



The Press **Basketball Preview**

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**A supplement to
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**Cover photo: Eastwood forward Jacob Meyer
(Press file photo by Doug Karns/www.DougKarns.smugmug.com)
Previews by Press Sports Editor J. Patrick Eaken
& contributing sportswriter Yaneek Smith**

Cardinal Stritch cage coaches pleased with season outlook

Cardinal Stritch boys

Coach: Sedron Harris, first year
Last year: 14-5 (5-0 TAAC)
Key players: Kam Hughes, 6-4, Jr., F; Breon Hicks, 6-2, Jr., F; Tommie Taylor, 5-9, So., G; Owen Carter, 5-7, Jr., G; Christian Burton, 5-9, Jr., G
Preview: Returning for the new coach is junior forward Kam Hughes, who contributed 4.7 points and 3.6 rebounds to last year's league championship team. The Cardinals reached the Division III district finals, where they fell to Archbold, 59-56. Joining Hughes in the paint will be junior forward Breon Hicks.

"Kam Hughes was All-TAAC last year. He's the only player who has varsity experience who is real good," Harris said. "Breon Hicks is very athletic. He played in a Toledo fall league. He's a high jumper, a high-flyer, and has a chance to be one of the best on the defensive side in the TAAC."

Harris believes this year's version of Stritch boys basketball could still find itself in the race for a TAAC title.

"I'm definitely looking forward to it. I think we should be in the top three, realistically, if we do our job," Harris said.

"There are going to be some hiccups here and there, but we are going to still build off it, and the guys who have been here, Tommie Taylor, Owen Carter, and Christian Burton have shown tremendous leadership.

"Even though we are young, those guys have stepped up. From day one, those guys have been in the gym and in the weight room. They've been doing excellent in the classroom — at least two of three of them are honor roll, so that as a coach is very favorable."

The style of basketball played at Stritch will not change that much, either.

"Defensively, we are going to run a man-to-man with an occasional zone. I think our perimeter defense is very good. Our guards are tremendous athletes and then offensively, we'll run a lot of dribble-drive stuff and we'll run a lot of transition," Harris said.

"We have five guys who can get down the floor, with Cam and Breon in the post, we'll be very solid. We just have to try and space it out and let our creators make things happen."

Two seniors, guard Demontri Whitehead and forward Tanner Nowicki have a shot at moving into the starting lineup, too, and will "get their minutes" after joining the team this year.

"Our biggest weakness might be depth because we are young, but we do have a deep bench. That's one thing that we'll be maybe using a nie-man rotation every night," Harris said.

"We'll have balanced scoring from Kam, Christian, Tommie, and Breon will all score, but we won't have a guy who will score 20 every night, but we have guys who might get there. What they've shown in scrimmages and open gyms is that we are willing to make the extra passes, willing to get everyone involved."

CARDINAL STRITCH BOYS ROSTER					
1	Tommie Taylor	5'9	175	So	G
2	Breon Hicks	6'2	175	Jr	F
3	Idro Price Jr	5'5	160	Jr	G
4	Owen Yost	5'9	162	So	G
5	Demontri Whitehead	5'10	145	Sr	G
10	Christian Burton	5'9	125	Jr	G
12	Owen Carter	5'7	130	Jr	G
14	Christian Swilling II	6'1	197	So	F
15	Colin Fitzgerald	5'9	130	Jr	G
20	Bralin Hicks	6'0	145	So	G
21	Kam Hughes	6'4	190	Jr	F
24	Tyler Bohnsack	6'1	180	So	F
32	Blake Kamelesky	6'1	150	So	F
42	Tanner Nowicki	5'11	145	Sr	F

Cardinal Stritch girls

Coach: Brad Hohenberger, third year, 7-31
Last year: 3-12 (2-4 TAAC)
Key players: Linnea Hughes, So., G; Asia Brown, So., C; Lillian Hugill, So., C; Sydney Payeff, Jr., PG; Analise Quiroga, Jr., F; Emi Castillo, Jr., G Keera Garmon, Sr., G
Preview: Stritch returns seven letter winners, including Sydney Payeff (4.6 pts., 3.7 asst.) and Linnea Hughes (10.6 pts., 4 reb.).

"I feel we are very athletic and very balanced," coach Hohenberger said. "We have great bigs, star guards, and defensive

minded stoppers. All these pieces when they come together will make us a very good team. We are not as deep as previous seasons, but we are talented and hungry to turn things around and put Stritch back on the map, as a top school for women's basketball in this area."

Hughes was second team All-TAAC, honorable mention All-District 7 and third team Alan Miller Jewelers All-Press, while Payeff was HM All-TAAC and District 7.

"Sydney Payeff is going into her third year as our starting point guard and I expect her to take a huge step forward as a leader and decision maker," Hohenberger said.

"Linnea Hughes, I feel, is going to have a huge year as well. She was our leading scorer as a freshman and this summer and fall she has added so many dimensions to her game offensively. I think she will be a star for us at the guard position.

"Not only is Linnea Hughes one of our top players but her brother here at Stritch, Kam Hughes, is a top player for the boys. They both are going to have huge seasons

"I expect Linnea Hughes and Asia Brown, our two sophomores to be our leading scorers this season. Both have the ability and skill to be true game changers. I expect Sydney Payeff to have a tremendous year at the point and be our key distributor. She has led us in assists the last two years and I see no reason she won't do so again.

That trio is surrounded by veterans.

"Keera Garmon is a tenacious defender. She will be matched up with the best player on the other team every single night. She has room to expand her game offensively as a senior and she should have a huge year," Hohenberger said.

"Keera Garmon will be our lock down defender. She has an endless motor, and she is not only athletic, but also extremely intelligent. Add all that together and you have a player who I think will be one of the top defenders in our league. Analise Quiroga at the forward spot is a do it all player. She defends both guards and bigs and offensively she will crash the glass hard for putbacks and is developing a good midrange jumper.



Cardinal Stritch returning guard Linnea Hughes. (Press photo by Doug Karns/www.DougKarns.smugmug.com)

CARDINAL STRITCH GIRLS ROSTER			
2	Kristina Conroy	Sr	Guard
3	Linnea Hughes	So	Guard
4	Keera Garmon	Sr	Guard
5	Emi Castillo	Jr	Guard
10	Sydney Payeff	Jr	Guard
12	Kenzie Kinnie	Fr	G/F
20	Jean Simpson	Fr	Guard
21	Lillian Hugill	So	F/C
22	Asia Brown	So	Center
23	Analise Quiroga	Jr	Forward
44	Brianna Martinez	Jr	G/F



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Clay cagers face tough task competing in tough conference

Clay boys

Coach: Joel Visser, first year
Last Year: 4-12 (2-5 TRAC)
Key Players: Ben Jones, Sr., PG; Max Alm, Sr., C; Garret Long, Sr, G
Preview: Gone at Clay 6-foot-8 center Frank Waganfeald (14.3 pts., 9.2 reb., 57% FG), 6-0 guard Keeghan Calkins (11.2 pts.) and 6-4 forward Noah Hagdohl (15.2 pts., 6.4 reb., 44% FG, 78% FT).

The trio led a strong senior class last year, and Waganfeald has joined former Oak Harbor standout Jac Alexander, where both are playing collegiately at Marietta University.



There is another shake-up — first-year coach Joel Visser is replacing David Rodriguez, who coached four years. Visser coached four years at Swanton and two at Tipp City Tippecanoe before coming to Oregon. At Tippecanoe, his 2015 team qualified for district tournament action, and he was named District 9 Division II Coach of the Year after Red Devils finished 16-9. Visser also coached in Richmond, Indiana.

At Clay, no single player started last year and besides senior point guard Ben Jones, no one has regular varsity minutes from the previous season, says Visser. However, the first year coach says “team chemistry” seems to be a strength already.

Visser has just one returning letterman, Jones, but Jones is flanked by two classmates, center Max Alm and guard Garret Long, as key players. Visser says Jones has “good vision” and a “high basketball IQ and very unselfish.”

Two juniors, Collin Berryman and Lucas Measel, will take over the forward position. Visser says the 6-foot-4 Measel and junior Collin Berryman have shown significant improvement already since he took over the program.

“Lucas Measel and Collin Berryman have both dedicated themselves over the last year to learning multiple positions and being able to faceup as well as play with his back to basket,” Visser said.

Big men joining Alm in the paint will be juniors Marcus Rahm and Kaden Rife.

Visser says the team’s focus will be on defense and rebounding. Leading the defense will be senior Garret Long and juniors Evin Baker and Rahm.

Also expected to contribute is a sophomore, Lucas Jeremy, with a good shooting touch.

“He is a guy who applies what he learns and gets a little better every day with the ability to shoot the ball from the perimeter,” Visser said.

Visser is eager to get an introduction into the Three Rivers Athletic Conference, where Clay has failed to win a title in its over 10-year history.

“The TRAC has some of the best basketball in the state of Ohio. It will be a grind each week,” Visser said.

CLAY BOYS ROSTER		
0	Evin Baker	Junior
1	Ben Jones	Senior
2	Youssif Orra	Senior
3	Garret Long	Senior
5	Max Alm	Senior
10	Eric Donofrio	Senior
11	Marcus Rahm	Junior
12	Lucas Jeremy	Sophomore
23	Collin Berryman	Junior
24	Luke Measel	Junior
34	Kaden Rife	Junior

Clay girls

Coach: Keith Kennedy, first year
Last Year: 5-17 (0-7 TRAC)
Key Players: Camryn Reiter, Jr.; Carmen Madrid, Sr.; Alexis Huntermark, Jr; Jessica Payeff, Sr

Preview: First-year coach Keith Kennedy takes over for Julia Henneman-Dallape, who filled in for one season. Kennedy spent the past three years as boys junior varsity coach at Clay and he has run several levels within AAU programs. Kennedy inherits four letter winners, including returning starter Lexi Huntermark.

