

TBC Boys *From Page 3*

Boyd averaged 8.8 points per game last season while Edwards turned in a 7.7 average per game.

Newcomers Steven Alligood, Doug Black and Kevin Newman are expected to make early contributions.

Head coach Harold Wayne Jackson enters his second year at the helm with his system installed. Jackson's team last season played patiently and with discipline.

This year, Jackson says his team will fast break at every opportunity and play a free-lance passing game. The Pirate defense will feature a pressure man-to-man attack.

MATTAMUSKEET LAKERS

Rod Spencer, a 6-4, 230-pound senior, is the leading scorer returning in the Tobacco Belt Conference this season.

And, the bulky second-team WDN all-area performer may be the key if the Lakers are to improve on last year's 2-19 performance last season.

Melvin Blount, who is in his eighth year at the Hyde County school, takes over the boys' helm after five years coaching the Lady Lakers.

He will have two returning starters in Spencer and 5-8 guard Brian Brimmage, a honorable mention all-area performer last season.

In addition, football standout Antwion Whitney, Leondas Farrow and Bobby Howard are expected to make strong contributions for a Laker squad that will play deliberately on offense.

"We want to run a controlled slow-tempo offense," Blount says.

Defensively, Blount says the Lakers will play man-to-man and use some zone-press tactics.

The first-year boys' coach said he feels he can go as deep as 10 players into his bench. He has 15 players listed on his roster — five seniors and 10 juniors.

CRESWELL TIGERS

After having just seven players to work with last season, Creswell head coach Mike Jones is buoyed by a roster listing 13 going into the preseason opener.

"That's the most players we have had since the 1984 season," Jones said. That season was a significant one for the Tigers as they finished 20-7 and won the Tobacco Belt Conference regular-season championship and advanced to the first round of the playoffs.

Thus, with a good turnout and some height in junior Marisco McCleave (6-4) and 6-6 freshman Corey Webb, Jones, who is starting his seventh season at the Creswell helm, hopes to do some things differently on offense and defense to improve on last year's 8-13 record.

"We've never been a slow-down team," said Jones, "but, we'll want to get it inside and utilize the big guys."

"Defensively, we'll mix it up, using some man and some zone and even put some pressure on the ball. Even though we're big, we have some quickness. We're going to have to do something beside sitting back in a zone."

Jones said Jevon Webb and Romel Sawyer are battling to earn the point-guard slot while Kenneth Cabarrus, a junior, would hold down the shooting guard slot.

"I'm not sure how we'll play," Jones said. "We'll be rough starting out but I hope we'll be competitive and finish fourth or fifth. We're looking forward to getting started."

BEAR GRASS BEARS

Last year, the Bear Grass Bears came within a whisker of posting a 8-1 record at home but had to settle for a 7-2 TBC worksheet and a fifth-place finish while notching a 12-12 overall record.

Head coach David Eubanks expects his squad to again be strong at home and, with a few breaks, to make the playoffs.

He has two starters returning in Corbett Brown at point guard and Bryan Clark at forward and some height in Don Mizzelle and Rodney Little at the pivot.

In addition, Timmy Mobley, Terry Mobley and Stacy Hickman — up from the jayvees — are expected to contribute in addition to Corbett Brown and Bryan Clark.

Offensively, Eubanks will ask his team to push the ball up the floor — with some discipline. Defensively, he looks for his squad to play man-to-man with a full-court and half-court press as well as 3-2 and 2-1-2 zones.

"If we keep everybody out of trouble and we keep our grades up and end up with the 10 players we have now, we should be in the top five — and with a few breaks, we can make the playoffs," Eubanks said.

COLUMBIA WILDCATS

Last year, the Columbia Wildcats got off to a slow start due to the success of the football team in the



Chocowinity Indians



Columbia Wildcats



Bear Grass Bears

playoffs.

But, after the slow start, the Wildcats finished in a tie for third place with a 12-6 record in the conference and a 13-9 overall ledger and a first-round playoff loss to Gates County.

The Wildcats prepare for this year with one starter — Ryan Jones — among three returning lettermen.

Sandy Simmons, starting his fifth season as head coach, will look to have his team run on offense and play a man-to-man defense.

AURORA TROJANS

David Prescott, who spent last season as boys' head coach at Mattamuskeet, takes the helm at Aurora, piloting both the boys and the girls team.

To rebuild a team that lost all 19 of its games, Prescott has one returning starter in Tyrone Jordan, a senior point guard, and a raft of elevated junior varsity performers.

"We're not tall but have good speed and good leaping ability," Prescott said. He said the squad would have to play smart and avoid turnovers.

He lists Kevin Harper, Carl Moore, Patrick Coffey, Jermain Haywood, Daniel Moore, Preston Watson, Mark White and Henry Sawyer as his potential standouts.

Prescott said he feels his first five players will be able to run with the ball and will have the advantage of playing together on the junior varsity squad.

His team's goal will be to earn the No. 4 seeding in the playoffs.

JAMESVILLE BULLETS

Jerry Ange, in his second year as the Jamesville head coach, says he has a young and old team.

"We have two seniors and two junior and four sophomores and one freshman," Ange says. "We're going to have to work hard every day and learn from every game."

Ange has three lettermen and no starters returning from last year's team which finished 8-15 overall and 6-12 in the conference.

The early standouts have

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