

TBC Girls *From Page 8*

the first round of the playoffs. They will blend with two juniors, one sophomore and five freshman for head coach Tom Wooten's second year as head coach.

Wooten looks to Jackie Bryant to crack the starting lineup as forward and expects 5-10 freshman Marion Whitehead, 5-0 freshman Melanie Sherrod and junior Nikki Edwards to contribute while Hill will be the center of attention.

"We're going to be a poor shooting team but very quick," Wooten says. "We're going to slow it up offensively, playing patiently. But, if we get a fast break, we'll take it. Defensively, we'll press."

LADY PIRATES

BATH — In his seven years of coaching the Bath girls, Gerry Klas has never had a team finish lower than fourth in the standings.

The best year was 1984-1985 season when Bath finished second in the conference with an 18-5 record.

Last year's team notched a 14-9 record and finished third, advancing to the second round of the playoffs and getting ousted by Chocowinity.

To start the 1988 season, Bath's final year of existence before merging with Belhaven to form Northside, Klas has three starters returning among five lettermen.

Two-thirds of the "Cousin Connection" — Stephanie Satchell (5-11) and Robin Satchell (5-6) — join senior Karen Cutler as the top returnees.

Klas said he expects newcomers Cheryl Slager and Susan Braddy to make an immediate contribution.

Bath's roster lists no juniors, six seniors, four sophomores and four freshmen.

"We're old but young," Klas said. "This is going to be a gutty crew. Bath has never had a losing season in girls' basketball. This is our last year — there is no tomorrow. We are going to show 'em we can play. We'll leave everything on the floor."

LADY WILDCATS

COLUMBIA — The Lady Wildcats will begin the season with four returning starters including three three-year performers in trying to improve on last year's 6-16 finish as Kevin Wilson takes over as head coach.

Wilson said he intends to install a pressure defense with a lot of traps while playing an up-tempo transition-oriented offense.

The team will be built around three-year starters Marilyn Basnight, Cora Mae Bailey and Suebrina Hill with Virginia McClees, Marcy Hassell and Dana Davenport providing depth.

"Our experience is our biggest strength," said Wilson. "We could be in the top five or six in the conference and have a shot at the No. 4 playoff spot. But, we have a lack of proven players and a lack of fundamentals."

Depth may prove the key for Creswell's chances this year under first-year mentor Wayne Rodgers.

The Lady Tigers, which

finished with a 2-18 worksheet last season, return starters Catina Horton, Sandra Rawls, Rachel Sawyer and Amy Williams among six lettermen.

The key, Rodgers says, is developing some bench strength. "We're not tall but we're big," he says. "If we get pressed, we'll get tired. We'll need to be able to rest the starters."

Rodgers says he is counting on Shawnda Rodgers and Felicia McDowell to provide some depth but he is looking to play eight or nine players regularly.

Offensively, Creswell will concentrate on hitting the open man and playing a slower ("not deliberate") tempo. Defensively, the Lady Tigers will pack it inside and attempt to force outside shots.

Rodgers is aiming for his team to improve as the season wears on.

LADY TROJANS

AURORA — There is no question that Aurora's female athletes can win. Witness a state championship in softball last season and a semifinals appearance in this year's volleyball playoffs.

But, can the obviously talented Lady Trojans translate their athletic skills into wins on the hardwood?

David Prescott, who takes the helm this year after a year at Mattamuskeet, expects this squad to improve on last year's 9-10 finish.

"The girls have played together and know what it takes to win," Prescott says.

He has two fulltime starters and two partial starters from last year's squad with which to build on.

He said he expects Jeannie Carrow and Micki Zurface to help inside while Viva Jordan will key the team at the point. Melinda Peacock and Tonya Jordan are looked at to provide the offensive fireworks while Charity Hamilton, Andrea Cannon and Wanda Moore should help with depth.

Offensively, the Lady Trojans will look for the opportunity to bolt down the floor on the break and will seek to make things happen off a hardnosed defense.

LADY BULLETS

JAMESVILLE — Jerry Godley returns to coaching girls' basketball after a five-year break. The head coach of the football Bullets, Godley coached girls for three years before relinquishing the helm.

He sees one thing as a key if Jamesville is to improve on last year's dismal 1-20 outing — fundamentals.

"We need to learn the basic fundamentals of basketball, the key elements like dribbling, passing and rebounding," he says. "We are taking none of those for granted. This team is the fundamentally weakest team in the conference."

Godley has a talented performer in senior guard Val Clark, an all-conference performer last season, and returning starter Karen Styons to build around.

He said he has been encouraged by the play of Jayna Worsley and sophomores Sheila

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Chocowinity Lady Indians



Bear Grass Lady Bears



Belhaven Wilkinson Lady Bulldogs