice so far. We've still have a long way to go before we're anywhere near where we want to be, but the girls are off to a good start, and we hope we

can build from there.

SM: How would you define your 'high expectations'?

CL: Obviously any time you're a coach at Scott Central, you're expected to win. The tradition of the basketball program and [with] the boys, it's considered a disappointment if you don't make it to Columbia. We're just trying to make it farther than we did last year.

SM: You said you have 'long way to go.' What are some of the things you're working on right now?

CL: Really we're working on defense. Defense was a big thing that helped us out last year, and we're looking for those girls that can come up and make a big stop for us on the defensive end. And then second, we're looking for someone who can help us out with the points that we're going to miss with Ann. Ann hit some huge shots for us last year and was our go-to girl a lot of the times. We're really going to need someone to step up and be able to get that confidence and be able to step up in those clutch situations and come through like Ann did so many times last year.

ROSTER

No.	Player	Year	Ht.
1	Mikaela Blissett	Sr.	5-9
3	LaQuisha Strickland	So.	5-6
5	Nastassia Williams	Fr.	5-2
10	Johniqua Fort	Sr.	5-6
11	Derien Ditto	Sr.	5-3
14	Ziaire Davis	Jr.	5-8
20	Abby Ross	Sr.	5-6
23	Da'Zia Stillel	Fr.	5-5
25	Adria White	So.	5-5
30	Madison Avance	Fr.	5-6
50	Katie Scherer	Fr.	5-5

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
Nov. 26	Oran	Away
Dec. 2	Perryville	Home
Dec. 3	Sikeston	Home
Dec. 5	Hayti	Home
Dec. 9	NMCC	Home
Dec. 19	Naylor	Home
Jan. 6-9	New Years Tourney	Delta
Jan. 13-17	Scott-Miss. Conf. Tourney	Home
Jan. 20	Caruthersville	Home
Jan. 21	East Prairie	Away
Jan. 23	Scott City	Home
Jan. 25	Delta	Away
Jan. 27	Woodland	Away
Jan. 30	Puxico	Away
Feb. 1	Coaches vs. Cancer	Charleston
Feb. 6	Cairo, Ill.	Away
Feb. 10	Charleston	Away
Feb. 14	Saxony Lutheran	Away
Feb. 17	Kelly	Home
Feb. 20	Chaffee	Away



Scott County Central's Derien Ditto drives to the basket during a game against Delta last year.

Coach: Matt Limbaugh, second season

Last season's record: 20-7

Postseason result: Lost 65-51 to Naylor in a Class 1 state sectional

District assignment: Class 2 District 1 with Delta, McKinley

Classical Leadership Academy and The Fulton School at St. Albans

Starters gone: Ann Dennis

Starters back: Mikaela Blissett, Derien Ditto, Abby Ross, Johniqua Fort

SCOTT COUNTY CENTRAL BOYS

Opening statements by...

COACH FRANK STAPLE

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Staples: I think we're a team that has a lot of potential. The one thing we have this year that we didn't have last year is a lot of experience, and we'll also have a lot of depth. I think we'll have about 10 guys that we can legitimately play. We're pretty athletic. You know, obviously with LaRandis [Banks] and Jeffery [Porter] and some of those other guys. We have some skill. I think with the potential to be a pretty decent team.

SM: How will that depth help you?

CS: Obviously it helps with the kind of pace we want to play. We want to play an up-tempo pace that Scott Central is known for, so it just helps us keep the pressure up on the offensive or defensive end. It helps

you greatly in practice. Our practices are pretty competitive. We have a lot of guys that can push each other. When you know that you have somebody that you can go to and there's not going to be a big dropoff, it helps you out a lot as a coach and as a team.

SM: Is the team's progress significantly different this year from last year?

CS: Oh, yeah. It's completely different. Not to say we're perfect by any means, but I think the focus is there a lot more — just the experience. Experience makes all the difference in the world. We have a lot of guys who went through it last year and who know what it takes. You're not going to win just because you have 'SCC' on that jersey. You've got to earn it. And I don't think that we really understood that last year. We thought that we were just going to go out there and win just because we had been winning so much, but these guys, they're kind of more desperate. They're kind of playing with a chip on their shoulder. I think they're ready to go.



Scott County Central's LaRandis Banks shoots during a Class 1 state quarterfinal game last year.

ROSTER

No.	Player	Year	Ht.
1	Alex Johnson	Sr.	5-7
2	Cameron Blissett	Sr.	5-11
3	Juwan Owens	Sr.	6-0
4	Drake Kessler	Jr.	5-10
5	LaRandis Banks	Sr.	6-0
10	Jeffery Porter	So.	6-0
11	Blain Johnson	Sr.	5-9
12	Trevion Moore	Jr.	5-9
14	James McClinton	Sr.	5-10
20	Kendall Blissett	Sr.	6-3
23	Javonta Daniel	Jr.	6-2
30	Matthew Blissett	Jr.	6-2
32	Jerry Harrington	Sr.	5-9
40	Tyreek Williams	Sr.	5-10

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
Nov. 29-30	Riverbend Classic	NMCC
Dec. 2-6	Oran Invitational	Away
Dec. 13-14	Ozark Mtn Shootout	Springfield
Dec. 17	Advance	Home
Dec. 26-30	Christmas Tourney	SMC
Jan. 3	Delta	Home
Jan. 10	Oak Ridge	Home
Jan. 14	East Prairie	Away
Jan. 17	Charleston	Away
Jan. 20-24	Scott-Miss. Conf. Tourney	Delta
Jan. 28	Cairo, Ill.	Away
Jan. 31	Chaffee	Home
Feb. 4	Kelly	Away
Feb. 8	Portageville	Home
Feb. 14	Oran	Away
Feb. 18	Scott City	Away
Feb. 20	NMCC	Away

Coach: Frank Staple, second season

Last season's record: 16-14

Postseason result: Lost 65-55 to Eminence in a Class 1 state quarterfinal

District assignment: Class 1 District 2 with Bell City, Delta, Leopold, McKinley Classical Leadership Academy, Oak Ridge, Richland and The Fulton School at St. Albans

Starters gone: Jaylen Porter, Chris Brown

Starters back: LaRandis Banks, Jeffery Porter, Cameron Blissett, Matt Blissett, Kendall Blissett

CHAFFEE GIRLS

Opening statements by...

