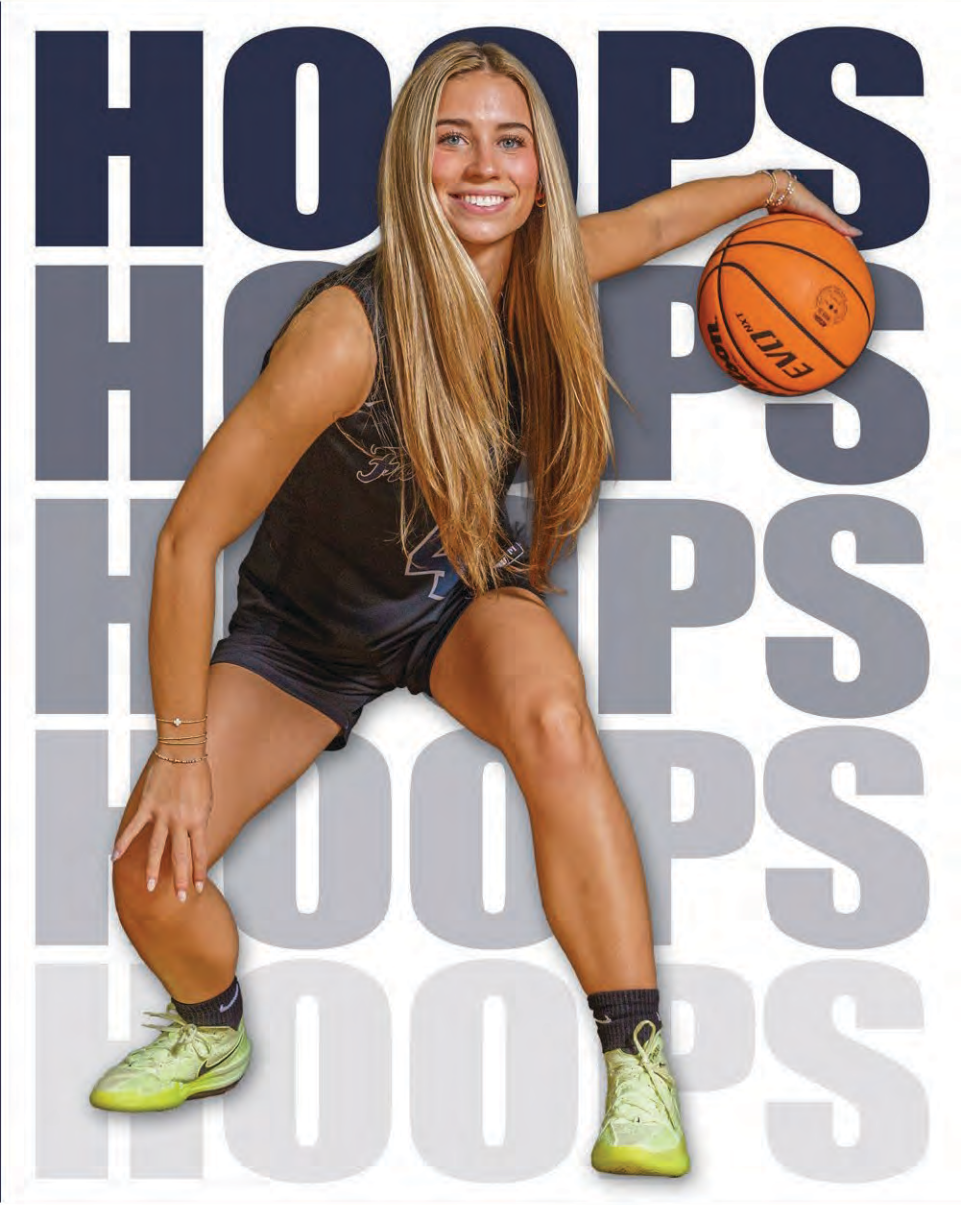
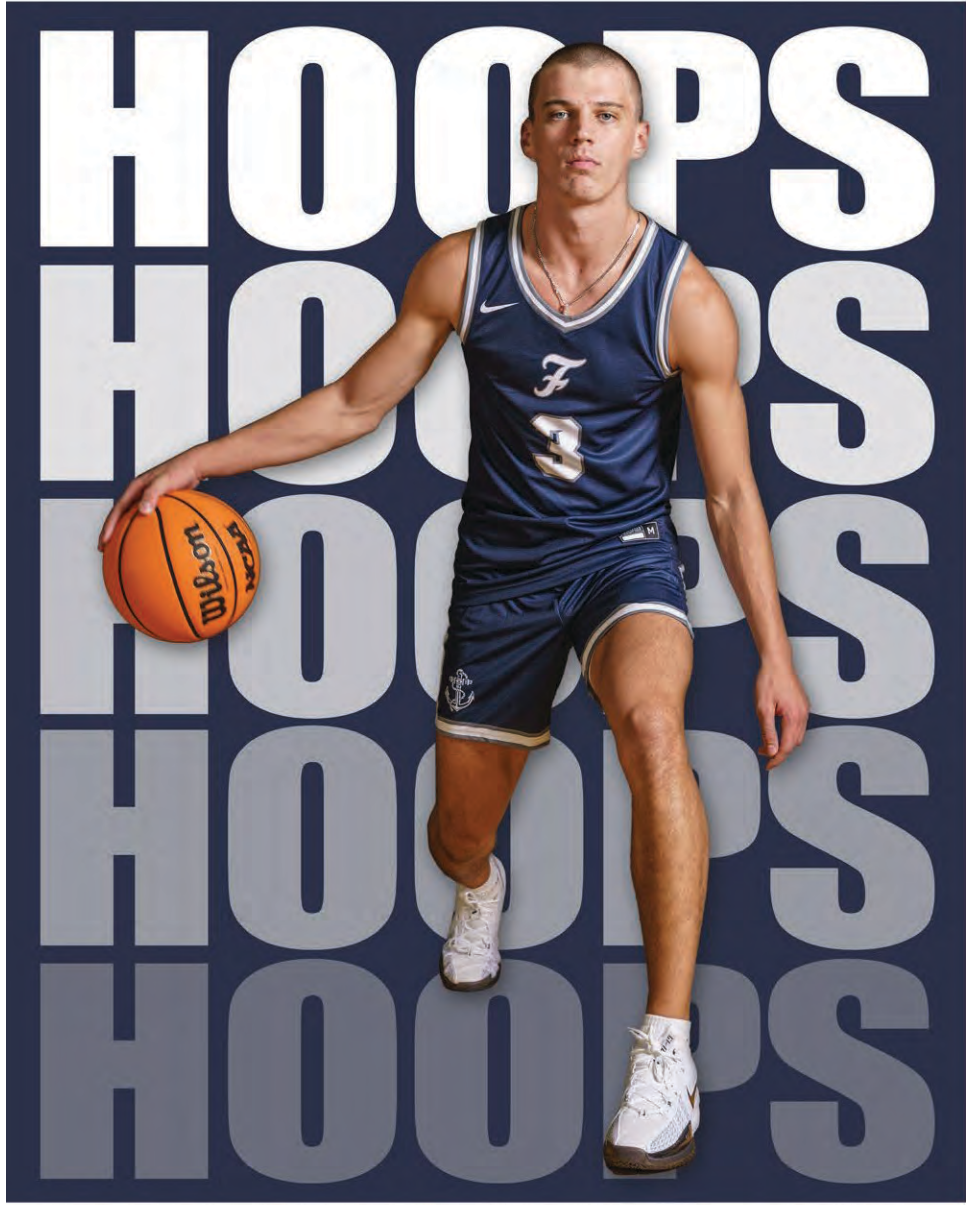
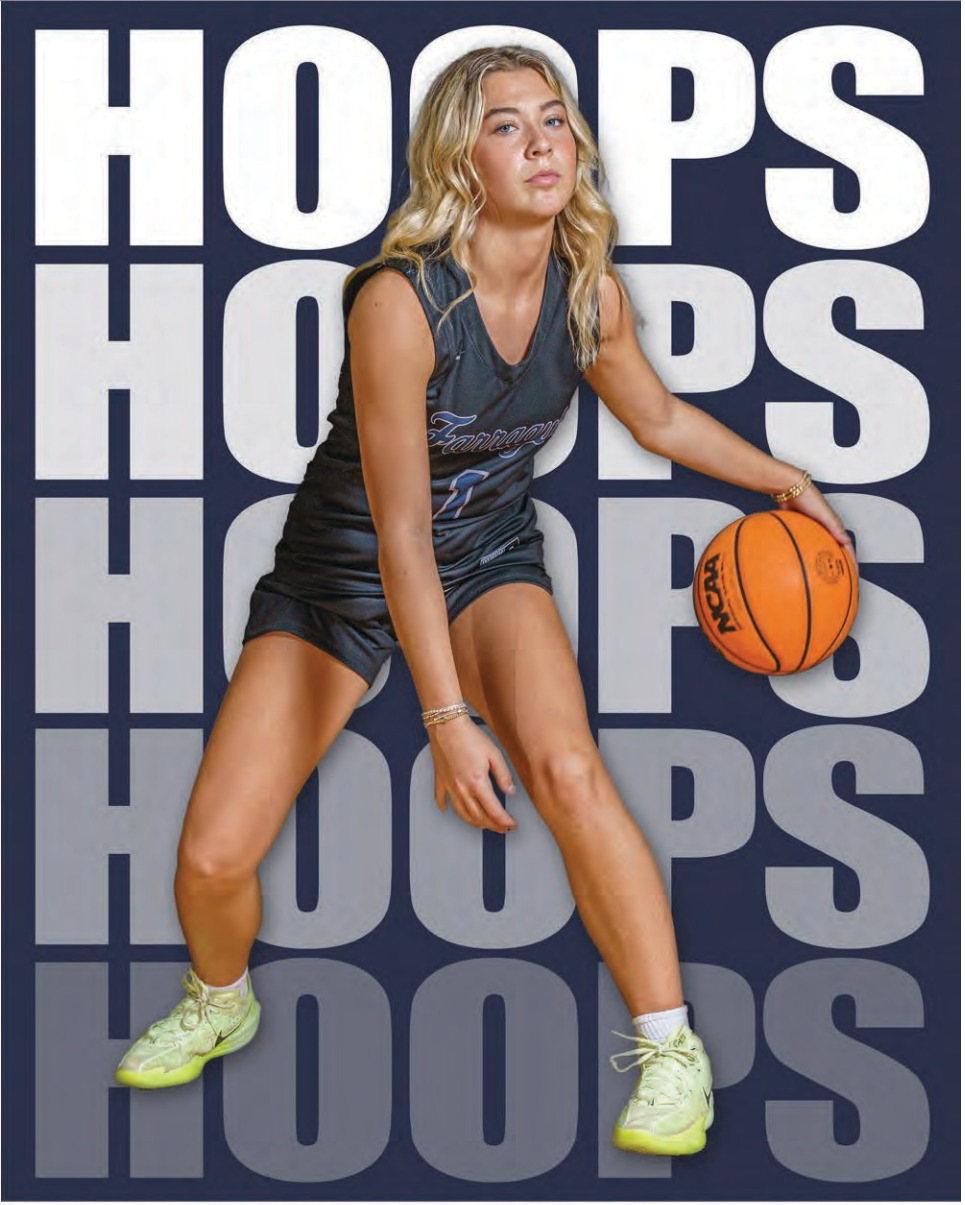
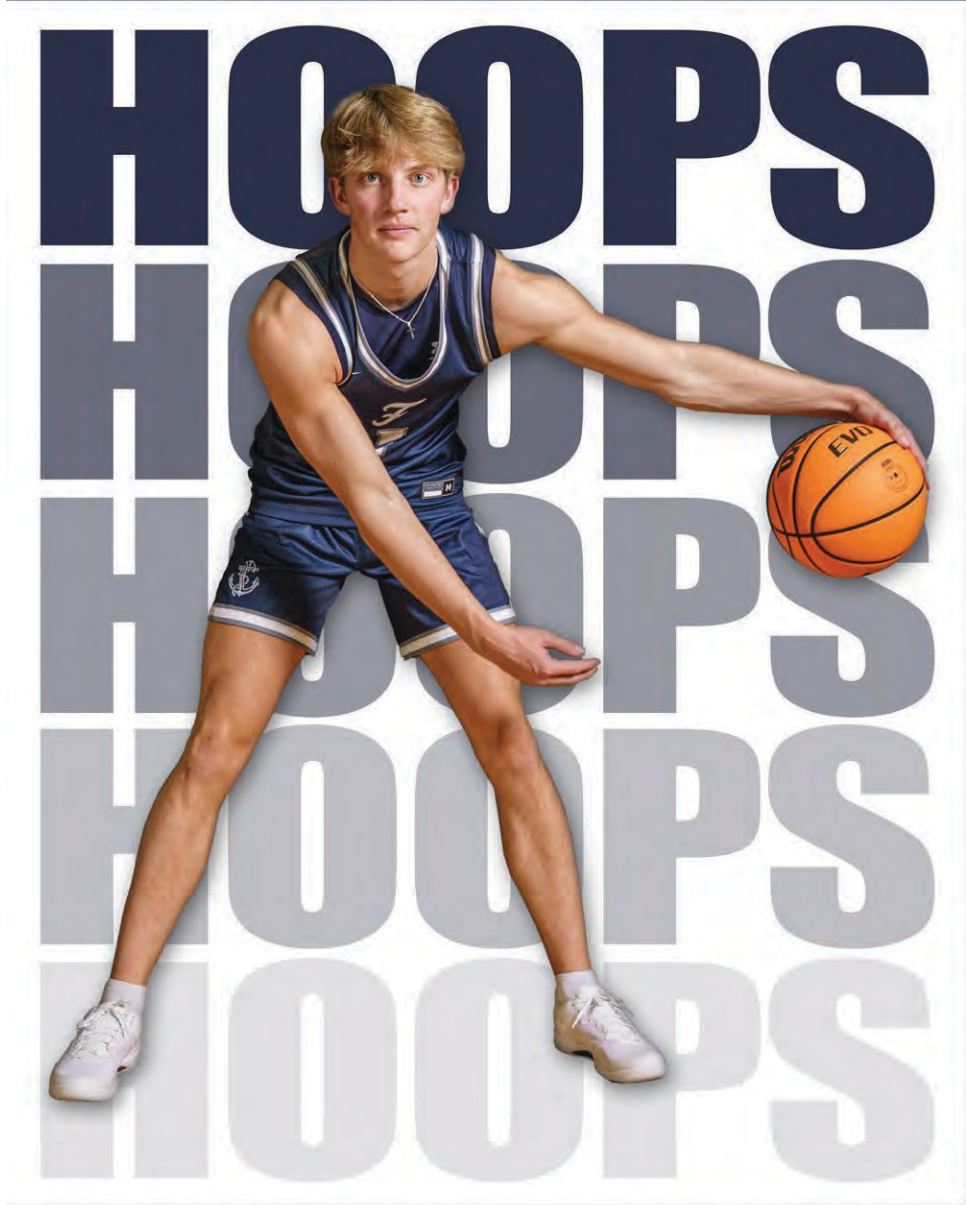
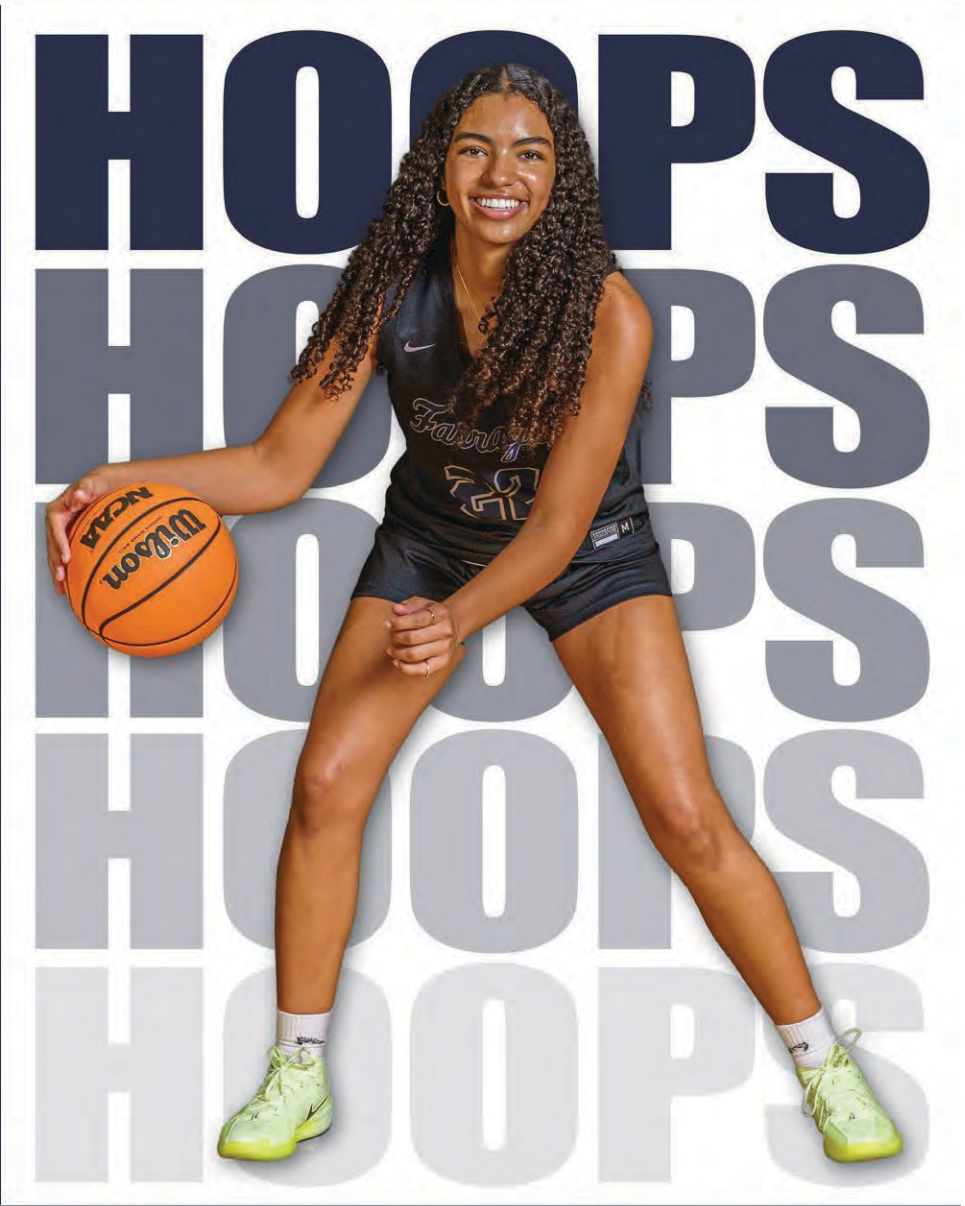
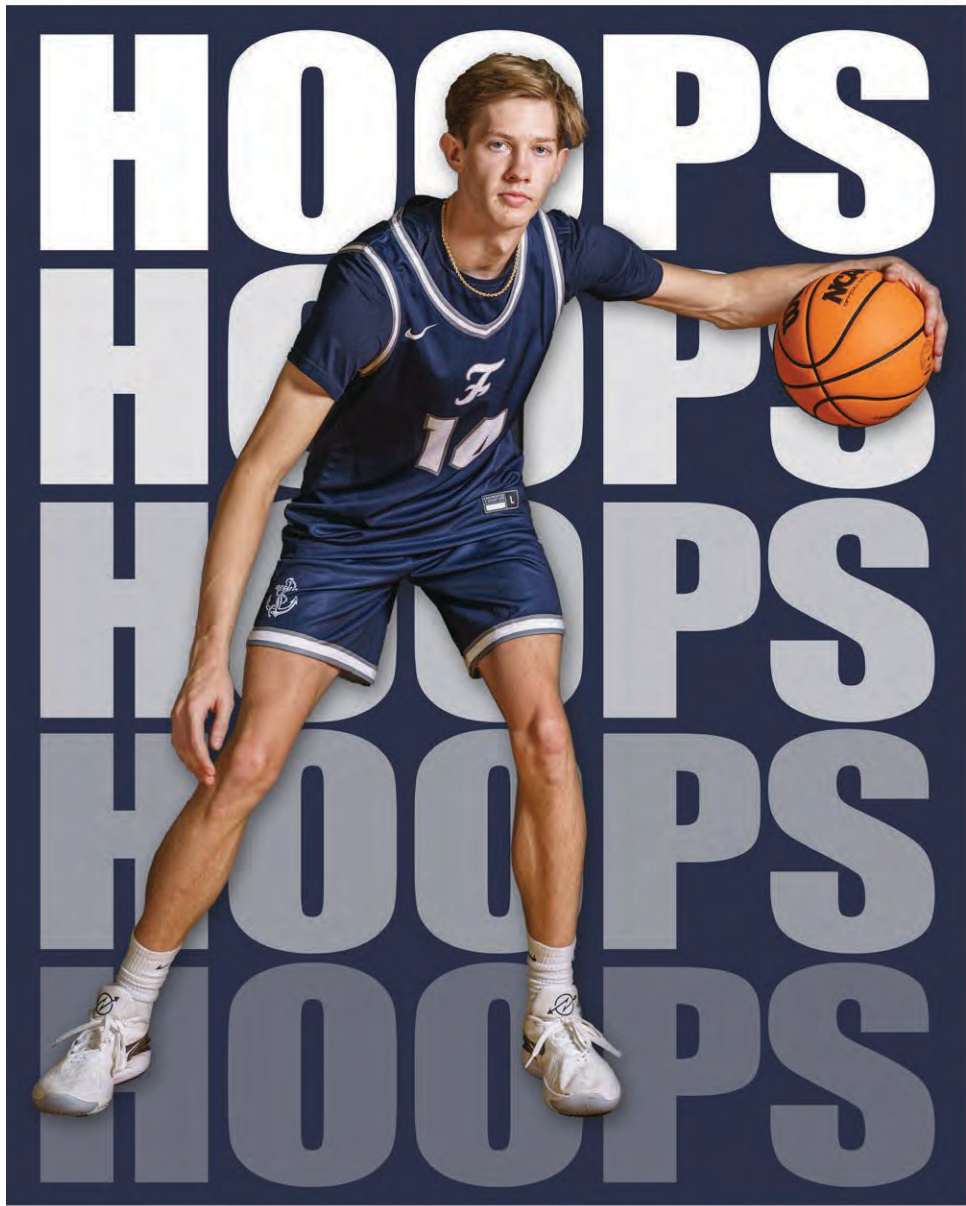


