

Veteran Experience Set To Lead Lady Tigers

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Sports Writer



The overall makeup of a team looks different every year. The athletes improve, grow, and develop which changes the shape of the lineup over the offseason. But a little consistency is good. It provides a foundation, a base to work off of.

And this year, that concept is working in the Rothsay Lady Tigers favor.

“Our strength this year will be our depth. We played a lot of young kids last year and that will only help with experience this year,” stated four-year head coach Anita Heier.

In addition to Coach Heier returning, there is consistency to the Tiger lineup. Players coming back for another season are seniors Rachel Brenden (forward), Cora Honer (forward), Emily Christ (guard), and Jenny Collins (guard). Juniors are Jayna Gronewold (guard) and Jenna Fabre (guard).

All of these girls saw significant playing time last year, which contributes to the veteran experience Rothsay brings to the court this year.

Heier said, “We were able to watch a lot of young kids grow and develop as basketball players last year.

They were led by these girls as well as Lexie Lankow and Kenzie Lankow, who graduated last year. While those seniors will be missed, they set a good precedent for the current Lady Tigers to follow.

Heier is looking to continue



Members of the Rothsay Tigers varsity girls basketball team are, left to right, front row - Jayna Gronewold, Jenna Fabre, Chase Balken, Jenny Collins, Katie Reber, Madison Tillman; back row - Rachel Brenden, Cora Honer, Emily Christ, Abby Honer, Summer Wigdahl, Grace Lider and Kenadi Carlsrud.

the positive momentum started last year.

“We had a ‘play hard and never give up’ attitude all season.” She said. “We look to keep improving in practice and in games. We have a great group of senior leaders this year and that will be key in getting all our young players up to speed.”

Rounding out the Rothsay roster are sophomore Grace Lider (guard); freshmen Summer Wigdahl (forward), Chase Balken (guard), and Abby Honer (forward); and eighth graders Madison Tillman (guard) and Kenadi Carlsrud (guard).

Leading the team are senior captains Brenden, C. Honer, and

Christ. And Gronewold will also be seen as a returning player and All-Conference selection last year (along with K. Lankow). But all the girls work together to keep the work ethic, positive attitude, and improvement in talent and teamwork going strong.

It won't be an easy season for the Lady Tigers though. The Little 8 Conference is once again very competitive, with almost any team being able to knock off the other on any given day. Parkers Prairie and Underwood have been given the nod as the top dogs in the conference.

Post-season won't be any easier. Section 6A is a loaded

bracket with Pelican Rapids, Ada-Borup, and Wheaton all being tough competition to go through in order to make it deep in their playoff run.

But the Lady Tigers have their priorities straight and are taking it one day at a time, making the

most of each practice and then executing those skills during the games.

“We need to continue to improve on our shooting percentage,” noted Heier. But she is hoping that the experience gained last year and the time put

in on the off-season will help alleviate that as the girls are coming in with confidence and playing aggressively in early season practices.

Coach Heier and the Lady Tigers are once again assisted by Lori Tillman and Ann Anderson.



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