

Villa Grove Heritage boys and girls basketball teams sports wrap

By Tony Hooker

Girls basketball Repel Raiders

Aliyah Holloman tallied twenty points and Samantha Campbell added eight as the Blue Devils defeated Iroquois West 59 -21 on November 18 to open the 2019-2020 season. Maci Clodfelder and Kyleigh Block each chipped in six points in a well-rounded attack.

Cage Bunnies

Kyleigh Block drilled six three-pointers on her way to a twenty-six-point night as VGH defeated the host school 66-36 in the second game of the Falcon-Bunny Classic on November 19. Aliyah Holloman splashed six of eight free throws to back her running mate with twenty-five, and Samantha Campbell added six.

Fall to Spartans

Aliyah Holloman had twenty points and Kyleigh Block added seventeen but it wasn't enough as SJO erased third quarter deficit and defeated VGH 46-43 on November 21.

Outsmart Sages

The Blue Devils bounced back to capture third place in the tournament, beating Monticello 56-48 on November 22 behind Holloman's twenty-five points. Block chipped in twelve and Madison Burwell netted eight for VGH. Outfight Warriors

Aliyah Holloman netted eighteen points, Kyleigh Block added thirteen and Samantha Campbell chipped in twelve as the Blue Devils defeated Tuscola 46-43 on November 26. The Devils outscored the Warriors 17-5 in the third quarter to erase a four-point half time deficit.

Boys Basketball

Weather Storm

Jake Eversole had thirteen points and Nick Coffin added twelve as the VGH Hawks defeated Sangamon Valley in the first game of the CGB Holiday tournament by a score of 50-20 on November 25. Blake Smith stuffed the stat sheet with seven points, three assists, five steals and five rebounds to help the cause. Logan Nohren pulled down a team-high six rebounds for the Hawks and Anthony Arbuckle added four steals to help the VGH defense.

Bury Hatchets

The Hawks, behind Logan Nohren's eleven points, defeated Windsor Stewardson Strasburg 51-36 on Friday, November 29. Sam Reno, Blake Smith and Jake Eversole each tallied eight points in a well-rounded performance. Nohren led the team with 8 rebounds, and Smith handed out 5 assists in the

win. VGH pilfered sixteen steals in the contest, with Matt Gulick, Smith, Eversole, Isaac Mahoe, Carson Howard and Nohren each swiping two.

Clawed by Panthers

In an ugly, rough and tumble affair, VGH dropped a 49-23 decision to LeRoy in their second game of the day on November 29. Isaac Mahoe tallied five points to lead VGH, while Logan Nohren hauled in eight rebounds.

Bust Broncos for third place

Jake Eversole poured in twenty-two points to lead VGH to a 59-44 win over the host CGB Broncos to earn third place in the tournament on November 30. Logan Nohren added twelve, Isaac Mahoe had eleven and Blake Smith had eight points, five assists and three steals to help the cause. Eversole was named to the all-tourney squad for his efforts.

Villa Grove Heritage Hawks look to reload in competitive new conference

By Tony Hooker

Head Coach Corey White is in his fourth year at the helm of the Villa Grove Heritage Hawks Boys' Basketball program. He recently took time to answer a few questions about his team.

What was your record in 2018-19? What are your thoughts about last season?

We were 23-8 last year. We were able to accomplish some achievements that we hoped that we could. We won the BSN Classic at Christmas and the LOVC SE Division Championship. We had hoped to win a regional as well but fell short in the semifinal against Unity. Overall, the season was very successful and the type of season that we have building towards over the last few seasons.

Who are some key losses from last year's team?

We lost a couple three-year starters in Jared Stevens and Evan Wilson. Jared and Will Wilson were our leading scorers last year, so

we must replace that scoring void. Evan and Will also were a big part of our rebounding. Bryce Dalle, Kane Davison and Cole Thomas were great role players that knew what we needed out of them on a nightly basis.

Who are key returnees this season?

Ierik Sorenson, Blake Smith, Jake Eversole and Logan Nohren are all guys that started at least one game last season. Ierik has had a role for us since his sophomore year. His season was cut short last year due to injury. He is back this year healthy and his speed and athleticism will give other teams issues. Blake will take on the role of point guard that Jared graduating has left. His speed and vision of the floor are hard to contain. He always looks to pass first but can score as well. Jake started most of the season for us last year and was our third leading scorer. He will have to adjust to teams focusing on stopping him. His height and length with the ability to attack the basket and shoot will allow him to be able

to continue to be one of our top scorers. He also set a school record for steals last year and will look to break it again this season. Logan will take on most of our rebounding responsibilities. He will also be looked at to be our low post scoring threat, but he can also step outside and hit shots as well. His ability to defend without fouling will be a huge factor during this season.

Any newcomers who are finding roles?