2024-2025 farragutpress Basketball Preview





Farragut High School

ADMIRALS

If you were to ask Farragut High School’s boys’ basketball head coach James Burris to sum up his season last year, he might well invoke a famous idiom: so close, and yet so far.

According to Burris, the Admirals lost 18 games by either one or two possessions. And this included games against four of the eight teams that made the state tournament.

“We were good, our record just didn’t reflect it,” said Burris, entering his third year at the helm of the boys program. “We’re still really talented. If all the things we’ve worked on this spring and summer translate this year, we can be really good.”

The players
Four of Burris’s likely starters are upperclassmen; two will be starting for their third straight year.

One of those with such experience is post player Dom VanAcker. According to Burris, the 6-foot-3 senior is one of the best in the area.

“He’s a highlight reel,” the coach said. “He’s really worked on his outside shot and shot really well this spring and summer. He’s an emotional player.”

Bringing the ball up the court for FHS will be 6-foot-1 sophomore point guard Ethan Farhat, who saw little playing time last year.

“He had a phenomenal spring and summer,” Burris

said of Farhat. “He’s a great floor leader and has the ability to score when he has to. He’s always had the talent.”

Only one problem: a shoulder injury suffered by Farhat in football, as a receiver in the Admirals’ first-round playoff game at Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett, could keep the sophomore out of the line-up for a while.

Farhat’s backcourt mate will be junior shooting guard Parker Lane (5-foot-9), the team’s point guard the past two seasons who will be starting for the third consecutive year.

“Parker can be a very high-volume scorer for us,” Burris said. “This spring and summer he’s worked tremendously hard on his (defense). I look forward to him having a good junior year.”

On the wing for Burris will be 6-foot-1 junior Daniel Lanning, who also can play guard.

“Really strong scorer, strong physically,” Burris said of Lanning. “Definitely gonna take on some of the scoring load for us, and he’s someone who can guard multiple positions because of his strength.”

Britton Lewis will join VanAcker in the post. Lewis started a few games at the end of last season.

“Probably the leader of our team,” Burris said about the 6-foot-3 junior. “One of our most skilled players; others players respect him. Does everything the right way.”

Senior 6-foot-3 guard Carson MacTavish (“maybe the most athletic player on our team”), 6-foot-4 senior forward Bryce Howard (“solid, worked really hard, waited his time”) and 6-foot-4 junior center Reid Vining (“hustle guy; should lead us in offensive rebounds”) should provide Burris valuable bench help. Senior Brody Appling, at 6-foot-6, could help

“This year we gotta come together and be more team oriented.”

~ James Burris

in the paint.

Culture adjustment
As the losses piled up last year, the team’s cohesion was unsurprisingly strained. Burris was candid about his role in the process.

“We need to fix our culture, and that starts with me and holding guys accountable the right way,” he said. “We have certain standards and rules that are non-negotiable, and at times I didn’t do a good job of holding us accountable to that.”

Burris is confident this season’s culture — and win/loss record — will be different.

“I think we have good leadership this year,” he said. “They don’t want to go through what we did last year; the staff doesn’t either.”

“The chemistry is in a far better spot; the guys have taken it upon themselves to work on that,” Burris added. “This year we gotta come together and be more team oriented.”

Strength-concern
Burris thinks the team’s versatility is a strength. “All these guards ... they can play the 1-to-4 (point to power forward) positions,” he said.

A team concern could be lack of size, Burris said.

