



Cole Kessler participates in ball handling drills during the open practice Friday night. Kessler is one of three seniors on this year’s team.



One on one drills were part of the practice session Friday night. The Dragons open the season against Taylor County, November 28 at home.



Austin Squires and the rest of the team participated in fast-paced shooting drills during practice.

Photos by Dale Curry

## Moran wins contest

Ronnie Moran is the winner of the Nov. 16 football contest. He wins a Lincoln Jamboree admission and meal ticket, a buffet from Creekside Restaurant, two Green River Cinema 6 tickets, a Phillips Lane gift certificate and a dinner from Lee’s Famous Recipe.

## Lady Dragons

From page 6A

“I can’t get too critical,” he said, “and I can’t get upset because I know we will get better. But right now, we are still learning drills in practice.”

Getting better every day at practice is one of the goals that the team has set.

“We will try to simplify the game,” Blaydes said. “We want to be able to just react and play hard without giving a lot of thought to what we need to do.”

Blaydes said that Hart County is probably the favorite in the district right now.

Other top teams in the region include Bethlehem, Nelson County and Taylor County.

Green County’s record last year was 10-16, including an overtime loss to LaRue County in the first round of the 18th District Tournament.

The assistant coaches for this year’s team are Becca Bush and Micah Jones Spears.

Despite the youthfulness of the team, Blaydes is hopeful.

“We are small,” he said, “but we know that whoever shows up and plays well wins the game.”



The Green County High School men’s basketball team invited the community to watch a typical practice Friday night. Stretching and conditioning is part of any practice.

## Preview: Dragons prepare for season under new head coach

DALE CURRY  
STAFF WRITER

Green County High School boys’ basketball team, under first-year Head Coach Jordan Gilbert, kicks off the season Monday night with a home game against Taylor County.

The Dragons hope to improve on last year’s 13-13 season record and a disappointing first round loss in the 18th District Tournament.

“We are really young and somewhat inexperienced,” Gilbert said. “But we have sophomores who have started in 40+ games already in their careers.”

This year’s squad has three seniors—Zack Ferguson, Blake Houchens and Cade Kessler—but only Kessler saw any playing time last year.

Three juniors—Eli Bishop, Kelson McKinney and Trevor Nunn—are on the roster. McKinney and Bishop both saw consistent playing time last year.

The bulk of the roster consists of eight sophomores. Those sophomores are Hayden Blakeman, Houston Hodges, Jayden Marr, Owen Olson, Javier Ruiz, Rylee Sluder, Austin Squires and Tanner Willis.

Freshmen Hudson Fields, Jameson Hines, Cole Kessler, Michael Lee, Massiah Shively, Reed York, along with 8th grader, Drew Squires, rounds out the roster.

In addition to being young, many of the players were playing football just about two and a half weeks ago, so they’ve not had a lot of time to focus on basketball.

The schedule includes two December tournaments. One is at South Laurel and the other is at Grayson County.

In addition to Taylor County, some of the top games against region opponents are Bardstown, Elizabethtown, Central Hardin and North Hardin. They will also play two games each against 18th District foes, LaRue County, Hart County and Caverna.

“Historically, the 5th Region runs through the Hardin County schools,” Gilbert said.

“In addition to those teams, Taylor, Bard-



The men’s basketball coaches make plans during the open practice Friday night. From left are Blake Judd, Jackson Johnson, Head Coach Jordan Gilbert and Mark Graham.

stown and LaRue are some of the top teams but realistically, we can be next.”

There are some advantages to playing a tough schedule, especially the teams that the Dragons could face in the region tournament.

“The good thing about heading into the district tournament is that you are 0-0,” Gilbert said. “So even if you get a loss during the regular season, you can watch film and learn from it. You’re not shocked at playing those teams in (post-season) tournaments.”

The players on this year’s team do not have a lot of post-season exposure. The last time the Dragons made it out of the 18th District is 2016. The last time they won the district tournament is 2014 and the last time they won a region tournament game is prior to the 1996-1997 season.

“In practice, everything is competitive,” Gilbert said. “We battle against each other. We play two on two and three on three. And then, with our schedule, we want to put winning basketball programs in front of them so that they see what winning basketball looks like and what it takes to get there.”

While the Dragons have not sat down and made a list of goals for this season, according to Gilbert, there’s some boxes they want to check off.

“We want to start the season in a good way,” Gilbert said. “It would be nice to start with a win over Taylor. We believe the All A Classic (5th region tourna-

ment) is a realistic goal and then of course, we want to advance to the region tournament this year.”

Gilbert said they are still trying figure out what play will look like in a game. He said that in practice, they will try something, may have to scratch some of it, and try something else.

“We hope in a game that in the first eight seconds of a possession, all five players will have touched the ball,” Gilbert said.

The Dragons scrimmaged South Warren last week and were hoping to have a second scrimmage against an area team this week.

“There were some nerves in that first scrimmage,” Gilbert said, “but we came back the next day and had the best scrimmage we’ve had so far. It looks like the light bulb is beginning to flicker now and is about to come on for some of them.”

Gilbert has four assistants this year. Blake Judd, a GCHS standout player, is the head assistant coach. Jackson Johnson and Isaac Young are both recent GCHS graduates.

Mark Graham,

who has been an assistant for several years, continues on the bench.

Gilbert served as an assistant coach at Mason County for four years. Prior to that, he was an assistant coach with Madison Central and Mercer County.

He had just been named the girls’ coach at Mason County High School a short time before the job at Green County came open. So even though, officially, he was a head coach, this is his first opportunity to put a team on the floor as a head coach.

Gilbert played high school basketball at Mason County, 2007-2011. His freshman, sophomore and junior years, Mason County made three straight state tournament appearances, winning the tournament his freshman year. He followed that by playing one year at Transylvania University and then transferred to Asbury College where he played for three years.

Gilbert is married to Chelsea, who teaches at Green County Intermediate School. They have one son, Jace.

### Football 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 FOOTBALL 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 24 different games. For each week that no one wins, the amount will increase by \$25.