COACH DARRIN PRUITT

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Pruitt: I think we're going to be pretty decent. We're going to be young overall and we lost a couple of key players last year, but we've got some girls that are ready to step in their shoes.

SM: What's your team's style of play going to be like?

CP: We've been practicing for everything, so we're ready to just go and adjust to whatever the game needs are.

SM: What do you think some of your team's biggest strengths are?

CP: I believe we're going to be quick. We have a pretty well-rounded team even though we're young, and we do have the varsity experience, but we don't have the maturity yet there. The thing that

we're going to be able to do is we can adapt and adjust to play just about anything we need to.

SM: What are some of your team's goals this year?

CP: To really build the team up. We have some up-and-coming girls next year that is just going to make us even more stronger than we are right now.

SM: You've got some young players, more coming up, what direction do you think the program is headed in?

CP: Since I've been down there we just keep getting better and better every year. The first year that I was there I looked back at records and it seemed like there were about 11 girls the first few years previous to me. And my first year I had 16, second year I had 20 and this year I've got 24 kids out. So, I mean, we just keep getting more and more girls in there and they keep working hard. We spent some time over the summer doing some different things and preparing for the season, so we're going to give it everything we've got and see where we land.

ROSTER

Player
Carleigh Burnett
Lindsey Harrell
Hannah Seyer
Julia Sutterfield
Kaitlin McFerron
Molly Parker
Dakota People
Jordan Pruitt
Lyndsey Statler
Courtaine Stoffregen
Chelsie Whitlow
Elaine Sexton
Liz Sexton
Jen Sutterfield
Lauren Whistler

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
Nov. 25	Woodland	Away
Dec. 2	Scott City	Away
Dec. 5	Kelly	Away
Dec. 9-14	Lady Red Devils Classic	Home
Dec. 16	Greenville	Home
Dec. 21-28	Christmas Classic	Twin Rivers
Jan. 13-17	Scott-Miss. Conf. Tourney	SCC
Jan. 21	St. Paul Lutheran	Home
Jan. 23	East Prairie	Away
Jan. 25	Bismarck	Away
Jan. 28	St. Vincent	Away
Jan. 30	Delta	Home
Feb. 3	Oran	Away
Feb. 6	Portageville	Away
Feb. 7	Puxico	Away
Feb. 10	Meadow Heights	Home
Feb. 12	Charleston	Away
Feb. 18	Saxony Lutheran	Home
Feb. 20	Scott County Central	Home



Chaffee's Jordan Pruitt drives to the basket during the championship game of the Class 2 District 3 tournament last season.

Coach: Darrin Pruitt, third season

Last season's record: 13-13

Postseason result: Lost 46-38 to Bismarck in the Class 2 District 3 title game.

District assignment: Class 2 District 3 with Advance, Bismarck, Meadow Heights, Oran, Southern Reynolds, Valley and Viburnum

Starters gone: Adrienne Eichhorn, Ellie Sigman

Starters back: Jordan Pruitt, Lindsey Harrell, Julia Sutterfield

DELTA BOYS

Opening statements by...

COACH ROBERT VAZQUEZ

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Vazquez: This is my first year there, so obviously I'm coming into a little new element, but we're improving every day right now so I guess that's the best part. We just want to get better every single day. Obviously we're going to be pretty outsized in most games that we play, but I think I have a good group of kids that are going to work hard. They're going to battle four quarters, so I don't think I have a group that's going to roll over and just give up. That's the best part about my group right now.

SM: What are some of the strengths you see in your team?

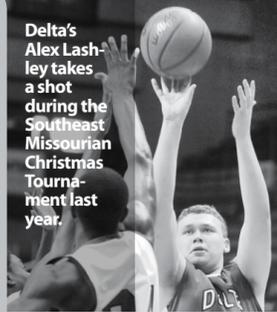
CV: We're coming together as a team pretty well right now. Our kids are starting to trust each other more. Hopefully we'll be pretty athletic and we'll be able to get up and play some tight defense, actually guard people.

SM: What are you going to try to do offensively and defensively in your first year?

CV: We're going to have to push the tempo because like I said, we're going to be outsized. I think I have one kid that might be 6-foot tall and everyone else is going to be shorter, so we're definitely going to have to be an up-tempo team. We're going to have to knock down open shots when we get them because like I said, we're going to be at a big disadvantage height-wise. We're not going to be able to shoot over a lot of defenders, so when we get open looks we're going to have to knock them down.

SM: As a first-year coach, where do you see the program going?

CV: We definitely have a bright future. I know we've got some younger kids, like with my junior high and us being an affiliate. We've been able to bring sixth graders up and play them. It's only going to help us in the long run. Because like the situation I came into like this year we didn't have a whole lot of kids, a lot of kids that have never played before for whatever reason they decided they were going to come out this year and there's some kids that are going to help us that haven't played in a while, but I think with us doing with like the younger kids. It's going to help me retain the numbers, help me keep the kids interested.



Coach: Robert Vazquez, first season
Last season's record: 4-15
Postseason result: Lost 80-41 to Richland in a Class 1 District 2 quarterfinal
District assignment: Class 1 District 2 with Bell City, Leopold, McKinley Classical Leadership Academy, Oak Ridge, Richland, Scott County Central and The Fulton School at St. Albans.
Starters gone: Tanner Schabbing, David Brawley, Dillon Lincoln, Dwight Nance
Starters back: Alex Lashley

ROSTER		
No.	Player	Year
1	Alex Clark	Sr.
3	Brandon Gaebler	Sr.
5	David Taylor	Fr.
10	Trever Glaus	Fr.
12	Charlie Ledbetter	Fr.
20	Destin Carroll	So.
22	Cory Keys	Fr.
34	Jesse Nance	Sr.
44	Alex Lashley	Sr.
55	Austin White	So.
55	Triston Perry	Fr.