By Bill Howard

ROSTER

1	Bryce Howard	SR	G/F
2	Dan Lanning	JR	G
3	Dominic VanAcker	SR	G/F
4	Kent Carbaugh	SR	F
5	Ethan Farhat	SO	G
10	Reid Vining	JR	C
11	Britton Lewis	JR	F
12	Luke Finnegan	SR	G
14	Carson MacTavish	SR	G
20	Aidan Foshie	JR	G
23	Parker Lane	JR	G
34	Brody Appling	SR	C

Head coach: J.P. Burris • Assistant coach: Adam Jenkins
Assistant coach: Cory Johnson • Assistant coach: Randy Swartzentruber
Manager: Ethan Kern

ADMIRALS • VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2024-25

HALL OF FAME GAMES					
Nov. 21	Thursday	Morristown West	Away	7:30 pm	
Nov. 23	Saturday	Boys - Lakeway Christian	Carter High	1:30 pm	
		Boys - Knoxville Central	Carter Middle	6:00 pm	

THANKSGIVING TOURNAMENT AT FARRAGUT HIGH					
Nov. 25-30	Mon,Tue,Fri,Sat	Boys and Girls (see bracket)	Home	TBA	

ROUNDBALL CLASSIC AT SCIENCE HILL					
Dec. 6	Friday	Boys - Cocke County	Topper Nation (New Gym)	4:00 pm	
Dec. 7	Saturday	Boys - Sevier County	Topper Palace (Old Gym)	3:30 pm	

Dec. 10	Tuesday	Cookeville	Home	7:30 pm	
Dec. 13	Friday	Lenoir City	Away	7:30 pm	

5STARPREPS CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT AT WEBB					
Dec. 19-21	Thurs-Sat	Boys and Girls (see bracket)	Webb School	TBA	

CHRISTMAS CLASSIC AT HARRIMAN					
Dec. 27	Friday	Boys - Kingston	Harriman High	1:15 pm	
Dec. 28	Saturday	Boys - Sequoyah	Harriman Middle	12:30 pm	

Jan. 3	Friday	Karns	Home	7:30 pm	
Jan. 7	Tuesday	McMinn Central	Away	7:30 pm	
Jan. 10	Friday	William Blount*	Home	7:30 pm	
Jan. 14	Tuesday	West*	Home	7:30 pm	
Jan. 17	Friday	Bearden*	Away	7:30 pm	
Jan. 21	Tuesday	Hardin Valley*	Away	7:30 pm	
Jan. 24	Friday	Maryville*	Home	7:30 pm	
Jan. 28	Tuesday	William Blount*	Away	7:30 pm	
Jan. 31	Friday	West*	Away	7:30 pm	
Feb. 4	Tuesday	Maryville*	Away	7:30 pm	
Feb. 7	Friday	Bearden*	Home	7:30 pm	
Feb. 11	Tuesday	Hardin Valley*	Home	7:30 pm	
Feb. 13	Thursday	Fulton - Senior Night	Home	7:30 pm	
Feb. 14	Friday	Kingston	Away	7:30 pm	

* - denotes district game



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A close-up photograph of a basketball player's hand shooting a ball into a hoop. The player's hand is visible, holding the orange basketball. The basketball hoop and net are in the foreground, and the background is dark.



Farragut High School LADY ADMIRALS

Last season, the Farragut High School girls basketball team made the Sectional round of the postseason. One more win and the Lady Admirals would have made the TSSAA Division I-4A State Tournament, every team’s goal.

Heading into this season, Lady Admirals head coach Jason Mayfield believes he might have enough returning experience and depth to earn a state berth. One reason for his confidence is his girls’ off-season development.



Mayfield

“They’ve worked hard this summer and this off-season,” Mayfield said. “We return a bunch this year, which has been different from the past couple years. It’s nice to have not only a lot of returners, but our top scoring players. And we have multiple players who can create things.”

The players

Mayfield’s top three scorers — senior guards Annie Priest and Jaci Neubert, and multi-position junior KJ McNealy — all return. The trio’s leadership will complement its scoring.

“She’s just solid,” Mayfield said of Priest, a point guard who has played valuable minutes since early in her fresh-

man season. “She knows what we expect, and she demands those things from her teammates. Everything runs a lot more smoothly for us when Annie’s out there.”

Priest’s complement in the backcourt will be Neubert, who led FHS in scoring last year.

“Jaci wasn’t mentioned in postseason awards last year, but she was our leading scorer,” Mayfield said. “She can really score; she’s real quick and can finish around the rim. She can shoot the ball really well.”

McNealy, MVP of the Regional Tournament last season, brings wide versatility to the lineup.

“She can play (every position),” Mayfield said. “The sky’s the limit for her. Last year we kind of went as KJ went, as far as our ability to do some really good things. She’s real vocal. Between her and Annie, it’s probably about the best leadership we’ve had around here.”

A valuable contributor this year, according to Mayfield, will be sophomore Trinity Curry. Curry got playing time toward the end of last season, but Mayfield sees the 6-foot post player as taking a big step forward this year.

“Good touch, has the best shot on the whole team,” Mayfield said of Curry. “We need to focus on getting the ball inside to her more. She was phenomenal for us this summer.”

Rounding out Mayfield’s likely starters will be sophomore Gabby VanAcker. The 5-foot-11 wing player didn’t play much last season, but she’s developed nicely on the court since then, according to Mayfield.

“It’s nice to have not only a lot of returners, but our top scoring players.”

~ Jason Mayfield

“(She) didn’t have the strength and speed last year, but this summer was great,” Mayfield said of VanAcker. “(She’s gotten) really good at making shots and getting to the rim and using her length on the defense.”

Depth is essential to the success of any team. Mayfield is confident he has a bench that will be a valuable asset.

Mayfield expects solid backup play from sophomore guard/wing Reagan Sheridan, junior point-guard Lilly Mullins and senior post Kyra Wray.

Strength-concern

“Experience,” Mayfield said when asked what primarily gives him confidence about the team. “I feel like now we have a lot of different players who can score.”

One area that needs improvement, the coach said, is more focus in practice. “Last year we weren’t always real intense in practice; they were almost too nice.”

Mayfield said he wants his girls to run and push the ball, but defense is what wins games.

“We were 7-10 (record-wise) right after Christmas, but the girls continued to play (de-

ROSTER

1	Jaci Neubert	PG	SR
2	Lilly Mullins	PG	JR
3	Zoe Porter	G	SO
4	Annie Priest	G	SR
5	Gabbie Vanacker	W	SO
10	Anna Corum	PG	JR
12	Reagan Sheridan	G	SO
20	Trinity Curry	P	SO
22	KJ McNealy	G	JR
23	Livi Slagle	G	FR
24	Julia Tiernan	G	SO
33	Makenna Hartley	P	FR
44	Kyra Wray	P	SR

Head coach: Jason Mayfield • Assistant coach: Alex Munday
Assistant coach: Madison Maples • Assistant coach: Claire Wyatt
Manager: Ella Schlomer • Manager: Blair Thurman

ADMIRALS • VARSITY GIRLS SCHEDULE 2024-25

HALL OF FAME GAMES

Nov. 21	Thursday	Morristown West	Away	6:00 pm
Nov. 23	Saturday	Girls - Lakeway Christian	Carter Middle	9:00 am
		Girls - White County	Carter Middle	12:00 pm

THANKSGIVING TOURNAMENT AT FARRAGUT HIGH

Nov. 25-30	Mon,Tue,Fri,Sat	Boys and Girls (see bracket)	Home	TBA
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ROUNDBALL CLASSIC AT SCIENCE HILL

Dec. 6	Friday	Girls - Cocke County	Topper Nation (New Gym)	2:30 pm
Dec. 7	Saturday	Girls - West Ridge	Topper Palace (Old Gym)	2:00 pm

Dec. 10	Tuesday	Cookeville	Home	6:00 pm
Dec. 13	Friday	Lenoir City	Away	6:00 pm

5STARPREPS CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT AT WEBB

Dec. 19-21	Thurs-Sat	Boys and Girls (see bracket)	Webb School	TBA
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CHRISTMAS CLASSIC AT HARRIMAN

Dec. 27	Friday	Girls - Meigs County	Harriman High	2:30 pm
Dec. 28	Saturday	Girls - Midway	Harriman Middle	11:15 am

Jan. 3	Friday	Karns	Home	6:00 pm
Jan. 7	Tuesday	McMinn Central	Away	6:00 pm
Jan. 10	Friday	William Blount*	Home	6:00 pm
Jan. 14	Tuesday	West*	Home	6:00 pm
Jan. 17	Friday	Bearden*	Away	6:00 pm
Jan. 21	Tuesday	Hardin Valley*	Away	6:00 pm
Jan. 24	Friday	Maryville*	Home	6:00 pm
Jan. 28	Tuesday	William Blount*	Away	6:00 pm
Jan. 31	Friday	West*	Away	6:00 pm
Feb. 4	Tuesday	Maryville*	Away	6:00 pm
Feb. 7	Friday	Bearden*	Home	6:00 pm
Feb. 11	Tuesday	Hardin Valley*	Home	6:00 pm
Feb. 13	Thursday	Fulton - Senior Night	Home	6:00 pm
Feb. 14	Friday	Kingston	Away	6:00 pm

* - denotes district game

fense), and they plugged along and won 12 of the last 14,” Mayfield said.

This season is Mayfield’s

13th as head coach. “I feel like our program’s in a really good place,” he said.

By Bill Howard



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Bearden High School

BULLDOGS

Even with his big and strong standout post from last season transferring — 6-foot-6, 250-pound junior Brody Smith has become a Maryville Red Rebel — Jeremy Parrott still is loaded with experienced talent at Bearden.

“We’ve got several back; we’ve got seven seniors. That’s probably the most I’ve had, gosh, maybe in my coaching career,” he said about the 2024-25 boys hoops outlook for a program regularly either winning or competing for District 4-4A and/or Region 2-4A honors.

The players

Returning seniors most counted upon are 6-foot-3 guard King Hubbard, an All-District 4-4A and All-Region 2-4A honoree, and 6-foot-3 All-region wing Jamichael Blair. They join Justin Nordin, a standout 6-foot-2 junior point guard also earning All-4-4A and All-region honors, to give Bearden a solid leadership nucleus.

Three other seniors fighting for starting spots who are certain to contribute big are 6-foot-4 wing Dom Mahoney, shooting guard/small forward Andrew Baker and guard Drew Parrott, a key BHS football receiver/back-up quarterback who, along with Hubbard and Blair, “are four-year guys for us,” the coach said.

Coach Parrott said Mahoney “is going to be a guy that’s going to be expected to do a little more this year. He’s a very versatile player, can play on both

ends of the floor at different positions.”

Baker “was injured a good bit of last year,” the coach said. “We’re going to be looking for him to have an expanded role as well.”

Sean Capshaw is a 6-foot-3 junior wing who “played a lot of minutes for us last year ... and started some,” Parrott said. “His role should expand.”

Adding size are Theo Mills, a 6-foot-5 junior post, and Anderson Doettl, 6-foot-6 senior post.

Senior Justice Watson, a 6-foot guard, transferred to Bearden last year after his family moved from Arkansas.

“Any of these 10 that I’m telling you about could start for us at any time,” coach Parrott said. “All could play valuable minutes for us.

“We’re going to be looking for those key re-turners to not only be what they were for us last year, but to carry an even heavier load because they’re older, stronger, bigger,” the coach added. “We’ll lean on the guys that are big time returning guys.

“But we also have the possibility of these new guys helping greatly.”

Strength-concern

Concerning the Bulldogs’ biggest strengths in addition to experience, “Depth; I think we’re going to be able to plug and play quite often,” coach Parrott said. “That’s my pre-season thoughts, of course.

I’m guarded about it, but at the same time pretty optimistic.

“I feel like we could roll any of those guys in, and we’re not going to have much of a drop off.”

Another strength “would be they like each other and get along real well with each other and pull for each other and are all on the same page,” the coach said.

As for concerns, “you look at our roster and see we don’t have anybody on the plus side of 6-(foot)-6,” coach Parrott said. “We don’t have a true back-to-the-basket guy. That might be a concern if you looked at our measurables on our roster.

“But at the same time, we’re going to be quick-er and faster,” he added about another strength. “And we’ve got some versatile big guards that we can put in those post positions to attack people as well.”

Key element

“Our season will go with how committed we are to the defensive end of the floor,” coach Parrott said. “If you don’t (commit), you’re going to go home early all the time.

“I think every coach wants to see the defense be strong,” he added. “But this group that we have this year, their destiny will be determined by how hard we play and how tough we are. It’s really paramount that we buy in to be the tougher team night-in and night-out.

“I think we’re going to be a tough group.”

District 4-4A

Within District 4-4A, “Every single team in our district is going to be good,” coach Parrott said. “We know that William Blount graduated a lot, but they’ll still be solid.

“Everybody else on any

ROSTER

1	.....	King Hubbard	.....	Sr.	.....	G
3	.....	Andrew Baker	.....	Sr.	.....	SF
4	.....	Domenic Mahoney	.....	Sr.	.....	W
5	.....	Drew Parrott	.....	Sr.	.....	G
10	.....	Justin Nordin	.....	Jr.	.....	G
11	.....	Justice Watson	.....	Sr.	.....	G
12	.....	Sean Capshaw	.....	Jr.	.....	W
24	.....	Jamichael Blair	.....	Sr.	.....	W
44	.....	Anderson Doettl	.....	Sr.	.....	C
.....	.....	Theo Mills	.....	Jr.	.....	C

Head coach: Jeremy Parrott

BULLDOGS • VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2024-25

Nov. 21	.....	Thu	.....	Daniel Boone High School	.....	Hall of Champions	.....	7:30 PM
Nov. 23	.....	Sat	.....	Gibbs High School (N)	.....	Hall of Champions	.....	10:30 AM
Nov. 25	.....	Mon	.....	(N) Stars Classic	.....	Siegel High	.....	7:30 PM
Nov. 26	.....	Tue	.....	Hickman Co. High School (N)	.....	Siegel High	.....	12:30 PM
Dec. 3	.....	Tue	.....	at Alcoa High School	.....		.....	7:30 AM
Dec. 6	.....	Fri	.....	Hardin Valley Academy *	.....		.....	7:30 PM
Dec. 10	.....	Tue	.....	Greeneville High School	.....		.....	7:30 PM
Dec. 13	.....	Fri	.....	at Fulton High School	.....	5 Star Preps	.....	7:30 PM
Dec. 14	.....	Sat	.....	Austin-East High School	.....	5 Star Preps	.....	7:30 PM
Dec. 17	.....	Tue	.....	at West High School *	.....		.....	7:30 PM
Dec. 20	.....	Fri	.....	(N) Adidas Shootout	.....	Riverdale High School	.....	7:30 PM
Dec. 26	.....	Thu	.....	(N) Arby’s Classic	.....	Bristol, TN	.....	7:30 PM
Jan. 7	.....	Tue	.....	at William Blount High School *	.....		.....	7:30 PM
Jan. 10	.....	Fri	.....	at Greeneville High School	.....		.....	7:30 PM
Jan. 14	.....	Tue	.....	Maryville High School *	.....		.....	7:30 PM
Jan. 17	.....	Fri	.....	Farragut High School *	.....		.....	7:30 PM
Jan. 21	.....	Tue	.....	at Morristown-Hamblen High School East	.....		.....	7:30 PM
Jan. 24	.....	Fri	.....	at Hardin Valley Academy *	.....		.....	7:30 PM
Jan. 28	.....	Tue	.....	West High School *	.....		.....	7:30 PM
Jan. 31	.....	Fri	.....	at Maryville High School *	.....		.....	7:30 PM
Feb. 4	.....	Tue	.....	Cleveland High School	.....		.....	7:30 PM
Feb. 7	.....	Fri	.....	at Farragut High School *	.....		.....	7:30 PM
Feb. 11	.....	Tue	.....	William Blount High School *	.....		.....	7:30 PM
Feb. 13	.....	Thu	.....	Morristown-Hamblen High School East	.....		.....	7:30 PM

* - denotes district game

given night can beat you,” the Dawgs coach added. “If you told me that there’s a clear favorite out there, I would say that Maryville will be the team we’re all chasing.

