

# 2020 UD WINTER SPORTS GUIDE



NOV. 18. 2020

Chamois Pages 2B-5B

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Fatima Pages 13B-23B

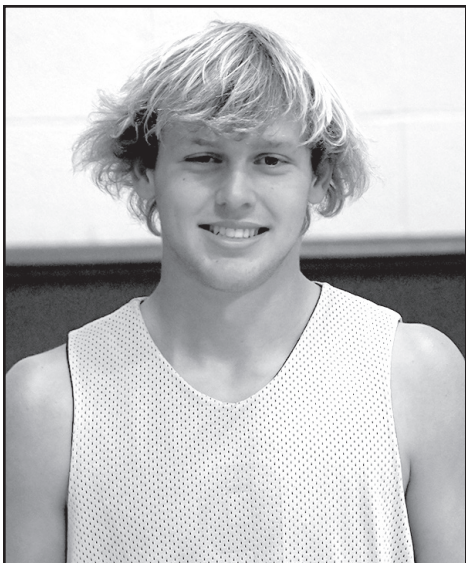
## Chamois Senior Spotlight

- 1) What are you looking forward to most as a senior this year?
- 2) What is your personal goal this season?
- 3) What is your goal for the team?
- 4) Who is your role model and why?
- 5) What does sportsmanship mean to you?
- 6) What are your plans after graduation?



**Nate Nolte**

- 1) Making more good memories with all of my friends.
- 2) Working as hard as I can and be as good as I can be.
- 3) To win a state championship.
- 4) My parents because I wouldn't be who I am today if not for them.
- 5) It means a lot because it shows what kind of person you are.
- 6) I plan to attend Lincoln University and become a personal trainer.



**Eli Deppe**

- 1) Making memories with my friends and graduating high school.
- 2) To average 12 points a game and have a higher rebounding percentage than last year.
- 3) To win the district title.
- 4) My parents because they are hard workers.
- 5) It means that no matter the outcome of the game you treat teammates and your opponent with respect.
- 6) I plan to attend college and become a mechanic.



**MaKenna Wuelling**

- 1) I look forward to making more memories with my friends and playing my last season as a Pirate because basketball has shaped me into who I am today.
- 2) To reach 1,000 points.
- 3) To win another district title.
- 4) My parents because they are hard workers, they never let me give up, and they push me to be my very best in everything I do.
- 5) It means that no matter the outcome you always treat your teammates and opponents nicely and fairly.
- 6) I plan to attend college and pursue a degree in elementary education.



**Veronica Slack**

- 1) Enjoying my last year of high school with my friends. This is the last time we will all be together and I want to have fun and work hard my last year.
- 2) To help my team win as many games as possible and average eight points per game.
- 3) To win another district title, to work together as a whole, and go even further than we did last year.
- 4) My parents because they have worked hard and helped me become the person I am.
- 5) It means that win or lose, bad game or good, you treat everyone fairly no matter how they treat you.
- 6) I plan to attend Westminster College and pursue a pre-vet medicine degree and become a veterinary technician.



**Katie Keilholz**

- 1) I look forward to competing and playing for my school one last time. I want to give everything I've got this year and take nothing for granted.
- 2) To beat our girls' basketball record on most career points.
- 3) To win another district title and go further than we did last year.
- 4) My dad because he has always pushed me to be better and practice more, even if I was tired. He is a hard worker and respectable to others, and has taught me to be the same.
- 5) Respecting players and the game while competing at your fullest potential.
- 6) I plan to attend college and pursue a degree as a physical therapist.

## Chamois Schedules in the UD Sports Section

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**COACH JOHN** Leach returns after winning his first district championship last year.

## Leach, team want another district title

Chamois has nine girls out for the 2020-21 basketball season under returning coach John Leach, and this year the Lady Pirates hope to win at least 15 games and make a run at another district title.

"We have some younger kids who are still learning, so I'm not sure how it's going to look, but we're working hard to be competitive in every game," said Leach, who earned last year's Class 1 boys coach of the year honors from the Central Missouri Sportswriters & Sportscasters Association. "We have the ability and athleticism to compete at districts. It helps when you have strong senior leaders, and they're key to our success this year. At the same time, the players returning from that district championship run will have to step up because other teams will be guarding our best players."

Seniors Katie Keilholz (5-6) and MaKenna Wuelling (5-5) were instrumental in last year's district championship, and senior Veronica Slack (5-11) has experience from two previous years to offer.

"Katie led us in scoring last year and brings a different level of shooting to the mix," said Leach. "She has the ability to get open and get the shot off, even though she was in a box-and-one in most games last year or heavily guarded. They keyed on her because teams knew she was a threat, and still, she found a way to overcome that extra attention."

Keilholz last year averaged 18.2 points a game to go with 3.8 RPG, and 2.2 SPG, while recording 11 blocks, and hitting 37% from beyond the arc, and 83.7% from the stripe. She was a first-team Show-Me Conference selection and was the top vote-

getter in Class 1, District 9 to earn All-District honors. Keilholz broke the school record for three-pointers last year with 66, which helped her gain Central Missouri Sportswriters & Sportscasters Association first-team All-District honors for the third straight season.

Wuelling as the team's point guard stepped up for the last two years, averaging 14.4 points a game and 6.4 rebounds. "They forgot about her a little bit last year but that won't happen again because teams know what she can do," said Leach. "She has great knowledge of the floor and who's open and where to put the ball."

Wuelling added 44 three-pointers on the year and averaged four assists per game while hitting 78.1% from the stripe. She is a returning All-District (MCBA and Central Missouri Sportswriters & Sportscasters Association) and All-Conference player.

