

Dawgs open season on the hardwoods

Takiya Patrick
Pilot sports editor

Do you hear that... a ball bouncing,, a net popping...do you hear that?

Yes, it is that old familiar sound. It's time for GWU basketball and the Men's Basketball team is preparing to return to action for another exciting season.

Coach Rick Scruggs is optimistic about this season's team. Scruggs feels that he is working with the best team in the last couple of years. Scruggs says the young men are not only athletes but also scholars; five of the nine new players are on academic schol-

arships. Scruggs feels that the scholarly attitude is being carried onto the court as well, bringing a better attitude to the game.

Last season did not end up the way fans had hoped. What was once an optimistic season turned into one that was somewhat disappointing.

"It was a discouraging year," said Scruggs. Scruggs feels that the team never came together and the result was not having a very good season.

The Bulldogs return this season with a fairly young team. The loss of many of the more experienced players after last season leaves the Dogs with only one senior on the

team. But Scruggs doesn't feel that this will have much bearing on this season's play. Scruggs says, though, they had to give up the experience this squad has brought in skill, attitude, and desire.

Several players return for the Dogs this season.

Senior Damien McMillan and Dusty Mason return this year. McMillan, will miss some games due to a broken wrist, but Mason is expected to have a good season.

Among the new players, Antoine Wilkerson and Corey Dillard are expected to produce for the Dogs. Dillard, the 6'7 forward, has competed at a junior college and will bring

experience to the team. Wilkerson also brings experience and was named Mr. Basketball last year in Kentucky in junior college competition.

Five freshmen join the Dogs this season.

"Freshman will play a big part and will play a lot," says Scruggs.

Freshmen Bruce Fields and Jamie Roller are expected to be big for the Running Bulldogs throughout the season.

The Dogs were in pre-season action on Nov. 9 in an exhibition game against the Kentucky Sports Crusaders losing by a score of 116-95.

Corey Dillard led the

Bulldogs offensively finishing with 18 points. Four other players added double-digit points to the GWU effort. Antoine Wilkerson, Dusty Mason, Corey Dillard, and Jamie Roller added 14, 13, 12, and 10 points respectively.

Scruggs feels that the men played well considering for some it was the first time competing at the college level. He feels that the team hung in there and that the biggest thing is overcoming inexperience.

The Dogs opened regular season play at home Nov. 13 in the Rotary Dixie Tournament. Then were at home again on Nov. 24 against the University of North Florida.

Lady Bulldogs looking for good year

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The leaves are falling from the trees and the temperature is dropping outside. It's the perfect season to stay inside where it's nice and warm and enjoy an action packed game of basketball.

Well, look no further than the 98-99 Women's Basketball team. The stage has been set and the Lady Bulldogs return to the courts ready for action.

The Ladies return, off a season that was plagued by numerous injuries among the players, with a more optimistic outlook.

This year's team is also equipped with experience and depth. Coach Eddie McCurley feels excited about this year's team and is expecting to have a good season.

McCurley feels that injuries hurt the team a lot last season, but believes that the lack of depth was also a big blow. "You're gonna have injury but do you have the depth to recover?," asked McCurley, "We didn't last season. This year we do."

Injury has already hit the team. Shirley Andorful, 6-foot point guard, is out for the season with a torn ACL in her knee. Andorful was expected to start at the point position. "This was a pretty big blow," said McCurley.

There were positions to replace this season with the loss of several key players. Only one player, Holly Flornoy, was lost due to graduation. Katie Joseph will not be returning to the team this year due to a career ending knee injury.

Recruiting has however filled in the gaps. The Ladies bring in more experience this season with the signing of 4 junior college players. Lisa Parks, Rasa Sukeviciute, Jill Shaffer, and Tresita Holland.

Parks is a transfer from Tennessee Tech University. She will bring in the experience of competing in Division I competition to the team. Parks is expected to start at the point position for the Lady Bulldogs. McCurley feels Parks has the ability to make a lot of difference and also bring maturity and leadership to the team.

Sukeviciute, a 6'4" post player, is a transfer from Kansas City Kansas Community College. Sukeviciute will give size and experience to the team. Her size on the inside will also add dimension to the game.

Shaffer, a transfer from Kaskaskia Community College, will be a plus for the team. Shaffer is capable of playing several positions. She also has quickness and good ball handling ability.

Holland, a transfer from Louisburg Community College,

will play mostly the wing position this season. McCurley feels Holland is an exceptional athlete and an excellent rebounder.

Several returning players are also expected to have a good season.

Vida Turauskatie returns for the Lady Bulldogs this season in great shape. She is shooting well and has stepped up as a team leader. Turauskatie led the team in scoring with 17 points per game last season and was also freshman of the Year in the SAC.

Also returning is Jamie Boyles. Boyles was the leading rebounder last season, averaging 12 rebounds per game. McCurley feels that this is one player that gets better and better

every year.

Theresa Harrison and Jennifer Setzer also return for the Ladies this season.

Several Freshman players are also expected to make an impact.

Alicia McMahan, a 5'9" guard, could start at the wing for the Lady Bulldogs. McMahan is an intelligent player and shoots well also. McMahan is also a Presidential Scholar.

Ashley Porterfield, a 6'3" post, will add some size that has been missing from the team.

The main objective for the team is staying healthy and consistent. But McCurley is expecting an explosive offensive team and season.

The Lady Dogs were in

pre-season action Nov. 11 against the Smokey Mountain Swarm.

Turauskatie led the team with 28 points. She also pulled 11 rebounds and contributed 4 assists.

Porterfield had a hot hand also, adding 25 points and 12 rebounds in 24 minutes of play. Porterfield not only worked offensively but defensively as well adding three blocks.

Boyles also added nine points and 10 rebounds. Shafer put in 12 assists and 9 points as the Lady Dogs went on to win 87-78.

The Ladies will spend Christmas break in the Bahamas at a tournament.

Merry Christmas

Have a
safe and
fun
break