SCHEDULE		
Date	Opponent	Location
Nov. 26	East Prairie	Home
Dec. 2-6	Woodland Tourney	Away
Dec. 10	Oak Ridge	Away
Dec. 13	Greenville	Home
Dec. 17	Meadow Heights	Away
Dec. 20	Oran	Home
Dec. 26-30	Southeast Missourian Christmas Tourney	SMC
Jan. 3	Scott County Central	Away
Jan. 7	Eagle Ridge	Away
Jan. 10	Zalma	Away
Jan. 14	Scott City	Away
Jan. 17	Bell City	Home
Jan. 20-24	Scott-Miss. Conf. Tourney	Home
Jan. 28	Marquand	Home
Feb. 4	Woodland	Away
Feb. 7	Kelly	Away
Feb. 11	Shawnee, Ill.	Home
Feb. 14	Advance	Away
Feb. 18	Chaffee	Home
Feb. 21	Leopold	Away

EAGLE RIDGE GIRLS

Opening statements by...

COACH DONNA POWELL

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Powell: I think probably, defensively, right now at this point two games in [we're better] than we were last year. We've been working mostly on our offense. ... The girls are doing much better with ball movement than they did last year, learning how to play the game a little more than they did last year. We need to work some on our passing and our boxing out, but overall defensively I think we're a better team this year than we were last year.

SM: Is there a particular way you've been working to improve those areas?

CP: We work hard — mostly in our conference most teams play zone defense. My goal is to create a team that plays man-to-man defense, so we do run a press straight off in most of our games. Again, that's all attached to trying to accumulate some kind of man-to-man defense throughout the game. So we work hard, we run a lot. I teach the girls to be disciplined so they don't get in foul trouble. So far, two games in, it's worked well for us.

SM: What's the advantage you gain from playing man-to-man?

CP: I think man-to-man defense across the board is a little more challenging for the offensive team that's playing against it, and it gives us the alternative, if we want to, to go box-and-one. ... I think zone defense sometimes has a tendency to make teams relax a little bit. I try to stay away from that by keeping them in man-to-man. I think it keeps them play and keep their mind in the game a little bit better.

SM: Do you set team goals before the season starts?

CP: Sure. ... This is my second year back here now, but I coached here from 1999 to 2006, and we won a state tournament my second year here at that point.

My goal when I came back in this year is that we would become a defensive team that could play man-to-man straight up throughout the game. My goal as the coach was that every game they improve in increments — each player improves in increments. We do care about 'W's' and 'L's', but the overall picture was, 'I want you as a ballplayer to become better with each game.' If you do that, hey, by the end of the season we've got the team that we hoped for.

ROSTER		
No.	Player	Year
1	Sarah Jackson	7th
2	Hannah Petzoldt	So.
3	Jennifer Lee	Jr.
5	Jessie Gartman	8th
10	Shaina Canady	Jr.
11	Callie Hefner	So.
15	Noel Friedrich	8th
20	Sierra Roth	Sr.
44	Emily Jackson	So.

SCHEDULE		
Date	Opponent	Location
Nov. 12	Providence Classical	Away
Nov. 15	Bethel Christian	Home
Nov. 19	Rivers of Life	Away
Nov. 22	Liberty Christian	Home
Nov. 26	Agape Christian	Home
Dec. 2	Thomas Jefferson Prep	Away
Dec. 6	The Fulton School	Home
Dec. 9	Crosspoint Christian	Away
Dec. 13	Community Christian	Away
Dec. 17	Westwood Baptist	Home
Dec. 20	Liberty Christian	Away
Jan. 7	Delta	Home
Jan. 10	Bethel Christian	Away
Jan. 14	Providence Classical	Home
Jan. 17	Crosspoint Christian	Home
Jan. 21	Community Christian	Home
Jan. 24	Thomas Jefferson	Home
Jan. 28	The Fulton School	Away
Jan. 31	Rivers of Life	Home
Feb. 3-7	MAC Tourney	TBA
Feb. 11	Northside Baptist	Home
Feb. 13-15	MCSAA State Tourney	Joplin

Coach: Donna Powell, ninth season
Last season's record: 5-13
Postseason result: Third place at Missouri Christian Schools Activities Association state tournament
District assignment: None
Starters gone: Hannah Hess
Starters back: Callie Hefner, Sierra Roth, Hannah Petzoldt, Jessie Gartman, Emily Jackson

DELTA GIRLS

Opening statements by...

COACH GARY POYNER

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Poyner: I would say the best answer for that is we're getting better each day. My goal is to get better each day and get better each game.

SM: What improvements have you seen so far?

CP: I've seen the overall confidence — that's a big thing. Individually, each player has gotten better each day. Each athlete's confidence has gotten better, and as a result of that the team is starting to believe more in each other.

SM: What are some of the strengths of your team?

CP: The big thing that I've seen is I've got to mix freshmen and seniors with sophomores. I've got a mix of kids. They really pull for each other, they support each other and when we're out on the floor you see that. They pick each other up, they look to share the ball offensively, they're

positive with each other. Those are kind of some of the examples.

SM: How's it been to integrate those freshmen into the mix?

CP: Each day it's gotten a little easier for them. The big thing with those freshmen is I had them in junior high, so they're familiar with me, familiar with what I want. I do similar things in my junior high program that I do in my high school program, so when they take that step, that next step up, the learning process from that standpoint isn't as hard.

SM: What are some of the things you are doing with the offense and defense?

CP: Defensively I am planning on we're going to mix up playing some man and zone. Last year I played mainly zone, but this year with the mix of the girls that I have we're going to look to play a little of both.

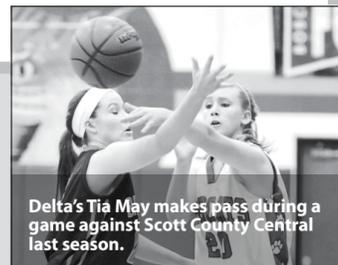
SM: You mentioned getting better every game, but what are some other goals the team has this year?

