

Red Raiders, Bison expected to challenge in respective leagues

BY SAM DAVIS
The Chronicle Sports Editor

The boys basketball programs at High Point Central and High Point Andrews have experienced similar success as have their girls programs in recent seasons.

While Central's boys haven't experienced the same success as its girls have in the state playoffs, Andrews' boys are only three years removed from a State 3-A championship.

The move to different conferences might help the programs to flourish.

Central, which drops down to the 2-A ranks in the Central Carolina Conference, is in a rebuilding season. But the Bison are still expected to challenge for the regular season title.

Coach Rick Larrick's team returns only one starter, Bryan Hill, but the Bison will be the league's biggest team.

Veterans Jeremy Butler and Chris Heilig will vie for playing time at the point, while Jeff Clinton, 6-6, is the most experienced player in the post.

The Bison will turn to 6-6 Jeff Walden and 6-5 Kenyon Portee to

give them a formidable front line.

Both are newcomers. Portee transferred to the Bison from Westchester Academy and Walden missed the entire season with a torn posterior cruciate ligament.

The Bison could also get some minutes from an outstanding sophomore class that includes Chuckie Reed and Rashard Stevenson.

"We have 10 kids that will play a lot," Larrick said. "And we'll have about eight that we can start interchangeably."

"On last year's team, everybody knew where they were going, what they were doing and how much they were going to play. If this group can understand their roles, accept and fill those roles, we can be good."

Frank Hairston, Andrews' coach, has an abundance of talent to take into the Red Raiders' new conference. The team is favored to challenge for the conference title.

Conference coaches are pointing to two Andrews players as the league's finest. Adrian Wilson and Jason Blackwood were both named to the all-conference team last season.

Wilson, a 6-3 forward, averaged 16 points and eight rebounds.



High Point Central's defense helps to get its fastbreak offense in gear. The Bison moved down a classification and will be among the league favorites this season.

Blackwood, a guard, averaged 15 points and five assists.

Joining them will be Rod McCollum, a 6-6 freshman.

The only negative for the Red Raiders is their youth. But Hairston believes that will help the team in the long run.

"Along with Hairston, we have two other freshmen on the team," Hairston said. "We are really trying to build for the future."

While Andrews' might be looking to the future, opponents expect them to be in the thick of things this season.

Lewis-led Eagles looking to get in title hunt

△ East Forsyth fields squad of veterans plus talented youngsters

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If early season success counts, East Forsyth's girls should have one of its better seasons in quite a while.

After Tuesday night's 76-19 blowout against Carver, the Eagles owned a 2-1 record. The lone loss being a 26-25 loss to North Forsyth in the opening round of the Mary Garber Classic last week in the team's opener.

If the first three games are an indication of things to come, Coach Scott Sapp's Eagles will have both an inside and outside game for opponents to contend with.

The inside game is powered by Sara Lewis, a 6-0, senior center. Lewis led the team in scoring, rebounding and blocked shots. She averaged 12 points, 11 rebounds and 7.5 blocked shots.

"Lewis anchors our defense," Sapp said.

Lewis also is the cornerstone of the Eagles' offense. She scored 22 points in East's victory over Carver.

Monica Mikkola, a senior forward, will be counted upon to help steady the team. Mikkola averaged five points and five rebounds per game last season.

Laura Scott's outside shooting will be needed to keep team's from packing their defenses inside. Scott, a junior, averaged eight points per game and two assists as sophomore last season. Scott showed her scoring ability by

pumping in 15 points against Carver.

Scott was one of seven sophomores on the East team a year ago. That group gained valuable experience that Sapp believes will pay dividends this season.

"We have a tremendous amount of depth and maturity," Sapp said. "We are a quicker team, a more athletic team and we will be more versatile."

Two of the more athletic players on the team are Adanna McDowell and Latisha Patterson. Patterson is freshman guard and McDowell is a freshman forward.

That duo combined for 18 points against Carver, each scoring nine points.

In addition, the remaining members of the junior class are expected to provide depth. They are: Georgia Dillon, Catie Wood, Rachel Whicker, Amanda Vaughn and Jamie Junik.

If that group can show leadership, along with seniors Lewis, Marty Overman and Mikkola, Sapp's team could be in the hunt for the Metro 4-A Conference regular season title.

East Forsyth Basketball Schedule (Varsity)

Dec.2; Carver) Dec.5; West) Dec.9; @ MT.Tabor) Dec.12; @ Gleen) Dec.19; Gleen) Dec.20; @ Carver) Dec.26-29; Frank Spencer Classic) Jan.7; MT.Tabor) Jan.9; @ Reynolds) Jan.13; @ West) Jan.14; Reynolds) Jan.16; @ Southeast Guilford) Jan.20; Northwest Guilford) Jan.23; Page) Jan.27; @ Grimsley) Jan.30; @ North) Feb.3; @ Northwest Guilford) Feb.6; Southeast Guilford) Feb.10; Grimsley) Feb.13; @ Page) Feb.20; North) Feb.23-27; Conf. Tournament @ East



Sarah Lewis (right) gives the Eagles a scoring threat in the post. Lewis is the team's leading returning scorer and rebounder. The key for East, however, could be in the backcourt, where they'll need to get consistent play from several young players.



SPARTANS

Tiffani Taylor and Amy Gregory to find rebounding and scoring support on the inside. Brian Ford and Nicole Sargent are the top backcourt reserves.

MT. Tabor High Basketball Schedule (Varsity)

Dec.2; @ Parkland) Dec.5; @ Carver) Dec.9; East) Dec.10; MT. Airy) Dec.12; @ North) Dec.19; Parkland) Dec.26-30; Frank Spencer Classic) Jan.5; Smith) Jan.7; @

East) Jan.9; @ MT.Airy) Jan.16; South Rowan) Jan.20; @ Reynolds) Jan.23; @ South Stokes) Jan.27; @ Davie Co.) Jan.30; West);

Feb.3; @ South Rowan) Feb.6; Reynolds) Feb.10; South Stokes) Feb.13; @ West) Feb.17; Davie Co.) Feb.23-28; Conference. Tour);

Mar.2-7; State Sectional Tournament) Mar.9-14; State Regional Tournament) Mar.21; State Finals

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