“We are very excited to see the progression of our three-year starter Lexi Huntermark,” Kennedy said. “We are transitioning her from the point guard position to the ‘two’ (position) as she is a natural scorer and attacker. I think this will take Lexi’s game to the next level.”

Also returning is guard Camryn Reiter (7 pts., 6 reb., 3 stls., 2 def., 2 asst.) and forward Meah Przybylski (5.7 reb.)

“Camryn Reiter is a junior and three-year varsity player. Camryn is an extremely versatile player and will play the one and four (positions) for us. Camryn is a coach’s dream, hard-working and willing to do anything to help us win,” Kennedy said.

Other returning letter winners are seniors Carmen Madrid and Jessica Payeff.

“Carmen Madrid is a senior that will provide much needed leadership within our young program. Carmen will play mainly in the four and five position.

“Another senior we are excited to have back is Jess Payeff, who is extremely quick both north and south as well as laterally. She will provide us much needed defensive pressure on opposing guards. Jess should be a key component to our defensive philosophy this season.”

There are newcomers to Clay’s varsity team who will contribute, too.

“We have been very impressed with freshman Brynn Reiter. She will primarily play the ‘one’ for us. Brynn has the intangibles you can’t teach. We see a very bright future for her here at Clay,” said Kennedy.

“Last but not least are sophomore’s Kaelani Chanthakham and Kendra Stevens, juniors Alaysia Downer, Sydney Witek, Selena Garcia (Notre Dame transfer) Mae Hunt and the Derrer twins (Isabella and Julia). They all will play key minutes for us,” Kennedy said.

Kennedy said the biggest challenge of all will be trying to get wins in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

“We plan to play a fast-paced guard heavy offense. Our defensive philosophy is to create offensive opportunities out of defensive pressure,” Kennedy said. “We are small but quick and are looking forward to being the David against the TRAC Goliaths. We are asking them to believe this year, believe in themselves, believe in our program as we are all one, we are family. It is the reality that all of our players’ roles are equally important, whether it’s a three-minute sub or a four-quarter player.”



Clay guard Camryn Reiter. (Photo by LifeTouch courtesy Oregon Schools)

CLAY GIRLS ROSTER		
4	Kaelani Chanthakham	Sophomore
14	Isabella Derrer	Junior
30	Julia Derrer	Junior
24	Alaysia Downer	Junior
43	Aleigha Fisher-Pohl	Junior
1	Selena Garcia	Junior
11	Morgan Hunt	Junior
5	Alexis Huntermark	Junior
34	Carmen Madrid	Senior
31	Jessica Payeff	Senior
15	Meah Przybylski	Senior
13	Brynn Reiter	Freshman
10	Camryn Reiter	Junior
12	Kendra Stevens	Sophomore
25	Kylee Tabler	Senior
45	Sydney Witek	Junior

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Eastwood boys, girls squads believe they can contend

Eastwood boys

Coach: Todd Henline, 12th year, 156-77
Last Year: 15-9 (9-4 NBC)
Key Players: Jacob Meyer, 6-3, Sr., G/F; Case Boos, 5-9, Jr., G; Lake Boos, 6-1, Sr., G; Andrew Arntson, 6-3, Sr., F; Jacob Limes, 5-9, Sr., PG; Gavin DeWese, 6-5, Sr., P
Preview: This year, the Eagles have nearly everyone back — the biggest loss to graduation was senior shooting guard Isaac Badenhop, who contributed 10.1 points, 2.6 rebounds and 2.7 assists.

Returnees include 6-foot-3 senior forward Jake Meyer, who will be a four-year letter winner after averaging 13 points, 6.5 rebounds, 1.5 blocks, 1.6 assists and 1.1 steals. “He is our captain. It’s nice having him back, he’s a great leader and does a lot of things for us on and off the floor,” Henline said.

“He’s one of those kids who is a coach’s dream. He does a lot of little things well. He’s worked on his game, too, and he’s gotten bigger and stronger, too. I’m hoping he has a really good year because he’s put some time into working toward it.”

Six guys are looking for their second letter, including 5-9 junior guard Case Boos (7.5 pts., 2.6 asst.), 6-1 senior guard Lake Boos (7.4 pts., 2 asst.), 6-1 senior forward Andrew Arntson, 6-3 senior forward Emmet Getz, 5-9 senior point guard and shooter Jacob Limes, and 6-5 senior post Gavin DeWese.

“Last year I thought we were lacking experience and this year we have a lot of experience. We return a lot of our scoring, rebounding and that kind of thing,” Henline said. “We’ve got a lot of talent coming back and it’s a matter of putting it together.

“Jake Limes is pretty quick and fast, and Jake Meyer is athletic. We’re actually able to play a lot of different styles, I think,” Henline continued.

DeWese grew up attending Eastwood Schools but transferred to Rossford before transferring back to Eastwood for his senior year. DeWese, who contributed 6.7 points, 4.4 rebounds, one assist and half a steal per game, lettered for the Bulldogs and brings a new dynamic to Eastwood’s team.

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“The last couple years, Jake Meyers has been our center and we really have the luxury of having him play on the perimeter this year, which I think will benefit him with DeWese and Getz inside. Even Brady Weaver, a junior, has been doing some nice things, too,” Henline said.

“Getz and DeWese inside should be something to watch, and even the Arntson kid has some good size, too. That’s the nice thing this year is I have a lot of different parts that I can plug in and see what is going to work.”

Henline says he’ll use the team’s depth to its advantage defensively, too.

“I think you are going to see us get after people a little bit more than we have in the past because we are pretty deep. We are able to expend a lot of energy and then go to the next guy, so to speak,” Henline said. There are juniors who played junior varsity last year that Henline believes will contribute.

“My juniors have put a lot of time in — Brady Weaver, Noah Smith, Tristan Schuerman and Lucas Glomski — all four of them are off the JV team last year. I’ve seen some nice things from them, too. Practice this year should be pretty competitive,” Henline said.

EASTWOOD BOYS ROSTER				
2	Jacob Limes	5’10	Sr	Guard
3	Case Boos	5’10	Jr	Guard
4	Lake Boos	6’1	Sr	Guard
5	Tristan Schuerman	5’10	Jr	Guard
10	Lucas Glomski	6’1	Jr	Guard
12	Noah Smith	5’11	Jr	G/F
20	Andrew Arntson	6’2	Sr	F/C
22	Jacob Meyer	6’3	Sr	G/F
33	Brady Weaver	6’2	Jr	F/C
34	Emmet Getz	6’3	Sr	F/C
40	Gavin DeWese	6’5	Sr	F/C

Eastwood girls

Coach: Nick Schmeltz, seventh year, 90-53
Last Year: 18-6 (10-4 NBC)
Key Players: Aubrey Haas, 5-8, Sr., G/F; Brenna Moenter, 6-3, Sr., F; Kaitlyn Luidhardt., 5’8, Sr., G/F; Paige Rost, 5’9, Sr., G/F; Kayla Buehler, 5’7, So, G
Preview: Eastwood girls basketball returns

nine letter winners from a squad that finished 18-6 last year, including 10-4 in the Northern Buckeye Conference.

They include senior guard/forward Aubrey Haas, senior forwards Brenna Moenter, Kaitlyn Luidhardt and Paige Rost, and sophomore guard Kayla Buehler.

Haas was a first team All-NBC and All-District 7, second team Northwest District and honorable mention Division III All-Ohioan last year after averaging 19.2 points, 5.1 rebounds, four steals and 2.4 assists.

“Aubrey has proven herself as a legitimate scoring threat already scoring 1,000 points through three years,” coach Nick Schmeltz said. “She is one of the best pure scorers to come through

Eastwood. She can find ways to score at all levels. We will continue to look for her to score but we will also count on her to rebound and battle down low at times.”

Moenter, a second team All-NBC and HM District 7 selection, averaged 10 points, 8.6 rebounds, 2.6 assists, 2.9 steals and 2.9 blocks.

“Brenna did a little bit of everything for us last year. At 6-foot-3 she can score and rebound but she also has great vision and anticipation that allows her to be an above average passer and good defender,” Schmeltz said.

“She protects the rim for us as well which lets our guards to be more aggressive defending on the perimeter.”

Those two will lead a deep roster.

“We will be athletic and quick, as our teams have typically been, but we will also have size inside with Moenter,” Schmeltz said.

“Having eight seniors on our roster will give us leadership and experience. Moenter’s height and Haas’ athleticism along with our speedier guards gives us options on defense to be versatile.

“We can full court press, play half court man, trap, play zone, and mix up looks to keep our opponents off balance. Offensively we will have a little more structure than years past and we will be in our second year of running our continuity ball screen offense. We will still look to get out and run, when possible, in transition.”



