

# Lady Cats

McKay Lee Bray. Winborn, Kimble's starting point guard, averaged three points per game last year and was third on the team in assists (42) and steals (60). Bolton was solid all-around as a junior, contributing scoring, assists and rebounding in all 30 games.

Kimble sees Winborn's strengths as passing and defense, but adds that she has really worked to improve her shooting and is not afraid to take the ball hard to the basket. Bolton, he says, has improved in every phase of the game. The 5-7 forward runs the floor well, can push the ball to the basket and has a nice pull-up shot. Kimble says she also shoots the three well and is a solid defender.

"We lost some great players (to graduation), but the chemistry on this team is great," Winborn said. "Everyone has a positive attitude and the new faces are fitting in perfectly."

Bolton agrees and believes her team has a great opportunity ahead.

"We do a good job shooting inside and driving the ball to the basket, but have some work to do on our outside shooting," Bolton said. "But, I feel like if we continue playing good as a team and communicate more then we'll have everything we want accomplished."

As for Bray, she is starting out the year as a bit of a role player after missing a season. But, Kimble says she is still one of his team's best outside shooters who he hopes will become a real threat for GCHS with more time

on the court. Bray said not playing last year (as she concentrated on the Greene County Distinguished Young Woman competition, which she won) was a big change for her and she is excited about being back on the court.

"I missed all of the girls," Bray said. "I love them, especially the seniors. We have grown so much since we first came up together as freshmen."

"Coach Kimble wants us to grow and be better at basketball, but also to grow and be better as a team and as individuals on and off the court. It feels good to be back on the court and I am ready as ever."

While Bray was away, several underclassmen stepped into big roles for the program. Junior Bre Brown was one of them. The 6-foot center averaged 10 points and nearly six rebounds per game last year and established herself as a dominant low post player. She had a double-double in the Lady Cats' 54-30 win over Vanleave to start the season and averaged just under 12 points and seven rebounds through the first four games.

Junior Destiny Eubanks, along with sophomore Kat Garrett are two others that emerged last season and will round out the starting rotation as the season gets into full swing. Eubanks and Garrett are guards in Kimble's 3-guard system and earned valuable experience last season.

"Bre is solid around the basket for us," Kimble said. "She has worked hard on passing and other parts of her game and we

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are expecting a lot from her. She should dominate in the paint."

"Destiny does everything pretty well and has so far been the most consistent player we've had on the court. Her weakest part is defense, but she is pretty good there too. Kat is an excellent 3-point shooter, who runs the floor well and just plays hard all the time."

Juniors Cookie Bolton and Taylor McLeod, along with sophomores Serenity Blakely and Gen Walley are expected to play key roles as well. Bolton did not play last season, but brings a lot of athleticism to the floor and can come off the bench and have an immediate impact. Kimble said McLeod has a great attitude and shows a lot of hustle. She provides depth around the basket and is a solid defender.

"Blakely is a solid, all-around player and could easily be a starter," Kimble said. "She is the first player off the bench for us and is a 'spark plug' for us when she enters the game. Gen is our first post player to sub in. She's a really good shot blocker and showed she can put up points with eight at Vanleave."

Juniors Shanyiah Mitchell and Diamond Singleton, sophomore Kelsey Mitchell and freshman CharLee Meadows will also see important playing time this year.

So far, the Lady Cats are off to a pretty good start. They are 4-1 with three lopsided wins and a loss to East Central and the Hornets' future Auburn player and Clarion-Ledger Dandy Dozen selection Sania Wells.



Photo by Russell Turner / Herald Editor

Greene County senior Nykee Bolton is shown putting up a jump shot two of her nine points against Richton in the Perry Central Invitational Tournament last Thursday. She had a team-high 18 points Saturday as the Lady Cats claimed the tournament championship with a 60-17 win over the Lady Rebels of George County.

This past week, they swept through two games in the Perry Central Invitational. They started with a 67-29 win over Richton on Thursday and finished with a drubbing of George County Saturday afternoon. Blakely had a double-double in the win over Richton with 11 points and 13 rebounds, but Kimble wasn't pleased with the overall performance of his team. The Lady Cats responded with a 60-17 win over the Lady Rebels, with Nykee Bolton putting in 18 points to lead the way. Brown just missed a double-double with 15 points and nine rebounds in just 15 minutes of play. Eubanks had a solid overall game as well, kicking in five points and nine rebounds, eight of which came on the defensive end. She also led the team with four assists.

Overall, Kimble likes the direction his team is going, but sees opportunities for improvement before region play gets underway. One of the biggest areas of concern is with outside shooting. Through four regular season games, the Lady Cats have put up a dozen shots per game from behind the arc, but have made only 17 percent (8-of-48) of their 3-point tries.

"We have not proven we can shoot the 3-pointer well in game situations," Kimble said. "I know we have the ability to shoot the ball well because I see it in practice. We just need to get it going in game situations."

GCHS has time to make those improvements. They took on Vanleave at home Tuesday (results unavailable at press time) and host Perry Central and George County before playing in the Richton Rotary Tournament at the end of the month. December will bring repeat matchups with East Central and Richton and a road game against Lamar Christian before kicking off region play at home against Forrest County AHS on the fourteenth.



Photos by Russell Turner / Herald Staff

GCHS sophomore Serenity Blakely is shown making one of the many hustle plays she had against the Richton Rebels last Thursday, pulling down one of her 13 rebounds in the contest. Blakely finished with a double-double off the bench for the Lady Cats as she led the scoring with 11 points in the lopsided win.

Junior center Bre Brown (Shown, below) is a force in the paint for the Lady Wildcats and is expected to be a team leader in scoring and rebounding this year. But, Brown has also been working on other parts of her game and has become a better passer and defender away from the basket.



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