

Jr. Lady Vikings have strong start to season

BY SETH WILKERSON

The Jr. Lady Vikings season is underway as the regular season began October 25 with a home loss to the Jr. Dyersburg Trojans. Humboldt is currently riding a three game win streak (4-1 overall) heading into their next matchup November 28 at TCA-Jackson.

Coach Terrell Green commented on the fast start, "I think it's a result of understanding the concepts we teach on the Jr. high level and being more confident. They still talk about that game last year and how they didn't like the feeling of how everything ended."

The Jr. Lady Vikings are scheduled to play in two Christmas tournaments (December 17-19 and 27-29).

Coach Green remarked about the decision stating, "We want to get as many games as we can against better competition just to see where we are at. We want to test ourselves. The tournament in Dyersburg particularly is very good. This also gives our girls a chance for a rematch and be more prepared to play them this go around."

Kendall McLemore has returned, playing strong this season. The wild card this season so far has been Sabryna Day and she has taken steps in the right direction, bringing leadership and knocking down key buckets for the Jr. Lady Vikings. At Lake County, McLemore was injured and Day had to stay on the floor extended minutes, leading the team to a road victory.

"Her confidence is big part of the surge



JR. LADY VIKINGS - Members of the Jr. Lady Vikings for 2022-23 basketball season are (seated from left) Emiyah Agnew, A'Liyah Price, Sabryna Day, Ka'Niaya Field and Jaleyah Montgomery; (back row) Kendall McLemore, Aiyannah Rice, Tyleiyah Jestice, Jailyndotson and Erica Darling. (not pictured is Natilynn Nichols)

Jr. Lady Viking Roster

No.	Name
00 00	Jailyndotson
1 1	Kendall McLemore
3 3	Sabryna Day
5 5	Emiyah Agnew
10 30	Erica Darling
11 11	Jaleyah Montgomery
12 12	A'Liyah Price
15 15	Tyleiyah Jestice
20 20	Aiyannah Rice
25 25	Ka'Niaya Field
50 50	Natilynn Nichols

this season so far," Coach Green said. "I have a couple of buddies that run an AAU program and I push all my players to play in the summer. That has helped the entire team all the way around. The summer program took the girls to Georgia, Indiana and even close to home in Memphis, Tenn. Having success in the summer builds confidence while also keeping the skillset crisp for the upcoming season. This past summer, all the 8th graders participated in the AAU program."

There has been a change to the coaching staff for the Jr. Lady Vikings. When a coach like Kierra Dotson has to step away, one might worry about the role she so adequately filled last year. But with the news of coach Chandra Maclin returning to the sidelines, those worries quickly dissipate.

Coach Green remarked, "I was her assistant coach for two years when she

was the varsity coach here in Humboldt. It's a little bit like bad cop, good cop. It works out pretty good. We miss coach K. a lot. And I still can call her at any time, and she will show up and do whatever she needs to do to help us."

Coach Dotson has a daughter (Jailyndotson) and can be found in the stands most any game the Jr. Lady Vikings are on the court.

This team looks hungry to get back to the game they were in last year. It felt like the final game of last season just slipped through their fingers as Humboldt did not play to their fullest potential.

When asked about how to keep the team focused, Coach Green said, "We talk about one day at a time. Let's make sure we do what we are supposed to do every day at practice. They are working hard. They surprised me a little bit. I'm an in your face kind of a coach. My eighth graders are picking up that role on the

court to the point where I don't have to say as much. They want it real bad. They talk about it all the time. I just keep telling them we need to make sure we are getting better each day in practice. January is coming and we are going to play. But we have to get our reserves ready to play because you never know when someone might get in foul trouble and we are going to need them seventh graders to step up. So they are pushing themselves every day to get better."

There have been a few games already this season where the game was iced and the players on the bench were able to show what they are able to do and get some experience. The main focus of improvement is lifting their basketball IQ.

Last season, the team was mostly seventh graders with the exception of two players. It is going to be a fun stretch as we march toward post-season play.