

Home Opener Tuesday Night

Lion Cagers Open Friday Night

The 1984-85 edition of the Mars Hill Lions basketball squad will open its season Friday night in Williamsburg, Ky. where they will take part in the Cumberland College Invitational Tournament.

The Lions will open Friday against the Birmingham-Southern Panthers in the opening round of the four-team tournament which also includes the host Cumberland Indians and the Wilmington College Quakers.

Mars Hill head coach Bob Ronai is optimistic as the Lions open regular season play. The Lions will return four starters from last year's 18-12 squad.

Returning at the two-guard position is Todd Blondin, a 6'3" junior and All-American candidate. The team's MVP and Offensive Player of the Year in 1983-84, Blondin led the team in scoring, averaging 16.5 points per game.

Pierre Lamitte returns in the combination forward slot for his senior season. Lamitte led the Lions in rebounding and blocked shots last year while averaging 11.2 points per game. Lamitte was named the squad's Defensive Player of the Year last season.

Joining Lamitte and Blondin are veterans Pressley Boyd, a 6'6" junior, and Jerry Brooks, a 6'1 senior who will again play the point guard position in Ronai's lineup. Brooks led the Lions in assists last season as the team's floor leader.

The Lions will be without Steve Dooley, the school's ninth all-time leading scorer. Dooley was lost to graduation last spring, but returns to the Chambers Gym wars this winter as a student assistant coach.

Ronai is counting on junior Steve McDonald to fill in at the small forward slot. Other returnees from last year's squad include senior forward Darryl Rose, sophomore Ben Walker and senior guard and former Madison Patriot, Tony Mitchell.

The Lions will also be looking to new recruits Pat Todd, Jon Hancock, Tony Davison, Shelwyn Klutz and Tom Beeker to make a contribution.

Todd is a sophomore transfer student from St. Petersburg, Fla. Hancock will be familiar to local basketball fans. The 6'2" guard played his high school ball at Enka H.S.

Tony Davison seems like the freshman most likely to crack the Lions lineup. Davison, a 5'11" guard from Fort Wayne, Ind., saw plenty of playing time in a recent scrimmage against the AAU Palmetto All Stars.

Klutz is a 6'5" forward from Kansas and Tom Beeker is a 6'9" forward from Roanoke, VA.

The Lion newcomers are likely to see action this weekend as injuries continue to plague the Mars Hill starters. Ronai told reporters, "The biggest problem we have in opening up is the fact that we have had numerous injuries and sickness on our team already. The way things are going now, there is a tremendous possibility we will be opening with four starters out due to various injuries." Ronai said Blondin, Lamitte, Boyd and McDonald are all questionable for Friday's tip-off.

Mars Hill opens the tournament with a 6 p.m. tip-off against Birmingham-Southern at Gatliff Gymnasium. Cumberland and Wilmington will meet in the other first round game at 8 p.m.

Cumberland finished with a 31-5 record last season, winning the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and District 32 tournament championship.

The two-day tournament will conclude with a championship game Saturday at 8 p.m.

Mars Hill will open their season at home Tuesday night in Chambers Gym with a 7:30 tip-off against King College.

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COUPON COOKBOOK CORNER

Marion Joyce



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APRICOT SHORTBREAD BARS

- 2/3 cup Sun-Maid® or Sunsweet® Dried Apricots, coarsely chopped
- 2/3 cup water
- Shortbread
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup brown sugar, packed
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon peel
- 1/2 cup Diamond® Walnuts medium chopped
- Powdered sugar

In small saucepan, cook apricots and water over medium heat about 10 minutes. Drain; set aside to cool. Prepare Shortbread. Sift together flour, baking powder and salt. Add brown sugar, eggs, vanilla and lemon peel; beat until well blended. Fold in apricots and walnuts. Turn into pan over hot Shortbread. Bake at 350 degrees F 30 to 35 minutes longer. Cool in pan. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and cut into bars.

Shortbread: Combine 1 cup all-purpose flour, 1/4 cup granulated sugar, 1/4 teaspoon each salt and baking powder. Cut in 1/2 cup butter or margarine as for pastry. Turn into greased 8-inch square baking pan and press in even layer over bottom. Bake at 350 degrees F about 20 minutes or until edges brown very lightly.

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