Wuelling is on track to break 1,000 points this year, with 843 at the start of the season.

Slack will provide some defense in the middle.

"Veronica knows the plays and understands what we're trying to do," said Leach. "With her size, she can be effective in the paint. She brings a big presence defensively, and has an opportunity to be a big rebounder for us."

Slack last year posted 36 rebounds. Juniors are 5-10 post player Abby Keilholz and 5-6 guard Ariel Owens.

"Abby brings size to the floor, and has made a lot of improvements since last year," said Leach. "She hasn't played a lot of basketball but she's come a long way. She'll be able to come into the game and

guard other big players. Abby will see a lot of time as she balances defensive duties with Veronica."

Keilholz last season had 55 rebounds.

Owens has made leaps and bounds since last year. "She's been a vocal leader on the floor after stepping up mid-season last year," said Leach. "Her defensive presence in the district tournament last year was very important. She is understanding more about what she can do and will be a solid starter for us."

Owens finished last year with 3.9 rebounds per game while posting 16 steals.

Sophomore Alex Mckague (5-4 guard) has also gone from being a tentative player to more comfortable as she expands her knowledge. "I think she'll get more time than she did last year because of her improvements," said Leach.

Freshmen guards Madeline Gerloff (5-7), Eevie Halbert (5-5), and Elsey Wuelling (5-2) round out the squad.

"Madeline can shoot the ball and plays good defense," said Leach. "She's inexperienced at this level right now but she will have a big presence inside. I think she'll continue to improve and really help us down the stretch."

Halbert is all over the place. "She just doesn't stop," said Leach. "Eevie gets after it on both sides of the ball, and I expect her to provide us a lot of energy this year."

E. Wuelling is a raw player who's learning the ropes. "She wants to play and I just hope she keeps making progress,"

**See Lady Pirates  
Page 5B**



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## Chamois Pirates take the court under new head coach

Chamois boys basketball coach Robbie Bates is no stranger to competition, especially with a smaller group of players.

"I feel I've done my best coaching at small schools," said Bates. "I know the tradition here at Chamois is that kids want to play. Even with the COVID stuff over the summer, parents and kids were asking about open gym. We had it, and kids showed up like crazy."

This opportunity allows him to coach both junior high and varsity teams. "That gives me a chance to get them started in seventh grade, and by the time they begin high school ball, they know what to expect, and hopefully they're prepared when they

walk in to help us on the high school level."

Bates also said this position allowed him to return to his roots in a rural setting.

A 1995 graduate of Moberly High School, Bates earned his Associate's Degree from MACC in 1997 and completed his BS in secondary education at Columbia College in 2002.

He coached first as a student assistant at Columbia College for three seasons and was also a team manager at Moberly Area Community College before transferring to the University of Tennessee-Martin.

"We had kids getting Division I offers and I started getting letters too," said Bates. "It didn't work out but getting to work with

Coach Burchard for three years was amazing. He's a Hall of Fame coach, and I have always been a sponge for basketball information."

He was a graduate assistant at the University of the Cumberlands, an NAIA school in southeastern Kentucky at Williamsburg, where he was a manager for the team.

"I took in what Don Butcher had to teach," said Bates. "I feel grateful to have worked with him for two years."

Upon completion of his master's degree in education, he returned to Missouri and began as an assistant coach in the 2004-05 season at Community R-6 at Laddonia.

From there he went to MACC, where he was an assistant men's coach for two years.

"When I left Moberly I had a chance to get some high school jobs," said Bates, who went to work at the Steelville school district. "I've learned a lot from my experience at various places."

Bates held head-coaching positions at Cainsville, Tarkio, Humansville, and Hogan Preparatory Academy in Kansas City, and was an assistant coach at Potosi, Madison, and Washington High School in Kansas City.

"Last year was a crazy season," said Bates of his time at Hogan Prep, as he lost his mother in January, and had a tough time closing out the season. "I love it here at Chamois and I look forward to many great years."

Bates and his fiancée, Kimberly Patridge, have three children, freshman

Brittney Patridge, Russell Patridge, 11, and Sophia Patridge-Bates, 4. All are attending school at Chamois.

"The kids have been great," said Bates of his players, who have accepted his leadership without difficulty. "The junior high kids showed up every day and worked hard, and got better all the time. We only played six games but I wanted to put an exciting brand to the game, and I think we'll do the same in high school."

Many of the things Chamois will use this year Bates has seen in previous positions.

"I'm like every other coach," said Bates. "I beg, borrow, or steal from the experiences I've had or from what I've seen other coaches do."

Bates believes in balance but loves to teach defense. "If you can defend successfully, you give yourself a chance to win every night, no matter how talented you are," he added. "I've been blessed to work with a variety of coaches who played many different styles of defense. I feel like I can adapt my coaching style to the players I have, and that works for both offense or defense. Some coaches like to play one style of offense or defense because that's what they know, but I will mix it up based on the team we're playing and our strengths."

