

Search for a scoring threat continues for Lyons boys squad

By Mike Courson
Last winter, Lyons Coach Brian Friess entered the season searching for a scorer. He found one in the way of then-senior Jesse Hursey, who nearly averaged a double-double a night in the tough Central Kansas League. With three of his top scorers from last year gone, Friess will again be looking to find someone capable of putting up points in the 2016-17 season.

"We will struggle to find a true scorer," Friess said, "but our kids will play hard and get better."

In recent years, the Lions have been a tough team to gauge. Lyons won eight games two years ago, and posted a meager 5-16 record last season, but the Lions tend to slow teams down and rarely get blown out. Last year, the team started out at 3-7 with six of the seven losses coming against

high-quality opponents in Sterling, Larned, and Hillsboro. Half of the 16 losses on the season were by 12 points or fewer.

Hursey proved to be a force at 13.6 points and 8.9 rebounds a night. He scored 30 and 16 points in a pair of games against Sterling, and grabbed 14 rebounds in both games. His efforts earned him second-team All-CKL honors.

Friess will also be without Osmar Rivera, who made some clutch baskets and averaged 6.5 points a night. Also gone is Bryan Rascon, who averaged 6.2 points a game. An unexpected absence will be that of Wisses Landeros, who was expected to play point guard this season but will miss with an injury.

But Lyons will have back three varsity players, including a pair of starters. Senior Tyler Edwards (6-1) has seen



2016-17 Lyons basketball team, front row from left: Alejandro Pena, Aaron Gomez, John Villanueva, Gage Reid, Ethan Saenz, Brandon Ortiz, Brayden Funderberger, Dakota Procopio, Jonathan Gomez, and Terek Smith. Back row: Payten Staples, Ismael Reyes, Edy Burrola, Jaredt Gonzalez, Carlos Valerio, Seth Clayton, Christian Hoffman, Will Pray, Connor Minix, Elijah Payne, Johnathan Smith, and David Boyd. Standing at right: Nathan Robl, Tyler Edwards, and Riley Kirkhart.

(photo by Vickie Folck)

plenty of varsity minutes over the past two seasons. Last year, he averaged 7.6 points and 4.6 rebounds a night.

Junior Terek Smith (6-1) stepped into a varsity role last season, averaging 4.6 points and

2.3 rebounds a night. Smith also increased his varsity presence on the football field last fall as he moved into the quarterback spot. Senior Riley Kirkhart (6-1) saw varsity action in virtually every game

last season but averaged less than a point a night. Junior Jonathan Gomez (6-1) saw minimal varsity action last year as a sophomore but will have an increased role this winter.

Lyons will see a little different schedule this season. The first part of the schedule remains the same with games against Ellsworth and Larned, and a series of games at the Moundridge Tournament. Missing from the list is Sterling, which moved to the Heart of America League. The Lions could still see their rivals at the Sterling Invitational in January. With construction in Larned, Lyons will host the Indians twice this year, and new on the schedule is Class 2A Ellinwood, a team that made major strides last year.

With their style of play, the Lyons can never be counted out of anything. That's what Friess is looking forward to most this season: working with his kids and watching them improve over the course of the season.



Lyons High Cheer: from left: Odalis Ordaz, Kelly Talamantes, McKayla Vincent, Tayla Link, Zury Barroteran, Elizabeth Schaefer, Anna Stansbury, and Jorge Rincon.

(photo by Vickie Folck)

Lyons basketball 2016-17

Dec. 2	ELLSWORTH
Dec. 6-9	@Moundridge Tourn
Dec. 13	LARNED
Dec. 16	@Haven
Jan. 3	HOISINGTON
Jan. 6	@Hesston
Jan. 13	@Nickerson
Jan. 16-20	@Sterling Tourn
Jan. 27	ELLINWOOD
Jan. 31	HALSTEAD
Feb. 3	@Kingman
Feb. 7	@Hillsboro
Feb. 10	HAVEN
Feb. 14	@Smoky Valley
Feb. 17	PRATT
Feb. 21	LARNED
2/28 - 3/3	Sub-state
March 6-11	State

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