Eastwood guard/forward Aubrey Haas enters her senior year. (Press photo by Lee Welch/FamilyPhotoGroup.com)P

EASTWOOD GIRLS ROSTER			
1	Megan Graham	5’8	Sr Forward
2	Amelia Ward	5’6	So Guard
3	Saylor King	5’3	So Guard
4	Kayla Buehler	5’7	So Guard
10	Aubrey Haas	5’8	Sr G/F
11	Grace Kingery	5’3	Jr Guard
15	Audrey Sandberg	5’7	Sr Guard
20	Sarah Spradling	5’10	Jr Forward
21	Kaitlyn Luidhardt	5’8	Sr G/F
22	Brenna Moenter	6’3	Sr Forward
23	Paige Rost	5’9	Sr G/F
24	Kenna Souder	5’6	Sr Guard
30	Kendall Gedert	5’10	Sr Forward

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Genoa’s cagers looking to speed up the game’s tempo

Genoa boys

Coach: Tim Hausfeld, third year, 19-24
Last Year: 7-16 (6-8 NBC)
Key Players: Skylar Ju, So., 6-0, G; Griffin Meyer, Jr., 5-8, G; Aiden Hemmert, Sr., 6-4, F; Andrew Szepiela, Jr., 6-3, P; Gus Trainer, Sr., 6-2, F; Will Nissen, Sr., 6-2, F
Preview: Genoa has size and athleticism, but the Comets must also replace lost production from last season.

Gone is 6-1 wing Jake Emerson, who averaged 14.3 points and 4.5 rebounds, and Trevor Wasserman, who averaged 10.4 points.



Genoa struggled last season, going 7-16 overall and 6-8 in the Northern Buckeye Conference. “I know we had a rough year last year, but we were very young. I started two sophomore guards, but I think they will grow from that,” said Genoa coach Tim Hausfeld. “I know the guys are excited, they’re more comfortable in this style, which is chaotic, causing turnovers and leading to easy buckets on the other end. This is one of the fastest teams I’ve had so far, we’ll look to crank it up and pressure teams. There are four different presses that we’ve installed. That’s our brand of basketball.”

Hausfeld notes that the team will play some man-to-man and could employ a 1-2-1-1 and a 2-2-1 zone.

“Our bread and butter is face-guarding and full-court press,” he said. “That’s probably what we do the most.”

The two returning junior guards who started last year are 6-0 Skylar Ju, who averaged 8.2 points, and Griffin Meyer, who is 5-8 and averaged 6.1 points. There are four post players who could start, too — 6-4 senior Aiden Hemmert, 6-3 junior Andrew Szepiela, 6-2 senior Gus Trainer and 6-2 senior Will Nissen.

“The starting lineup is up for debate,” said Hausfeld.

There are four wings who could see action, too — 5-9 junior Robert Messenger, 5-10 junior Mason Drummond, 5-11 senior Casey Laytart and 6-2 sophomore Aiden Brunkhorst — and 5-9 sophomore guard Jon Huston is also part of the rotation.

“I think we’re trending in the right direction,” Hausfeld said. “I think that our overall depth and speed really matches what we’re trying to install here. We definitely have some faster players, so hopefully that makes for a little more exciting brand of basketball. We were a little slower my last two years.

“We’re trying to promote moving the ball and getting points from a variety of players. I’ve got a good group of guards. We’re looking to build a more high-tempo offense here at Genoa.”

Hausfeld expects Eastwood and Rossford to be among the best in the league.

The football team did make it to the second round of the playoffs, so Hausfeld believes there may be an adjustment period for the team in the early part of the season.

GENOA BOYS ROSTER			
0	Griffin Meyer	5’10	Jr Guard
1	Robert Messenger	5’10	Jr Guard
3	Jon Huston	5’9	So Guard
4	Augustus Trainer	6’1	Sr Forward
5	Casey Laytart	6’0	Sr Guard
11	Skylar Ju	6’1	Jr Guard
12	Mason Drummond	5’11	Jr Guard
21	Aiden Brunkhorst	6’3	So Guard
22	JJ Hartman	6’1	So Forward
23	Andrew Szepiela	6’3	Jr Forward
24	Aiden Hemmert	6’4	Sr Forward
34	Will Nissen	6’3	Sr Forward

Genoa girls

Coach: Glenn Black, first year
Last Year: 9-12 (5-7 NBC)
Key Players: Gina Goodman, Sr., 5-7, PG; Lacy Frias, Sr., 5-10, G/P; Aly Hartford, 5-10, Sr, F
Preview: With six seniors and talented players, Genoa could be in for a good season.

However, the Comets will have to replace a number of key players, notably Caitlin Cruickshank, who averaged 13.5 points and 5.9 rebounds last season. Also gone are Taylor Simmons and Olivia Wiciak.

Senior point guard Gina Goodman, who stands 5-7, averaged 8.4 points, 2.6 rebounds and 2.1 assists last season.

The other five seniors are 5-10 guard/post Sophia Richards, 5-10 guard/post Lacy Frias, who averaged about three points per

game last season, 5-10 post Alyssa Hartford and 5-6 guard Shelby Wagner.

“We think we’ll have a balanced scoring attack, it should be spread out,” said Genoa coach Glenn Black. “Goodman is going to be the motor that makes us go.”

Two juniors — 5-5 guard/post Gabby Lopez and 5-3 guard Emily Koza — will see playing time, and 5-4 guard Molly Coleman and 5-5 guard Emersen Bickel could be in the mix, too.

“We feel confident that we’re going to get a lot out of each of our kids,” said Black. “As far as depth, it’s maybe not as



much as we would like to have, but we are confident with the kids we do have and that we’re going to get production out of them. We’ve got some confidence that we have some interior play, as well as some good guards that should help us.

“I think the biggest thing is going to be ball movement, spacing and moving without the ball. Ball movement and spacing are going to be our two primary focuses. We’ve changed some things, the kids have been pretty receptive. They’re great kids, they’re adaptable, they’ve been willing to adjust.

“We think we can get some miles out of Lacy Frias and Aly Hartford. Gabby Lopez is a utility player who will play a little bit of everywhere.”

Black, who was previously the JV coach for the Woodmore boys basketball team, notes that the starting lineup will vary according to matchups.

“It will be situational, depending on who we match up with,” he said. “That will likely vary from game to game.”

Black echoes the sentiments of other area coaches and sees the Northern Buckeye Conference as being very tough this season.

“I think our league is very competitive. The co-player of the year (Brooklyn Thrash) returns for Elmwood,” Black said. “I think we have one of the tougher leagues in the area. I think this will be a good, competitive league. We say to bring the juice every day. We just want to give our best every day. Bring a lot of energy, play hard. That’s our goal for this year. We just want to push ourselves and grow as a team.”



Genoa senior point guard Gina Goodman. (Press file photo by Doug Hise)



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Seniors to lead Bears; girls to expedite rebuilding process

Gibsonburg boys

Coach: Brent Liskai, 21st year, 220-206
Last Year: 10-10 (8-8 SBC River)
Key Players: Aidan McGough, Sr., 6-6, P; Tyler Henderson, Sr., 5-9, G; Tyler Schooley, Sr., 6-0, P; Drew Morelock, Sr., 6-0, W; Aidan Farmer, Sr., 6-4, P
Preview: Gibsonburg has a nice mix of size, athleticism and experience.

The Golden Bears feature two players 6-foot-4 or taller, a bevy of wings and all nine players in the rotation are seniors.

Leading the way for Brent Liskai's club is 6-6 post Aiden McGough, who averaged 14.2 points and nine rebounds last year. He earned first-team honors in the Sandusky Bay Conference River Division last year for his efforts. Tyler Henderson is a 5-9 guard and averaged 9.5 points last year to earn second team honors in the River Division.

Aidan Farmer is 6-4, Carter Miller is 6-2 and Tyler Schooley, who is 6-0, will complement McGough in the post. Farmer and Schooley lettered last season.

"We've got to use that size, this is one of the bigger teams I've had," said Liskai, who is the school's all-time leader in victories. "McGough and Henderson can score in many different ways. We need the guys to use their athleticism and pound the glass; we stress rebounding in practice. That will be the key — when we rebound well, we're a very good basketball team."

Drew Morelock, a 6-0 wing, lettered last year, and he'll be joined by fellow wings in 6-2 Justin Adams, 6-2 Austin Rodriguez and 5-9 Jacob Hacker.

"With the players we have, we can do multiple things," said Liskai. "With McGough and Farmer, we have good size inside. We have good shooting, we have nice length, we can play multiple ways, we're going to take each night and see how we match up with our opponent."

"I'm pleased with all of (the wings), they all bring a different skill set. We're still trying to find the lineup that plays the best together. It's good to have multiple options — some are drivers, some are better jump

shooters, and defense is what separates basketball players."

The Bears could employ a variety of looks on the defensive side of the ball.

"We're primarily a man-to-man team," Liskai said. "We mix some zone with our size, we try to do multiple things and be hard to prepare for."

The River Division is filled with a number of good teams, most notably Old Fort and Tiffin Calvert, which won a combined 40 games last year and shared the league title.

"We're in a very tough league. Old Fort and Tiffin Calvert are usually the top teams. Hopewell-Loudon, they have a nice program. It's a very good basketball league," Liskai said. "You've got Sandusky St. Mary, New Riegel kids can shoot the ball, Danbury will make you play fast, Lakota has a good class. St. Joe's, Coach (Jonathan) Will always has his team in the mix."

"We want to make some noise and have some say in the league," said Liskai. "We've got some experienced players back and some athleticism. Hopefully with this many seniors, we can have success."

