

Top Scorers To Return In Coastal

The Coastal Conference boys' basketball race looks like an exciting one as six of the league's top twelve scorers are back to lead their respective teams to the top.

The conference has new coaches in Jim Kiebler at West Carteret and Cobby Deans at D.H. Conley, and two of the league's best players, Anthony Robinson and Ledel George of Havelock, return to lead an experienced Ram squad.

Add to that the expected improvement of Washington and East Carteret as challengers to defending regular-season champions from D.H. Conley, and you have the makings for a fight to the finish this winter.

A team by team look at the Coastal Conference:

NORTH LENOIR

North Lenoir coach Jerry Walton enters his 18th season as Hawks coach minus one of the area's top scorers, but with four starters returning from last year's 17-8 team that advanced to the second round of the state playoffs.

Gone is Dave Hinson, whose 18.2 points scoring average was second only to Havelock's Derek Borden last season. Back is Hinson's backcourt mate, Tyrone Bryant, a good shooter from near or far; Norwood Kirtrell, a solid bench performer; Will Sutton, the squad's sixth man; and Leon Morgan, who averaged 12.8 points per game and was a deadly three-point shooter, making 125 of them in 25 games.

The difference this year, Walton says, is size. The Hawks have none but are a little quicker than last year's team. Walton said the team would continue to push the ball up the court, but added that rebounding may be a problem early.

HAVELOCK

Havelock coach Shelly Marsh is worried about his team's lack



D.H. Conley Vikings

of depth as the Rams will try and unseat D.H. Conley from its two-year reign.

Five lettermen, including 6-9 center Anthony Robinson and 6-3 swingman Ledel George return off of last season's 24-5 team that finished second in the regular season but defeated West Craven for the tournament title. Havelock reached the sectional finals before falling to eventual state champions Bartlett-Yancey for the second year in a row.

In Robinson, the Rams have a potential dominating inside player as well as offensive threat. Robinson averaged eight points and 11 rebounds per game last season while George was a consistent scorer, averaging 17.2 points a contest, third in the league.

Leading Marsh's balanced attack will be Vincent Norris, Letsun Morris and Kimbrey Morris, another of the returners. The Morrises will be expected to add to the Rams' inside game

while Norris, Silas George, Issac Barrett and Eric Borden are expected to complement Ledel George.

EAST CARTERET

East Carteret coach Cecil Lilley said the improvement of Billy Ellison could be the key that unlocks the state playoff door for the Mariners this year.

Last season, Ellison weighed in at a hefty 250 pounds and continually faced foul difficulty. Now, minus 45 pounds, Ellison, Lilley says, is much improved. Ellison led the Mariners' scoring last season with a 12.1 points per game average, 11th in the conference.

The other starter joining Ellison is 6-2 Joe Montford, who will be asked to help with the scoring load and rebounding inside, Lilley said.

Other key returners for the Mariner cagers are: off-guard Michael Way; Jimmy Walker and Theotis Johnson, who are battling for the point guard spot; Lewis Jones, a 6-5, 200-

pounder who'll add muscle underneath; Gerald Murrell, a 6-3 senior; and Jud Copeland, a 6-2 junior.

Lilley says that Ellison will be the team's main offensive weapon, whether it be inside or facing the basket in the Mariners' motion offense. Defensively, East will use multiple sets — man base and zone, Lilley said.

Lilley said the key to a successful season is keeping Ellison and Montford healthy and out of foul trouble, getting good guard play from Way, Walker and Johnson and strong inside performances from Jones, Murrell and Copeland off the bench.

WEST CRAVEN

Gone are prolific shot-block blocker Keith Roundtree (12.3 PPG) and dazzling playmaker Willie Manley, who averaged 14.1 points a contest. Replace them with a batch of young players up from the junior varsity and 11th-year head coach

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TBC Boys

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been Kelby Moore, who was the sixth man last season, Keith Basnigt, point guard Che Vincent and freshman Anthony Selby. Chuckie Barber, a junior transfer from Plymouth, is expected to contribute.

Ange says his team will suffer a drop in speed after the first five players. He said he expects to play eight or nine a game.

"There's not a great deal of difference between them," said Ange. "We're going to have a lot of players getting a lot of time."

