

# Lady Indians getting run at season with new coach, new drive

**By MIKE GILMORE**  
 Larned senior Allyson Aldrich was doing a hard thing this past week as the Lady Indians were practicing in the LHS gym.

Watching.  
 The varsity all-league shooting guard's senior winter sports season ended before it began, during a volleyball dual right before the sub-state tournament in Pratt. The verdict: torn ACL with some meniscus damage to her left knee and surgery.

"I guess I'm done," Aldrich said from the bench, her braced leg stretched out in front of her. "No basketball, no softball either."

The Lady Indians were looking forward to Aldrich's shooting skills come winter, but are making adjustments. Adjustments to new players in new roles, new coach, new look, new drive.

First-year coach Ashley Crosby, elevated from second chair from last season, had the Lady Indians practicing a pick-and-roll drill on-court last week, part of the new scheme.

The Lady Indians are running with it. They've been doing a lot of it in practice -- running in warmups, running between drills, running stairs when not scrimmaging on the court and running after missed free throws. Coach Crosby wants to run, and that begins with man-to-man



defense.  
 "I want to make sure that we are strong defensively and create some steals," Crosby said, after a particularly defensive-minded practice on Monday that included some one-on-one drills on taking a charge. "That's a quick way to make two points. That is definitely a goal for me every day in practice."  
 "Defensively, I want to come out and stay man-to-man as long as I possibly can," Crosby noted. "I want to see what we can do."  
 The Lady Indians struggled against high-powered offenses last season, especially at sub-state, where they were matched up against top-seeded Sterling in their Lakin Class 3A regional. Sterling advanced 53-21 past the Lady Indians, through sub-state and then on to state, where they advanced to the semifinals.

The Lady Black Bears, who have moved to a different league slate

this season, and the Lady Indians, who will be playing in Class 4A Division II in the early spring, aren't on Crosby's mind this year.

But the Pratt Lady Greenbacks -- and the rest of the CKL --, however, are.

The Lady Indians fell to Pratt 56-31 to begin last season, and 55-31 in February.

"I think we're going to match up with them," said Crosby, whose team entertains the Lady Greenbacks tonight in their season opener.

"We can't let them control the tempo of the game. We have to control ourselves and run our game."

Next, it's the girls' bracket of the 10th annual Keady tournament, which the Lady Indians haven't won in a while. They open next Monday against Hoisington, which is dealing with the loss of shooting guard Rylie Koester, who led the Lady Cards to last



2016-17 Larned Lady Indians

year's title.  
 "We're doing things a step at a time," Crosby said. "We're having to start low and build up. It's a different dynamic, something that we're all getting through. I'm not going to change who I am, who I was as an assistant, to who I am as a head coach. Eventually, on offense, I want to make sure that we are watching our screens, watching the cuts -- paying attention to everybody on the floor. We're working on talking more, more communication, all of that."

Senior all-CKLs Haley Skelton and Kelsey Parr return as floor leaders, along with senior Erin Smith and senior

Bailey Ritchie. One junior, Alyssa Clark, joins a host of freshmen and sophomores on the Lady Indians' roster.

## Larned basketball 2016-17

Dec. 2	PRATT
Dec. 5-10	KEADY TOURN.
Dec. 13	@Lyons
Dec. 16	@Central Plains
Jan. 3	KINGMAN
Jan. 6	@Hillsboro
Jan. 10	HAVEN
Jan. 13	@Pratt
Jan. 17-21	@St. John Tourn. (B)
Jan. 31	@Nickerson
Feb. 3	@Halstead
Feb. 7	HOISINGTON
Feb. 10	HESSTON
Feb. 14	@Lakin
Feb. 15	SMOKY VALLEY
Feb. 21	@Lyons
Feb. 27	Sub-state
March. 7-10	State

## Macksville basketball 2016-17

Dec. 2	@Ness City
Dec. 5-10	@Larned Tourn.
Dec. 16	@Stafford
Dec. 20	CUNNINGHAM
Jan. 6	@Central Plains
Jan. 10	@LaCrosse
Jan. 13	ELLINWOOD
Jan. 17-21	@St. John Tourn. (B)
Jan. 20	PRATT (G)
Jan. 27	PRATT (B)
Feb. 3	VICTORIA
Feb. 7	@Kinsley
Feb. 10	FOWLER
Feb. 14	OTIS-BISON
Feb. 17	@St. John
Feb. 21	@Hodgeman Co.
Feb. 27	Sub-state
March. 7-10	State

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