

PEMBROKE - PROSPECT BASKETBALL REVIEW

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PEMBROKE

Varsity Boys

Coach James Howard Locklear Sr. will be hard pressed to repeat last season's performance when the Warriors advanced to the state playoffs, eventually losing in the second round to Southern Durham. The loss of Ryan Tuck, Roscoe Charles and Perry Strickland to graduation will be difficult to overcome. Both Tuck, now at Pembroke State University, and Charles were among the county leaders in rebounding a year ago, a task now falling on the shoulders of center Eric Locklear. At 6'5", 210-pounds, Locklear is one of the largest pivot men the Warriors have had in some time.

The height ends there; the rest of the team averages out at 6'0".

Locklear, a junior, has improved with experience and with his attendance at PSU's basketball camp this summer. He will receive help from returning lettermen Devy Bell, Timmy Carter, Steve Jacobs, Albert Ladson, Alan Locklear and Eric G. "Bull"

Varsity Girls

Locklear. Carter will probably get the call as point guard and floor leader. He has looked impressive in practice and, according to Coach Locklear, should contribute much to the overall success of the team.

Also looking good in pre season has been Devy Bell. Bell's intelligence and quickness will be an asset to a team which will depend on a full court pressure defense and a running offense. Overall quickness will be a key factor, however, the team is not as quick as their size would indicate.

Only have had the team for 2 weeks of practice, Coach Locklear's comments were guarded when asked about how he felt his charges would perform. "Motivation is the key right now. If we can see some progress in the early games and some success, the team may do well in the conference."

Locklear expects the Three Rivers Conference race to be a tight one this year. "East Bladen will again be strong. They have experience even

though they lost two all-conference players." Pender County, while not as tall, returns a lot of experienced players and will be a power to be reckoned with."

If the Warriors can remain healthy and are able to stay in their game plan, they may once more be in the race.

Varsity Girls
The Lady Warriors, under third-year coach Jenny Carmichael, are out to improve on a dismal 6-14 record last season behind three-time all-conference and twice all-county selection Sheila Regan, and much improved, Daphne Russ and Lisa Locklear.

Some height has been added this year with the addition of sophomore Sherry Warner, and the guard position is strong with four players- Kim Porter, Sheila Strickland, Robin Cummings and Tonya Locklear, all capable of moving the ball well.

Coach Carmichael has been pleased so far with what she has seen and is impressed with the entire team's enthusiasm, willingness to work

and overall positive outlook. They have progressively shown improvement since practice began, stemming from a desire to win.

Three of the players will also bring the added experience of having attended summer basketball camps this summer. Russ and Porter both went to Wingate College while Regan attended camp at Western Carolina.

The weaknesses at this point lie in the lack of strength at the forward positions, and an overall weakness in shooting form and accuracy. This latter weakness will no doubt lessen with experience in the early season games as the team gains confidence in working together.

By conference time, Carmichael hopes the Lady Warriors are strong enough to vie for one of the top spots in the conference. Tough competition will come from East Bladen and West Brunswick, both of which lost only one player through graduation. Pembroke, however, is returning five players from last year, players whose experience will serve to help the younger players improve.

One of these younger players, freshman Flynette Brewington, has demonstrated that determination that can be a real asset to any team. She has hustle and has improved quickly over the course of the preseason, said Carmichael.

With the key elements of strong defense, experience, determination, and a little hustle luck, the Lady Warriors may well be the surprise team of the Three Rivers 3A Conference.

Junior Varsity

New JV coach Wayne Leggett inherits an almost new squad of players for the 1982-83 schedule in what will be a learning experience for both coach and players.

Leggett, a history and biology teacher at PSHS, came to Pembroke this fall from Orrum and is still learning new faces and names. Although for the past two years he was away from the game, Leggett was JV basketball coach at Orrum for a number of years where he had relative success.

Only three of Leggett's players have previous experience, but he is not as concerned with winning as he is with teaching the fundamentals of the game.

"JV stands for what? Junior or Varsity. They're on the team to prepare to become varsity players," Leggett says. "The material is there. I just have to get it out of the players."

During the two weeks of practice so far, progress has been slow. Used to "street ball" for the most part, the players are having to learn skills of defense. Leggett will go with a man-to-man defense and is finding things to be a bit difficult for the players.