Anthony Arbuckle, Sam Reno, Matt Gulick, Nick Coffin, Issac Mahoe and Carson Howard are going to be newcomers that we must count on during the season. Anthony will be asked to play in the post and his ability to defend and rebound will be crucial. Sam brings energy and leadership to the floor with the ability to knock down an occasional shot. Matt will be our backup point guard and will need to take care of the basketball. Nick can shoot from anywhere in the gym and will look to gain confidence as the season goes along.

Issac can be a difference maker for this team as he will be counted on to bring energy off the bench with his ability to play defense and knock down shots. Carson comes back to basketball after a couple years off but has knocked off a little more rust every time he steps on the floor.

What are your expectations for this year's team?

Our expectations do not change from year to year, it is just our players that do. We want to compete to win every tournament that we enter. We are playing in a new conference this year that should be very competitive. Having said that, we still expect to compete for and win a conference championship. I have never been a coach that likes to put a win total on a season. As we go through the season, we focus on the next game and winning it. At the end of the year, hopefully we have won more than we lost and have accomplished some of our goals.

VG SCHOOL

Continued from 8

way of monitoring that.

How about some projects for the future?

Right now, we're looking at some football and softball polls to make sure they're in good condition. The football poles were fine, but two softball poles need to be replaced. We're working toward replacing lights and parking lot with the more efficient LED lights. We'll have a new black top playground area for the kids, and we're moving the playground equipment area because the new class rooms will go out the northwest exit and go toward where the playground equipment was sitting.

The new gym won't impact the softball diamond?

No. The softball backstop fencing is in bad shape,

so we'll have to do some work on the fence and dugouts when we finish up the gymnasium also. Next spring, the softball team is working with the city to use the diamonds at Richman Park. After this phase, I think it will be some minor maintenance of some items. I think it's a couple of years off before they take on any other projects. This will be the largest project as far as scope. We've been able to do it through alternate revenue bonds and general obligation bonds without increasing the tax rate. We also used a drone to determine the life of our roof, and that might be the next largest expense as we begin phasing in the replacement of certain sections of our roof. There are so many different roofs on this campus, and the drone was able to use infrared to tell us what type of moisture was

in the roof and how soon it was likely to start needing some attention. It looks like its about seven years out.

How about an all-weather track and state of the art weight room? Are they on the horizon?

I think they would love to see both of those, and both were on the survey. I think eventually something like that might be achieved. We're looking at taking out the old Quonset building, redirecting traffic and creating more parking around a new weight room facility.

Is there anything you would like to add, Mr. Tracy?

We're trying to make curriculum improvements, too. You can't do everything at once, but over the last couple of years, we've added some high school computer classes, Ag classes and math and social studies classes so that we have

a smaller student to teacher ratio. In the elementary school, Hannah King has become our intervention coordinator to assist struggling students with their academic achievement skills. We now have chrome books throughout the grade levels. This is the second year of our pre-school program. It was on our plan for several years, but we couldn't add it until the state had a budget. We finally got on the list to have a pre-school last year, and this is our second year. Autumn Jones and Mr. Beck are spearheading that project. The 2015-16 school year was my first at Villa Grove Schools coming at a time of financial uncertainty where cutbacks became necessary. I have been fortunate to work with conscientious former and current board members as we have made financial progress by living within

our means and gradually reversing the cuts. Now, VG has made the state's Financial Recognition List for the past three years. Also, the new state funding formula has now targeted more equitable funding for districts like ours.

My job is a reflection of the many great people around me making my job easier. It is enjoyable here with our quality teachers and my opportunity to work closely with Principals Bobby Beck and Sara Jones, Athletic Director Noreen Acton, Bookkeeper Shirley Badman and our knowledgeable office staff of Barb, Chris, Terri, Salisa, and Nurse Laurie. They all "wear many hats" at school to help make a caring difference.

Kudos would not be complete without recognizing the jobs done by Jack Clapp, our depend-

able Head of Maintenance, Steve Vandeventer, Transportation and Grounds, our bus drivers, cooks, teacher aides, and volunteers. This team approach works well for us as I believe in a synergistic approach that the "sum of the parts is greater than the whole". We have also had great cooperation with the city on previous issues and even share for a School Resource Officer as an added safety measure for our community.

<Journal> So what do have, another 20 or 22 year left in you? <laughing>

<laughs> No, No! This has been a wonderful community to come to, and I really appreciate the assistance that I've received here, but I'm just really playing it year by year, dependent upon my health and family issues.

