

Aces aim to return to state playoffs

Basketball Outlook

BY MALCOLM SHIELDS
Daily Advance

For some teams, the 2019-20 high school basketball season has begun.

Last winter featured several teams in the region advance to the state playoffs.

John A. Holmes was the only school that had both basketball teams win state playoff games last winter.

The Aces will likely contend for conference championships this season.

Here is more on the Aces.
Boys' coach: Robert Woodley

Last season's record: 23-5, 8-2 Albemarle Athletic Conference

Boys' outlook: The Aces had a strong end to the season as they were able to win the Albemarle Athletic Conference tournament championship and advanced to the third round of the NCHSAA 1A state playoffs.

Edenton fell in a tight

game to Henderson Collegiate, who went on to win the East Regional championship and finished as the state runner-up.

Holmes is expected to return a good amount of players from last season's team.

That includes Keenan Downing, Keimonte "K.D." Raynor, Mitjonta Stanley, Tyree Capehart, Ervin White, Bobby Wilson and Hutch Winborne.

Jewell Coston, Malaki White, Kendrick Armstead, Fred Drew and Teddy Wilson are expected to contribute this season.

It might take some time before Edenton takes to the court as several players are members of the John A. Holmes football team.

Downing, Stanley, Bobby and Teddy Wilson, White and Drew are on the football team.

The football team faces Tarboro in the 1AA East Regional championship game Friday at Tarboro.

Edenton will have to replace the production of point

guard Antuan Sharpe who was named the Daily Advance Area Player of the Year last winter in his senior campaign along with Zion Boston and Nakevin Hill.

Woodley noted that he hopes the success of the football team transitions to the basketball court.

The coach added that the team has a lot of potential, quickness, team speed good work habits and a determination to be successful.

The Aces also features multiple athletic players.

Seven players return from last season's varsity team along with five players that played on the conference champion junior varsity team.

Woodley noted the key to the season is to have good health and how fast the team can adjust from football to basketball.

Getting into good basketball conditioning will be key for the team.

Girls' coach: Brian Chappell

Last season's record:

17-10, 7-3 Albemarle Athletic Conference

Girls' outlook: The Aces return a young team this season. Edenton is led by junior Jamillian Johnson.

Johnson was The Daily Advance Area Player of the Year last season as a sophomore.

She will be joined by Sydney Spear, Jhasi Gilliam, along with Le'Asia Stanley and Kaci Drew. Johnson is the only junior on the team, while Gilliam is the only senior on the team.

Chappell noted that the Albemarle Athletic Conference will be strong this season and every game night will be a battle.

Washington County is the defending regular-season champion, while Manteo bested Edenton in the tournament championship game last winter.

Chappell noted that the team will take the season one day at a time.

Edenton (1-0) opened its season with a 51-42 win at First Flight Nov. 26.

Wrestlers aim to return to state tournament

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Area wrestlers will vie for individual regional and state championships this winter.

Currituck, Northeastern, Pasquotank, Bertie, Hertford County and First Flight will battle for the 2A Northeastern Coastal Conference team championship, while

John A. Holmes will try to defend its league title in the 1A Albemarle Athletic Conference.

Here is more on the Aces wrestling team:

Coach: Lenny Plummer

Last season's record: 9-11, 2-0 Albemarle Athletic Conference

Outlook: The Aces will battle Manteo once again for the league team championship this winter.

Edenton advanced to the third round of the NCHSAA 1A dual team state playoffs last season.

The Aces are expected to be led by returning starters Riddick White (120 pounds), Chase Ward (126), Emarion Rountree (138), Alex Bergevin (145), Jordan Huerta (152) and Jonathan Salinas (160) along with Paul Stine (106) and Blake Thompson (132).

Huerta posted a 24-12 record last season, while Salinas went 16-11 last winter.

Stine, White, Ward, Rountree and Salinas all represented the Aces at the Pierce-Davis tournament at North Pitt Saturday and won at least a match.

Plummer acknowledged that the team is small in numbers this season, but the group has a great training ethic and expects the team to be good.

The coach added that the team will take some hits due to forfeits in some weight classes, but is high on freshmen Thompson, Stine and Ethan Dale.

SPORTS BRIEFS

BY STAFF, SUBMITTED REPORTS

Work underway for new softball dugouts

Construction is underway on the complete restoration of the John A. Holmes High School softball field dugouts.

A concrete foundation was poured and framing for three walls was up as of Saturday.

Those contributing to the project includes Edenton Aces Booster Club, West Town, CRMP, Brinkley's Lawn Care, Petals & Bows, Suncoast Builders, Kempsville Building Materials, and the community.

Cheerleaders place fifth in states

The John A. Holmes cheerleading team took fifth place in the Small

Varsity Non-Tumble Division 2 competition at the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Cheerleading Individual Championships Saturday at the Raleigh Convention Center.

The team had 54 points. Forbush won the division championship with 78.4 points in the six-team field.

This week's games

Wednesday, Dec. 11
HIGH SCHOOL

Swimming
John A. Holmes at Elizabeth City YMCA
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Basketball
Chowan Middle at Riverside, 4 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 12
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Wrestling
River RD at Chowan Middle, 4:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 13
HIGH SCHOOL
Swimming
John A. Holmes at Elizabeth City YMCA, 3 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 16
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Basketball
Roper at Chowan Middle, 4 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 17
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Wrestling
Manteo at Chowan Middle, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 18
HIGH SCHOOL
Swimming
John A. Holmes at Outer Banks YMCA, 3 p.m.
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Basketball
Chowan Middle at Central, 4 p.m.

Smile, It's Christmas!

Thanks to all of our valued patients for making our year so merry and bright with your visits. We really appreciate your trust in us, and we wish you the happiest of holidays!

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ACES

Continued from B2

reason to probably give up, but they didn't. They hung in there, came back and fought hard."

Tarboro answered Edenton's only scoring drive with an 18-yard rushing touchdown from Khalil Staten with 8:11 left in the fourth quarter. They converted a two-point attempt for a 35-6 lead.

With the loss being the Aces' only one of the year, it's the first time since 2012 the program finishes with just one loss for a season.

"We had a great year and accomplished a lot of great things," Hoggard

said. "This senior group won a bunch of football games. There's 12 of them that we're going to sorely miss and hoped they've gained as much from football as we've gained from them."

FRIEDMAN

Continued from B2

State play at noon on Saturday. I'll let you decide if it deserves the ACC priority scheduling on your Google calendar.

On Monday the 30th, Louisville makes their way to Tennessee for the Music City Bowl at 4 p.m. and Virginia closes the day against Florida in the Orange Bowl at 8 p.m.

Virginia Tech plays in Charlotte at noon on New Years Eve and it will be Bud Foster's last game.

It's crazy when you consider the guy has

been there more than 30 years.

Two hours later in the best named bowl, the ACC and PAC 12 face off when Florida State heads west to play Arizona State in the Tony The Tiger Sun Bowl at 2 p.m. Seriously, that name's grrreat.

Unless Clemson beats Ohio State and advances to play LSU in the winner of the LSU-Oklahoma game, the last ACC football game of the season will be played when Boston College and Cincinnati compete in the Birmingham Bowl at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 2.

By then I'll be back to needing therapy.



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