“There are going to be tough fights every night in District 4.”

By Alan Sloan

“Our season will go with how committed we are to the defensive end of the floor,”

~ Jeremy Parrott

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Bearden High School

LADY BULLDOGS

Despite a very successful season last year — 30 wins against but four losses — Bearden High School’s girls’ basketball team didn’t make the TSSAA Class AAA state tournament, losing in the Sectional round to Sevier County.

It was the first Lady Bulldogs’ team not to get to state in four years. Head coach Justin Underwood thinks his girls this year will have that in mind as the season plays out.

“I think that’s gonna be a motivating factor for them this year, to get back to that tradition of making it to state,” Underwood said. “The Lady Dawgs won the State Tournament in 2022.”

The players

BHS’s undisputed floor leader will be junior point guard Natalya Hodge, who will be starting for a third year. The fiery, speedy Hodge is equally comfortable shooting the three-pointer or driving to the hoop.

According to Underwood, Hodge is ranked among the top 50 high school girls’ basketball players nationwide and has more than 20 Division 1 scholarship offers.

“The work that she has put in is paying off for her,” Underwood said of Hodge. “She’s continued to well-round her game and get better in spots.”

Underwood is expecting a big contribution from senior guard/wing Kendall Anne Murphy, another returning starter.

“Ready for her to have a big

senior year,” Underwood said. “She shoots it extremely well and has a never-ending motor.”

Aisha Patel started a number of games last year, and Underwood sees the senior forward taking a big step this year.

“This year, she’s gonna be a big piece for us,” he said. “She can play down low inside on defense. And on offense, we can put her either on the perimeter or in the paint.”

Theola Mills is a junior post player with limited experience, but Underwood thinks her offseason work will make her a significant contributor.

“She’s worked really hard over the summer,” he said. “I’m looking for her to give us a lift inside, both rebounding and scoring. She’s made a big jump from sophomore to junior.”

Underwood’s fifth starting spot will likely be determined by committee.

Senior guard Caitlin McVeigh (“hard-nosed kid; very good defensively”), junior point guard/wing Emma Rainey (“could be a big piece; has a chance to complete and play”) and sophomore wing/guard Riley Hunt (“has the potential to be a valuable role player for us”) will all see action.

All teams need depth off the bench. For Underwood, backups at the post will come

primarily from junior Katie Foster and freshman Cadence Nesbit.

While Underwood expects significant improvement from Foster, Nesbit “has good toughness about her and good athletic ability,” he said. “Inside out she gives us a little something.”

Strength-concern

Underwood thinks his team’s strength is twofold: defense and strong guard play. “Defensively we could be really good,” he said. “Offensively our guards are strong in their ability to score inside and out.”

For Underwood, the team’s intangibles are a plus, along with the mix of experience and youth.

“This group seems to be very in tune with each other,” he said. “They’re very coachable and have good energy.

“We have a good mix of returning experience and some young kids who wanna help and fulfill their role as well,” Underwood added. “I think we have a good group with a high ceiling.”

Staying healthy is a concern, Underwood said, along with a challenging District 4-AAA schedule. Archrival Farragut — who beat the Lady Bulldogs twice last year — also made it to the Sectional round. The coach also said his post players need to jell and “take that next step.”

First game

The Lady Bulldogs open the season Thursday, Nov. 21, at home against Daniel Boone in the Hall of Champions Tournament.

By Bill Howard

ROSTER

2	Natalya Hodge	Jr.	PG, SG
10	Kendall Anne Murphy	Sr.	SF, SG
12	Caitlin McVeigh	Sr.	G
20	Emma Rainey	Jr.	SG, PG
23	Riley Hunt	Soph.	PG, SG
24	Lainey Cox	Sr.	SF, SG
30	Aisha Patel	Sr.	PF, SF
34	Theola Mills	Jr.	PF
40	Katie Foster	Jr.	C
	Cadence Nesbit	Fr.	C

Head coach: Justin Underwood
Assistant coach: Josh Suttles

BULLDOGS • VARSITY GIRLS SCHEDULE 2024-25

Nov. 21	Thur.	Hall of Champions vs Daniel Boone	Home
Nov. 23	Sat.	Hall of Champions vs Powell	Northview High
Nov. 23	Sat.	Hall of Champions vs Clinton	Northview High
Nov. 26-30		Central Thanksgiving Tourney	Central
Dec. 3	Tues.	Alcoa	Away
Dec. 6	Fri.	Hardin Valley*	Home
Dec. 10	Tues.	Greeneville	Home
Dec. 14	Sat.	Hoopfest vs Brentwood	Cookeville
Dec. 17	Tues.	Knox West*	Away
Dec. 19-21		Franks Shootout	Sparta,
Dec. 26-31		LandAir Classic	Greeneville
Jan. 4	Sat.	She Got Game Classic	Atlanta
Jan. 7	Tues.	William Blount*	Away
Jan. 10	Fri.	Greeneville	Away
Jan. 14	Tues.	Maryville*	Home
Jan. 17	Fri.	Farragut*	Home
Jan. 21	Tues.	Morristown East	Away
Jan. 24	Fri.	Hardin Valley*	Away
Jan. 28	Tues.	Knox West*	Home
Jan. 31	Fri.	Maryville*	Away
Feb. 4	Tues.	Cleveland	Home
Feb. 7	Fri.	Farragut*	Away
Feb. 11	Tues.	William Blount*	Home
Feb. 13	Thurs.	Morristown East	Home

* - denotes district game

“This group seems to be very in tune with each other,”

~ Justin Underwood





Hardin Valley Academy

HAWKS

Senior experience is plentiful for Hardin Valley Academy boys basketball this season.

“Yeah, we’ll start five seniors this year,” Hawks head coach Andrew Arendt said, adding the team’s sixth senior “will start at some point.”

The players
Senior point guard Bryson Frey, a two-year returning starter, “is a model of consistency and hard work,” Arendt said. “He has improved every year that we’ve had him, both in the weight room and on the court. And we look for him to lead us this year, both on and off the court.”

Senior wing Ben Brophy, also a returning two-year starter, “is a phenomenal scorer,” the coach said. “He moves without the basketball really well. He shoots the ball well. ... When he gets hot, there’s nobody better.”

Brophy is part of Arendt’s system when everything from shooting guard to power forward “is interchangeable in our offense.”

Coming off a serious injury

during the offseason, senior Isaac Ratliff “is the best athlete on the team,” his coach said about another interchangeable Hawk. “He’s a phenomenally hard worker, and we’re looking for a really big year from him.”

Senior Jace Burum “is not a returning starter, but he’ll definitely be in the mix this year to start and most definitely play a ton,” Arendt said. “He tore his meniscus last year, so he didn’t get to play a lot. He could have been a starter, but then he got hurt.”

“Jace is very athletic, shoots the ball well, can be a great defender,” the coach added. “As he gains confidence, it will make us a really good team.”

Senior post Will Fellers, a returning starter, “was hurt quite a bit last year, as well, with an ankle but looks to be full strength now,” Arendt

said. “And he’s a big body that can rebound and score in the post as well.”

Senior Barron Scheetz is a returning starter as a power forward. However, “Barron is unique in that he can play inside and outside; he drives the ball really well,” the coach said.

“Barron shoots it from the outside. ... He’s most effective when he acts as a playmaker for us,” he added.

Freshman Kristian Oliver looks to add depth at point guard. “He will play some lead-guard minutes,” Arendt said. “He’s a fantastic playmaker and shooter.”

In fact, “he was the MVP of the Rocky Top D League this fall,” the coach added about Oliver.

Also looking to add quality depth are a pair of junior wings: Drew Stooksbury and Colin Dyrness.

Strengths
As for biggest team strengths, “I would say experience,” Arendt said. “They’ve been in some big moments.”

By Alan Sloan



Arendt

ROSTER

Christopher Martin	.....Fr.
Michael Joseph	.....Fr.
Will Fellers	.....Sr.
Bryson Frey	.....Sr.
Colson Crutch	.....So.
Barron Scheetz	.....Sr.
Isaac Ratliff	.....Sr.
Frederick Gibson	.....Fr.
Mohamed Sow	.....Fr.
Jay'de Williams	.....Fr.
Ben Brophy	.....Sr.
Drew Stooksbury	.....Jr.
Cannon Mayes	.....Fr.
Blake Crawford	.....So.
Hunter Ratcliff	.....So.
Kristian Oliver	.....Fr.
Michael Fritts	.....Fr.
Colin Dyrness	.....Jr.
Jace Burum	.....Sr.
Graham Colloredo	.....Fr.
David Long	.....Jr.
Jakob Swissshelm	.....So.
Elijah Price	.....So.

HAWKS • VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2024-25

Nov. 21	.....Thu	.....Fulton High School	.....Hall of Fame	.....7:30 AM
Nov. 23	.....Sat	.....Stone Memorial High School	.....Hall of Champions Event	.....2:30 PM
Nov. 23	.....Sat	.....Knoxville Catholic High School	.....Hall of Champions Event	.....7:00 PM
Dec. 6	.....Fri	.....at Bearden High School *		.....7:30 PM
Dec. 13	.....Fri	.....at Webb Classic	.....The Webb School of Knoxville	
Dec. 14	.....Sat	.....at Webb Classic	.....The Webb School of Knoxville	
Dec. 16	.....Mon	.....at Karns High School		.....7:30 PM
Dec. 19	.....Thu	.....5 Star Preps Classic	.....Hardin Valley Academy	
Dec. 20	.....Fri	.....5 Star Preps Classic	.....Hardin Valley Academy	
Dec. 21	.....Sat	.....5 Star Preps Classic	.....Hardin Valley Academy	
Jan. 3	.....Fri	.....Morristown-Hamblen High School East		.....7:30 PM
Jan. 7	.....Tue	.....at Sevier Co. High School		.....7:30 PM
Jan. 10	.....Fri	.....Maryville High School *		.....7:30 PM
Jan. 14	.....Tue	.....at William Blount High School *		.....7:30 PM
Jan. 17	.....Fri	.....at West High School *		.....7:30 PM
Jan. 21	.....Tue	.....Farragut High School *		.....7:30 PM
Jan. 24	.....Fri	.....Bearden High School *		.....7:30 PM
Jan. 28	.....Tue	.....at Maryville High School *		.....7:30 PM
Jan. 31	.....Fri	.....William Blount High School *		.....7:30 PM
Feb. 7	.....Fri	.....West High School *		.....7:30 PM
Feb. 11Tueat Farragut High School *	7:30 PM
Feb. 14Friat Powell High School	7:30 PM

* - denotes district game



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Hardin Valley Academy

LADY HAWKS

Few starting line-ups statewide have more returning experience than what Hardin Valley Academy varsity girls basketball brings back this season.

“We have all of our starters back and we have seven seniors,” said head coach Jennifer Galloway, the only varsity head coach still around who was at the school when the doors first opened at HVA during the 2008-09 school year.

“We have a lot of people that have played in this program for a long time since their freshman year,” she added. “This team hasn’t made it to the region, so we are excited to work toward that this year to get further for this group.”

The players

Senior Kyndra West “is our point guard; she’s been our point guard for four years,” Galloway said about the University of Virginia-Wise commitment. “She was our leading scorer last year and one of our leading rebounders. She makes us go; she pushes the ball down the floor, knows when to slow it down, knows how to get the ball to the right people. As she goes, we go, tempo-wise.”

Senior Kamiyah Love “is our post player inside,” Galloway said. “She’s our leading rebounder; she is somebody who’s a threat with her back to the basket. She’s expanded her game over the summer, so she’s much more comfortable

facing the goal. We’re anxious to see how that goes with some of her outside shooting.”

Senior wing Kamryn Butcher “was one of our leading scores last year as well,” the coach said. “She had a fantastic junior season. She showed a lot of growth in her game last year and into the summer, where she was able to handle the ball very well, make great decisions. She can score for us, she could rebound for us.

“She’s just a very good all-around player for us,” the coach added.