While Chamois is low on numbers with only eight players, Bates said he believes all of them will contribute in some

**See Pirates  
Page 5B**

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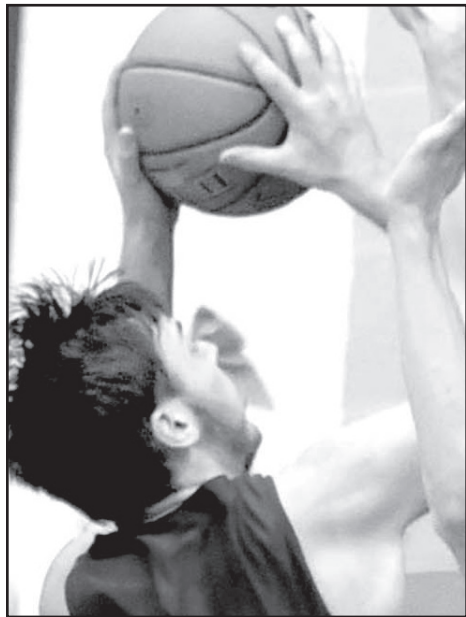
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## Pirates From Page 4B

way. "My five starters are going to be solid, and those coming off the bench will be able to do things to help us," he added. "We can play man defense and a variety of zones, and the kids flat get after it in our drills. They know what I want them to do, and they love it."

Starters will depend on how Bates chooses to approach his opponents.

"With the group we have this year, the three bench players will be great support players," said Bates. "Everyone that wants



**CHAMOIS SENIOR** Nate Nolte led the team in scoring last year. Below is senior Veronica Slack, who will continue battling for the Lady Pirates.

to play has to find a way to help us in a positive way. That doesn't mean going out and scoring 25 points. Rebounding and defense are equally important, along with handling the ball and not committing a bunch of turnovers. If they can do that, we'll find a way to get these guys on the floor. We have eight guys that can help one way or another."

Seniors are 6-2 forward Nate Nolte and 6-1 forward Eli Deppe.

"Nate can play outside and in," said Bates. "He's very versatile, and so far, he's the poster child for a high school basketball player. He loves to be in the gym, listens, pushes his tail off, and he's a great teammate. Nate gives them instruction to help them do things the right way and be in the right spot. I'm going to be really excited to see his senior season."

Bates said Nolte has been at every open gym since July and is a good example to others. "I have high expectations for him and I think he's going to have a great season," said Bates.

Last year, Nolte scored 20.3 PPG, to go with 5.6 RPG, 72.7% from the FT line, and 34% from three-points range. He earned First team Show-Me, All District (Class 1, District 9) and Central Missouri Sportswriters & Sportscasters Association All-District honors.

Deppe is a great competitor and very athletic. "He's also very strong," said Bates. "I think he will be a force around the basket for us. He had some great nights last year with a lot of rebounds and scoring and I hope that continues. Eli runs the floor very well and can guard anyone, anywhere. His speed is impressive, and he'll score eight or 10 points by just outrunning people to the other end of the floor. Like Nate, I expect

Eli to be a strong leader for us both on and off the floor. These guys will offer guidance to help the younger guys prepare to step into their roles next year."

Deppe ended the 2019-20 year with 11 points and 12.9 rebounds per game. He earned Central Missouri Sportswriters & Sportscasters Association All-District and Show-Me honorable mention honors.

Most teams will likely focus on the seniors.

"We have other guys that are complementary to our seniors that can help us win ball games," said Bates.

Juniors include 5-7 guard Ethan Halbert, 5-9 guard Caine Schaben, 5-10 guard Mason Lamb, and 6-1 forward Eli Paulsmeyer.

"Ethan comes to practice every day ready to work," said Bates. "He'll dive on the floor and get after it on every play. He's always trying to improve, and there's a role for him to help us this year. He'll be a role-player that can come in and give us minutes."

Schaben will be the team's primary point guard. "Caine competes like everyone else," said Bates. "He understands the game and is a solid defender. If he can take care of the basketball, we're going to have a good year."

Lamb is an athletic wing that brings the ability to defend to the floor. "He can also rebound, and when you add that he can put the ball on the floor, Mason, like Caine, will complement the seniors very well as they learn what it takes to be leaders so they can step into that role next year," said Bates.

Paulsmeyer brings some size and a rugged approach to play around the basket but he can step out and take a shot as well.

"He has a nice touch around the rim," said Bates. "He missed some time due to quarantine but he's working himself back into shape, and I think we'll see him bring a lot to the team this year."

The lone sophomore is 5-10 guard Shannon Cowans, and there is one freshman, 5-10 guard Chris Slusser.

"Shannon is very athletic and brings guard and ball-handling skills to the team," said Bates. "He can knock down the shot and he's learning how to be competitive. Shannon will be someone who others will have to guard on the perimeter. When it's all said and done, I also think he'll be a pretty good defender."

Slusser is making the adjustment to the high school level but is a lot like Cowans. "He'll be a good guard option off the bench to come in and give us some minutes," said Bates. "He's learning how hard you have to play and the physicality of high school ball but he doesn't back down from it. I think he'll be a good addition to the guards so he can step in and there won't be a huge drop-off when he's on the floor. He'll be in a position to help us for the next several years."

Bates is ready for whatever comes the Pirates' way.

"I'm excited for this group," said Bates. "We're the little guy in this conference but if people take us lightly, I think they're going to be surprised."

Chamois was forced to shut down for a while due to COVID, with one player having tested positive and most of the others in quarantine due to contact. The Pirates had to withdraw from the Linn Jamboree, which has since been canceled but hope to have everyone back in time to start the year against Vienna.



## Lady Pirates from Page 3B

said Leach. "I feel she'll be a very good teammate and be a great role model for the other girls because she's positive all the time."

Most of these players are coming off a fall season that had its share of challenges, particularly with COVID, and Leach isn't taking any chances.

"We're taking it a day at a time," said Leach. "I hope we get to play as much as possible and stay healthy and be able to finish out the season, especially for my seniors. I want them to have a good finish to their careers."

Leach is looking for a return to the district championship game and defense of the Lady Pirates' title, his first as head coach.