CP: Ultimately you want to win your district. Obviously that's one of our goals. We want to — besides getting better each practice, each

ROSTER			
No.	Player	Year	Ht.
10	Lydia Borneman	Fr.	5-2
12	Alysha Vessells	Sr.	5-4
20	Tia May	Sr.	5-4
21	Carrie Waddle	Fr.	5-5
24	Erin Bond	So.	5-6
25	Chasity Taylor	Sr.	5-7
30	Jaime Hodge	So.	5-5
31	Shiann Clayborn	Fr.	5-7
32	Meagan Parker	Jr.	5-8
33	Selina Smith	Fr.	5-6
34	Cooper Simpson	Fr.	5-5
40	Rachel Birkman	Sr.	5-7
52	Kiley Wicker	Fr.	5-7

SCHEDULE		
Date	Opponent	Location
Nov. 26	Dongola, Ill.	Away
Dec. 3	St. Vincent	Away
Dec. 5	East Prairie	Home
Dec. 9-14	Lady Red Devils Classic	Chaffee
Dec. 16	Egyptian, Ill.	Home
Dec. 17	Shawnee, Ill.	Home
Dec. 19	Charleston	Home
Dec. 23	Scott County Central	Away
Jan. 4	Lesterville	TRCC
Jan. 6-9	New Years Tourney	Home
Jan. 13-17	Scott-Miss. Conf. Tourney	SCC
Jan. 23	Oran	Away
Jan. 25	Scott County Central	Home
Jan. 30	Chaffee	Away
Feb. 3	Meadow Heights	Home
Feb. 6	Puxico	Away
Feb. 10	Scott City	Away
Feb. 13	Woodland	Home
Feb. 17	Campbell	Away
Feb. 20	Kelly	Away

game — compete well in our tournaments that we're in. And you want to represent your program or represent your community.



Delta's Tia May makes pass during a game against Scott County Central last season.

Coach: Gary Poyner, second season
Last season's record: 7-16
Postseason result: Lost 79-25 to Scott County Central in the Class 1 District 2 title game
District assignment: Class 1 District 2 with McKinley Clas-

sical Leadership Academy, Scott County Central and The Fulton School at St. Albans
Starters gone: Machela VanGennip
Starters back: Alysha Vessells, Chasity Taylor, Tia May, Rachel Birkman

EAGLE RIDGE BOYS

Opening statements by...

COACH ANDREW MELLIES

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Mellies: I think we're very fast and athletic and we play very good defense. I think we're going to have an opportunity to be good if we use our speed the right way — to get in the open court and get fast break points and use our speed for pressure defense.

SM: What are your defensive goals?

CM: I'm a very defensive-minded coach. I believe that when the offense isn't there, defense can win games. Whether we run zone or man or whatever, we will be running a lot of half-court traps and a lot of full-court pressing.

SM: You mentioned speed and athleticism being strong points, have you noticed anything that needs improvement?

CM: Probably our ability in the half-court offense to penetrate in the middle of a defense. I've got a very unselfish team — a bunch of boys who really don't care who scores — but sometimes on the offensive end one of the things

I knew we'd need to work on was the chemistry because I've got some new players this year and then just moving the ball and using that as a way to attack. Not just moving the ball, but moving it with the idea of being aggressive.

SM: What are some of your team's goals?

CM: Build chemistry. We're learning how to play ball together — play for the guy next to them, not just for themselves. Play unselfishly and play team basketball. And be positive with one another, really encourage each other and be leaders. And just improve each game. That way by the time we get to our state tournament, which is in Joplin, we'll be playing our best ball at the end of the season.

Coach: Andrew Mellies, seventh season
Last season's record: 8-18
Postseason result: Fourth place at Missouri Christian Schools Activities Association state tournament
District assignment: None
Starters gone: Aaron Margrave, Jared Powell, Nathan Davis, Michael Perez
Starters back: Josh Friedrich, Richard Mason

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Central's Cassidy Pannier drives around Notre Dame's Kayce Landewe during a game last year.

CENTRAL GIRLS

Opening statements by...
COACH SHERRI SHIRRELL

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Shirrell: We're young — not a lot of returning experience — but we have high energy and a good work ethic.

SM: How do you think those things are going to help you this season?

CS: I think that the energy level is going to create good things for us out on the court. We're hoping they can build on that and be successful with what they're learning right now.

SM: So what are some of the things that you're working on right now?

CS: Well, specifically, right now we're learning expectations first of all and what we expect out of them every day. We've been working a lot on our defenses, trying to get everybody on the same page as to what we want to do and the kind of effort that we need for us to be successful defensively.

SM: What's your plan defensively this year, what are you trying to do?

CS: Well, we're a little quicker, so we're hoping that we can get out and pressure the ball a little bit more. What are some of your team's goals this year? Well our goal always is to win our district, and I know that'll be a challenge for us, but hopefully these guys are up for it. So that's one of our goals. And just to get better and improve on what we learned last year, and get these kids some experience and win some ballgames.

Coach: Sherri Shirrell, ninth season
Last season's record: 12-14
Postseason result: Lost 61-41 to Notre Dame in a Class 4 District 1 semifinal
District assignment: Class 4 District 1 with Dexter, Kennett, Notre Dame, Perryville and Sikeston
Starters gone: Alayah Cooper-Johnson, Katie Williams, Bailey Kratochvil, Chelsea Vinson, Kadie Orenstein
Starters back: Kassidy Pannier

ROSTER			
No.	Player	Year	Ht.
1	Morgan Duschell	Fr.	5-4
2	Lanoria Pratt	Sr.	5-5
3	Sydney Tollison	Fr.	5-3
4	Anna Garner	So.	5-6
5	Alice Bellodi	Sr.	5-9
10	Kelly Morton	Sr.	5-8
12	Sarah Boerboom	So.	5-9
14	Tramonee Stewart	Jr.	5-8
21	Kassidy Pannier	So.	5-7
23	Maddie Daum	Jr.	5-7
24	Bailey Bliss	Sr.	5-9
40	Deja Stewart	Jr.	5-6
41	Moriah Terry	So.	5-5

SCHEDULE		
Date	Opponent	Location
Nov. 26	DeSoto	Home
Dec. 2-7	Northwest Tourney	Away
Dec. 9	Ste. Genevieve	Home
Dec. 17-19	Holiday Classic	SMC
Jan. 8	Jefferson	Away
Jan. 9	Poplar Bluff	Home
Jan. 13	North County	Home
Jan. 16	Jackson	Home
Jan. 18	Kennett	Away
Jan. 23	Saxony Lutheran	Away
Jan. 25	Neelyville	Away
Jan. 27-31	Hillsboro	Away
Feb. 4	Notre Dame	Home
Feb. 6	Farmington	Home
Feb. 10	Seckman	Away
Feb. 13	Dexter	Away
Feb. 19	Sikeston	Home
Feb. 20	Perryville	Away
Feb. 27	Park Hills Central	Away

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CENTRAL BOYS

Opening statements by...
COACH DREW CHURCH

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Church: We had a good summer, with pretty much all our guys returning. I think the one year maturing and getting a little older has been helping us. They worked in the offseason, and I'm pretty excited about the upcoming season.