Defensively, “Probably one of her things that she enjoys doing the most is she loves to put a lot of ball pressure,” Galloway also said about Butcher. “She’s a great defender.”

Senior Ava Claire Wrather “is our small forward,” the coach said. “She brings a ton of energy with her voice, with her effort. She’s the one who can play pretty much any position whenever we need her. Last year, I think one of her highlights was hitting the game-winning shot against William Blount.

“She’s a strong leader for us, so we’re excited to see her have a great season this year,” Galloway added about Wrather.

About senior shooting guard Lily Atkinson, the coach said,

“She’s our shooter from the perimeter; she’s got some extended range behind the three-point line.”

Among the Lady Hawks who will provide depth while challenging the starters is senior post/power forward Bella Buccola.

“She does a good job for us with her back to the basket or facing the goal,” Galloway said. “She provides some height. She’ll be able to block some shots.

“We also have Holly Lindsey, who’s a sophomore guard,” the coach said about another Lady Hawk working hard to challenge for a starting spot. “She provided some solid play in a lot of games” as a freshman; “she was our sixth woman (first off the bench).”

Strength-concern

In addition to experience, Galloway pointed to “our speed” as another team strength. “When you have a lot of speed, you have to make sure you have space to use that speed, and you’ve got to make sure that that speed is under control,” she added. “When we are under control with our speed, we’re pretty good. We can do a lot of good things.”

Overall thoughts

“I’m excited this year; I’m excited to coach this group,” Galloway said. “I think we’re going to have a hungry group of seniors. I think this senior group has definitely already left a mark, but I think that they’re excited to finish strong.”



Galloway

By Alan Sloan

ROSTER

3	Kyndra West	Sr.	PG, SG
5	Kamryn Butcher	Sr.	PG, SG
10	Rylee Taylor	So.	SG, SF
10	Madison Smith	Jr.	SG
11	Marley Edwards	Soph.	SG
12	Bella Buccola	Sr.	SF, PF
14	Kassiah Wynder	Soph.	SF
20	Ava Claire Wrather	Sr.	SG, SF
21	Sarah Galloway	Fr.	PG, SF, SG
22	Lily Adkisson	Sr.	SF, SG
23	Holly Lindsey	Soph.	SF, PF, SG
24	Kaitlyn Friedrich	Sr.	SF, SG
33	Audree Riehn	Fr.	PF, C
42	Kamiyah Love	Sr.	PF, C

Head coach: Jennifer Galloway

HAWKS • VARSITY GIRLS SCHEDULE 2024-25

Nov. 21	Thu.	Fulton High School	6:00 PM
Nov. 23	Sat.	Austin-East High School (N) Playing at Northview Academy	3:00 PM
Nov. 26	Tue.	at Central Thanksgiving Tournament	Knoxville Central High School
Nov. 29	Fri.	at Central Thanksgiving Tournament	Knoxville Central High School
Nov. 30	Sat.	at Central Thanksgiving Tournament	Knoxville Central High School
Dec. 6	Fri.	at Bearden High School *	6:00 PM
Dec. 13	Fri.	at Webb Classic	The Webb School of Knoxville
Dec. 14	Sat.	at Webb Classic	The Webb School of Knoxville
Dec. 16	Mon.	at Karns High School	6:00 PM
Dec. 19	Thu.	5 Star Preps Classic	Hardin Valley Academy
Dec. 20	Fri.	5 Star Preps Classic	Hardin Valley Academy
Dec. 21	Sat.	5 Star Preps Classic	Hardin Valley Academy
Dec. 27	Fri.	at Innisfree Hotels Pensacola Beach Event	Pensacola Florida
Dec. 28	Sat.	at Innisfree Hotels Pensacola Beach Event	Pensacola Florida
Dec. 30	Mon.	at Innisfree Hotels Pensacola Beach Event	Pensacola Florida
Jan. 3	Fri.	Morristown-Hamblen High School East	6:00 PM
Jan. 7	Tue.	at Sevier Co. High School	6:00 PM
Jan. 10	Fri.	Maryville High School *	6:00 PM
Jan. 14	Tue.	at William Blount High School *	6:00 PM
Jan. 17	Fri.	at West High School *	6:00 PM
Jan. 21	Tue.	Farragut High School *	6:00 PM
Jan. 24	Fri.	Bearden High School *	6:00 PM
Jan. 28	Tue.	at Maryville High School *	6:00 PM
Jan. 31	Fri.	William Blount High School *	6:00 PM
Feb. 7	Fri.	West High School *	6:00 PM
Feb. 11	Tue.	at Farragut High School *	6:00 PM
Feb. 14	Fri.	at Powell High School	6:00 PM

* - denotes district game





Christian Academy of Knoxville

WARRIORS

Heading into his fifth season as Christian Academy of Knoxville’s boys basketball head coach, JD Johnson is “really excited” about the team that returns from last year.

“We’ve got six seniors this year ... biggest senior class we’ve had,” Johnson said. “Just from a culture and leadership standpoint, I think this is gonna be one of the best classes that we’ve had.”

“We have seniors and juniors and sophomores that got time last year,” the coach added. “We think that if we keep doing what we’re doing, keep working hard, we have a good chance for a successful year.”

The players

Johnson named three likely starters; the other two starting spots will be manned on a game-by-game basis as the season unfolds, he said.

Shooting guard Caden Owens — a senior captain starting for the second straight year — was named to the All-District team last year.

“A leader for us,” Johnson said. “Tremendous shooter; chance to play at next level.”

A major player for John-

son is another senior captain, guard/wing Bryson White, who also returns as a starter.

“He’s a stopper, guards other teams’ best player,” Johnson said. “He’s a knockdown shooter and rebounds for us. (Bryson) is as big a part of our team as anybody.”

Foster Coleman will be Johnson’s big man down low this season. “We’ll really rely on him on both ends of the floor,” Johnson said of the 6-foot-6 junior who played considerable minutes last season. “He can both stretch it and post up.”

Numerous players will compete for the other starting spots. One is 6-foot-1 junior guard Teeno Hutchinson. “Can really score, can really shoot,” Johnson said. “We’ll be relying on him for sure.”

Will Kelley, a 6-foot-4 senior forward, was a starter the last two years. “Big-time rebounder; guards the post for us,” Johnson said.

Senior forward Thad Sealy will be playing his fourth year for Johnson this season. “Tremendous hustle guy, great defender,” Johnson said. “Hasn’t started but will definitely be a part of the rotation.”

Johnson has potential huge help in the post from Brogdon Lundgren: the senior stands 6-feet-8. “Shot-blocker, rebounder ... can help us a lot,” Johnson said. “Can stretch the floor.”

Yet another senior stands ready to contribute this year for Johnson: 6-foot senior guard Zachary Coffman. “We really need him offensively,” the coach said. “He can shoot

“I couldn’t be more pleased with the culture because of these guys.”

~ JD Johnson

and score ... gonna rely on him.”

Hunter Bennett is a 6-foot sophomore point-guard who, according to Johnson, can “handle the ball well. Really great at pushing tempo; can shoot really quick and plays hard defensively.”

The Warriors were only 15-14 last year. Their season ended in the regional tournament.

Strength-concern

The depth and experience of this year’s squad has Johnson eager for tip-off.

“We’re deep; we got a lot of guys who can contribute and give us starter minutes,” he said. “That’s our strength: we have guys that have been around a long time and really understand what our standard is.”

“They’re really bought in.”

According to Johnson, his team’s athleticism will be less important than running the right sets.

“We’re not gonna out-athlete anybody; we gotta rely on execution,” the coach said. “If teams speed us up, that’s when we could be in trouble.”

Johnson is further heart-

ROSTER

.....	Bennett Jelks	.....	So.	.....	G, F
0	Will Kelley	.....	Sr.	.....	F, C
3	Paxton McPherson	.....	Sr.	.....	G
5	Hunter Bennett	.....	So.	.....	PG
10	Sawyer Anderson	.....	So.	.....	G
11	Zachary Coffman	.....	Sr.	.....	G
12	Foster Coleman	.....	Jr.	.....	F, C
14	Brogdon Lundgren	.....	Jr.	.....	F, C
15	Bryson White	.....	Sr.	.....	G, F
20	Caden Owens	.....	Sr.	.....	G, F
23/33	Jonah Harvey	.....	Jr.	.....	F, C
24	Teeno Hutchinson	.....	Jr.	.....	G
34	Thad Sealey	.....	Sr.	.....	F
55	Jack Shaw	.....	So.	.....	F, C
Head Coach: JD Johnson					

WARRIORS • VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2024-25

Tuesday.....	19-Nov.....	6:00.....	Apostolic Christian.....	Home
Thursday.....	21-Nov.....	7:00.....	Sunbright.....	Home
Friday.....	22-Nov.....	7:30.....	Karns.....	Home
Tuesday.....	26-Nov.....	7:30.....	Clayton-Bradley Academy.*.....	Home
Wednesday.....	27-Nov.....	TBD.....	Pizza Plus Thanksgiving Classis @Grainger High	
Tuesday.....	3-Dec.....	6:00.....	Apostolic Christian*.....	Home
Friday.....	6-Dec.....	7:30.....	Grace Christian*.....	Away
Tuesday.....	10-Dec.....	6:30.....	Berean Christian*.....	Away
Friday.....	13-Dec.....	7:30.....	Lakeway Christian.....	Home
Thursday.....	19-Dec.....	6:00.....	Apostolic Christian*.....	Away
Fri-Sun.....	12/20-12/22.....	TBD.....	Bell County Christmas Tournament.....	Away
Monday.....	3-Jan.....	5:30.....	Concord Christian*.....	Away
Saturday.....	4-Jan.....	4:00.....	McMinn Central.....	Home
Monday.....	6-Jan.....	7:30.....	Walker Valley.....	Away
Friday.....	10-Jan.....	7:30.....	The King’s Academy*.....	Home
Tuesday.....	14-Jan.....	6:30.....	Providence Academy*.....	Home
Friday.....	17-Jan.....	7:30.....	Grace Christian*.....	Home
Saturday.....	18-Jan.....	TBD.....	Gate City/Moravian Dreamer.....	Away
Tuesday.....	21-Jan.....	7:30.....	Lakeway Christian.....	Away
Friday.....	24-Jan.....	7:30.....	Clayton-Bradley Academy*.....	Home
Tuesday.....	28-Jan.....	7:30.....	The King’s Academy*.....	Away
Friday.....	31-Jan.....	6:30.....	Providence Academy*.....	Away
Monday.....	3-Feb.....	7:30.....	Lenoir City.....	Home
Thursday.....	6-Feb.....	7:30.....	Concord Christian*.....	Home
Friday.....	7-Feb.....	7:30.....	J.Frank White.....	Home

* - denotes region/district game

ened by what he says is his boys’ personal commitment to improvement.

“In the fall (pre-season) they were here every day be-

fore school,” Johnson said. “I couldn’t be more pleased with the culture because of these guys.”

By Bill Howard

“Just from a culture and leadership standpoint, I think this is gonna be one of the best classes that we’ve had.”

~ JD Johnson

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Girls Varsity

State Tournament Appearance2013, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024
Region Tournament Championships2010, 2013, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024
District Tournament Championships1995, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2022, 2023, 2024

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Christian Academy of Knoxville

LADY WARRIORS

While three starters return for Abby Williams’ Christian Academy of Knoxville varsity girls basketball team this season, “I’ve got five (players) who started at any point in the season last year,” the coach said.

The players
Sophomore guard Maddie Braden is a good place to start. “She was District MVP, All-region, All-state” as a freshman. She averaged 15.5 points, five rebounds, three steals and two assists” per game last season, the coach said.

Junior guard Colie Thompson “was All-district and All-Region MVP; she averaged 11 points, five rebounds, two steals and two assists a game,” the coach said.

Senior point guard Karlie Whited earned All-district and All-region team honors in 2023-24, averaging eight points, three rebounds, three assists and one-and-a-half steals a game.

“Each of those three come back with experience,” Williams said.

“Then I’ve got two others that are returning from last year” who saw lots of playing time while starting occasionally, the coach added.

Junior post Sophie Carroll “will most likely lead us in rebounds this year,” Williams said. “She’s just got a really

good knack for finding the ball and getting to it. I hope she’s averaging 10 to 14 points a game.

“If she is, then we’re going to be really good,” the coach added. “She finishes around the rim with her putbacks, and runs the floor the way that she’s capable.”

Junior guard Allie Wilkinson “will not fill up any box score or (stat) line, but she is our best coach (on the floor),” Williams said. “She is probably our best on-ball lockdown defender.”

Though only “about 5-foot-6,” Wilkinson “will be tasked with guarding anybody from the point all the way to a center if she has to,” the coach said. “She brings a lot of grit, a lot of effort to the floor for us, especially on the defensive end. She’s getting better on the offensive and getting more confident.”

Senior small forward Marinn Hubbard “has been out for a couple of years and she has come back,” Williams said. “We expect her to come in and have valuable minutes and a big impact. She can play inside; she can step out and knock down an outside perimeter shot. She’s very physical.

“So, we’re one day at a time



Williams

“We’re going to play fast; we can get up and down the floor really well.”

~ Abby Williams

getting her back into shape and getting her back to where she’s capable of playing,” the coach added. “So we’re excited to have her back and what she can do for us.”

Strengths
“We’re going to play fast; we can get up and down the floor really well,” Williams said. “We’ve got three or four girls that are really active on the defensive end. I think transition for us will be huge. Then I think our ability to keep people on the low 40s (point-wise) will be big for us moving forward.”