GIBSONBURG BOYS ROSTER				
3	Jacob Hacker	5'9	Sr	Wing
5	Drew Morelock	6'0	Sr	W/G
10	Justin Adams	6'2	Sr	Wing
12	Tyler Schooley	6'0	Sr	W/P
14	Austin Rodriguez	6'2	Sr	Wing
15	Khartir Miller	6'2	Sr	Post
21	Aidan McGough	6'6	Sr	Post
23	Martin Myerholtz	6'2	Jr	Post
32	Aidan Farmer	6'4	Sr	Post
54	Tyler Henderson	5'9	Sr	Guard

Gibsonburg girls

Coach: Bo Evarts, third year, 10-34
Last Year: 3-18 (1-12 SBC River)
Key Players: Jenna Bloomfield, Jr., 5-8, F; Ellie Stout, Jr., 5-1, G; Jazmyne Morant, So, 5-7, F; Camren Krotzer, Sr., 5-9, F; Sophie Simmons, Jr., 5-3, G
Preview: Bo Evarts can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Now in his third year coaching at Gibsonburg, Evarts is seeing progress from his team and is encouraged by the look of his team.

5-8 junior forward Jenna Bloomfield is the best player on the team. She averaged 7.6 points last season, and Evarts believes she is good enough to average a double-double. Joining her in the starting lineup is point guard Ellie Stout, a 5-1 junior who averaged 5.7 points, guard Sophie Simmons, a 5-3 junior, forward Jazmyne Morant, a 5-7 sophomore, and forward Camren Krotzer, a 5-9 senior.

The primary reserves will be 5-7 senior forward Kylee Gamble, 5-2 senior guard Leah Jividen, 5-9 freshman wing Sam Deininger and 5-3 sophomore guard Sophia Paul. Rounding out the rotation is 5-7 junior forward Melanie Otermat, 5-6 junior guard Kira Fox and 5-3 freshman guard Ansley Fleming.

"Offensively, it would be ideal to push the ball and run in transition. The last few years, with our personnel, we didn't do that. We're making the transition now, there are still some things that we have to fill in," said Evarts. "We want to push the ball and play full-court pressure defense. We'll do some of that, (but) we don't have enough girls to do that all game long. We're transitioning there now, it's fun to see."

"I do have two girls that can impact the game defensively in Morant and Simmons. They just are very aggressive and they can change the game defensively, they are smart, aggressive and strong. They can go non-stop. Before, we didn't have quite that aspect, we played zone and stayed back and let teams shoot it."

Evarts thinks 5-6 teams could win the Sandusky Bay Conference River Division. Hopewell-Loudon is in the mix to win the league yet again, and Old Fort, New Riegel and Danbury could make some noise as well.

Gradually, Evarts is changing the culture within the program.

"We haven't won a league championship since 1975. It's been 46 years, so that was definitely my first goal when I got the job. When I first took over, there were two girls playing AAU, and now we have 14 girls playing AAU," Evarts said.



Gibsonburg returning junior guard Ellie Stout. (Press file photo by Doug Hise)

GIBSONBURG GIRLS ROSTER				
2	Leah Jividen	5'2	Sr	Guard
5	Kylee Gamble	5'7	Sr	Forward
10	Camren Krotzer	5'9	Sr	Forward
11	Ellie Stout	5'1	Jr	Guard
14	Sophia Paul	5'4	So	Guard
20	Kira Fox	5'7	Jr	Forward
21	Jenna Bloomfield	5'8	Jr	Forward
22	Samantha Deininger	5'9	Fr	Forward
24	Melanie Otermat	5'8	Jr	Forward
25	Ansley Fleming	5'2	Fr	Guard
30	Sophia Simmons	5'4	Jr	Guard
33	Jazmyne Morant	5'7	So	Forward

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Nov. 19	@ Fostoria
Nov. 23	@ Evergreen
Nov. 30	EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN
Dec. 4	@ Toledo Christian
Dec. 6	WOODWARD
Dec. 10	@ Ottawa Hills
Dec. 14	PORT CLINTON
Dec. 17	NORTHWOOD
Dec. 18	@ Bowsher
Dec. 21	GIBSONBURG
Dec. 28	@ Genoa
Jan. 3	@ Waite
Jan. 7	@ Maumee Valley
Jan. 10	@ Swanton
Jan. 13	@ Emmanuel Christian
Jan. 20	TOLEDO CHRISTIAN
Jan. 22	@ North Baltimore
Jan. 27	OTTAWA HILLS
Jan. 29	@ Whiteford
Feb. 1	MCCOMB
Feb. 3	@ Northwood
Feb. 10	MAUMEE VALLEY (Senior Night)

CLAY GIRLS SCHEDULE	
Nov. 19	SYLVANIA SOUTHVIEW
Nov. 26	EVERGREEN
Nov. 29	ST. URSULA
Dec. 2	@ Lima Senior
Dec. 9	@ Notre Dame
Dec. 13	@ Whitmer
Dec. 16	CENTRAL CATHOLIC
Dec. 21	@ Oak Harbor
Dec. 29	CLAY EAGLE CLASSIC
Jan. 6	FINDLAY
Jan. 10	@ Fremont Ross
Jan. 12	@ St. Ursula
Jan. 20	LIMA SENIOR
Jan. 24	NOTRE DAME
Jan. 27	WHITMER
Jan. 31	@ Central Catholic
Feb. 3	@ Findlay
Feb. 5	@ Bowling Green
Feb. 7	@ Scott
Feb. 10	FREMONT ROSS

EASTWOOD GIRLS SCHEDULE	
Nov. 23	@ Archbold
Nov. 26	ELMWOOD
Dec. 2	@ Woodmore
Dec. 7	GENOA
Dec. 9	OAK HARBOR
Dec. 11	@ Rossford
Dec. 14	FOSTORIA
Dec. 18	LAKE
Dec. 21	OTSEGO
Dec. 28	@ Charleston, SC Tourney
Dec. 29	@ Charleston, SC Tourney
Dec. 30	@ Charleston, SC Tourney
Jan. 7	@ Elmwood
Jan. 13	WOODMORE
Jan. 15	DELTA
Jan. 18	@ Genoa
Jan. 22	ROSSFORD
Jan. 27	@ Fostoria
Jan. 29	@ Toledo Christian
Feb. 2	@ Lake
Feb. 7	BOWLING GREEN
Feb. 10	@ Otsego

GENOA GIRLS SCHEDULE	
Nov. 20	@ Maumee
Nov. 23	@ Oak Harbor
Nov. 27	@ Fostoria
Dec. 2	OTSEGO
Dec. 7	@ Eastwood
Dec. 9	@ New Riegel
Dec. 11	WOODMORE
Dec. 14	@ Lake
Dec. 18	ELMWOOD
Dec. 21	ROSSFORD
Dec. 23	@ Port Clinton
Dec. 28	CARDINAL STRITCH
Jan. 4	SPRINGFIELD
Jan. 7	FOSTORIA
Jan. 11	NORTHWOOD
Jan. 13	@ Otsego
Jan. 18	EASTWOOD
Jan. 22	@ Woodmore
Jan. 25	VAN BUREN
Jan. 27	LAKE
Feb. 3	@ Elmwood
Feb. 10	@ Rossford

GIBSONBURG GIRLS SCHEDULE	
Nov. 24	WOODMORE
Dec. 3	@ Danbury
Dec. 10	TIFFIN CALVERT
Dec. 16	HOPEWELL-LOUDON
Dec. 18	@ Lakota
Dec. 21	NEW RIEGEL
Dec. 23	@ Otsego
Dec. 28	@ Elmwood
Jan. 6	@ Old Fort
Jan. 8	FREMONT ST. JOSEPH
Jan. 11	@ Sandusky St. Mary
Jan. 15	@ Northwood
Jan. 18	DANBURY
Jan. 21	@ Calvert
Jan. 27	@ Hopewell-Loudon
Jan. 29	LAKOTA
Feb. 1	@ New Riegel
Feb. 4	OLD FORT
Feb. 8	@ Fremont St. Joseph
Feb. 11	SANDUSKY ST. MARY
Feb. 12	@ Oak Harbor
Feb. 15	ARCADIA

LAKE GIRLS SCHEDULE	
Nov. 19	EVERGREEN
Nov. 23	SWANTON
Nov. 26	@ Rossford
Dec. 2	FOSTORIA
Dec. 4	WHITMER
Dec. 7	@ Woodmore
Dec. 11	OTSEGO
Dec. 14	GENOA
Dec. 18	@ Eastwood
Dec. 21	@ Elmwood
Dec. 28	@ Delta
Jan. 3	@ Carey
Jan. 6	ROSSFORD
Jan. 11	@ Sylvania Northview
Jan. 13	@ Fostoria
Jan. 18	WOODMORE
Jan. 22	@ Otsego
Jan. 27	@ Genoa
Jan. 29	@ Bowling Green
Feb. 3	EASTWOOD
Feb. 7	BRYAN
Feb. 10	ELMWOOD

NORTHWOOD GIRLS SCHEDULE	
Nov. 23	@ Vanlue
Nov. 30	@ Ottawa Hills
Dec. 3	MAUMEE VALLEY
Dec. 6	HORIZON SCIENCE
Dec. 10	TOLEDO CHRISTIAN
Dec. 11	@ Maumee
Dec. 17	@ Cardinal Stritch
Dec. 22	LAKOTA
Dec. 27	@ Swanton
Dec. 28	@ Swanton
Jan. 3	@ Rossford
Jan. 5	EASTWOOD
Jan. 7	@ Emmanuel Christian
Jan. 8	DANBURY
Jan. 11	@ Genoa
Jan. 13	OTTAWA HILLS
Jan. 20	@ Maumee Valley
Jan. 24	WAITE
Jan. 27	@ Toldeo Christian
Feb. 1	@ Gibsonburg
Feb. 3	CARDINAL STRITCH
Feb. 7	WOODWARD
Feb. 11	@ Emmanuel Christian