SM: How important is it to return four starters from a team that made it to the district final last year?

CC: It's huge, our district is very tough. Having that experience of last year playing in the district final and being in that type of atmosphere can only help us. There were times last year we started two freshman and two sophomores, that's kind of throwing

them into the fire. I really expect our team this year to be a little less scared and a little more aggressive and just a little more mature.

SM: Jamal Cox is one of the premier post players, and Andre Statam played pretty well last year. But you also have some good guards in Jones and Young. How nice is it to have the balance inside and out?

CC: It's great. Andre has grown, he's about 6-6. He's really improved, he's getting some Division I looks now. Jamal and him are going to be a tough match-up because Andre can shoot it, pass it and kind of handle it. There's times he'll play the point for us. We have six or six other guards that have experience from last year, Jalen Reddin, Khane Booker, Nikylus Thompson. I know I'm missing a couple, but we have a pretty good balance of about 10 or 11 deep that we can throw out there.

ROSTER			
No.	Player	Year	Ht.
00	Nikylus Thompson	So.	5-10
3	Al Young	So.	6-0
4	Kway'Chon Chisom	Fr.	5-9
5	Tim Oats	Sr.	5-10
10	Jalen Reddin	Jr.	5-9
12	Khane Booker	So.	5-10
20	Balon Owens	Jr.	5-10
21	Dontarius Williams	Jr.	5-10
22	Jamal Cox	Sr.	6-7
23	Chase Haggerty	Jr.	6-3
24	Mikey Jones	Sr.	6-3
25	Mekial Steele	Sr.	6-6
30	Dusty Tolbert	Sr.	6-0
33	Andre Statam	Jr.	6-6
42	Garrett Jackson	So.	6-8

SCHEDULE		
Date	Opponent	Location
Nov. 29-30	Riverbend Classic	New Madrid
Dec. 9-13	SEMO Conf. Tourney	Sikeston
Dec. 20	Farmington	Home
Dec. 26-30	Southeast Missourian Christmas Tournament	SMC
Jan. 3	Helias Catholic	Away
Jan. 11	Tiger Shootout	Home
Jan. 14	McCracken County	Home
Jan. 17	NMCC	Away
Jan. 21	Saxony Lutheran	Home
Jan. 28	Perryville	Away
Jan. 31	Poplar Bluff	Away
Feb. 4	Notre Dame	Away
Feb. 7	Kennett	Home
Feb. 11	Jackson	Home
Feb. 14	Sikeston	Home
Feb. 18	Charleston	Away
Feb. 21	Lutheran South	Away
Feb. 22	Marion, Ill.	Home
Feb. 28	Dexter	Away

Coach: Drew Church, eighth season
Last season's record: 16-11
Postseason result: Lost 77-61 to Sikeston in the Class 4 District 1 title game
District assignment: Class 4 District 1 with Dexter, Kennett, Notre Dame, Perryville and Sikeston
Starters gone: Garan Evans
Starters back: Jamal Cox, Andre Statam, Mikey Jones, Al Young



Cape Central's Andre Statam smiles as he lines up with Advance players during a free throw in the second round of the Southeast Missourian Christmas Tournament last year.



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JACKSON BOYS

Opening statements by...
COACH DARRIN SCOTT

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Scott: We've had a good offseason, and the first couple weeks of practice have gone well. I'm happy with where we're at. Of course we've got to get a lot better, but we've got to keep working and get better.

SM: What are some of the things that made it a 'good offseason'?

CS: We've gotten stronger. We had a good weight room. The kids have played quite a bit, so all of their skills have improved. I feel a little bit better about that, so hopefully we can put those things together because I felt like last year our strength was something that would sometimes come into play. I think another year of getting stronger — and we did a good job in the weight room — is really going to help us.

SM: Is there any area you're focused on improving?

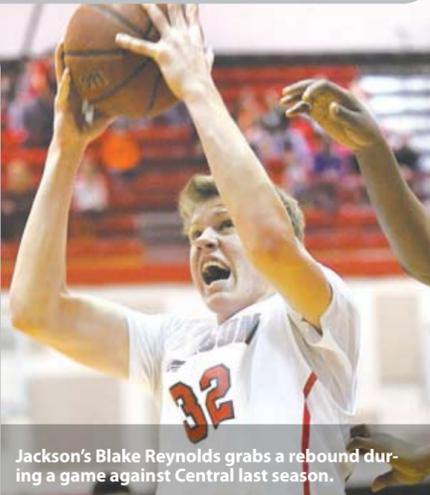
CS: No. We're like anybody else, defensively we need to keep getting better and be really good. Take care of the basketball on offense. Just like any other year, we're focused on becoming better defensively and taking care of the basketball — fundamentals and all those things.

SM: You got deep into the playoffs last season, do you think that will help the team entering this season?

CS: I think it helps us. I think that's kind of one of the reason they worked hard this offseason. It helped them with motivation and a little bit of a desire to work hard to try to improve. Early in the year I don't know how much it will help us, to be honest. But I do think that experience will help us, especially later in the year when you've kind of been in that situation before.