Chamois last year finished 15-9 after a tough loss in the sectional round to Community R-6. In that contest, Chamois hit 29.7% from the floor, with a 3-12 mark from three-point range (25%) and a 14-17 performance at the free-throw line (82.4%).

Keilholz, who posted a team-high 18 points, went 8-8 from the stripe, while Wuelling was 6-6 from the line as part of

her 16 points. Keilholz hit two treys and Wuelling had one.

Defense was the name of the game in last year's district championship win.

"Our defense was stellar tonight, and that's what won it," said Leach after that game. "We got our offense going in the second half. I can't be any more proud. It's overwhelming. Everything's kind of falling into place this year. Being a small school and playing the schedule we play, and getting beat up, and coming back is just a credit to the girls."

Prior to last year, the Lady Pirates had last won a district title the year Chamois went on to finish second in the state, but none of last season's players had been part of a district championship, and Leach said it was a great experience for them.

"We had a very tough season, and to have a winning record against our opponents is a plus for the girls," said Leach in recapping the district tournament. "They've come a long way since day one, and I couldn't be any more proud of the way these girls have worked."

So far this year, the Lady Pirates have continued to work hard, and Leach is pleased. "We will have challenges this season but they're up for it," he said.

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## Linn Wildcats to field a senior-laden team

After ending the 2019-20 season in the semifinals to finish 18-8, the Linn Wildcats are back and itching for a better run in districts, though the certainty of reaching that point in the year is not clear.

"We expect to compete for a district title regardless of what district we find ourselves in," said Coach Clay Crouch. "That's always the goal, to win our district, and these guys will do everything they can to make that happen."

Linn has eight seniors who will play varsity, led by Caleb Maassen, a 6-4 guard/forward.

"He's expanded his game and has a lot of experience, having started since he was a sophomore," said Crouch. "We need him to score more this year for us to be successful, and we need him to continue being our key rebounder. He handles pressure pretty well and I'm looking for a big year from him."

Last year, Maassen scored 12.9 points and grabbed 6.7 rebounds per game while hitting 64.8% from the floor, and 75% from the line. He was All-District following the Class 2 District 8 tournament, earned second-team All-District from the Central Missouri Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association, and was first-team All-Conference.

Alek Peters (5-8) returns as the Wildcats' point guard. "He had a big year last season and we hope to see him expand on that," said Crouch, as Peters scored 9.7 and collected 4.2 rebounds a game to go with 3.5

assists and 1.7 steals per contest. "He's a pretty steady presence with the ball, he's a good shooter and one of our better defenders. We'll need him to score a little more than last year."

Peters was All-District following the Class 2 District 8 tournament and earned second-team All-Conference last year.

Austin McKim, a 6-2 guard/forward, will see his role expand from last year. "We expect him to be more of an offensive player but he's also a good defender so he offers some good versatility on the floor," said Crouch.

Last year, McKim posted five points, 2.4 rounds, and 1.7 assists per game, and hit 36.4% from three-point range.

Andy Hueste, a 5-8 guard, scored 4.2 points a game and covered 34.3% of his three-point shots. "He's one of our leaders this year," said Crouch. "He works extremely hard and we'll look to lean on him a little more offensively this year."

Caden Robinson (5-8 guard) is a solid defender and does a lot of things that don't show up in the stats. "He's a reliable ball-handler and we're looking for an expanded role from him this year," said Crouch.

Drew Strobe (6-2 forward) improved over the summer on the offensive end. "We

**See Wildcats**  
Page 9B



**ALEK PETERS** takes a shot in last year's district game against New Haven. He's back for his senior year and hopes to improve on his 9.7 points per game average as the team's point guard.

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## Linn Senior Spotlight

- 1) What are you looking forward to most as a senior this year?
- 2) What is your personal goal this season?
- 3) What is your goal for the team?
- 4) Who is your role model and why?
- 5) What does sportsmanship mean to you?
- 6) What are your plans after graduation?



**Alek Peters**

- 1) Playing basketball with the boys I've been playing with since first grade.
- 2) To be a good teammate and leader on the floor.
- 3) To win districts.
- 4) My older brothers, Kole and Anthony, because they have taught me so much through the years.
- 5) Being a respectable athlete and fair to your opponents even when you lose.
- 6) Do something productive with my life.



**Hayden Phillips**

- 1) Basketball, because it's fun.
- 2) Scoring 30 points per game.
- 3) Winning state.
- 4) My pops.
- 5) Helping one another in a positive way.
- 6) I plan to go to State Tech.



**Caleb Maassen**

- 1) Playing one final year with the guys I played with and against my whole childhood.
- 2) To go to state and get my 1,000-point ball.
- 3) Make it to state and have our names on a banner.
- 4) Kenny Dye, a coworker at State Tech, who reffed me for years and now helps me with all things basketball.
- 5) Respecting your teammates, coaches, and the opposing team, just playing a clean, respectful game.
- 6) Undecided.



**Austin McKim**

- 1) One final year playing with my best friends and hopefully going out with a bang.
- 2) To continue to have the best three-point percentage and be a leader on and off the court.
- 3) To win districts.
- 4) Michael Jordan; hold yourself to a higher level and never become complacent.
- 5) Everything. It's an enjoyable sport where great things can happen between opposing teams.
- 6) To play baseball in college and major in sports medicine.



**Caden Robinson**

- 1) Being a leader because I want the program to be successful.
- 2) Helping my team and being an inspiration to the underclassmen.
- 3) Winning districts and having a successful season.
- 4) My grandpa, because he is a very respectable man, nice to everyone, and always there when I need him.
- 5) Having respect for the game and other players.
- 6) I plan to attend college.