Concerns
“Depth, just having healthy bodies —just making sure that we are keeping ourselves out of trouble and staying away from injury,” the coach said. “We lost one (player due to an) ACL before the season ever started.

“... But we’re going to make sure that we put ourselves in the right positions to not let that be a problem,” Williams added.

By Alan Sloan

ROSTER

1	.....	Ella Bennett	.....	FR	.....	G
3	.....	Maddie Braden	.....	SO	.....	G
5	.....	Annie Leadbetter	.....	SR	.....	G
10	.....	Marinn Hubbard	.....	SR	.....	SF
11	.....	Sophie Carroll	.....	JR	.....	C
12	.....	Karlle Whited	.....	SR	.....	G
15	.....	Ali Wilkinson	.....	JR	.....	G
21	.....	Katelyn Coffman	.....	SO	.....	G
23	.....	Marley Phillips	.....	SO	.....	G
30	.....	Colie Thompson	.....	JR	.....	G

Head coach – Abby Williams
Assistant coach – Erisha Talley
Assistant coach – Shane Wells
Assistant coach – Robert Yonce

WARRIORS • VARSITY GIRLS SCHEDULE 2024-25

Tuesday	.....19-Nov	.....	6:00	.....	Kingston	.....	Away
Thursday	.....21-Nov	.....	6:00	.....	Heritage	.....	Away
Friday	.....22-Nov	.....	6:00	.....	Karns	.....	Home
Tuesday	.....26-Nov	.....	7:30	.....	McMinn Central	.....	Farragut Tournament
Friday	.....29-Nov	.....	TBD	.....	TBD	.....	Farragut
Saturday	.....30-Nov	.....	TBD	.....	TBD	.....	Farragut
Friday	.....6-Dec	.....	6:00	.....	Grace Christian*	.....	Away
Tuesday	.....10-Dec	.....	5:00	.....	Berean Christian*	.....	Away
Friday	.....13-Dec	.....	6:00	.....	Lakeway Christian	.....	Home
Th-Sat	.....12/19-12/21	.....	TBD	.....	5 Star Preps Tournament	.....	TBD
Friday	.....27-Dec	.....	5:30	.....	Science Hill	.....	Maryville
Saturday	.....28-Dec	.....	7:00	.....	Maryville	.....	Away
Friday	.....3-Jan	.....	4:00	.....	Concord Christian*	.....	Away
Saturday	.....4-Jan	.....	2:30	.....	McMinn Central	.....	Home
Monday	.....6-Jan	.....	6:00	.....	Walker Valley	.....	Away
Tuesday	.....7-Jan	.....	6:00	.....	First Baptist Academy	.....	Away
Friday	.....10-Jan	.....	6:00	.....	The King's Academy*	.....	Home
Tuesday	.....14-Jan	.....	5:00	.....	Providence Academy*	.....	Home
Friday	.....17-Jan	.....	6:00	.....	Grace Christian*	.....	Home
Saturday	.....18-Jan	.....	10:00	.....	Gate City/Moravian Dreamer	.....	Away
Tuesday	.....21-Jan	.....	6:00	.....	Lakeway Christian	.....	Away
Friday	.....24-Jan	.....	6:00	.....	Clayton Bradley Academy*	.....	Home
Tuesday	.....28-Jan	.....	6:00	.....	The King's Academy*	.....	Away
Friday	.....31-Jan	.....	5:00	.....	Providence Academy*	.....	Away
Monday	.....3-Feb	.....	6:00	.....	Lenoir City	.....	Home
Thursday6-Feb	6:00	Concord Christian*	Home
Friday7-Feb	6:00	J.Frank White	Home

* - denotes region/district game



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Concord Christian School

LIONS

New head coach Mike Evers looks to at least partially rebuild Concord Christian School varsity boys basketball.

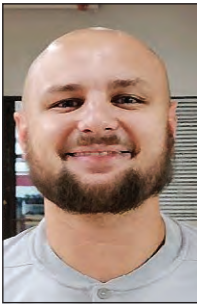
The players

The two Lions returning starters are senior guard/forward Cade Keeton and senior point guard Landon Housley. “Landon has been at Concord since he was a freshman; he’s a very good leader, very savvy player,” Evers said. “He’s got the ability to get his teammates open. ... He’s turned into a really good communicator on the floor, and he’s a really good kid.”

Keeton “can shoot the lights out,” the coach said. “He’s got a little unconventional game. It looks funky out there, but man, he shoots it at a high clip. He’s got a super high motor. ... He’s a fantastic leader on this team as well; defends at a high level. I know that he hit a lot of shots as a junior last year in games, too.”

With the Lions losing “three really good players” to graduation, the expectations for Keeton and Housley “are going to be much higher,” Evers said. “I’m going to have to ask a lot more out those guys. Cade is going to be a No. 1 option” scoring-wise.

Beyond physical talent, “those are two captains on my team, too,” the coach said of Housley and Keeton. “They got voted in by their teammates.



Evers

We had done a challenge in the fall, and they both ended up winning the challenge. It was a tie. It was a pretty fun thing that we did in the fall.”

Elsewhere, senior Jace Green “has seen lots of playing time; he’s a super talented player,” Evers said. “He’s a guy that he’s going to have to carry a lot of the scoring load for us as a team between him and Kade.”

“... The mid-range game, some coaches can’t stand it, but I love it if he’s shooting it because it goes in,” the coach added. “Because he brings that to the table and he competes at a high level, too. I definitely think that he’s going to be a starter for us this year, too.”

The other two positions for starting “outside of those three, I think I’m just going to have to try out a gauntlet of guys,” Evers said.

Junior Jake Johnson, a 6-foot-4 post, saw action last season “when (last year’s starting post) Drew Sloan got in foul trouble,” Evers said, adding Johnson should be a more physical player, in part, because he “played football for the first time this year for Concord.”

“I think he’s going to be a real contributor to the team.”

Senior guard Parker Cooley “is going to guard you 94 feet,” Evers said. “The kid never gets tired. I told him, ‘Hey, my goal for conditioning is to make you throw up.’ And he said, ‘coach, it’ll never happen.’ It never did.”

“Parker, he’s a super good kid,” the coach added. “He’s a smaller player, but he’s going to guard probably the other team’s best player or best guard for the majority of the time while he’s in there.”

Elsewhere, “we have some

“All my guys compete for the guy next to them because they love that, love their teammates so much.”

~ Mike Evers

younger players that are new to the school that are going to be fighting for some time, too,” Evers said about his underclassmen. “A lot of freshmen that are fighting for varsity spots.”

Limited bench spots

“I only gave eight guys varsity spots (initially) because I only want to give out 12 varsity jerseys this year because I think it needs to be something that is prestige,” the coach said. “I don’t want to hand out 15 uniforms and guys sit.”

Evers said he and his assistant coaches are “just going to have to take everything under consideration and try to figure out who those guys are.”

Strengths

“We’re a team that’s going to have a lot of togetherness,” the coach said. “We’re going to look like a unit out there. We’re going to do everything together.”

“... All my guys compete for the guy next to them because they love that, love their teammates so much,” Evers added. “That’s why my guys play, and they play super hard. I think we’re going to be able to defend

ROSTER

3	.....	Landon Housley	.....	Sr.
4	.....	Mason Sparks	.....	Sr.
5	.....	Jace Gheen	.....	Sr.
6	.....	Parker Cooley	.....	Sr.
7	.....	Cade Keeton	.....	Sr.
8	.....	Jake Johnson	.....	Jr.
9	.....	Cooper Sloan	.....	Jr.
14	.....	Guro Lind	.....	Soph.
16	.....	Caleb Stewart	.....	Soph.
18	.....	Asher Noe	.....	Fr.
19	.....	Hudson Willis	.....	Fr.
21	.....	Simon Boy	.....	Fr.

Head coach – Mike Evers

LIONS • VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2024-25

11/19	.....	Midway High School	.....	7:30 PM
11/21	.....	@ Rhea County	.....	7:30 PM
11/25	.....	@ Eagleton College and Career Academy	.....	7:30 PM
11/26	.....	@ Sequoyah High School - Madisonville	.....	7:30 PM
12/3	.....	Grace Christian*	.....	7:30 PM
12/6	.....	@ Berean Christian*	.....	7:30 PM
12/10	.....	@ The King’s Academy *	.....	7:30 PM
12/13	.....	Providence Academy *	.....	6:30 PM
12/16	.....	Apostolic Christian*	.....	7:30 PM
1/3	.....	Christian Academy of Knoxville *	.....	5:30 PM
1/7	.....	Clayton-Bradley Academy *	.....	7:30 PM
1/9	.....	Loudon High School	.....	7:30 PM
1/10	.....	@ Apostolic Christian*	.....	TBD
1/16	.....	Wartburg Central High School	.....	7:30 PM
1/17	.....	@ Lakeway Christian	.....	7:30 PM
1/21	.....	@ Clayton-Bradley Academy *	.....	7:30 PM
1/24	.....	Eagleton College and Career Academy	.....	7:30 PM
1/30	.....	James Frank White	.....	7:30 PM
1/31	.....	Berean Christian*	.....	7:30 PM
2/6	.....	@ Christian Academy of Knoxville *	.....	7:30 PM

* - denotes region/district game

at a high level.

“... Our goal is to run the floor a little bit and be able to shoot three(pointers), but what we’re going to take pride in is our togetherness and the defensive element.”

Concerns

“In my personal opinion, we’re not a team that’s going to blow you away with all the talent in the world, all the size in the world,” the coach said.

“The biggest concern is we have somewhat of a lack of size just in comparison to the other teams in our district.”

Also, “I don’t know if we shoot it at a super high level,” Evers added. “We have a few players who can shoot, but as a team, I don’t know. Obviously, it’s November, so you shouldn’t be shooting it as well as you need to for February.”

“But like I said, if you’re able to have the unity and the defensive aggression, I think you can overcome that, especially by scheme and things like that.”

By Alan Sloan

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Concord Christian School

LADY LIONS

When Brad Cochran was asked to describe his general mindset heading into the upcoming basketball season, the second-year girls head coach at Concord Christian School didn't hesitate.

"We're very, very young," Cochran said. "We were young last year, we're young this year."

However, "I'm super excited," he added. "They're a strong group, but just very young."

Cochran has only one senior on the squad — and three freshmen are likely to start.

Despite their youth, all have experience.

Freshman point guard Emory Thomas started for Cochran last year as an eighth-grader, and averaged more than 10 points per game.

"Strong player," Cochran said, "She's gonna have a great year. We'll rely heavily on her to control the game for us. We hope to get that up to about 15 (points per game) this year to help give us that lift."

Sophomore forward Kiran Keeton is another returning starter, averaging 10 rebounds a game last year.

"She's a workhorse for us,

can shoot the three, does everything we ask," Cochran said. "Super excited for her for year two. She's always near the ball, tough to guard, guards well, rebounds well. Can play post, too."

Another freshman, forward Brooklynn Brown likely will start. "She's another bruiser for us," Cochran said. "Developed ball-handling this off-season. She's tough to defend; she gets to the hole when she wants to. She rebounds. When she gets downhill, she's a good attacker for us."

Junior guard Sheridan Patterson, returning as a starter for Cochran, is a threat from long range.

"She's our three-point specialist," he said. "We need her to knock down those big shots, especially when they're trying to make us shoot outside. Excited for her to take that next step. She gives us that older leadership."

Likely rounding out Cochran's starting five is another freshman, point guard Keira Cooper, who played at Lenoir City last year and averaged 12 points per game.

"Super athletic, defends really well," Cochran said. "High-level energy bug. She's gonna relieve some of those point-guard duties off of Emory. If we can get Emory and Keira to play together, they're gonna be a dynamic duo. Super-thrilled to have her here with us."

Senior post Brianna Hughes gives Cochran help off the bench.

"She's a bruiser; not a lot of experience, but hopefully this off-season she's gotten more

"I'm super excited. They're a strong group, but just very young."

~ Brad Cochran

confident, so we're hoping she can rebound, defend and give us some good minutes," Cochran said.

Other backup help for Cochran includes freshman guard Gracie Harrill ("looking for her to have a breakout year"), freshman guard Jalyn Sherritze ("really good defender") and junior guard Katie Phillips who started last year.

"Shot really well last year," Cochran said of Phillips. "Might start this year depending on how things play out. Charity stripe girl: shoots about 85 percent from the line. She does everything she's taught. Great little player."

Strengths, concerns

While being so young is a concern, Cochran is excited about the team's athleticism and speed. "We're really athletic," he said. "I think we're one of the most athletic groups in the area. When we get up and down we're hard to defend."

Cochran believes his girls' youth will present a challenge — and not just on the court.