ROSTER			
No.	Player	Year	Ht.
1	Josh Daume	Sr.	5-10
2	Blake Reimann	Sr.	5-10
3	Terry Venable	Jr.	6-2
4	Josh Friess	Sr.	5-11
11	Damontray Blair	Sr.	5-8
12	Braden Wendel	Jr.	6-3
20	Garrett Walker	So.	6-1
22	Jacob Smith	So.	6-2
23	Calvin Lysell	Sr.	6-2
24	Karson King	Sr.	6-6
25	Connor Shepard	Jr.	6-5
32	Blake Reynolds	Jr.	6-7
33	Brandon Lueders	Sr.	6-8
42	Ryan Welch	Jr.	6-0
44	Grant Ward	So.	6-2

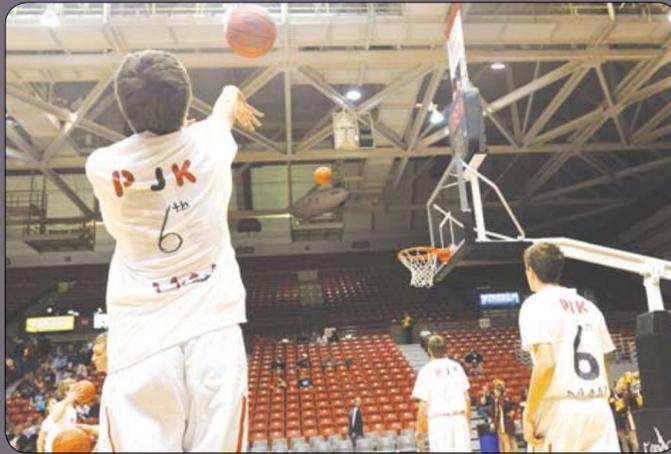
SCHEDULE		
Date	Opponent	Location
Dec. 6	Salku Showcase	Carbondale, Ill.
Dec. 9-13	SEMO Conf. Tourney	Sikeston
Dec. 17	Dexter	Home
Dec. 21	Pacific	Away
Dec. 26-30	Southeast Missourian Christmas Tourney	SMC
Jan. 3	John Burroughs	Away
Jan. 4	St. John Vianney	Home
Jan. 7	Webster Groves	Away
Jan. 9-11	Flyer Invitational	Lindbergh
Jan. 14	Woodland	Home
Jan. 21	Poplar Bluff	Away
Jan. 28	Sikeston	Home
Jan. 31	Notre Dame	Away
Feb. 4	Charleston	Away
Feb. 7	Farmington	Home
Feb. 11	Central	Away
Feb. 14	NMCC	Home
Feb. 18	Christian Brothers College Preparatory	Away
Feb. 21	Kennett	Home
Feb. 25	Hillsboro	Away



Jackson's Blake Reynolds grabs a rebound during a game against Central last season.

Coach: Darrin Scott, 10th season
Last season's record: 19-11
Postseason result: Lost 81-48 to DeSmet in a Class 5 quarterfinal
District assignment: Class 5 District 1 with Fox, Oakville, Poplar Bluff and Seckman
Starters gone: Braxton McDowell, Luke Stevens
Starters back: Karson King, Blake Reynolds, Josh Daume, Brandon Lueders, Josh Friess, Braden Wendel

A CLOSER LOOK



Jackson forward Connor Shepard warms up before a game at the Southeast Missourian Christmas Tournament last year at the Show Me Center. Jackson players wore homemade T-shirts in memory of 10-year-old Parker King, who died from the injuries sustained in an ATV crash.

Injuries, tragedy brought Jackson boys team closer together

By RACHEL CRADER
SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

Jackson boys basketball coach Darrin Scott often refers to the game as a life lesson.

"We always talk about basketball is kind of a metaphor for life," Scott said. "We say that all the time, 'If you're going to struggle to handle the things that happen to you in basketball, life is really going to get you because you're going to have a lot worse things. You're going to get older and someone you love's going to get cancer, somebody's going to die. There's so many things that happen — you're going to maybe get fired from a job. You're going to have to come back from things not going well. For us, I think, basketball is a metaphor for how to handle it.'"

Scott's team got more lessons than he'd prefer last season.

Calvin Lysell had hip surgery before the season started and missed all but about three weeks of play.

"He's back and healthy," Scott said of Lysell. "Having him back makes a big difference. He's a high-energy kid. He can guard. He can make some plays. And he's really fired up. He missed basically his whole junior season, so he's very fired up for basketball."

Point guard Josh Daume, now a senior as well, suffered a stress fracture two games into last season and missed a significant portion of the season. Add in a tough schedule that included teams like Vianney and Webster Groves, and the Indians season was off to a rocky start.

Then things got much worse than a few on-court injuries and losses.

Parker King, the 10-year-old cousin of leading scorer Karson King, died on Dec. 26 following an ATV accident days earlier. It was a tragedy that reached well beyond the basketball team and out into the Jackson community, which rallied to support the King family.

"One of the other things is we try to make sure that outside of the basketball, that the kids are there for each other," Scott said. "That's probably the one thing about this group. ... They're really close. They really do a good job of caring about each other and trying to make sure that they treat people well. They're good friends, good teammates."

The bond, Scott believes, was strengthened during last season's hardships.

"That's something that hopefully the kids see when they play, if they need some-



Jackson's Josh Daume drives to the basket against Chaminade during a Class 5 sectional game last season.

thing, the team and the program is there for them," Scott said.

The Indians advanced to the state quarterfinals a year ago, meaning they were just a win shy of the final four, but Scott asks his team to focus more on "standards" than results-oriented goals. Living up to a standard is something players can control, unlike results.

"Our biggest thing is we want to make sure we get better every day," Scott said. "Some of the things at the end of the season — you don't always control those. You want to be playing your best basketball, but you can't always control making it to the final four or doing those things because — just like in life — there's a lot of things that come into that."

The team is healthy to start this season with the exception of returning all-Missourian team member Blake Reynolds, who partially tore his MCL the week before practice began but is not expected to miss significant time.

"It'd be nice if we could stay healthy," Scott said. "It's one of those things you can't control. You can watch at any level — NBA, college — people get hurt, and there's not much you can do about it. It would be nice if we could all stay healthy. I would enjoy that."

"If you're going to struggle to handle the things that happen to you in basketball, life is really going to get you because you're going to have a lot worse things."

— Jackson coach Darrin Scott

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Girls and Boys
Basketball Teams!