**Kaleb Brandt**

- 1) I'm mostly looking forward to districts and tournaments because we get to know who we are as a team.
- 2) To be able to shoot at least 65% from the floor.
- 3) To win districts and to sacrifice myself for the betterment of the team.
- 4) MJ and KB because of their work ethic.
- 5) It means to always be humble, no matter the situation.
- 6) I plan to play college ball.



**Drew Strope**

- 1) Playing my last season with the boys I grew up playing with.
- 2) To improve and help the team as much as I can.
- 3) Winning districts.
- 4) My brother and Kenny Dye, because they have helped me so much.
- 5) Being respectful and helping your teammates.
- 6) I plan to go to college.



**Andy Hueste**

- 1) Going out and competing with my teammates. It's the last time I get to do that with these guys.
- 2) Doing everything I can to help the team reach its goal.
- 3) Winning districts.
- 4) My dad, who taught me that with patience and hard work through adversity, great things can be achieved.
- 5) It means showing respect to the game and everyone else on the court.
- 6) I plan to play baseball in college and get a degree that will benefit me later in life.

Remember to take the UD on your next trip, and send a photo and information to [udnewslinn@gmail.com](mailto:udnewslinn@gmail.com)



## Wildcats From Page 7B

lost some height to graduation so we'll need him to step up and score and provide some leadership," said Crouch. "He's also a pretty solid defender."

Hayden Phillips, a 5-9 guard, will be tapped to provide some energy on the floor. "We need him to help us and hopefully he'll be able to give us a boost," Crouch said. "I was impressed with what I saw during fall baseball, and we hope he can build on that as we head into basketball."

Crouch said he has a lot of confidence in the cohesion these players have.

"This group has been playing together their whole lives so they know how to play with one another really well," he added.

Kaleb Brandt (6-1 forward) is in his first year with the program. "He's getting used to playing our style, acclimating to our system and philosophy," said Crouch. "We hope he can be a big physical presence inside."

Overall, Crouch said the varsity squad should be competitive. "I think we have a chance to be good but that is always based

on practice and our ability to defend," he said. "We have different strengths this year than the last few years. We are going to be smaller and quicker so we are going to try to pick up the pace of the game. Obviously, this year is going to be a challenge for everyone with COVID but I feel good about the group we have."

A big goal this year is to be solid in the Show-Me Conference.

"We always want to compete for a conference title and we've been in the hunt recently," said Crouch. "There are some quality teams in the conference, and we'll have to be ready."

Remaining players could play at both the varsity and JV level, depending on the situation.

Juniors are Dillan Blauvelt (6-1 forward), Austin Grellner (6-0 guard), Keagan Heywood (5-9 guard), and Austin Wolfe (5-9 forward).

"These guys show up every day and work hard in practice," said Crouch. "They're showing improvement all the time and we'll need them to be ready to step in, especially

with this COVID situation."

Linn has two sophomores on the roster, Zach Dodson (6-2 forward), and Landen Bennett (5-9 guard).

"I give these guys a lot of credit because from where they started, they've made a lot of progress," said Crouch.

Freshmen are Noah Hall (5-8 guard), Zach Hatfield (5-11 forward), Lucas Collins (5-9 forward), Ashton Keilholz (5-9 guard), Shane Greer (5-8 guard/forward), Seth Wolfe (6-0 forward), Curtis Deeken (5-9 guard/forward), Hank Klouzek (5-8 guard),

Christopher Brandt (5-10 forward), Jett Maasen (5-4 guard), and Tanner Hackmann (5-8 guard/forward).

"This is a good group of incoming freshmen," said Crouch. "There's a lot of talent and they just need to continue developing and practicing. We look forward to seeing them improve and help us down the road on varsity."

Returning assistant coaches are Ryan Rost, who will run the JV program, and Mike Nolting, who will oversee the freshman group.

## Good Luck this Winter. NAJ

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## Linn Boys Basketball

DAY	DATE	TIME	OPONENT	LOCATION	LEVEL
Tuesday	11/17/2020	5:00	Jamboree (Iberia, Vienna, Chamois)	TBA	V
Friday	11/20/2020	6:00	Iberia	Linn	V
Saturday	11/21/20	10:00	Belle	Belle	Frosh/JV
Monday	11/23/20	5:00	Eldon	Linn	Frosh/JV/V
Mon-Sat	11/30/20-12/5/20	TBA	Eugene Tournament	Eugene	V
Tuesday	12/8/2020	6:00	Hermann	Hermann	JV/V
Friday	12/11/2020	5:30	Owensville	Owensville	V
Mon-Sat	12/14/20-12/19/20	TBA	inn Tournament (Boys: Russellville, Belle, South Callaway, Eldon, Sullivan) (Girls: South Callaway, Capital City, Eldon, St. Clair, Newburg)	Linn	V
Thursday	12/10/2020	5:30	Owensville	Owensville	Frosh/JV
Tues-Wed	12/29/20-12/30/20	TBA	MACC Holiday Shootout	Moberly	V
Saturday	1/2/2021	3:00	California	Linn	Frosh/JV/V
Monday	1/4/2021	5:00	Southern Boone	Linn	Frosh/JV/V
Thursday	1/7/2021	5:00	Blair Oaks	Linn	Frosh/JV
Thursday	1/14/2021	6:00	Centralia	Centralia	Frosh/JV
Friday	1/15/2021	6:00	Eugene	Eugene	V
Friday	1/22/2021	6:00	New Bloomfield (Homecoming)	Linn	JV/V
Mon-Sat	1/25/21-1/30/21	TBA	Hermann Tournament	Hermann	V
Monday	2/1/2021	6:00	Blair Oaks	Blair Oaks	V
Friday	2/5/2021	5:00	South Callaway	Linn	JV/V
Tuesday	2/9/2021	6:00	Russellville	Russellville	JV/V
Wednesday	2/10/2021	TBA	South Callaway JV Tournament	South Callaway	JV
Thursday	2/11/2021	5:00	St. Elizabeth	St. Elizabeth	JV/V
Friday	2/12/2021	5:00	Chamois	Chamois	JV/V
Monday	2/15/2021	5:00	Tuscumbia	Tuscumbia	JV/V
Thursday	2/18/2021	6:00	Fatima	Linn	JV
Friday	2/19/2021	6:00	Fatima (Senior Night)	Linn	V
Mon-Sat	2/22/21-2/27/21	TBA	Districts	TBA	V
Tuesday	3/3/2021	TBA	Sectionals	TBA	V
Saturday	3/6/2021	TBA	Quarterfinals	TBA	V
Thu-Sat	3/11/21-3/13/21	TBA	Show-Me Showdown	TBA	V