OAK HARBOR GIRLS SCHEDULE	
Nov. 23	GENOA
Nov. 30	BOWSHER
Dec. 4	@ Port Clinton
Dec. 9	@ Eastwood
Dec. 11	@ Edison
Dec. 17	@ Willard
Dec. 21	CLAY
Dec. 23	HURON
Dec. 28	@ Tuscarawas Central Catholic
Jan. 4	@ Fostoria
Jan. 7	MARGARETTA
Jan. 11	@ Norwalk
Jan. 13	@ Perkins
Jan. 15	PORT CLINTON
Jan. 18	MANSFIELD SENIOR
Jan. 22	EDISON
Jan. 28	WILLARD
Feb. 1	CLYDE
Feb. 5	@ Huron
Feb. 8	@ Woodmore
Feb. 10	@ Margaretta

WAITE GIRLS SCHEDULE	
Dec. 1	@ Scott
Dec. 8	BOWSHER
Dec. 11	COLUMBUS CRISTO REY
Dec. 13	ROGERS
Dec. 15	WOODWARD
Dec. 18	@ Richmond Heights
Dec. 20	@ Start
Jan. 3	CARDINAL STRITCH
Jan. 5	SCOTT
Jan. 7	@ Detroit Country Day
Jan. 8	COLUMBUS SOUTH
Jan. 12	@ Bowsher
Jan. 15	@ Dayton Thurgood Marshall
Jan. 19	@ Rogers
Jan. 24	@ Northwood
Jan. 26	@ Woodward
Feb. 3	START
Feb. 9	TCAL Final Four @ Scott
Feb. 10	TCAL Final Four @ Scott

WOODMORE GIRLS SCHEDULE	
Nov. 19	PORT CLINTON
Nov. 23	GIBSONBURG
Nov. 26	OTSEGO
Dec. 2	EASTWOOD
Dec. 4	DELTA
Dec. 7	LAKE
Dec. 11	@ Genoa
Dec. 14	@ Elmwood
Dec. 18	ROSSFORD
Dec. 21	@ Fostoria
Dec. 23	@ Liberty-Benton
Dec. 28	@ Lakota
Jan. 7	@ Otsego
Jan. 13	@ Eastwood
Jan. 18	@ Lake
Jan. 22	GENOA
Jan. 24	OTTAWA HILLS
Jan. 27	ELMWOOD
Jan. 29	at Fremont St. Joseph
Feb. 3	at Rossford
Feb. 8	OAK HARBOR
Feb. 10	FOSTORIA



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CARDINAL STRITCH SCHEDULE	
Nov. 26	@ Leipsic
Dec. 4	EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN
Dec. 7	BOWSHER
Dec. 9	TOLEDO CHRISTIAN
Dec. 14	@ Scott
Dec. 18	OTTAWA HILLS
Dec. 21	@ Paulding
Dec. 27	Tinora @ Paulding
Dec. 28	@ Paulding Tournament
Jan. 4	WAITE
Jan. 8	@ Northwood
Jan. 11	EVERGREEN
Jan. 14	MAUMEE VALLEY
Jan. 15	@ Genoa
Jan. 21	@ Emmanuel Christian
Jan. 22	WILLARD
Jan. 28	@ Toledo Christian
Feb. 4	@ Ottawa Hills
Feb. 5	@ Start
Feb. 11	NORTHWOOD
Feb. 15	SWANTON (Senior Night)
Feb. 18	@ Maumee Valley

CLAY BOYS SCHEDULE	
Nov. 24	PERRYSBURG
Nov. 26	@ Evergreen
Nov. 30	@ Sylvania Northview
Dec. 3	CENTRAL CATHOLIC
Dec. 4	@ Mansfield Madison
Dec. 10	FREMONT ROSS
Dec. 14	TOLEDO CHRISTIAN
Dec. 17	@ Lima Senior
Dec. 21	@ Whitmer
Dec. 29	SANDUSKY
Dec. 30	CLAY TOURNAMENT
Jan. 4	@ Findlay
Jan. 7	@ St. Francis
Jan. 15	ST JOHNS
Jan. 14	@ Central Catholic
Jan. 21	@ Fremont Ross
Jan. 25	SWANTON
Jan. 28	LIMA SENIOR
Feb. 1	WHITMER
Feb. 4	FINDLAY
Feb. 11	ST FRANCIS
Feb. 18	@ St John's

EASTWOOD BOYS SCHEDULE	
Dec. 3	@ Woodmore
Dec. 4	@ Oak Harbor
Dec. 10	GENOA
Dec. 11	@ Archbold
Dec. 13	BOWLING GREEN
Dec. 17	@ Rossford
Dec. 23	MAUMEE
Dec. 28	@ Ottawa-Glandorf
Dec. 30	BELLEVUE
Jan. 4	FOSTORIA
Jan. 8	LAKE
Jan. 11	ELMWOOD
Jan. 14	OTSEGO
Jan. 21	@ Elmwood
Jan. 25	WOODMORE
Jan. 28	@ Genoa
Jan. 29	PORT CLINTON
Feb. 1	ROSSFORD
Feb. 4	@ Fostoria
Feb. 8	@ Ottawa Hills
Feb. 11	@ Lake
Feb. 18	@ Otsego

GENOA BOYS SCHEDULE	
Nov. 26	@ Oak Harbor
Nov. 30	@ Fostoria
Dec. 3	OTSEGO
Dec. 10	@ Eastwood
Dec. 17	WOODMORE
Dec. 8	@ Wauseon
Dec. 22	OLD FORT
Dec. 28	@ Port Clinton
Dec. 29	@ Margaretta (Sports Force)
Jan. 4	@ Lake
Jan. 8	ELMWOOD
Jan. 14	ROSSFORD
Jan. 15	CARDINAL STRITCH
Jan. 21	FOSTORIA
Jan. 22	SWANTON
Jan. 25	@ Otsego
Jan. 28	EASTWOOD
Feb. 1	@ Woodmore
Feb. 4	LAKE
Feb. 8	PERKINS
Feb. 11	@ Elmwood
Feb. 18	@ Rossford

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Dec.3	@ Scott
Dec. 4	@ Sylvania Southview
Dec. 7	ROGERS
Dec. 10	BOWSHER
Dec. 21	@ Maumee
Dec. 27	Warrior Classic
Dec. 28	Warrior Classic
Jan. 4	@ Cardinal Stritch
Jan. 6	@ Ottawa Hills
Jan. 7	WOODWARD
Jan. 14	@ Start
Jan. 17	MLK Showcase
Jan. 18	FREMONT ROSS
Jan. 21	SCOTT
Jan. 29	@ Bowsher
Feb. 1	@ Rogers
Feb. 4	@ Woodward
Feb. 8	START

WOODMORE BOYS SCHEDULE	
Nov. 24	@ Gibsonburg
Dec. 3	EASTWOOD
Dec. 8	NORTHWOOD
Dec. 10	LAKE
Dec. 13	@ Otsego
Dec. 14	OAK HARBOR
Dec. 17	@ Genoa
Dec. 29	OLD FORT
Dec. 30	EDISON
Jan. 4	@ Elmwood
Jan. 8	@ Rossford
Jan. 11	@ Port Clinton
Jan. 14	@ Fostoria
Jan. 21	OTSEGO
Jan. 22	@ Fremont St. Joseph
Jan. 25	@ Eastwood
Jan. 28	@ Lake
Feb. 1	GENOA
Feb. 4	ELMWOOD
Feb. 5	@ Lakota
Feb. 11	ROSSFORD
Feb. 18	FOSTORIA





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Lady Flyers say title within reach; boys set higher goals

Lake boys

Coach: Jeff Hoffman, third year, 10-35
Last Year: 6-17 (2-12 NBC)
Key Players: Cam Hoffman, 6-6, Sr., F; Richie Hayward, 6-0, Sr., G; Matt Perry, 6-2, Jr., F; Myles Lowe, 6-2, Jr., F
Preview: Lake boys basketball coach Jeff Hoffman returns for this third year with four lettermen — senior guard Richie Hayward, senior forward Cam Hoffman and junior forwards Matt Perry and Myles Lowe.

Coach Hoffman says this year's team strengths are its defense and overall athleticism, and he is expecting a much-improved season.

Cam Hoffman averaged 10.7 points and 8.2 rebounds in earning honorable mention All-NBC and all-district honors.

The coach says Cam Hoffman is the "center piece of our offense. He rebounds the ball extremely well and plays strong and physical defense." The coach adds that he will be a top scorer again "due to his strong post presence and play."

Hayward contributed 4.3 points and 3.1 assists, and coach Hoffman says he brings "veteran leadership and the ability to facilitate the offense."

"He has the ability to get to the basket and create shots for himself and teammates," coach Hoffman said.

Coach Hoffman adds that Matt Perry will also be to score because of his "ability to create his own shot and get to the rim."

Coach Hoffman says Lake will employ a deliberate offense and "strong" man-to-man defense.

"Richie Hayward and Matt Perry are both good as ball defenders and understand all defensive concepts of man-to-man defense," Hoffman said. "Cam Hoffman understands man-to-man defense and has an ability to rebound.

There are others coming into the mix, like Connor Moore, who has "shown improvement from last year in understanding the game of basketball and his overall athletic make up will help us on both ends of the floor."

You can include Dylan Wiley and Brandon Darr as players expected to contribute.

"Both have put in an extreme amount of work during the off season and will help us both offensively and defensively," coach Hoffman said.

In the NBC, the Lake coach expects his team to finish in the "middle of the pack due to our returning experience and a young core group of promising basketball players."