Offensively, Jamesville will set up the offense and to get the best possible shot as quickly as possible, pushing the ball up the court. Defensively, the Bullets will feature a man-to-man pressure defense with some zone thrown in.

"We're going to work at being consistent, that's the main thing," Ange said.



Aurora Trojans

Coastal Schedules

WASHINGTON NOVEMBER

- 29 — at Bertie
- 30 — Williamston

DECEMBER

- 2 — Plymouth
- 6 — Bertie
- 14 — at Williamston
- 16 — at Plymouth
- 20 — Goldsboro
- 27 — Boys in Washington Daily News Tournament
- 28 — Boys in Washington Daily News Tournament

JANUARY

- 3 — at Goldsboro
- 6 — Havelock*
- 10 — at D.H. Conley*
- 13 — at West Carteret*
- 20 — at North Lenoir*
- 27 — West Craven*
- 31 — at East Carteret*

FEBRUARY

- 3 — D.H. Conley*
- 7 — West Carteret*
- 14 — North Lenoir*
- 17 — at Havelock*
- 21 — at West Craven*
- 24 — East Carteret*

WEST CARTERET NOVEMBER

- 30 — Kinston

DECEMBER

- 2 — at Conway, S.C. tournament
- 3 — at Conway, S.C. tournament
- 9 — Swansboro
- 13 — at Kinston
- 16 — Pender

JANUARY

- 2 — Ayden-Gritton
- 6 — at Pender County
- 10 — at Ayden-Gritton
- 13 — Washington*
- 17 — at North Lenoir*
- 20 — Havelock*
- 24 — West Craven*
- 27 — at East Carteret*
- 31 — D.H. Conley*

FEBRUARY

- 7 — at Washington*
- 10 — North Lenoir*
- 14 — at Havelock*
- 17 — at West Craven*
- 21 — East Carteret*
- 24 — at D.H. Conley*

NORTH LENOIR NOVEMBER

- 29 — South Lenoir

DECEMBER

- 2 — at Greene Central
- 6 — at Ayden-Gritton
- 9 — Greene Central
- 13 — Ayden-Gritton
- 16 — Charles B. Aycock
- 28 — Tri-County Classic (South Lenoir)
- 29 — Tri-County Classic (South Lenoir)

JANUARY

- 3 — at Charles B. Aycock
- 6 — at South Lenoir
- 10 — at East Carteret*
- 13 — at D.H. Conley*
- 17 — West Carteret*
- 20 — Washington*
- 27 — Havelock*
- 31 — at West Craven*

FEBRUARY

- 3 — East Carteret*
- 7 — D.H. Conley*
- 10 — West Carteret*
- 14 — at Washington*
- 21 — at Havelock*
- 24 — West Craven*

HAVELOCK NOVEMBER

- 22 — at Jones Senior
- 29 — Jones Senior

DECEMBER

- 9 — at New Barn
- 13 — Farmville Central
- 20 — at Farmville Central
- 21 — at Kinston
- 27 — Boys at New Bern Christmas Classic
- Girls in D.H. Conley Holiday Tournament
- 28 — Boys at New Bern Christmas Classic
- Girls in D.H. Conley Holiday Tournament
- 29 — Girls in D.H. Conley Holiday Tournament

JANUARY

- 3 — Kinston
- 6 — at Washington*
- 10 — at West Craven*
- 13 — East Carteret*
- 17 — D.H. Conley*
- 20 — at West Carteret*
- 27 — at North Lenoir*

FEBRUARY

- 3 — West Craven*
- 7 — at East Carteret*
- 10 — at D.H. Conley*
- 14 — West Carteret*
- 17 — Washington*
- 21 — North Lenoir*

EAST CARTERET NOVEMBER

- 29 — at Pamlico

DECEMBER

- 2 — Swansboro
- 8 — Farmville Central
- 9 — Ayden-Gritton
- 13 — at Swansboro
- 16 — at Farmville Central

JANUARY

- 3 — Pamlico
- 10 — North Lenoir*
- 13 — at Havelock*
- 17 — West Carteret*
- 24 — at D.H. Conley*
- 27 — at West Carteret*
- 31 — Washington*

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