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## Linn Senior Spotlight



**Chloe Rhoden**

- 1) Spending time with friends in and outside of school and sports because memories are important.
- 2) To score 25 points in a game.
- 3) To win districts.
- 4) My mom because she is very strong-minded.
- 5) Being kind to others even when they are not and helping others on the court.
- 6) I plan to attend college and become a marine biologist.



**Claire Baker**

- 1) I am looking forward to having a good season with my friends and being able to enjoy my last season of basketball despite the restrictions that we have because of COVID-19.
- 2) I have a personal goal of getting more rebounds than I did last year and getting the award of most rebounds again.
- 3) My goal for the team is that we learn to work well together and that we make it far through districts.
- 4) My role models are my parents. They are so determined and intelligent and they have taught me about having motivation and a good work ethic.
- 5) To me, sportsmanship means putting all of your personal feelings away and focusing on bettering yourself to help your team. Sportsmanship is being the better person in a game, and not letting your emotions get the best of you.
- 6) I plan on going to college and going through a pre-law program and then attending law school.

- 1) What are you looking forward to most as a senior this year?
- 2) What is your personal goal this season?
- 3) What is your goal for the team?
- 4) Who is your role model and why?
- 5) What does sportsmanship mean to you?
- 6) What are your plans after graduation?



**Lindsey Brandt**

- 1) This year's team has great chemistry. I am looking forward to playing with each of these girls this season and seeing what we can do.
- 2) I don't want to take a single game for granted and become more of a threat behind the three-point line.
- 3) I want us to end this season with a winning record and represent Linn Girls basketball differently than in the past.
- 4) My dad because he pushes me to be better in every sport I play.
- 5) Sportsmanship means being the bigger person even when faced with aggravating situations. It is important that my teammates and I represent ourselves in a respectful manner. Not only do we represent this team, we represent our school.
- 6) I plan to attend Jefferson College to play softball and continue my education.



**Jessica Keilholz**

- 1) Spending time with my friends.
- 2) To get a better shot and play my hardest every game.
- 3) To be great team players and have a winning record.
- 4) My grandma. She has been strong through everything that has happened recently.
- 5) Always having a positive attitude and being kind on and off the court.
- 6) I plan to attend college.



**LINN HEAD** coach Brandi Moore, left, talks with first-year Assistant Coach Abbie Wheelan during a recent practice.

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# GOOD LUCK

Wildcats, Comets  
and Pirates

## Numbers down for Lady Wildcats hoops team

Linn has 13 players out for basketball this year on the girls' squad, with Coach Brandi Moore entering her third year as head coach.

Five seniors were lost to graduation last year and with only one incoming freshman, Moore expected the numbers to go down but she also expects to be competitive.

"Smaller numbers are a blessing in a way because everyone who came out really wants to play," said Moore. "We have some dedicated players committed to improving."

Moore said she wants to get out and set the tone, and play consistent basketball. "My goal is to create a lot of offense from our defensive play," said Moore. "On varsity, I think we're more athletic and quicker, and our players complement each other. Provided we can all stay healthy, I think we're looking at a good group that can really play well together."

Four seniors will be tapped to lead the team: Claire Baker, Lindsey Brandt (5-6), Jessica Keilholz (5-7), and Chloe Rhoden (5-7).

Baker, a 5-8 guard/forward, is a good rebounder and communicator. "She's always talking both on offense and defense," said Moore. "She's one of our strongest leaders on the floor and led us in rebounding last year and I think she'll be right there again."

Last year, Baker scored 7.3 points and grabbed 6.9 rebounds a game, earning Show-Me Conference honorable mention.

Brandt is the team's point guard. "She sees the floor well and is a fierce competitor," said Moore. "She is also a good defensive player and offensively, she likes to attack the basket. Lindsey knows

where to put the ball in different situations."

Brandt led the team in assists last year.

Keilholz as a guard brings a lot of energy to the floor. "She's aggressive and quick, and shoots pretty well most of the time," said Moore. "Defensively, reads passes very well and led us in steals last year."

Rhoden is a quick, athletic guard. "She will see more playing time than last year and I expect her to be a solid defensive player," said Moore. "Offensively, she's a good shooter and can hit from outside but likes to move inside and attack off the dribble as well."

