



Kellen Whitlow maneuvers around the defense for two points. Whitlow scored 13 points in the first half before injuring his knee right at the end of the half.

Preview: Dragon Basketball

DALE CURRY
STAFF WRITER

With less than a week away for the opening game, Green County's boys' basketball team has a lot of unknowns, with so many players being two-sport athletes.

"I have never been in a situation like this," Head Coach Keith Young said.

Green County's football team made a deep run in the football playoffs and those football players could not start basketball practice until football was over.

Young understands that this is a common problem for small schools that depend on a lot of the same athletes to participate in more than one sport.

"Some of our starters are still playing football," Young pointed out last week. "So, we are actually about a month behind in our practices and I've been putting off things so that we don't have to repeat learning the same things."

Young is in his seventh year at Green County High School but has been coaching for about 30 years total.

Last year, the Dragons finished the year at 11-7 but three of the losses were their last three games of the season, including a disappointing 60-51 first round loss to Hart County in the district tournament at LaRue County.

Lost to graduation from last year are Gunner Bush and Jackson Johnson. Bush averaged almost 16 points per game and led the team in rebounds with eight. Johnson scored 6.3 points per game and on defense, drew a lot of charges.

"We are going to be a completely different team than last year," Young said. "We will have a mixture of freshmen and seniors and we are going to shoot a lot of three-point shots."

The season opens on Monday night when Green County travels to Burgin and then returns home on Friday night to take on Adair County.

"Some of the games the first couple of weeks are against bigger schools," Young said, "and even though we may not be ready, we have to play like we are ready."

Young said that this year's team needs some size and because of that, they will normally play four guards at a time.

"Our defense has to improve," Young said, "and we saw during the summer that rebounding was a weakness for us."

But Young knows that there's some bright spots for the Dragons this year.

"Kellen Whitlow returned for another year, even though he was a senior last year and he is leading by example," Young said.

The coach was also quick to point out that Hayden Blakeman has bulked up, gaining 45-50 pounds since last year.

He said that Jayden Marr and Tanner Willis are both good three-point shooters and that Eli Bishop has been a very pleasant surprise from last year.

"We'll be fun to watch," Young said, "This freshmen group is as good a group of freshmen I've ever had."

The regular season schedule looks very similar to last year's schedule. They've added Pulaski Southwestern in the Domino's Tip-Off Classic at Campbells-ville. The Dragons will be part of the Rafferty's Cavendish Classic at Edmonson County during the week prior to Christmas. After Christmas, they will travel to Todd County for the Zaxby's Christmas Classic.

Young said the 18th District is very balanced this year with LaRue County getting the nod as the top team in the district again this year. He said that Hart County has nearly everyone back from last year and that Caverna will also be good this year.

The boy's team has already had one scrimmage game and came away with a ten-point win over Russell County.



Photos by Dale Curry

Hayden Blakeman scored 27 points in the Dragons 77-67 scrimmage win over Russell County last week.



Tanner Willis hit four three-point shots against Russell County last week in the Dragons' first scrimmage of the season. He finished the night with 14 points.



Jayden Marr finished the night with 19 points for the Dragons in their win over Russell County.

Preview: Lady Dragons

DALE CURRY
STAFF WRITER

Green County High School's girls' basketball team opens the season Monday night at Taylor County.

The Lady Dragons are coming off a 14-8 season from last year when they were a semi-finalist in the 5th Region Tournament, where they lost to eventual champion Bethlehem.

Green County is a very young team this year, following the graduation of five seniors from last year.

"I have no idea what to expect," Head Coach Chris Blaydes said. "There are so many new players and there's a lot to be decided. We have a chance to be pretty good, but every game could be a struggle."

Blaydes is beginning his 23rd year as coach of the Lady Dragons. Seth Jones is starting his fifth year as his assistant coach.

The Lady Dragons are looking for some scorers this year. Last year, they averaged 52.5 points per game but the seniors on last year's team scored the overwhelming portion of those points.

Tanlee Hudgins, one of two seniors on this year's team, averaged 8.8 points per game last year while pulling down five rebounds per contest.

Summer Scott, the other senior on this year's team, scored 1.8 points per game last year as well as getting 1.5 rebounds.

"We will be leaning on our two seniors for leadership," Blaydes said.

Catie Church is the only other upperclassman on this year's squad. Last year, she played in 20 of their 22 games. She averaged 2.5 points per contest.

"I know we will have to take it slow," Blaydes said, "and remember that our young team is learning but will need them to play to the best of their ability."

Two sophomores, Lily Beard and Allie Burris, are also going to be asked to contrib-

ute a lot to the team.

"They really improved over the year," Blaydes added.

Four freshmen—Mia Blaydes, Caselyn Brown, Kennedy Jackson and Kinsley Robertson—will also be asked to play a big role on the team.

"There's a possibility that three of the freshmen will be starting," Blaydes said.

Riley Underwood, another freshman, is injured.

Bailee Willis, an 8th grader, completes the varsity roster for the Lady Dragons.

"Our young players will need to develop quickly in order for us to be successful," Blaydes said. "We also cannot afford to have any injuries or illnesses."

This year's schedule is very similar to last year's schedule. In addition to the normal 5th region teams, the Lady Dragons will participate in the Rafferty's/Double Dogs Cavendish Classic in Edmonson County just before Christmas. In addition to Edmonson County, they will also play Monroe County and Logan County.

The Lady Dragons are also participating in the Bankers 4th vs. 5th Region Classic at Glasgow on December 11. They play Greenwood out of Bowling Green.

The All A Classic takes place in January. Green County faces North Hardin Classical in the opening round of the tournament.

The 18th District promises to be exciting as the four teams are always competitive.

"Hart County has three really good perimeter players," Blaydes said. "LaRue should be pretty good and Caverna returns three experienced players."

After Monday night's game at Taylor County, the Lady Dragons will be at home for three straight games. Those games are against Adair County, Marion County and Christian Educational Consortium.

Karen Richards wins 11/17 contest

Karen Richards was the winner of the Nov. 17 football contest. She missed three games.

Richards wins two tickets to the Green River Cinema, a buffet from Creekside Restaurant, a Phillips

Lane gift certificate and a dinner from Lee's Famous Recipe.

She may call the R-H office to arrange for pickup of his prizes.

The basketball contest starts this week, on page 11A.

Basketball Contest Rules

To enter the contest, contestants may use either this page or an identical page obtained at no charge at the Record-Herald office, 102 West Court Street, Greensburg. You do not have to purchase a paper or anything else to be eligible to win. Only one entry per person. Contestants must circle their winning teams on the page. Should contestants get the same number of games correct, the tie will be broken by the tie-breaker. All entries must be MAILED to the Greensburg Record-Herald, P.O. Box 130, Greensburg, KY 42743. All entries must have an automated postmark no later than FRIDAY, 5 p.m., of this week. To be eligible for the Grand Prize and bonus, an entry must be received by Saturday morning. **Mark all envelopes BASKETBALL CONTEST.** NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED IN PERSON at any participating stores or at the Record-Herald. The grand prize will be awarded when a contestant picks the winners of 26 different games. For each week that no one wins, the amount will increase by \$25.