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MEADOW HEIGHTS BOYS

Opening statements by...
COACH MARK VERTICCHIO

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Verticchio: Well, it's my first year doing the boys here, so it's kind of a crapshoot to be honest with you. The program's down, I know that, but we've been working. I finally got them to do something in the summer and we actually travelled a little bit this summer, so we're getting a little bit better. They do have some experience back, but it's the long haul to be honest with you. We're trying to change the entire culture, program. Actually we started with the junior high this fall and they went undefeated, which is a big step in the right direction, and hopefully the varsity can get better slowly and we're looking at just getting better every day. We're not going to be world-beaters for a while, but I do think there's some talent.

SM: What steps are you going to take this year to change the

program?

CV: I think the biggest thing is getting them to realize that basketball is a lot of work. You have to make sacrifices from them to the parents. Everybody's got to work hard together at it. The entire school has to realize that boys basketball can be something the entire community can take pride in and something we can all get behind. But the boys have to realize it's mainly their job and I watched them from the girls point of view last year and you know, kids would miss practice and they wouldn't work hard and they've got to realize it's just a lot of work. You've got to make sacrifices and take to the coaching. I thought we sold that real well to our junior high. I mean, we had problems, don't get me wrong, but they did go undefeated and it's something that years down the road I think the program can be in pretty good shape. But what I'm convincing the kids now is that they're the ones that have to start the changes — it can't wait until the junior high kids get up there — it's got to start now, and hopefully in a few years we can be competing

for a district title.

SM: What are some of the strengths you see in this team?

CV: We've got a little bit of height. We've got a couple of 6-2, 6-3 boys and they've got some experience. They won eight games last year, which for Meadow Heights since I've been there they've won a grand total of 15 on the boys side. We've got some experience coming back, we've got some decent shooters. I think our guard play is very good. We've got a kid who was a freshman last year, played at the point guard, is a sophomore this year. I think he's going to be a very nice player. We've got an off guard, a 6-2 junior who hasn't played in two years, but he's going to be a nice player and he played really well this summer. And I think those two boys just leading the way are going to make us a better ballclub. We've got a little bit of depth, but the big thing is the culture is not good. I mean, they think they can miss practice for almost any reason. That's got to end and when it does we'll get better, but not until then, not until they realize how much work it is.



Meadow Heights' Kyle Baremore battles for a rebound during the Mississippi Valley Conference Tournament last year.

ROSTER

No.	Player	Year	Ht.
1	Jacob Douglas	So.	5-10
3	Dylon Wyatt	Sr.	5-8
4	Justin McGuire	Jr.	6-1
5	Kody Overbey	Jr.	6-2
22	Chris Bollinger	Sr.	6-3
23	Brendan Welker	So.	5-10
25	Ryan Foltz	Sr.	5-9
32	Tyler Cook	Jr.	6-3
33	Kyle Baremore	Sr.	6-2
35	Kyle Overbey	Jr.	6-2

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
Nov. 26	Chaffee	Home
Dec. 2-6	Woodland Tourney	Away
Dec. 17	Delta	Home
Dec. 20	St. Genevieve	Away
Dec. 26-30	Southeast Missourian Christmas Tourney	SMC
Jan. 7	Leopold	Home
Jan. 9	Marquand	Home
Jan. 14	Lesterville	Away
Jan. 17	Woodland	Home
Jan. 21	Bismarck	Away
Jan. 28	Zalma	Home
Jan. 31	South Iron	Home
Feb. 3-7	MVC Tourney	Zalma
Feb. 11	Oak Ridge	Away
Feb. 14	Saxony Lutheran	Home
Feb. 18	Greenville	Away
Feb. 20	St. Vincent	Away

Coach: Mark Verticchio, first season

Last season's record: 8-17

Postseason result: Lost 75-46 to Chaffee in a Class 2 District 3 quarterfinal

District assignment: Class 2 District 3 with Advance, Bismarck, Chaffee, Oran, Southern Reynolds, Valley and Viburnum

Starters gone: Josh Douglas

Starters back: Kyle Baremore, Ryan Foltz, Chris Bollinger, Dylon Wyatt, Kyle Overbey, Kody Overbey, Tyler Cook

JACKSON GIRLS

Opening statements by...
COACH TYLER ABERNATHY

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Abernathy: I feel like we're a little farther along than what we've been in years past. We had a really good offseason. We had really good attendance, so we were able to do some things a little earlier this year. I feel like we're a different team than we've been in the past. We're a lot smaller. We do some things differently than what we have in prior years, but I feel like right now we're moving along pretty well. We're trying to get better every day, and the girls are working hard. They're buying in, and I feel pretty good about where we are in the season.

SM: What are some of the things you were able to focus on in the off-season?

CA: This summer we went and we played quite a bit, so we were able to do some things offensively and defensively scheme wise that fits our personnel this year. ... That was a big advantage to have really good attendance this summer to be able to start working on some of those offensive and defensive schemes that we want.

SM: Can you give an example of something that's going to be different for your players this year?

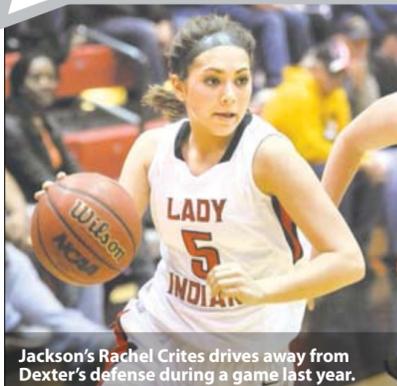
CA: In the past we've been more a half-court, man team. We've been a little bigger, we've played a little slower. This year we're a little faster. We may have to end up pressing a little more than we have in the past. Offensively, we run a little bit more just because we're built more for that than we have been in the past.

SM: Is that a style your players have played growing up or has it been new for them?

CA: This is really something that our groups have done growing up. These groups, the kids, have kind of been through our program the last four or five years. They've kind of realized that they're a little bit smaller. We don't have quite the height we used to, so it's kind of the way they've played in the past.

SM: You've won the district title the last two years. Do you think those results help this group?

CA: Yes, I have no doubt that the tradition that our basketball program has — not just the last couple years but going back the last 25, 30 years. The girls take a lot of pride in what we do. They work extremely hard. It's something that's big in our community is girls basketball. It's something that I have no doubt



Jackson's Rachel Crites drives away from Dexter's defense during a game last year.