Also expected to play at the varsity level this year are juniors Macci Blauvelt (5-3), Hannah Hall (5-2), Ellie Monnette (5-4), and sophomores Aushara Hostetler (5-8) and Autumn Baker (5-5).

"Macci is very quick and a good defender," said Moore, noting that Hall brings a strong basketball IQ to the team. "Hannah reads the floor well and can shoot pretty well, while Ellie is the inside player who does a lot of the dirty work that doesn't always show up in the stats. All three of these girls are working very hard to provide us with quality time on the court."

Blauvelt, Monnette and Hall will also see time at the JV level.

Hostetler returns as a second-team All-Conference player after scoring 8.9 points and grabbing nearly four rebounds per game with a 71% mark at the FT line.

"She's worked hard on becoming quicker and adding more variety to her game on the offensive end," said Moore. "Defensively, she's pretty solid and with

her height, she'll have to guard more in the post and be more physical."

A. Baker, meanwhile, puts a lot of pressure on the ball and creates a lot of turnovers. "Her shot is looking a lot better too," said Moore. "Autumn will be an impact player and I expect her to be a big part of the varsity team."

Primarily playing JV this year are juniors Emma Schaefer (5-7 guard/forward), Emma Kucsik (5-7 forward), sophomore Marly Houston (5-3 guard), and freshman Natalie Ramsey (5-5 guard).

"I look for us to be quick and

aggressive," said Moore. "The girls are working hard in practice and as they continue to develop their skills and gain experience, I expect them to help us at the varsity level at some point."

Assistant Coach Abbie Wheelan joins the team this season in her first year as a teacher at Linn.

"Abbie has been great to work with," said Moore. "She understands the game

**See Lady Cats**  
Page 12B



**JESSICA KEILHOLZ** pushes the ball up the court on a fast-break during a recent scrimmage.



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**Lady Cats**  
From Page 11B



**MARLY HOUSTON** goes up for a shot during a recent scrimmage.

and is relating well with the girls. I'm happy to have her."

Basketball has always been a passion for Wheelan, who grew up in Paris, Mo. She played on a traveling team from sixth through eighth grade and then was a four-year player in high school. Wheelan also ran track and played softball for two years.

Basketball was always a top priority for Wheelan and she was very dedicated to the sport. "I had never really thought about playing basketball in college," she said. "It was an option for me, but I decided to focus on school since I knew I wanted to become a teacher and knew there would be a lot that went into that."

Wheelan attended Quincy University in Quincy, Ill., and majored in elementary education with an endorsement in special education. Before accepting the position at Linn, Wheelan said she had never really thought about coaching or had much experience with it, aside from helping out with youth basketball camps.

When Principal Michael Fible asked her about taking the position, Wheelan was excited about the opportunity to get back into basketball.

"I am very excited to work with the girls and Coach Moore," she said. "Practices are going great and Coach Moore has a coaching philosophy that I agree with so we get along well in that aspect."

Wheelan said she expects a lot of good things this year from the JV team, and the varsity squad as well. "We have low numbers but the girls we do have are motivated and want to give their best," she said. "Confidence is something I am hoping we can improve on throughout the year. Overall, I am very excited to work with the girls and Coach Moore. I can't wait to see what the season brings us."

Keep up with Osage County sports with the U.D.

## Linn Girls Basketball

DAY	DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION	LEVEL
Tuesday	11/17/2020	5:00	Jamboree (Iberia, Vienna, Chamois)	TBA	V
Friday	11/20/2020	6:00	Iberia	Linn	V
Mon-Sat	11/30/20-12/5/20	TBA	Eugene Tournament	Eugene	V
Monday	12/7/2020	5:00	Vienna	Linn	V
Thursday	12/10/2020	6:00	Belle	Linn	JV/V
Friday	12/11/2020	5:30	Owensville	Owensville	V
Mon-Sat	12/14/20-12/19/20	TBA	Linn Tournament (Boys: Russellville, Belle, South Callaway) (Girls: Newburg, South Callaway, Capital City, Eldon, St. Clair)	Linn	V
Monday	12/21/2020	5:30	Owensville	Owensville	JV
Tues-Wed	12/29/20-12/30/20	TBA	MACC Holiday Shootout	Moberly	V
Tuesday	1/5/2021	6:00	Osage	Osage	JV/V
Thursday	1/7/2021	5:00	Blair Oaks	Linn	JV
Tuesday	1/12/2021	6:00	Calvary Lutheran	Linn	JV/V
Friday	1/15/2021	6:00	Eugene	Eugene	V
Tuesday	1/19/2021	6:00	New Haven	Linn	JV/V
Monday	2/1/2021	6:00	Blair Oaks	Blair Oaks	V
Thursday	2/4/2021	6:00	New Bloomfield	New Bloomfield	JV/V
Friday	2/5/2021	5:00	South Callaway	Linn	V
Monday	2/8/2021	6:00	Russellville	Linn	JV/V
Thursday	2/11/2021	5:00	St. Elizabeth	St. Elizabeth	JV/V
Friday	2/12/2021	5:00	Chamois	Chamois	V
Monday	2/15/2021	5:00	Tuscumbia	Tuscumbia	JV/V
Thursday	2/18/2021	6:00	Fatima	Linn	JV
Friday	2/19/2021	6:00	Fatima (Senior Night)	Linn	V
Mon-Sat	2/22/21-2/27/21	TBA	Districts	TBA	V
Tuesday	3/3/2021	TBA	Sectionals	TBA	V
Saturday	3/6/2021	TBA	Quarterfinals	TBA	V
Thu-Sat	3/11/21-3/13/21	TBA	Show-Me Showdown	TBA	V



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## Fatima Senior Spotlight



**Lucas Laux**

- 1) Not having to roll out mats anymore.
- 2) Go undefeated this year.
- 3) Placing at state.
- 4) Marcus Bridges because he is a smart man.
- 5) Shaking your opponent's hand after the match.
- 6) I plan to attend a four-year college.



