

Vikings

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strong as I would like to see. But we are seeing a resurgence of that with players coming in at 6 a.m. to get shots before school and last season after games staying and shooting balls.”

Depending on who you ask, there is a mixed bag of responses one will hear when discussing season expectations. Coach Abernathy remarked that it was looking good in practice but he is ready to see the young guns get on the court in a game atmosphere and see how they respond.

“Without the preliminary games, it changes things,” Abernathy explained. “I expect us to play hard. I expect us to play within the system. But as far as the outcome, I could not tell you. All I want us to do, for me and our staff, is to get better every game and never go backwards. There are going to be nights where both teams play their best and someone has got to win and someone has to lose. That will happen. But our goal is improving every game.”

“I am enjoying it,” Coach Abernathy

said of returning to the classroom this year. “I teach sociology, which is a high level class. I also teach personal finance which is a high level class for seniors.”

While coaching at Tennessee State, LSU and Lane, Abernathy taught classes. So, this is nothing new for the veteran head coach. It does change a game day routine however.

“I will teach my class in the morning and I have the last period off, Abernathy

remarked. “I’ll use that time to slow down and get myself ready. Usually I don’t go home. I shut my door and look at the film, getting ready for the game plan. I do a pre-game meeting with coaches and then we have a pre-game warm up. That is something that was instituted by coach Lambert a few years back.”

Going to a 5-team district next year opens up a few games to still play against teams that are bigger and

challenge our players.

This coming schedule has that flavor already with teams like Lexington and Sacred Heart, both know to put a quality team on the court. The Vikings also have decided to play in the Hub City classic, which is a change from the Poplar Bluff tournament in previous years.

Coach Ab looks forward to returning to that tournament next season with a more experienced team.



VIKINGS COACHES - The Humboldt Viking basketball coaching staff for the 2022-23 season are (from left) Marcus Butler, Adrian Ingram, Head Coach Ron Abernathy, Steve Shivers and Jeremy Vonner.

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