"Our league is very strong due to the return of many seniors on every team," the

LAKE BOYS ROSTER				
2	Brandon Darr	5'8	So	
4	Richie Hayward	6'0	Sr	
10	Caleb Tobias	6'4	So	
12	David Parsons	5'10	So	
20	Myles Lowe	6'2	Jr	
22	Jace Korakas	5'10	Sr	
24	Chase Osborn	6'0	Jr	
32	Cam Hoffman	6'6	Sr	
40	Conner Moore	6'6	Sr	
42	Colin Haas	5'10	Jr	
44	Matt Perry	6'2	Jr	
50	Dylan Wiley	6'4	So	

Lake girls

Coach: Joe Nowak, sixth year, 78-42
Last Year: 14-13 (4-10 NBC)

Key Players: Hayley St. John, Sr., F; Delani Robinson, Jr., G; Ava Ayers, Jr., G; Brigid Enright, Jr., F

Preview: Lake coach Joe Nowak enters his seventh season hoping to bring back the Northern Buckeye Conference trophy after a three-year absence. The Flyers won the NBC title in 2018-19 and were district champs in 2019-20. Last year, Lake finished 12-9, but Nowak has seven letter winners returning.

"With returning as many players as we do this year, and the capabilities of those players along with the players new to the varsity level, one of our strengths will likely be the ability to play 10 to 12 girls on any given night," Nowak said.

"Our guard play will likely be something we look on to get us going and carry us on some nights, but with the lineups we could potentially play with 10 to 12 girls, there are plenty of opportunities that

should lead to scoring balance and the ability to really get after it."

The Flyers will be led by senior forward Brigid Enright and senior guards Delani Robinson and Ava Ayers. Robinson was a first team All-NBC and All-District 7 selection last season, Ayers was second team All-NBC and honorable mention District 7, and Enright and returning senior guard Kelsie Gladioux were HM All-NBC. Nowak says Robinson has "the desire and capability to play at the next level" after she finishes her career at Lake.

Enright has committed to play both soccer and basketball at Heidelberg. Enright averaged 5.8 points, six rebounds, one assist and two steals, Robinson averaged 15.6 points, 3.6 rebounds, 1.5 assists and 2.2 steals and

Ayers put up 7.5 points, 4.5 rebounds, four assists and 1.7 steals a year ago.

"Delani Robinson and Ava Ayers are both heading into their third year as varsity players, so we will look to lean on them to carry much of the on-the-ball responsibilities, but we have a slew of other upper and lower classmen that we will look to make contributions," Nowak said.

"Being our top returning scorers, Delani Robinson and Ava Ayers, should provide a nice scoring foundation, but we will have several players who are more than capable of providing a scoring boost for us, which is a huge plus for us," Nowak continued.

"Brigid Enright is also coming into her third year as a varsity player, so like Delani and Ava, we will look to her to provide a solid foundation for us. But, like our guards, we have a couple other players who are more than capable of contributing.

"We have a few different players who will likely be seeing their first season of consistent minutes at the varsity level. Taryn DeWese came on strong for us in the second half of the season last year. If you pair that with other sophomores Vayda Delventhal and Sydney Stanley and juniors Jessie Materni and Mary Enright we could potentially have a lot of variety in our lineups. Even players like Abbie Rymers, who got consistent time in the past, are capable of providing support in a variety of ways,"



Lake 5-foot-10 high scorng wing Delani Robinson. (Press file photo by Lee Welch/FamilyPhotoGroup.oom)

LAKE GIRLS ROSTER				
1	Sydney Stanley	5'5	So	
2	Ava Ayers	5'10	Sr	
3	Jessie Materni	5'9	Jr	
4	Vayda Delventhal	5'5	So	
11	Kelsie Gladioux	5'5	Sr	
12	Taryn DeWese	6'0	So	
14	Brigid Enright	5'11	Sr	
20	Delani Robinson	5'10	Sr	
22	Mary Enright	5'9	Jr	
23	Elise Staczek	5'4	Jr	
24	Abbie Rymers	5'8	Sr	
30	Kyleigh Christ	5'5	So	

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Northwood cagers feeling like they are at a turning point

Northwood boys

Coach: Brandon Thomas, third year, 6-26.
Last year: 0-13 (0-7 TAAC)
Key players: Carson Gutekunst, 6-2, Sr., G/F; Kaden Cluckey, 5-11, So., G; Ethan Clair, 5-8, So., G; Adam Schroeder, 6-5, So., C/F
Preview: Thomas enters his third season trying to help his team recover from a winless season one year ago.

He has six returning lettermen ready to help the Rangers get back on track, including senior guard/forward Carson Gutekunst (10 pts., 4 reb., 2 asst., 1 stl.) and sophomore guard Adam Schroeder (6 pts., 11 reb., 3 blocks).

In addition, he has shooting skills returning in Kaden Cluckey and Ethan Clair, both sophomore guards. Of the four key players, only Gutekunst is a senior, but he has added to his game, too. “Carson Gutekunst has put work in over the summer improving his offensive skill and he also is great on defense,” Thomas said.

When you look at a guy like Schroeder getting double digit rebounds, there is a reason for that — he is not only 6-foot-5, but he is aggressive and finds a way to the ball.

“Adam Schroeder is a great rebounder and shot blocker who can also shoot the ball from three pretty well,” Thomas said. “Adam Schroeder is a great shot blocker as a sophomore and the sky is the limit for this kid.

“Kaden Cluckey is a three-level scorer with great handle of the ball and will be the engine to our offense,” Thomas said. Thomas says the Rangers will run a “deliberate offense and focus on defense.” “We are very young, and our kids are still learning the game,” Thomas said.

Thomas does have two others who can step up in Thomas McCrory and Jarel Dixon. “Thomas McCrory is our most improved returner he has been putting a lot of offseason work in,” Thomas said. “Jarel Dixon is a sleeper for us. Being a primarily defensive player, he is improving on of-

fense every day for us.” The biggest issue is that the Rangers, while a perennial power in Toledo Area Athletic Conference football, find themselves in one of the best small school basketball leagues in Northwest Ohio, making championships hard to come by. “The TAAC is the toughest small school in the Toledo area in my opinion with amazing coaches,” Thomas said.

NORTHWOOD BOYS ROSTER					
0	Carson Gutekunst	6'2	180	Sr	G
30	Russell Grombach	5'11	220	Sr	C/F
23	Josh Laesch	6'3	205	Sr	C/F
12	Marcos Guillen	5'6	135	Sr	G
1	Jarel Dixon	5'8	190	Jr	G
10	Mason Smith	6'2	160	Jr	G/F
11	AJ Cruz	5'6	130	Jr	G
2	Kaden Cluckey	5'11	155	So	G
4	Thomas McCrory	5'9	155	So	G
3	Ethan Clair	5'8	110	So	G
13	Adam Schroeder	6'5	160	So	C/F
5	Brandon Clair	6'1	135	Fr	G/F

Northwood girls

Coach: Andrew Dickey, fourth year, 23-35
Last year: 5-9 (2-2 TAAC)
Key players: Randi Wilson, 5-11, Sr., G/F; Meiah Smith, 5-6, Sr., G; Bethany Gillespie, 5-8, Sr., F; Zoe Turner, 5-7, Jr., F; Natalie Thompson, 5-7, So, Autumn Schroeder, 5-8, So.
Preview: Coach Dickey is proud to proclaim that his Rangers “made it through (last year’s) Covid season.”

The Rangers won five games in a shortened season, but now he has 10 letter winners returning to help Northwood have an even better season. Senior forward Randi Wilson was second team All-TAAC and honorable mention All-District 7 after garnering eight points, 6.7 rebounds, and leading the team in steals. Thomas says Wilson has a couple of colleges interested in her, including Heidelberg and Wellington. “Wilson has been a four-year varsity player and this year is moving out to play guard as well as forward when needed. Being a great ball handler and scorer for this team, she will definitely shine as she takes on this new role,” Dickey said.

Junior forward Zoe Turner was HM All-TAAC after grabbing 5.3 rebounds and sophomore Autumn Schroeder scored 5.2 points and led the team in assists. “Turner is another Swiss army player. Turner has the ball skills and shooting ability of a guard but can be tough as nails under the basket. This is why she’s been a three-year starter,” Dickey said.

Natalie Thompson returns after starting in every game and leading the team in minutes and quarters played last year, playing a role in every facet of the game. “Thompson is our little, no pun intended, player that could. She is probably one of our best on ball defenders and ball handlers. She also has a never give up or stop attitude that we love as coaches,” Dickey said. Schroeder, Wilson and Meiah Smith will run the backcourt.

“Wilson and Schroeder have the potential to be knock down shooters for us. As well as girls who can beat you off the dribble and score,” Dickey said. “Thompson and Schroeder have a good feel of the court and I think will be key in getting the ball to our scorers. Schroeder unfortunately had a stress fracture at the start of last season that delayed her from being able to start right away. However, she quickly developed into a key player coming off the bench and several times as a starter. She was the team’s third highest scorer, lead in assists and second in steals as a freshman,” Thomas continued.

“Autumn Schroeder really wants to be the best Northwood player and after losing part of the season from an injury last year she wants to come and ball out this year. “Smith had the best offseason of all of our players leading our team to several victories during the Rossford summer league. She showed incredible leadership and great ball handling skills against each team we faced. She has worked on her shooting this summer and we’re hoping to get her loose on the perimeter. “(Sophomore) Lexi Haas and (junior) Regan Grant, we’ve seen a lot from these two and we’re excited to see what these two have to offer up for this season offensively and defensively.”



