

PARKLAND

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"Defensively, we're ahead of where I thought we'd be," he said. "Offensively, we play well in transition, but we struggle when we have to set up and run plays."

One of the team's strength is its depth.

"We can probably play 13 people," Pennington said. "I don't think we will, but I think we're pretty deep. We'll try to play up-tempo offensively and pressure defensively. We want to get the ball out on offense because we think we can wear people down."



Cliff Crawford

Because we are so small we have to run." Pennington said he's been

pleased with the help of first-year assistant Ronnie Enoch.

"He's been doing a good job," Pennington said. "I'm very pleased to have him."

The Mustangs begin the season with games against tough 4-A competition. After Christmas they begin play in a tough Piedmont Triad 3-A Conference.

"That's my biggest worry," he said. "We're going to be improved, but our non-conference schedule is so tough and then we get into the conference schedule. Five of the seven teams in the conference finished either first or second in their conference last year. If there's a tougher 3-A conference I'd like to see it."

CARVER

from page B3

and an exciting player to watch."

Antoine Barnes is the third returning player who logged considerable minutes for the Yellowjackets.

"Night in and night out Antoine is one of the best defensive players I've been around," Holt says. "He's an outstanding offensive rebounding machine. He's the guy that gives us the emotional lift."

Several other returning players should also figure into Holt's plans.

Ben Petty, Ryan Braham, Keegan Haggins and David Hairston were all on the team at one time or another last season.

"They are kids who have had limited playing time in the past, but will have to give us some help with experience," Holt says. "They're the kind of kids we can depend on. They are guys that need to be watched."

One unknown in the program is Rishard Davis, a 6-6 swing man, who transferred from Florida.

"He's going to be vying for playing time," Holt says. "He could be a starter, we just don't know where he'll fit in."

In addition, sophomores Coleman Watkins and Rod Jones will be pushing for playing time as well.



Alfred Poe left a winning legacy that Ricky Holt hopes to continue.

"Coleman is an outstanding shooter and one of the best athletes on the team," Holt's says. "Rod Jones is a heady player who will be asked to play a lot of different positions."

The rest of the members of the team are no slouches either, according to Holt.

"We have some players that just need time to develop," he says. "Dwain Little, Darius Smith and Vince Wilkins are also guys who are new to the varsity that we expect to bring along slowly."

Jamille Jackson could be the biggest surprise in the Yellowjackets' camp.

"Jamille is an outstanding talent," Holt says. "We expect nothing but for him to improve with experience."

As far as talent, Holt says Poe didn't leave the cupboards bare. "I expect us to be competitive in the new league," he says. "With a new coach comes a different way of thinking and a new philosophy."

"We're still in the getting-to-know you process. Each player is different. But I think the transition is going to be smooth. I feel that we can get in man-to-man defense and then push the ball up the court. I think we'll be the kind of team people will like to come out and see play."

Mustangs girls look to Penn to lead team to top of new 3-A conference

By SAM DAVIS
The Chronicle Sports Editor

Parkland's 6-16 record last season was its best in more than a decade. Now the Mustangs hope to build upon that record and move their program forward.

To accomplish that end, the Mustangs will need a good season from Cassandra "Dec" Penn. The 5-4 guard led the team and the conference in scoring last season with a 22-point average as a sophomore.



Parkland's success will hinge on the healthy return of Cassandra Penn.

This season as a junior, Penn will be expected to provide leadership in addition to her scoring.

Parkland opened the season with two tough games in the Mary Garber Classic and dropped both by lopsided scores. The Mustangs were soundly defeated by Glenn in their opener and West Forsyth in a consolation game.

The Mustangs also opened the season without Penn in their lineup. Penn suffered a knee injury prior to the start of the season.

Penn's health will determine how successful the Mustangs will be this season. Parkland will also

"We don't have much height, so we'll rely on speed and getting down the court."

-Dwayne Hawks

have to get more points from Penn's supporting cast.

Marilyn Lennox and Cherie Wagner are the two players with the most experience in Coach Dwayne Hawks' program. Lennox finished second on the team in scoring last season with a 12-point average and also pulled down eight rebounds per game. Wagner added six points and four assists per game out of the Mustangs' backcourt.

The Mustangs will also be short on height again this season.

"We don't have much height, so we'll rely on speed and getting down the court," Hawks said.

Jamie Martin will be asked to provide scoring punch from the forward position as will sophomore Jessica Jones and Stacie Garrett.

Newcomer Tyrrahmarie Watson stepped into the starting lineup during Penn's absence. Her quickness will be counted upon to compensate for the Mustangs' lack of height.

However, Parkland's chances will ride on the strength of Penn. As she goes, so does the Mustangs. With a healthy Penn, the Mustangs will stand a chance of breaking the .500 barrier. Without her, Parkland can do little other than accept

another losing season.

Parkland High Basketball Schedule (Varsity)

Dec. 2: MT. Tabor) Dec. 5: @ North) Dec. 9: @ West) Dec. 12: Reynolds) Dec. 19: @ MT. Tabor) Dec. 26-29: Frank Spencer Classic) Jan. 6: SW. Guilford) Jan. 7: West) Jan. 9: @ Smith) Jan. 13: @

Carver) Jan. 16: Dudley) Jan. 20: @ Glenn) Jan. 23: Western Guilford) Jan. 27: H.P. Central) Jan. 30: @ SW. Guilford) Feb. 3: Smith) Feb. 6: Carver) Feb. 10: @ Dudley) Feb. 13: Glenn) Feb. 17: @ Western Guilford) Feb. 20: @ H.P. Central)

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