"When you're young you gotta learn to navigate through school, relationships, mom/

ROSTER

0	.....	Mariya McGrew	.....	Soph.
2	.....	Haylee Hamilton	.....	Soph.
2	.....	Keira Cooper	.....	Fresh
3	.....	Irelan Fender	.....	Jr.
4	.....	Presley Horst	.....	Fresh
5	.....	Emory Thomas	.....	Fresh
10	.....	Maddie Greene	.....	Jr.
12	.....	Jalyn Sherritze	.....	Fresh
14	.....	Adalyn Noe	.....	Fresh
15	.....	Sheridan Patterson	.....	Jr.
20	.....	Palin Patterson	.....	Fresh
20	.....	Addie Franklin	.....	Fresh
21	.....	Kiran Keeton	.....	Soph.
22	.....	Gracie Harrill	.....	Fresh
25	.....	Brooklynn Brown	.....	Fresh
30	.....	Katie Phillips	.....	Jr.
40	.....	Brianna Hughes	.....	Sr.
	.....	Avery Orlando	.....	Fresh
	.....	Elizabeth Reed	.....	Fresh

Head coach — Brad Cochran

LIONS • VARSITY GIRLS SCHEDULE 2024-25

11/19	.....	Midway High School Hall of Fame	.....	6:30 PM
11/21	.....	@ Rhea County	.....	6:00 PM
11/25	.....	@ Eagleton College and Career Academy	.....	6:00 PM
11/26	.....	@ Sequoyah High School - Madisonville	.....	6:00 PM
12/3	.....	Grace Christian Academy*	.....	6:00 PM
12/6	.....	@ Berean Christian*	.....	6:00 PM
12/10	.....	@ The King's Academy *	.....	6:00 PM
12/13	.....	Providence Academy *	.....	5:00 PM
12/16	.....	First Baptist Academy *	.....	6:00 PM
12/16	.....	Apostolic Christian*	.....	7:30 PM
1/7	.....	Clayton-Bradley Academy *	.....	6:00 PM
1/9	.....	Loudon High School	.....	6:00 PM
1/10	.....	@ Apostolic Christian*	.....	TBD
1/14	.....	@ First Baptist Academy *	.....	7:30 PM
1/16	.....	Wartburg Central High School	.....	6:00 PM
1/17	.....	@ Lakeway Christian Academy	.....	6:00 PM
1/21	.....	@ Clayton-Bradley Academy *	.....	6:00 PM
1/24	.....	Eagleton College and Career Academy	.....	6:00 PM
1/30	.....	James Frank White	.....	6:00 PM
1/31	.....	Berean Christian*	.....	6:00 PM
2/6	.....	@ Christian Academy of Knoxville *	.....	6:00 PM

* - denotes region/district game

dad, driving, work life, the whole nine yards," he said. "The mental component is very very important." Last year, CCS went 14-10.

By Bill Howard



Concord Christian School is looking forward to a great season with Varsity Girls Head Coach, Brad Cochran; and new Varsity Boys Head Coach, Mike Evers.



Knoxville Catholic High School

IRISH

First-year head coach Jujuan Smith has a solid mix of returning starters and new talent waiting to emerge — with the potential to be a fast-paced, explosive team — for the Knoxville Catholic Fighting Irish in the rugged boys basketball realm of Division II-AA.

But don't expect a lot of size.

"We're going to be small," the new coach said, adding, "We're going to run a five-guard set. ... Our style of play is going to be somewhat different every night."



Smith

The players

Returning point guard is senior Carson Asbaty. "I feel like he's going to bring to the table this year experience and play-making ability," Smith said.

In fact, the new coach added about his point guard, "I think he's my best rebounder.

"I feel like in the summer, he worked on his game tremendously hard to change to a complete basketball player, an all-around player who will lead at the guard position."

About returning shooting guard Jason Gainey, a senior, "I think he put in the work this summer to come back and be a dead-eye shooter for us," Smith said. "Brings energy.

"So I'm relying on him to be

the leader on and off the floor and bring that defense presence — trying to make him a top defender," the coach added.

Among Smith's two small forwards of note, senior Juice Eleam "might be the most athletic kid on our team returning," he said. "I feel like we're going to go as he goes. He's got big shoes to fill."

However, "Starting off with the first practice, I think he's ready for that challenge," Smith added. "And he's another one I feel like can be very, very special to lead."

Returning wing Cade Murphy is "the best shooter in the state," the coach said. "He's going to have a target on him, but he's a coach's dream when it comes to putting in the work.

"And I'm just excited to see how his recruiting is starting to go up," Smith added.

As for versatility, there's sophomore Brady Renfree, who the coach said can play shooting guard, small forward or power forward.

"I think he got a chance to be the surprise of the team, being under the radar," Smith said. "And I feel like he's got my trust and his teammates' trust.

"He's young, but he's had some older guys to teach him the ropes," the coach added.

Sophomore forward Finn Kerschbaum "is a real dog. ... he's got a chip on his shoulder," Smith said. "He does all the dirty work for us. Set screens, runs the floor, back door (plays), rebounding, making the open shot.

"I feel like he's ready to make a name for himself as well," the coach added.

Sophomore Luke Sompayrac "is a small but tough guard," Smith said. "I feel like he's go-

ing to play a big role this year."

Labeled "a floor general," the coach added about Sompayrac, "he's one of a kind. I feel like he might record the most assists in a game this year on our team in a single game. ... His goal, and my goal, is for him to try to get 15 to 20 assists in a game this year."

Referencing "some of football players that I'm very interested in," Smith singled out junior Tyreek King, a standout wide receiver/kick returner looking to make the transition to hoops.

"I feel like he can bring that toughness, that dog, that leadership we need," Smith said.

Brylen Gibbs "is a 6-foot-3, 6-foot-4 freshman that can do it all," the coach said about the young guard. "I feel like he's going to bring a different style of play that we haven't seen in a long time at Catholic.

"I feel like he's going to be unique and help our team grow ...," Smith added.

Overall with his team, "I need to get five or 10 triple doubles," Smith said about a player having double digits in scoring, rebounding and assists. "It's supposed to be a special season that we plan on having."

Strengths

Among the team's biggest strengths, "Ours is playing unselfishly," the coach said. "... And I think we're going to be a great shooting team."

Concerns

"Our concern is we come across a team that's big," Smith said. "If they have (a size) advantage, that's when we turn it into a running game and see if they're in better shape."

By Alan Sloan

ROSTER

0	.....	Zane Garza
1	.....	Juice Eleam
2	.....	Brady Renfree
3	.....	Carson Asbaty
4	.....	Tyreek King
5	.....	Luke Sompayrac
12	.....	Jason Gainey
14	.....	Aron Mase
15	.....	Cade Murphy
21	.....	Mack Bartholomew
22	.....	Finn Kerschbaum
23	.....	Brylen Gibbs
24	.....	D.J. Lowery
33	.....	Jhamari Champion
.....	.....	T.J. Tipton

Head coach — Jujuan Smith

IRISH • VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2024-25

11/ 21	.....@ Providence Christian Academy	.....7:00 PM
11/23	.....Hall of Fame (Greeneville/neutral site)	.....1:00 PM
11/23	.....Hall of Fame (Hardin Valley Academy/neutral site)	.....7:00 PM
11/26, 11-29-11/30	.....Thanksgiving Invitational (at Farragut)	.....TBA
12/3	.....Bradley Central High School	.....7:30 PM
12/5	.....@ Knoxville West High School	.....6:30 PM
12/7	.....@ The King's Academy	.....7:30 PM
12/14	.....Alvin C. York Institute	.....7:30 PM
12/17	.....The King's Academy	.....7:30 PM
12/19-12/21	.....5 Star Preps Tourney (Neutral site)	.....TBA
12/26-12/30	.....Orlando Tournament	.....TBA
1/3	.....@ Walker Valley	.....7:30 PM
1/10	.....@ McCallie*	.....7:30 PM
1/14	.....@ Baylor School*	.....6:30 PM
1/17	.....Cocke Co. High School	.....7:30 PM
1/18	.....Notre Dame High School	.....5:00 PM
1/21	.....Chattanooga Christian*	.....7:30 PM
1/25	.....Webb School of Knoxville*	.....7:30 PM
2/1	.....@ Alvin C. York Institute	.....2:30 PM
2/4	.....McCallie*	.....7:30 PM
2/7	.....@ Webb School of Knoxville*	.....7:30 PM
2/10	.....Baylor School *	.....6:30 PM
2/11	.....@ Chattanooga Christian*	.....7:30 PM
2/14	.....@ Bradley Central	.....7:30 PM

* denotes region/district game

A group photo of the Knoxville Catholic Fighting Irish basketball team. The team consists of 15 players and two coaches. They are posed in two rows on a basketball court. The front row is seated, and the back row is standing. All players are wearing white jerseys with "Catholic" and their numbers in green and yellow. The coaches are wearing grey and green polo shirts. The background shows green bleachers.

The logo for the Knoxville Catholic Fighting Irish. It features a stylized green "C" with a white outline. To the right of the "C" is the text "#GoIrish" in green, "Knoxville Catholic Fighting Irish" in green, and "goirishathletics.com" in green.

The logo for 105.3 WFIV. It features the number "105.3" in large, bold, grey font, with "WFIV" in blue font below it. The logo is surrounded by musical notes and a treble clef.

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Knoxville Catholic High School

LADY IRISH

Every one of Travis Mains’ projected starting five are the team’s five seniors. This veteran quintet will look to lead the two-time defending TSSAA Division II-AA state champs to a Tennessee three-peat in March.

“I’ve got three starters back,” with two other experienced seniors elevated into starting roles, K C H S head coach Travis Mains said. “We’re changing our offense up a little bit this year” in order to “take a little more advantage of our personnel.

“We’re getting away from dribble drive, and we’ll set a lot of ball screens — do some different screening actions to create offense for ourselves,” he added.

The players
Senior guard Amaya Redd (5-foot-11) is returning for her last season. “She’s got multiple Division 1 basketball offers this summer,” Mains said about his big, talented and versatile guard. “... She’s dedicated a lot more time to working out and working on her shot and just to understand everything’s coming together for her.
“She should have an unbelievable year,” the coach added. “Leading us, probably, in scor-

ing and rebounding; can play anywhere from (point guard through the (post) for us. ... She’s had a great summer.”

Maggie Frana, a senior forward/post at 5-foot-11, is another returning starter. “She’s had a good summer ... probably our most consistent player in summer,” Mains said. “She’s got Division 1 offers in track and field” as a thrower. “She also has some NAIA offers in basketball as well. She’s a four-year player for us. ... She’ll be able to knock down some outside shots and score inside for us. A real good rebounder.”

Senior guard Tinsley Walker “is a four-year starter; our best three-point shooter who made the All-State Tournament team last year,” Mains said. “She’s committed to Marville College.

“The other two starters, probably, for us this year will be Sydney English,” a 5-foot-11 senior guard “that came off the bench for us last year,” the coach added. “She has really gotten better and will probably have an opportunity to play at some level in college as well.”

Ensley Perry will be the point guard. “She’s a senior who has played for us all four years,” Mains said. “She’s got several NAIA Division III offers, as well, right now.”

As a probable starting five, “They’ve got experience and they’ve got really good chemistry with each other, playing a lot of big-time games, state tournament games,” he said.

“We’ve got three kids that are juniors who are back from injuries,” Mains added about guard Logan Connatser, guard/forward Ariana Swain and guard Camara Minefield.

Connatser “is really good outside, but can go in and shoot

for us,” the coach said.

Swain “is very athletic; she could play (shooting guard) through (power forward) for us,” Mains said. “That is a kid that will compete for starter’s minutes and has really taken a leap from last year.”

Minefield “is a backup point guard that is super athletic,” the coach said. “She’s torn her ACL twice but has worked her way back to be able to play again this year.”

Overall, “We got eight really good, seasoned players that have played and been a part of” the state titles, Mains said.

A junior and two sophomores also look to contribute.

Junior forward Nadalie Belhausen (5-foot-10) “is a really good lacrosse player that is super athletic,” Mains said. “She’s going to be able to get in there and help. ... If someone doesn’t want to be aggressive, she’ll definitely be aggressive.”

Sophomore post Layla Lucier, at 6-foot-1, “has a big, strong, athletic body, and she’s getting better and better,” Mains said. “Jaylen Drazkowski is a sophomore (guard) that’s a really good knock-down shooter.”

Strengths
“The strength of the team is the chemistry and the experience they’ve gained in playing all these state tournament games and playing these big tournaments and having success,” the coach said. “We’ve got a good chance to run it back three times if everybody stays healthy and we continue to progress.”

Concerns
As for concerns, “We don’t have a true point guard, but we didn’t have a true point guard last year either,” Mains said.

By Alan Sloan

ROSTER		
1	.....Ariana Swain	..... Jr..... G/F
3	.....Camara Minefield	..... Jr..... G
11	.....Logan Connatser	..... Jr..... G
12	.....Maggie Frana	..... Sr..... F/C
15	.....Sydney English	..... Sr..... G
21	.....Jaylen Drazkowski	..... Soph..... G
22	.....Tinsley Walker	..... Sr..... G/F
23	.....Amaya Redd	..... Sr..... F/G
30	.....Ensley Perry	..... Sr..... PG
32	.....Nadalie Belhausen	..... Jr..... F
42	.....Layla Lucier	..... Soph..... C
Head coach –Travis Mains		

IRISH • VARSITY GIRLS SCHEDULE 2024-25		
11/22	.....Hutchison School	6:00 PM
11/23	.....West Ridge High School	11:00 AM
11/23	.....Tri-Cities Christian	2 PM
11/26, 11/29-11-30	.....Thanksgiving Tournament at Farragut	TBA
12/3	.....Bradley Central	6:00 PM
12/7	.....@ The King’s Academy	6:00 PM
12/14	.....Alvin C. York Institute	2:00 PM
12/17	.....The King’s Academy	6:00 PM
12/19-12/21	.....5 Star Preps Tournament (Neutral site)	TBA
12/27-12/31	.....Ladies Classic at Greeneville	TBA
1/4	.....She Got Game Classic in Atlanta	TBA
1/10	.....@ Girls Preparatory School*	6 PM
1/14	.....@ Baylor School*	5:30 PM
1/17	.....Cocke Co. High School	6:00 PM
1/18	.....Notre Dame High School	3:00 PM
1/21	.....Chattanooga Christian*	6:00 PM
1/25	.....Webb School of Knoxville*	6:00 PM
1/28	.....@ West Ridge	6:30 PM
2/1	.....@ Alvin C. York Institute	1:00 PM
2/4	.....GPS*	6:00 PM
2/7	.....@ Webb School of Knoxville*	6:00 PM
2/10	.....Baylor School *	6:00 PM
2/11@ Chattanooga Christian*	6:00 PM
2/14@ Bradley Central	6:00 PM
* - denotes region/district game		

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Webb School of Knoxville

SPARTANS

Last season, Webb School of Knoxville’s boys basketball team made the semifinals of the Division II-AA State Tournament.