Emily Bowen. (Press photo by Don Thompson/Facebook.com/DNRsport)

NORTHWOOD GIRLS ROSTER			
4	Emily Bowen	5'8	Senior
15	Randi Wilson	5'11	Senior
23	Meiah Smith	5'6	Senior
24	Bethany Gillespie	5'8	Senior
25	Zoe Turner	5'7	Junior
31	Mikayla Hanely	5'9	Junior
5	Regan Grant	5'5	Junior
21	EB Wauford	5'9	Junior
21	Natalie Thompson	5'7	Sophomore
2	Autumn Schroeder	5'8	Sophomore
3	Lexi Haas	5'5	Sophomore
22	Cassidy Genson	5'6	Sophomore
33	Bree Bolden	5'7	Sophomore

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Rockets must replace seniors; Steinbrick twins to lead girls

Oak Harbor boys

Coach: Eric Sweet, 11th year, 102-127
Last Year: 12-9 (7-3 SBC Bay)
Key Players: T.J. Hallett, Sr., 6-1, G/W; Kyle Glaser, Sr., 6-5, P; Isaac McHale, Jr., 6-2, P; Zach Clune, Jr., 6-4, P
Preview: Eleven years ago, Oak Harbor coach Eric Sweet took over a program that was struggling.

The Rockets had some tough years early in his tenure, but recently, they’ve taken off. The last four seasons have seen Oak Harbor win more than two-thirds of its games, going 62-27 (.697) overall and 29-15 in the Sandusky Bay Conference Bay Division. The run includes a league championship and a sectional title.

But the Rockets must replace five key seniors who meant a great deal to the program and helped the team win 12 games last season and a league title the year before.

Leading the way is T.J. Hallett, a 6-1 senior guard/wing who earned third team honors on the Alan Miller Jewelers All-Press team. He averaged 11.7 points and three rebounds.

Hallett will be expected to fill part of the void left by Blake Booker, who averaged 19.0 points and 5.3 rebounds, good enough to earn him first-team honors All-Press.

“T.J. is back,” said Sweet. “If he’s able to shoot the ball well and score for us, we’ll be better.”

A number of other guards are fighting to earn time alongside Hallett in the backcourt. There are three freshmen that will see time at point guard and wing — Jaxson Overmyer (5-6), Michael LaLonde (5-6) and Ethan Stokes (6-2).

“It’s about getting them comfortable with the game speed,” said Sweet. “Ethan Stokes is a slasher, scorer for us, more of a wing who will set and catch the ball. On top of them, there are guards who are working and competing and trying to get after some minutes.”

Hayden Hower, a 5-11 senior wing will battle for playing time, as will three juniors — Hayden Craig (5-10 wing), Judson Overmyer (5-8 guard), Danny Tack (6-0 wing) — and sophomore Jaqui Hayward, a 5-8 guard.

If there’s one thing Oak Harbor has this year, it’s size.

Isaac McHale is a 6-2 junior post who saw some time last year. Kyle Glaser is a 6-5 senior post, as is Keegan Durdel, and Zach Clune is a 6-4 junior who will see time on the block.

OAK HARBOR BOYS ROSTER				
0	Michael LaLonde III	5'6	Fr	Guard
1	Hayden Craig	5'10	Jr	Wing
2	Kyle Glaser	6'5	Sr	Forward
3	Hayden Hower	5'11	Sr	Wing
4	Keegan Durdel	6'5	Sr	Forward
5	Ethan Stokes	6'2	Fr	Wing
11	Jaxson Overmyer	5'6	Fr	G/W
12	TJ Hallett	6'2	Sr	W/G
14	Judson Overmyer	5'8	Jr	Guard
21	Jaqui Hayward	5'8	So	G/W
23	Daniel Tack III	6'0	Jr	Wing
24	Isaac McHale	6'2	Jr	Forward
33	Zack Clune	6'3	Jr	Forward

Oak Harbor girls

Coach: Adam Steinbrick, second year, 5-16
Last Year: 5-16 (2-8 SBC Bay)
Key Players: Ryann Steinbrick, Sr., 5-10, G/W; Riley Steinbrick, Sr., 5-9, PG; Holly Robinson, So, 5-8, G; Katie May, Sr., 5-9, W/P; Nora Schmidt, So, 5-7, P; Emma Hand, Jr., 5-9, W/P
Preview: Ryann and Riley Steinbrick are primed for big senior seasons and are hoping to help Oak Harbor get back to its winning ways. The 5-10 Ryann Steinbrick, who played last season after recovering from a torn ACL she sustained as a sophomore, averaged 12.5 points and 5.1 rebounds last year. Riley Steinbrick, who is 5-9, will be the point guard, and 5-8 sophomore Hollie

Robinson is the third guard. Katie May, a 5-9 senior, is a wing/post. Sophomore Nora Schmidt (5-7) is currently battling it out with 5-9 junior Emma Hand for the final starting spot in the post. The Steinbrick twins and May are returning starters.

“Whoever doesn’t start will get a lot of playing time,” said Oak Harbor coach Adam Steinbrick, “and we’re going to develop our younger girls.”

Those post players must help replace the production lost from the graduation of Auna Tack, who averaged 12.1 points and 9.3 rebounds last year.

“That’s one of the things we have to replace,” said Steinbrick, who was the JV coach under Tom Kontak before taking over last season. “Auna was a tremendous rebounder for us. We’ve got to fill that void, it’s one of the things we stress, and that’s going to be a key. We’ve got to be physical and be able to rebound. We’re not overly blessed with size, but we’re fast and athletic; we’ve got to make up for it with quickness and effort. We’re going to look to spread the floor and try to put other teams in a situation where we like to isolate some players and take advantage of our scorers. We’re going to give several different looks and look to attack.”

Steinbrick likes his team’s athleticism and it can be used to wreak havoc on the defensive end.

“Like any great team, it starts with ball pressure and being able to lock down your opponents. We’re trying to do that and get the girls in shape,” he said. “Quite a few of our girls, because of the tournament run in soccer and volleyball, were short some practices, but they’ve picked it up well and are working extremely hard.

“I like our team camaraderie. Some girls played for me as a JV coach, so some of them have been with me for 3 years. It’s about them understanding the terminology after being with me (and) everyone being on the same page. It shows in practices and scrimmages.

OAK HARBOR GIRLS ROSTER				
2	Hollie Robinson	5'7	So	Guard
5	Katie May	5'9	Sr	Post
11	Emma Hand	5'9	Jr	Post
20	Nora Schmidt	5'8	So	Wing
22	Jaclyn Croy	5'7	Jr	Post
23	Ryann Steinbrick	5'10	Sr	Wing
32	Riley Steinbrick	5'9	Sr	Guard
33	Megan Rife	5'7	So	Post

Waite guards expect to run; Waite girls inexperienced

Waite boys

Coach: Darren White-Owens, fourth year, 8-45
Last year: 3-10 (3-7 TCL)
Key players: J.T. Cope, Sr., F; Thomas Toyer, So., F; Taveon Brandon, Jr., G; Taylor Jones, Jr., G; Maion Stephens, Jr., G; Daijon Jones, Jr., F; Vantonio Cummings, So., G; Ta’Veon Cummings, Sr., F
Preview: Coach White-Owens only has three players, J.T. Cope, Thomas Toyer, and Taveon Brandon, returning. Everyone else is brand new.

That is not such a bad thing. “That will be a really good thing because I have six transfers that came in that will be able to play right away,” White-Owens said.

As a result, White-Owens believes the Indians have a shot at success in the Toledo City League.

“I think we’ll fit in hopefully in the top two. I have a lot of faith in the guys we brought in,” White-Owens said.

“This is probably our best team that we’ve had in four years. We are going to pick up the pace on a lot of people because a lot of people are not going to be as deep at guards as we are. It’s just awesome what we can do. We’ll be pressing to the final horn.

“We’ll do a lot of man-to-man and pressing, and we’ve got guys who can step in and play who can face guys and not really have a drop off.

“We’re going to do all up-tempo. We are going to be running until our wheels fall off. We’ve got nine guards we can put on the team, and we are going to be running,” White-Owens continued. “Just defensively, we are going to be one of the better teams in the area because of our speed and shooting ability.”

Despite the transfers, Cope will still be the team leader.

“JT Cope is going to be our leader in the middle, the anchor in our defense. Basically, he’ll take all the charges and get all the hustle plays,” White-Owens said.

Cope will be flanked by Toyer and Brandon, who saw action last year as a freshman and sophomore.

“Taveon Brandon and his brother Thomas Toyer, are actually two of our top defensive minded players. They are like wrecking balls and are actually football players, so we don’t mind when they are aggressive,” White-Owens said. “They are definitely going to bring that toughness, that edge to the defensive side of the ball.” The first set of transfers includes junior guard Taylor Jones, who arrived at Waite from St. Francis, and junior guard Maion Stephens arrived from Cardinal Stritch.

WAITE BOYS ROSTER		
Jr	Rudy Walker	Forward
Sr	JT Cope	Forward
So	Thomas Toyer	Forward
Jr	Taylor Jones	Guard
Jr	Daijon Jones	Forward
Jr	Maion Stephens	Guard
Jr	Taveon Brandon	Guard
So	Vantonio Cummings	Guard
Sr	Jordan Barrett	Guard
Sr	Ta’Veon Cummings	Forward
Sr	Isaiah Eckenrode	Guard

“Taylor is one of the better backcourt players. Maion Stephens is really good. He can play. Then we have a kid in the middle whose name is Daijon Jones — he’s a 6-4 guard and brings a lot to the table,” White-Owens said.