HOW THEY'RE DOING

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Varsity Basketball (Boys) 2019-2020					
Day	Date	Opponent	Place	Time	W/L
Monday	Nov. 25	@ Cerro Gordo Thanksgiving Tournament (Nov 25-30)	Cerro Gordo Thanksgiving Tournament (Nov 25-30)	TBA	W
Tuesday	Dec. 03	University High School	Heritage High School	7:30PM	
Thursday	Dec. 05	Schlarman High School	Heritage High School	7:30PM	
Tuesday	Dec. 10	@ Westville High School	Westville High School	7:30PM	
Saturday	Dec. 14	Sullivan School District	Villa Grove	2:15PM	
Tuesday	Dec. 17	@ Tuscola High School	Tuscola High School	7:30PM	
Friday	Dec. 20	Arthur Christian School	Heritage High School	7:30PM	
Thursday	Dec. 26	BSN Classic (Dec 26-27)	Heritage High School	TBA	
Saturday	Dec. 28	@ BSN (Championship at Bismarck)	BSN (Championship at Bismarck)	TBA	
Friday	Jan. 03	@ Chrisman High School	Chrisman High School	7:15PM	
Tuesday	Jan. 07	Okaw Valley High School	Heritage High School	7:30PM	
Friday	Jan. 10	@ Cerro Gordo High School	Cerro Gordo High School	7:30PM	
Tuesday	Jan. 14	@ Tri-County	Tri-County	7:30PM	
Friday	Jan. 17	Argenta-Oreana High School	Heritage High School	7:30PM	
Saturday	Jan. 18	@ Judah Christian High School	Judah Christian High School	2:30PM	
Tuesday	Jan. 21	@ Arcola High School	Arcola High School	7:30PM	
Friday	Jan. 24	@ Conference Tournament (Jan 24-31 at Arcola)	Conference Tournament (Jan 24-31 at Arcola)	TBA	
Tuesday	Feb. 04	Cumberland High School	Heritage High School	7:30PM	
Friday	Feb. 07	@ Arthur Jr./Sr. High School	Arthur Jr./Sr. High School	7:30PM	
Tuesday	Feb. 11	Lutheran School Association HS	Heritage High School	7:30PM	
Friday	Feb. 14	Blue Ridge High School	Heritage High School	7:30PM	
Friday	Feb. 21	@ Sangamon Valley High School	Sangamon Valley High School	7:30PM	
Monday	Feb. 24	@ IHSA Regionals (Feb 24-28)	IHSA Regionals (Feb 24-28)	TBA	

Varsity Basketball (Girls) 2019-2020					
Day	Date	Opponent	Place	Time	W/L
Monday	Nov. 18	@ Lady Falcon-Bunny Classic	Lady Falcon-Bunny Classic	TBA	W
Tuesday	Nov. 19	@ Lady Falcon-Bunny Classic	Lady Falcon-Bunny Classic	TBA	W
Thursday	Nov. 21	@ Lady Falcon-Bunny Classic	Lady Falcon-Bunny Classic	TBA	L
Friday	Nov. 22	@ Lady Falcon-Bunny Classic	Lady Falcon-Bunny Classic	TBA	W
Tuesday	Nov. 26	@ Tuscola High School	Tuscola High School	6:00 PM	W
Monday	Dec. 02	Westville	Home	6:00 PM	W
Thursday	Dec. 05	ALAH	Home	6:00 PM	
Saturday	Dec. 07	@ Salt Fork Coop	Salt Fork Coop	10:00 AM	
Monday	Dec. 09	@ Okaw Valley		6:00 PM	
Thursday	Dec. 12	Blue Ridge	Home	6:00 PM	
Monday	Dec. 16	@ Judah		6:00 PM	
Tuesday	Dec. 17	Unity	Home	6:00 PM	
Thursday	Dec. 26	@ Bismarck Tournament	Bismarck Tournament	TBA	
Friday	Dec. 27	@ Bismarck Tournament	Bismarck Tournament	TBA	
Saturday	Dec. 28	@ Bismarck Tournament	Bismarck Tournament	TBA	
Tuesday	Jan. 07	@ Uni High		6:00 PM	
Monday	Jan. 13	@ CGB			
Tuesday	Jan. 14	Chrisman High School	Home	6:00 PM	
Thursday	Jan. 16	@ Tri-County		6:00 PM	
Saturday	Jan. 18	LOVC Tournament at VGH	Villa Grove & Heritage	10:00 AM	
Monday	Jan. 20	LOVC Tournament at VGH	Villa Grove & Heritage	6:00 PM	
Thursday	Jan. 23	LOVC Tournament at VGH	Villa Grove & Heritage	6:00 PM	
Saturday	Jan. 25	LOVC Tournament at VGH	Villa Grove & Heritage	1:00 PM	
Monday	Jan. 27	LSA	Home	6:00 PM	
Tuesday	Jan. 28	Georgetown-Ridge Farm	Home	6:00 PM	
Thursday	Jan. 30	@ Arcola		6:00 PM	
Monday	Feb. 03	Cumberland	Home	6:00 PM	
Thursday	Feb. 06	Argenta-Oreana, Senior Night	Home	6:00 PM	
Monday	Feb. 10	@IHSA Regional		TBA	
Tuesday	Feb. 11	@IHSA Regional		TBA	
Wednesday	Feb. 12	@IHSA Regional		TBA	
Thursday	Feb. 13	@IHSA Regional		TBA	
Friday	Feb. 14	@IHSA Regional		TBA	

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