Don't judge us on the non-conference games," he says. "Those games will be used to put into play those skills they've worked on in practice."

It will probably take some time, but maybe the team can improve on last year's 8-12. (Cont'd Page 9)

PROSPECT

Varsity Boys

The picture does not look bright for Royce McNeil. Entering what will be his fourth season as head coach, McNeil is faced with the inevitable task of having to replace 10 players from a year ago, including all five starters. Seniors Rodney Jackson and Charlie Locklear are the only familiar faces on what is now a 13-man squad. Neither saw a great deal of action for the cats during the 1982 campaign, but both are coached by McNeil as being probable starters this season.

Joining them in the starting five will probably be Kelton Oxendine, Joe Bostick and Randy Jones, all three juniors. Oxendine, Bostick and Jones all saw action with the junior varsity team last year which was also coached by McNeil, and each was a member of the Prospect junior varsity team that two years ago won only two games all season long. Last season virtually the same bunch was 8-6 against league opponents, so there is evidence of improvement.

Still McNeil says his is a team that is basically inexperienced. "They have a good attitude, but are yet untested. I really don't know what to expect."

The early season will be a feeling out time for McNeil and his players as he tries to establish a group of starters. "The starting five isn't set and I'll be experimenting for the first few games."

The average height of the team is just under an even six feet. The tallest is 6'4" Charlie Locklear with the other half of Prospect's double-post, Randy Jones, standing at 6'3". James Hammonds, who McNeil calls the number three guard behind Jackson and Oxendine, is the shortest at 5'7". Hammonds has been hampered by a bad ankle and won't see much action early on, but should get on the floor for the Cats once he returns to full health.

Of the seven remaining players, only forward Ronnie Brewer has any JV experience. The rest, which includes Dwayne Goins, Ricky Locklear, David Jacobs, Hubert McBryde, Parnell Locklear and Carey Woods, are all new. "I've never had a team with so little experience," says McNeil. "The two returning lettermen didn't play much last year."

"Our number one goal is to finish above .500. The second is to make the district playoffs but if we are to become a contender we'll have to gain a lot of experience quickly."

McNeil gives the nod of Maxton as the top team in the conference. Led by county rebounding leader Darous Murphy, the Golden Eagles are probably the tallest team in the Lumber River 2A Conference. If Magnolia, which stands to gain a host of players from last year's junior varsity champions, can come together early the Trojans should make some noise in the league races.

Varsity Girls
Of the three basketball teams at Prospect, the varsity girls seem to have the best shot at a winning season and

possible post season play. Coach Leo Locklear returns four of five starters from a team that compiled a 16-8, 8-4 record a year ago, and the new member of this year's starting quintet, forward Lottie Dial, should only improve a team that is already touted as one of the leading contenders for the league crown and one of four playoffs spots open to Lumber River Conference teams.

Coach Locklear remains guardedly optimistic. "Based on last year, we should be one of the top four teams in the conference. We're pretty confident that we can improve on last year's record."

High expectations for a team which has only this week begun its season, but they come with good reason too as the Lady Cats' leading scorer, Tina Jones (14ppg), is expected to have another outstanding year. Jones was the only member of the squad to average in double figures, but the 5'10" senior plays with a strong supporting cast. "We tried to have balanced scor-

ing," said Locklear, "and didn't go to just Tina." Prospect has several players, among them guard Karen Strickland, who should add to the team's scoring punch this year.

The team's strong suit has to be experience. Among the nine lettermen, Jones, Strickland, and Jackie McLean have been four-year starters for Locklear, who is opening his tenth season at the helm of the Prospect varsity girls. Other veterans include Dial, Michelle Knight, Joyce Smith, Nena Oxendine, Gina Locklear and Christina Lowery. Dial, Jones, McLean and Strickland are left from the team that advanced to the Eastern Regionals as the Cape Fear 1A Conference representatives in 1980.

The addition of Dial, 5'9", gives Prospect what Locklear calls a pretty tall frontline. The Lady Cats also use a double-post setup with Dial and Jones alternating. Gina Locklear, a 5'11" senior forward, rounds out the team's frontcourt. "Gina is a bit foul prone as a center," said

Locklear, "but at forward she has someone to back her up."