Coach: Tyler Abernathy, third season

Last season's record: 15-12

Postseason result: Lost 56-31 to St. Joseph's Academy in a Class 5 sectional

District assignment: Class 5 District 1 with Fox, Oakville, Poplar Bluff and Seckman

Starters gone: Danielle Daume, Megan Williams, Emily Davidson

Starters back: Rachel Crites, Cassidi Tomsu

ROSTER

No.	Player	Year	Height
3	Cassidi Tomsu	So.	5-5
4	Rachel Crites	Jr.	5-4
5	Mckinzie Scott	Jr.	5-9
10	Autumn Reid	So.	5-10
11	Michaela Binns	Sr.	5-7
12	Randa Norman	Fr.	5-7
14	Emily Gartman	Sr.	5-5
15	Rylee Stafford	Fr.	5-7
21	Mallorie Maintz	So.	5-9
22	Maddison Eckley	Jr.	5-9
24	Kayla Keith	So.	5-9
25	Nicole Humphreys	Fr.	5-9
30	Olivia Brown	So.	5-8

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
Nov. 26	Farmington	Home
Dec. 2-7	Farmington Invitational	Away
Dec. 10	Kennett	Away
Dec. 17-19	Kelso Supply Classic	SMC
Jan. 7	Webster Groves	Away
Jan. 10	Cor Jesu Academy	Home
Jan. 16	Cape Central	Away
Jan. 20	Jefferson	Home
Jan. 23	Notre Dame	Home
Jan. 27-31	Lady Flyer Invite	Lindbergh
Feb. 1	Camdenton Shootout	Away
Feb. 3	Perryville	Home
Feb. 6	Poplar Bluff	Away
Feb. 10	Sikeston	Away
Feb. 13	Nerinx Hall	Home
Feb. 15	Parkway South	Home
Feb. 20	Meadow Heights	Away
Feb. 24	Dexter	Away
Feb. 27	DeSoto	Home

MEADOW HEIGHTS GIRLS

Opening statements by...
COACH CHARLIE DOUBLIN

Southeast Missourian: How would you evaluate your team entering the season?

Coach Doublin: Getting to know each other.

SM: How so?

CD: I've got nine new players.

SM: Are you a young team then?

CD: Yeah, we've got eight freshmen.

SM: Have those freshmen played a lot together in the past?

CD: No. I've got three brand new players who have never played. I've got four freshmen that have played together, four that haven't.

SM: What kind of challenges is that presenting right now?

CD: Well, we're working on fundamentals.

SM: Is there anything in particular you're working on?

CD: We're trying to focus on defense, trying to be a defensive team.

SM: Are you expecting all of these young players to contribute at the varsity level this year?

CD: I figure three of them will probably contribute. I'll have one starter that's a freshman.

SM: How many players are coming back that have played in the past?

CD: We had six last year, so I have four coming back to play. We only had six last year.

SM: What would say the goal for the team is this year?

CD: To be competitive in every game.

SM: What would you say the strength of the team is?

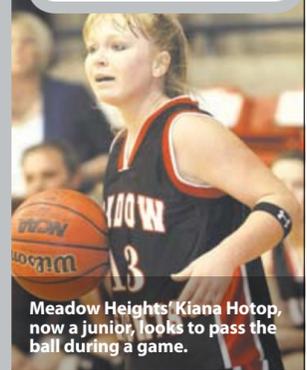
CD: That they're working well together. ... They're trying to become a unit. They feed off each other.

ROSTER

No.	Player	Year	Ht.
2	Kassy Henson	Fr.	5-3
3	Yasmine Simmons	Fr.	5-1
4	Kylee Whitener	Jr.	5-5
12	Abi Bristow	Fr.	5-2
13	Kiana Hotop	Fr.	5-2
14	Lauren Manning	Fr.	5-4
15	Emma Cook	Jr.	5-6
21	Alaina Lochirco	Jr.	5-6
23	Hayley Thorne	Sr.	5-8
24	Samantha Miles	Fr.	5-11
32	Paige Mills	Fr.	5-5
33	Jaquae Starkey	Fr.	5-11
34	Mayzie Thompson	Fr.	5-5

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
Nov. 26	North County	Away
Dec. 2-7	Potosi Invitational	Away
Dec. 10	Perryville	Away
Dec. 16	St. Vincent	Away
Dec. 17-19	Holiday Classic	SMC
Jan. 6-9	New Years Tourney	Delta
Jan. 13	Lesterville	Home
Jan. 16	South Iron	Away
Jan. 21	Puxico	Away
Jan. 23	Woodland	Home
Jan. 27	Oran	Home
Feb. 3	Delta	Away
Feb. 4	Clearwater	Home
Feb. 6	Saxony Lutheran	Home
Feb. 10	Chaffee	Away
Feb. 12	Scott City	Home
Feb. 17	Bismarck	Away
Feb. 20	Jackson	Home



Meadow Heights' Kiana Hotop, now a junior, looks to pass the ball during a game.

Coach: Charlie Doublin, first season

Last season's record: 13-12

Postseason result: Lost 48-46 to Chaffee in a Class 2 District 3 semifinal

District assignment: Class 2 District 3 with Bismarck, Chaffee, Oran, Southern Reynolds, Valley and Viburnum

Starters gone: Taylor Cureton, Caitlin Cook

Starters back: Hayley Thorne, Kiana Hotop, Emma Cook

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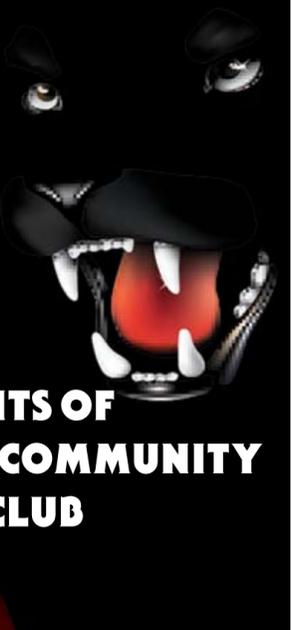
Best of luck to all the area teams!



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