Two more transfers, sophomore guard Vantonio Cummings and senior forward Ta’Veon Cummings arrived from Woodward.

“We have a set of brothers (Cummings brothers) who transferred from Woodward who actually did not play last year, but they are probably both going to step in and be starters right away. They can flat out play,” White-Owens said.

Waite girls

Coach: Manny May, 24th year, 185-265
Last year: 0-5 (0-4 TCL)
Key players: Jerzie Malloy, 5-7, Jr., G; Brianna Guajardo, 5-9, So., Post
Preview: After an extremely shortened Covid season in which Waite got to play only five games, losing them all, veteran coach Manny May is preparing for a full season for the first time in two years.

He has two returning letter winners, both starters last year, returning, and two juniors and four sophomores who will contribute.

Junior guard Jerzie Malloy was an Alan Miller Jewelers honorable mention All-Press selection last year after averaging 11 points, four assists and three steals. Sophomore post Brianna Guajardo, as a freshman, contributed four points and eight rebounds.

“We are very young. We will lean on the leadership of Malloy early till we get some player back to go with her,” May said.

“We must control the tempo of the game to be effective. Also, Amiya Carter, a freshman, will help Malloy in the backcourt.”

May says perimeter shooting and rebounding will continue to be a team strength, but the team will have to learn to handle defensive pressure. He expects Rogers to continue their dominance of league play and hopes his team avoid finishing in the cellar.

Because of last year’s shortened season, 5-foot-8 wing Kerena Merriweather and the previous season’s top scorer, Brynne Teal, did not get full seasons in their senior year. Merriweather, who played a huge role in rounding out the backcourt with Malloy, averaged five points, two rebounds and one steal as a sophomore.

May’s Indians are still a long way from his 2010 team that qualified for the Division I state final but he remains committed to the program.

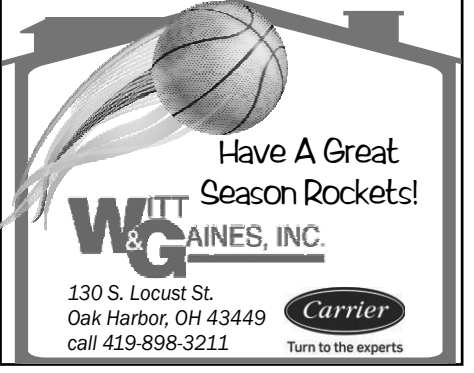
WAITE GIRLS ROSTER			
1	Mia Barrera	5'5	So Guard
2	Jerzie Malloy	5'6	Jr Guard
3	Amiya Carter	5'7	Fr Guard
4	Helen Stewart	5'7	Fr Guard
5	Tyniyah Thomas	5'6	So Guard
10	Elana Neal	5'7	Jr Wing
20	Breonna Gonzalez	5'6	So Guard
22	Juleya Smith	6'2	So Forward
23	Brianna Guajardo	5'9	So Forward
24	J'lyn Drouillard	5'8	So Forward
42	Kimonie Edwards	5'7	So Wing
44	Marlaysia Tuggle	5'9	Jr Post

Good Luck, Rockets!



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Woodmore boys inexperienced; girls must replace seniors

Woodmore boys

Coach: Aaron Clouse, seventh year, 68-95
Last Year: 13-10 (8-6 NBC)
Key Players: Aaron Miller, Sr., 6-2, G; Bryce Sandwisch, Sr., 5-11, F; Duane Perkins, Sr., 5-9, G/F
Preview: Woodmore is coming off a good season, one that saw it win 13 games and finish 8-6 in the Northern Buckeye Conference.

But the Wildcats graduated a bevy of players and return just one letter winner in Aaron Miller.

One of the key losses was Hunter Allen, who averaged 16.2 points and 9.8 rebounds in the post.



“We definitely are low in numbers, it’s the lowest numbers we’ve had in my eight years (coaching the Wildcats),” said Woodmore coach Aaron Clouse. “We don’t have the amount of kids out that we’ve had in previous years.”

Miller is a 6-2 senior guard who averaged 9.3 points last season.

“He’s the only player back that has experience, the rest are JV guys. He was a starter last year and was honorable mention in the NBC,” said Clouse. “He will be a three-year starter for us. We’re going to rely on him for his experience and leadership.”

There are two other seniors on the team in 5-11 forward Bryce Sandwisch and 5-9 guard/forward Duane Perkins.

A number of other players will likely see action such as Jack Everett (5-11 guard), Jon Everett (5-11 guard), Liam McCarthy (5-9 forward), Peyton Sorg (6-0 forward) and Brady Thatcher, a freshman.

“We are definitely inexperienced, with only Miller coming back. The jump from JV to varsity is a big one,” said Clouse.

“A lot of teaching early, trying to get them in the right spot and what we’re trying to do. It’s going to be a slow process, we’ll have to be patient. I definitely think we’ll be better in the second half, it’s going to take time.”

“The kids that we have, even though they haven’t had experience, are working

extremely hard. They’ve been very coachable, the practices have been very productive, and our kids are working hard. We couldn’t ask for anything more effort-wise at practice.”

Offensively, the Wildcats will employ a dribble-drive offense that attacks the basket and gives its players a lot of freedom.

On defense, Clouse might have to employ a zone more than he has in the past.

“We’re going to have to be more flexible than we want to be,” said Clouse. “Miller is our tallest kid at 6-2 or 6-3. We have to keep teams off balance and mix it up.”

As usual, the NBC should be very competitive.

“The league is going to be very good in the top half,” Clouse said. “Rossford and Eastwood are going to have really good teams. Elmwood has got some good players, and they’re so physical and tough. They’re going to be good, too.”

WOODMORE BOYS ROSTER			
3	Aaron Miller	6’2	Sr Guard
4	Duane Perkins	5’10	Sr G/F
11	Jack Everett	6’0	Jr Guard
12	Peyton Sorg	6’1	Sr Forward
20	Brady Thatcher	5’10	Fr Guard
22	Liam McCarthy	5’11	Jr Forward
24	Jon Everett	5’11	Jr Guard
32	Bryce Sandwisch	6’1	Sr Forward

Woodmore girls

Coach: Kyle Clair, 14th year, 169-132
Last Year: 23-3 (12-2 NBC)
Key Players: Sophie Blausey, Sr., 5-8, W/P; Macey Bauder, Jr., 5-4, PG; Alayna Hahn, Jr., 5-5, G; Jordan Beam, Jr., 5-8, G/W; Camryn Ivy, Sr., 6-1, P
Preview: Woodmore had a great run over the last three years. The senior class, which was led by All-Press Player of the Year Brooke Allen, won 57 games over the last three seasons, claimed the first league title for the program in 24 years and advanced to the district finals twice.

Allen, who is the school’s all-time leader in points and rebounds, is now playing at Ohio Northern University. She was joined by three fellow seniors last year in Ava Beam, Greta Bauder and Sierra Cantley.

Sophie Blausey, a 5-8 senior wing/post, is one of the top players back along

with 5-5 junior point guard Macey Bauder. Last season, Blausey averaged 8.2 points and 3.9 rebounds while Bauder put up 7.2 points and 5.2 assists.

They’ll be joined in the starting lineup by 5-6 junior guard Alayna Hahn, 5-8 wing/guard Jordan Beam and 6-1 senior post Camryn Ivy.

“Macey handles the ball 60-70% of the time. We’re working with our guards and their perimeter game, their shooting,” said Woodmore coach Kyle Clair. “Sophie has done really well so far. She’s put us on her back a few times (in scrimmages). She’s been scoring pretty well and rebounding it pretty well. Camryn has had some good games and looked strong in practices.”

Five reserves are currently battling it out to see who will get consistent playing time. There’s Autumn Bowen, a 5-6 senior post, 5-7 senior wing/guard Sidney Wank, 5-9 junior wing Olivia Vogelpohl, 5-5 junior guard Paige Helmke and 6-2 junior post Mackenzie Krukemyer.



“Our bench, our rotation and our depth are developing,” said Clair. “I’m expecting big things from Alayna Hahn, she has a ton of promise. Sidney Wank coming out as a senior, I think she can help us. Jordan Beam is a first-year varsity starter and Mackenzie Krukemyer is 6-1, we expect her to give us something off the bench. I’m pleased. It took a little bit for some kids to get in because of fall sports. Once we got everyone in, I like where we are, we’ve still got to improve.”

A strong defense has been vital to the success of the program.

“We’re still predominately man-to-man. We do that really well. Macey, Alayna and Jordan put pressure on the ball handlers,” Clair said. “We’re hoping to extend (our defense) a bit, play a little more press; man-to-man is our default, that’s what we’ll stick with.”

Clair sees the Northern Buckeye Conference as one of the best.

“It will be competitive, just like it’s been the last 2-3 years,” he said. “Everyone is optimistic. If you’re not ready every night, it could go either way. I think it will be highly competitive again.”



Woodmore returning guard Macey Bauder. (Press file photo by Doug Hines)

WOODMORE GIRLS ROSTER			
1	Macey Bauder	5’4	Jr Guard
2	Sidney Wank	5’9	Sr Guard
4	Jordan Beam	5’8	Jr Guard
11	Paige Helmke	5’4	Jr Guard
22	Olivia Vogelpohl	5’9	Jr F/P
24	Sophie Blausey	5’9	Sr Guard
25	Alayna Hahn	5’6	Jr Guard
34	Camryn Ivy	6’1	Sr Post
40	Mackenzie Krukemyer	6’2	Jr Post
42	Autumn Bowen	5’6	Sr Post

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