Four freshmen join the team this season. Iris Locklear is the best of these and is expected by her coach to see some playing time as point guard. The rest of this rookie class includes Nan Sampson, Tammy Brayboy and Georgette Johnson.

Junior Varsity

First-year coach David Locklear gets to start over almost from scratch as only guard Roger Locklear returns from last year's junior varsity team.

Having to mold a winning team from a group that collectively has almost no experience is a challenge, but one that Locklear seems ready to meet head on. "I have seen positive developments," he says. Locklear's task is made easier by the height provided by Terry Chavis, 6'0" and three players-Micky Jones, Brant Harris and Brian Collins, each listed at 5'11". (Cont'd on Page 9)



James Howard Locklear



Jenny Carmichael



Wayne Leggett



Pembroke Varsity Boys-first row, left to right: Eric G. Locklear, Timmy Carter, Rodney Smith, Kelvin Elk, Lee McKee, Johnny Oxendine, Albert Ladson; second row, left to right: Steve Jacobs, Gary Locklear, Patrick Locklear, Eric Locklear, Paul Cummings, Michael Rowdy, Alan Locklear. Not pictured: Devy Bell.



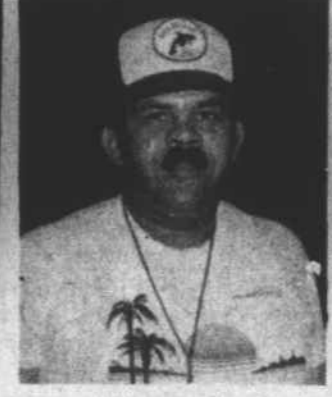
Pembroke Varsity Girls-first row, left to right: Sheila A. Strickland, Kim Stricklin, Sheila Regan, Kimberly Porter, Tonya Locklear, Robin Cummings; 2nd row, left to right: Denise Maynor, Lisa Locklear, Sherry Warner, Sandy Hunt, Flynette Brewington, Daphne Russ. Not pictured: Trisha L. Carter.



Pembroke Junior Varsity-first row, left to right: Bobby Regan, William Deese, Chuck Richter, Rodney Strickland, Robert Brewington, Kelvin Oxendine, Stacy Locklear, Jr.; second row, left to right: Kenneth McLean, Jimmy Locklear, Delana Strickland, Victor Deese, Crayman Strickland, Kirk Sanderson, Clayton Maynor.



Royce McNeil



Leo Locklear



David Locklear



Prospect Varsity Boys. First row, left to right: Ronnie Brewer, Dwayne Goins, Joe L. Bostick, James A. Hammonds, Kelton Oxendine, Parnell Locklear Jr.; second row, left to right: Van Botha-student trainer, Hubert McBryde, Randy Jones, Ricky Locklear, David L. Jacobs, Carey Woods, Rodney Jackson, Charlie Locklear Jr.



Prospect Varsity Girls: first row, left to right: Georgette Johnson, Jackie McLean, Tammy Brayboy, Nan Sampson, Karen Strickland, Iris Locklear, Michelle Knight; second row, left to right: Veronica A. McGirt, manager, Lottie R. Dial, Gina L. Locklear, Tina M. Jones, Christina Lowry, Nena Oxendine, Joyce Smith.



Prospect Junior Varsity-first row, left to right: Lenny Brayboy, Roger Locklear, Kent Hammonds, Julius Sanderson, Christopher H. Scott, Brian K. Lowry; second row, left to right: Brant F. Harris, Terry L. Chavis, Anthony Chavis, Brian Collins, Micky Jones, Ladson Sampson- manager. Not pictured: Derick Locklear.

CREDITS

Pembroke Varsity Boys, Varsity Girls and Junior Varsity stories by Steve Tyner; Prospect Varsity Boys, Varsity Girls and Junior Varsity stories by David Malcolm; Pembroke Varsity Girls and Junior Varsity photographs by Joshua Malcolm; David Malcolm photograph by Jonathan Malcolm; all other photographs by David Malcolm, except that of Steve Tyner.



Steve Tyner



David Malcolm



Joshua Malcolm



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