With a wealth of experience returning from that team, head coach Ricky Norris has high expectations for this year’s campaign.

“I’m excited because we have a lot of returning guys who have a lot of valuable experience,” said Norris, starting his 16th season at the helm of the Spartans. “Expectations are high this year.”



Norris

The players

Norris gushed about his starting point guard, 5-foot-9 senior Jaylen Pompey.

“Coach’s dream,” Norris said about the three-year starter. “Work ethic, leadership, toughness. Leads our team ... skilled point guard who’s a pass-first guy. Can also score.”

Joining Pompey in the back-

court will be 6-foot-1 junior Owen Lentz, who also can play wing. Lentz, according to Norris, is a deadeye shooter.

“One of the best shooters we’ve ever had here, if not the best,” Norris said of Lentz, who started last year. “Elite shooter, and I don’t use that term lightly.”

Another junior returning as a starter is Cam Swearingen, a 6-foot-5 wing/forward.

“Versatility on the offensive end,” Norris said when asked about Swearingen’s strengths. “If you guard him with a bigger guy, he can pull him out away from the basket. If you guard him smaller, he can score on them at the rim. Athletic kid, very strong.”

Yet another junior — 6-foot-7 forward Alex Leeth — returns as a starter for Norris.

“Difference maker on the defensive end because of his length,” Norris said of Leeth. “But he can guard four positions and can move his feet and can put the ball on the floor. He’s gained some needed strength where he can score consistently around the basket.”

Two players could rotate to fill Norris’s fifth starting spot. Sophomore Tahj Bowers is a 6-foot-4 post “who can really defend bigger, stronger guys at

the rim,” Norris said.

However, being a football team standout Bowers is dealing with a shoulder injury, so his status is uncertain.

Another possible starter is junior Wilson Luton, a 6-foot-3 wing player. “Big-time shooter,” Norris said of Luton. “Gets his shot off quick. He’ll stretch the floor and open up the floor for other guys to score.”

Huston Torres, a 6-foot sophomore wing, and Shavar Young Jr., a 6-foot junior guard, should provide needed bench help. “Really good driver of the ball; can get it to the rim,” Norris said of Torres. “He can shoot it, can score both inside and out.”

Young, a Clemson football commitment, played basketball for Norris his eighth- and ninth-grade years, then went to Brentwood Academy last year before returning to Webb.

“Elite athlete (and an) elite on-the-ball defender ... gonna be good in the open floor,” Norris said of Young.

Strengths

“All our guys are skilled and can handle the ball and pass the ball, and for the most part can shoot it,” he said.

What gives Norris pause?

“Defending a big physical post player,” he said.

ROSTER

0	.....Owen Lentz	..... Jr.	..... PG, SG
1	.....Jaylen Pompey	..... Sr.	..... PG
2	.....Tahj Bowers	..... So.	..... SF, PF, C
3	.....Cameron Swearingen	..... Jr.	..... SG
4	.....Javon Dirl	..... So.	..... PG, SG
5	.....Shavar Young Jr	..... Jr.	..... PG, SG
5	.....Alex Leeth	..... Jr.	..... SF, PF
10	.....Wilson Luton	..... Jr.	..... SG
14	.....Luke Neiss	..... So.	..... PG
23	.....Daran Taylor	..... Fr.	..... SG, SF, PF
33	.....Schuyler Huck	..... Fr.	..... PG

Head coach —Ricky Norris

SPARTANS • VARSITY BOYS SCHEDULE 2024-25

11/19	.....Anderson Co. High School	..... 6:00 PM
11/21	.....Alcoa High School	..... 7:00 PM
11/23	.....Tyner (@ HVA)	..... 4 PM
11/25-11/26	.....@ Notre Dame High School Classic	..... TBD
12/3	.....Cookeville High School	..... TBD
12/6	.....Morristown East (@ Johnson City Science Hill)	..... 8:30 PM
12/7	.....Rhea County (@ Johnson City Science Hill)	..... 12:30 PM
12/9	.....@ Maryville High School	..... TBD
12/13-12/14	.....Turnkey Hardwood Classic at Webb	..... TBD
12/19-12/21	.....5 Star Preps Hammers Hardwood Classic at Webb	..... TBD
12/26-12/31	.....Arby’s Classic at Tennessee High School (Bristol)	..... TBD
1/7	.....Tri-Cities Christian	..... 6 PM
1/10	.....@ Cookeville High School	..... 8 PM
1/11	.....@ Ensworth High School	..... 3:00 PM
1/17	.....@ Chattanooga Christian School*	..... 7:30 PM
1/21	.....Baylor School *	..... 7:00 PM
1/25	.....@ Knoxville Catholic*	..... 7:30 PM
1/28	.....@ McCallie*	..... 7:30 PM
1/31	.....Chattanooga Christian School *	..... 7:30 PM
2/4	.....@ Baylor School *	..... 6:30 PM
2/7	.....Knoxville Catholic*	..... 7:30 PM
2/11	.....McCallie School *	..... 7:30 PM
2/13	.....Hamilton Heights Christian Academy	..... TBD

* - denotes region/district game

By Bill Howard

“I’m excited because we have a lot of returning guys who have a lot of valuable experience. Expectations are high this year.”

~ Ricky Norris

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Webb School of Knoxville

LADY SPARTANS

Though three starters return from last year’s Division II-AA state runner-ups (26-9 record), Webb School of Knoxville’s 2024-25 girls basketball roster has no seniors.

The players

Junior post Meeyah Green, sophomore guard Cailyn Taylor and freshman post Kyndall Mays look to lead the Lady Spartans back into state title contention.

Green “has been on the varsity since she was in eighth grade, and now she’s finally the elder statesman in the room,” second season Webb head coach Greg Hernandez said. “She’s taking on a little bit bigger of a role this year as we head into the season — more as a leader, not just in the sense of scoring, rebounding and stuff like that, but more of a leadership role where her voice is one that sets the tone for us in that locker room.

“That’s where we’re really going to count on her this year as the oldest player on the team,” he added. “... That’s the challenge that I’ve been presenting to her, is to be more of a vocal leader than she has had to be in the past.”

Taylor will serve many roles, including “a primary ball handler; Cailyn is like a Swiss

army knife for us because she led us in three-point shooting last year (and) she can also be one of our best defenders,” Hernandez said. “She’s somebody that we’ll count on just to set the tone for us offensively and defensively by pace and by ball pressure.

“... I’m so excited to see her growth going into her sophomore year,” he added.

Mays “is going to be the anchor of our defense,” Hernandez said. “But also, she’s going to play a crucial role for us offensively, too, just because her role continues to increase as she continues to develop as a post-player, trying to help her grow her game away from the basket as well, offensively.

“In the way that we want to try to play offense this year, we’re just trying to give her more options,” he added. “Hopefully she’ll be one that will just clean up the glass for us defensively, rebounding and stuff like that.

“I’m excited to see her growth just because it’s crazy that she’s only a freshman, but she comes into her freshman year with so much experience and so much knowledge on how to be ready to play this year — really her first year in high school.”

As a group, “the three of them, we’re going to go on how they go,” Hernandez said. “I’m counting on them to set the tone for us each and every night and each and every day we come to the gym.”

Elsewhere, “we’ve got two sophomores and two juniors that are going to be vying for a minutes as starters,” the coach said.

Sophomore wing/post Harper Ladd “had a really good

preseason in summer. Really changed her body (fitness), got into good shape; really has improved her game,” Hernandez said.

Corisa Lowry, a sophomore guard, “also had a really good fall,” the coach said. “Really good in summer as well. Just gotten stronger. She’s really improved her shooting.” Juniors Avery Green and Lorelei Lee “are going to have huge roles for us because I think they’ll be able to help us spread the floor,” Hernandez said.

“They’re both wings, but Avery has got an ability to play multiple positions, (such as) wing and a little bit of post, just because of her size,” the coach added.

“Loreley is strictly a guard. “Hopefully they both give us the opportunity to space the floor with their ability to shoot.”

Zahnyah Rockett, a freshman point guard, “really pushes the pace offensively and can defend,” the coach said.

Ivy Napier, an eighth-grader, is “a sharpshooter and has good length,” Hernandez said.

“We are going to count on those two young players as key contributors to our rotation,” Hernandez added.

Overall, “We’re going to be about nine girls deep,” the coach said. “I hope to play all nine considerable minutes throughout the year just so we can hopefully stay healthy and stay fresh and be able to compete down the road and hopefully put ourselves in a good position to be there at the end.”

Strengths

“I think our strengths are going to be, offensively, just being able to push the pace, having

ROSTER

2	.....Lorelei Lee	.....JR
4	.....Harper Ladd	.....SO
5	.....Zahnyah Rockett	.....FR
10	.....Corisa Lowery	.....SO
12	.....Ivy Napier	.....8th
13	.....Paisley Headrick	.....FR
14	.....Caroline MacDonald	.....FR
15	.....Brooke Halford	.....FR
20	.....Caroline Copenhaver	.....FR
21	.....Cailyn Taylor	.....SO
22	.....Addison Ingram	.....FR
23	.....Avery Green	.....JR
24	.....Meeyah Green	.....JR
33	.....Kyndall Mays	.....FR

Head coach —Greg Hernandez

Managers: Peyton McNally, June Samulski

SPARTANS • VARSITY GIRLS SCHEDULE 2024-25

11/21	.....Johnson City Science Hill	.....5:30 PM
11/23	.....Elizabethton High School (at Science Hill)	.....12:30 PM
11/25-11/26	.....@ Notre Dame High School Classic	.....TBD
12/3	.....Cookeville High School	.....TBD
12/6	.....Morristown East (at Johnson City Science Hill)	.....7:00 PM
12/7	.....Cocke County (at Johnson City Science Hill)	.....11:00 AM
12/9	.....@ Maryville High School	.....TBD
12/13-12/14	.....Turnkey Hardwood Classic at Webb	.....TBD
12/19-12/21	.....5 Star Preps Hammers Hardwood Classic at Webb	.....TBD
12/26-12/31	.....AJ Ladies Classic at Greeneville High School	.....TBD
1/7	.....@ Asheville School	.....5:30 PM
1/10	.....@ Cookeville High School	.....6:30 PM
1/17	.....@ Chattanooga Christian School*	.....6:00 PM
1/18	.....War Games: MLK (@ Atlanta)	.....TBD
1/21	.....Baylor School *	.....5:30 PM
1/25	.....@ Knoxville Catholic*	.....6:00 PM
1/28	.....@ Girls Preparatory School*	.....TBD
1/31	.....Chattanooga Christian School *	.....6:00 PM
2/4	.....@ Baylor School *	.....5:00 PM
2/7	.....Knoxville Catholic*	.....6:00 PM
2/11	.....GPS *	.....6:00 PM
2/13	.....Hamilton Heights Christian Academy	.....TBD

* - denotes region/district game

multiple ball handlers on the court at any time where we can get out in transition and push it,” Hernandez said. “And then our ability to shoot it and spread the floor.

“But also defensively, I think we’re going to be able to put a lot of pressure on teams just because of our athleticism and

our speed,” he added.

Concerns

“But we’re not very big, so we’re going to have to put pressure on teams really far away from the basket so that we don’t have to play too much of a half-court game ...,” Hernandez said.

By Alan Sloan



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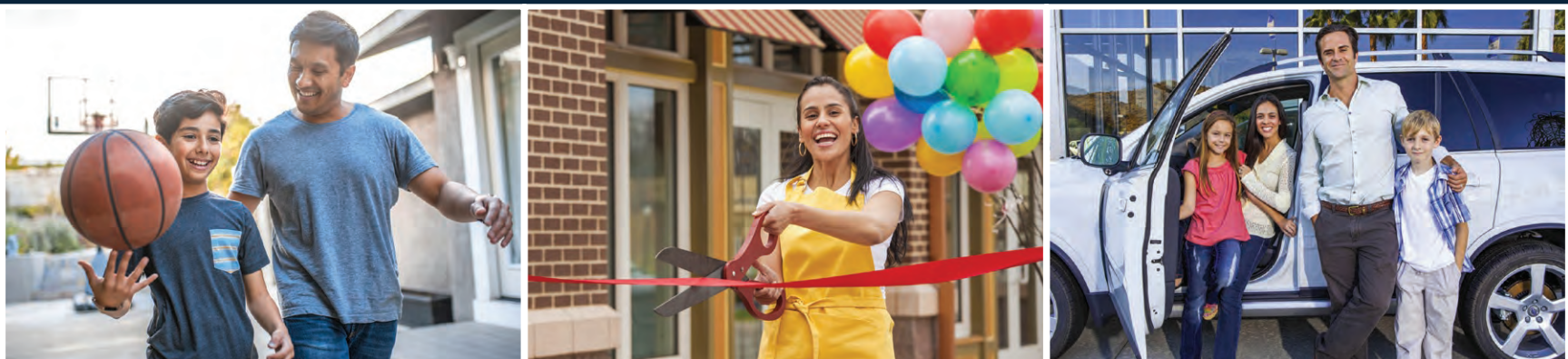
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