

Whippets Aim for Flexibility on the Court

The Ellington Whippets entered the Arcadia Valley Thanksgiving Tournament as the second seed. The team is talented and should be fun to watch.

Head Coach Jeremy Peterson is beginning his 16th season and his fourth year at Ellington High School. He will be joined on the bench by assistant coaches James Fox and Kevin Konkright.

Ellington lost one senior from last year's team. Nine of its players have varsity experience. The team's playing style will be similar to last season's. "I expect us to be pretty similar to last year with the exception of more experience and more skill," Peterson said.

Last season, the Whippets finished fifth in the AV Tournament, second in the BRL Tournament, third in the BSC Tournament, and lost by four points in the district semifinals to Thayer. Three players brought home honors. Will Copeland was named honorable mention BRL and first team BSC All Conference. Kyle Konkright was named first team BRL and honorable mention BSC All Conference. Brycen King was first team BRL and first team BSC All Conference.

"Our JV team should be pretty salty. It will be led by three sophomores, Trevor Copeland, Carson McNail, and Carson Anderson," Peterson said. "Filling out the roster is freshman Tyler Hackworth, Holden Roderman, Braxton Massie, Landon Whitehead, and Josh Buford.

Ellington's team philosophy



Members of the Ellington Whippets basketball team are: front, Blake Tucker, Manager; seated, Caleb Whitehead, Carson McNail, Kyle Konkright, Trevor Copeland; back, Rylee Hunter, Carsen Anderson, Will Copeland, Brycen King, and Austin Grimes.

will be, "Play hard, Play Smart, and Play together. Be sound in the fundamentals of the game. Pay attention to detail. Control the controllables."

Ellington's strengths this season will be the team's guard

play and the ability of everyone that is put into the game can handle and shoot the ball. Depth early on in the season will be a weakness for the team.

Ellington expects to be competitive in both conferences. In

the Black River League, Peterson believes his team has a chance of being up near the top. Whoever wins the conference will have to go through South Iron. In the BSC, Eminence is returning all but two or three of

their state championship team, so they will be the team to beat.

"With everyone having varsity experience, we just need each of them to contribute a little bit more than last (year), Peterson said. "We have the

guard play to control the tempo of a game whether we want to play fast or more controlled. Our defense and depth will play a huge factor in being able to do that."

Ellington's starting five will See Ellington, Page C2

Whippets Aim for Flexibility on the Court

The Ellington Lady Whippets will be one of the improved teams in the region. The team is composed of a group of very talented young women.

Paula King will be coaching the team. She will be joined on the bench by Bobbie Konkright.

"So far, this team is showing toughness, grit and determination," King said. "Hopefully, they can continue it and build on it through the season."

"This year's team is hoping to be much improved from last year's team. They worked very hard over the summer and are excited to get the season started.

Coach King has not determined the starters at this time. She said all of her players are capable of contributing to this year's team.

Gracie Price is a 6'2" junior. She moved back to Ellington after being gone for two years. "We are going to be looking to her to be a huge presence in rebounding and scoring. We will also expect her to defend in the paint."

Hannah Fitzgerald is a junior. Last season, she was named Black River League All-Conference. "Hannah played a huge role on last year's team," King said. "She is the team's top returning scorer and led the team in steals last year."

Kyra Moyers is a junior. Coach King described her as a hard worker who led the team in rebounding last year. "Her hard work in practice becomes contagious to the other players. We will be looking for her to give our team that spark," King said.

Morgan Rains is a junior. This is her first year of playing high school basketball. Coach



Members of the Ellington Lady Whippets basketball team are: seated Laura Gore, Morgan Rains, Hannah Fitzgerald, Gretchen Hackworth; back, Haley Piatt, Tyler Konkright, Gracie Price, Abbi Harper, and Kyra Moyers.

King said Rain is working hard in practice everyday and has a great attitude.

Haley Piatt is a senior. She is the only senior on the team. It is her first year of high school basketball. She is a hard worker and eager to do what is asked of her, King said.

Tyler Konkright is a freshman. See Lady Whippets, Page C2

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Good Luck Whippets!