**Jason Woodruff**

- 1) Leaving high school.
- 2) Finishing in the top three at state.
- 3) Helping the team place at state.
- 4) My dad because he is hardworking.
- 5) Sports are nothing without it.
- 6) I plan to attend State Tech for their HVAC program.

- 1) What are you looking forward to most as a senior this year?
- 2) What is your personal goal this season?
- 3) What is your goal for the team?
- 4) Who is your role model and why?
- 5) What does sportsmanship mean to you?
- 6) What are your plans after graduation?



**Jason Strope**

- 1) Not having to roll out mats.
- 2) To be a state champion.
- 3) Placing at state.
- 4) My brother, Ryan, because he's a lot better than me and I want to be better than him.
- 5) Shaking hands after the match.
- 6) I plan to wrestle in college.



**Blake Wiles**

- 1) Being the best I can be.
- 2) Not to get pinned all year.
- 3) To place at state.
- 4) My role model is Brock Lesner; he is a bad man.
- 5) Respecting your opponents and teammates.
- 6) I plan to join the military and attend State Tech.



**Alex Even**

- 1) Never running again.
- 2) Earning All-State and having a winning season.
- 3) Finishing in the top four and bringing home a banner.
- 4) My dad because he taught me how to work.
- 5) Being mature in every situation, win, or lose.
- 6) I plan to attend college.



**Zak Tune**

- 1) Graduating and doing well in the sports I play.
- 2) Get my own weight class and finish in the top three at state.
- 3) Putting a state banner on the wall.
- 4) My dad because he's serving our country.
- 5) Helping each and everyone on the team be successful
- 6) I plan to join the military.



**RYAN STROPE** finished second at the state meet last year and is looking to finish as a state champion this season.

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**FATIMA WRESTLING** coaches Kurt Strope and Les Rosenborough observe as wrestlers go through their moves during a recent practice. Strope and Rosenborough have been coaching together for nine years at Fatima.

## Fatima wrestlers working to earn a state banner

Fatima wrestling coach Kurt Strope believes the program is in the mix to earn a team banner.

“Realistically, it’s going to take five or six of these guys placing at the state meet,” said Strope. “I can see that happening. I truly believe that. They know it, and we keep pushing it at every practice.”

Fatima won’t know its class until next month, but Strope said it shouldn’t matter.

“I think we’ll do just fine either way, but the unknown is still there,” he added. “In either case, we have the ability to place in the top four, and the same kids have a real opportunity to place no matter what class we’re in.”

This year’s squad includes plenty of leadership.

“We have a large group of seniors and they’ve had a lot of success leading up to this year,” said Strope. “Three of them were state placers and all of them were state qualifiers. As a group, they have high expectations for themselves and each other, and all of them are stronger.”

Seniors are Lucas Laux, Jason Strope, Zak Tune, Alex Even, Jason Woodruff, and Blake Wiles.

“Lucas is looking to add another state title,” said Strope. “This year he’s helping push others to their goals and by doing that, he can achieve another championship. I know he’s trying to improve on his technique but he also wants to pull others up with him.”

The returning state champion also earned Academic All-State, was undefeated in duals, and finished with the most takedowns, most pins on the year.

Strope is in the same boat as a returning runner-up. “He put in a ton of time over the summer to take the next step,” said Coach Strope. “I think he’s right there and he should have every opportunity to fight for a state title again this year.”

Tune is a two-time qualifier coming into the season off a great soccer season. “He’s looking for his spot and we’re working with him to push him over the edge to get to the next level and place at state,” said Strope.

Even hit the weights during the off-season and summer, and like Tune, is looking to take the next leap. He is a one-

time state qualifier and wants to get to the next level,” said Strope.

Woodruff shares a lot of qualities with Even, having gone to state once, and put in the same amount of time in the weight room. “He’s moving up to wrestle with the big boys at 220 and I think he’ll see some good things at that level,” said Strope.

Wiles rounds out the seniors. “He’s coming to us after completing basic training in the summer,” said Strope of the two-time state placer and finished fourth last year. “He’s bigger this year and his technique is improving. He’s starting to clean things up, which I think will help him a lot this year.”

The team’s lone junior is Luke Schroeder, who last year was one match away from going to state. “He’s made vast improvements from last year and spent a

lot of time on both the mats and in the weight room, and I think he’ll see the rewards this year,” said Strope. “If we want to put a banner on the wall, he’s one of the guys that will have to help us get it done.”

Freshmen are Cody Strope, Eli Schaben, Cody Koenigsfeld, and Chase Buddemeyer. “We’re watching to see what they can do to help the team as we help them with their technique,” said Strope. “They’re putting in the time and doing a good job at practice.”

On the girls’ side, two wrestlers are looking for a strong season.

Morgan Eggeston was one match

**See Wrestling  
Page 21B**

### Fatima JH wrestlers off to good start

Fatima’s JH wrestling team includes eighth-graders Alek Tune and Trevor Hertzling, along with seventh-graders Conner Willis, Noah Laux, Jessie Schroeder, and Tucker Tune.

“These kids have come up through Comet Kids Club and we’ve seen them improve along the way,” said Coach Strope.

During a junior high dual last week, the group went 11-1 at Boonville. “They’re off to a great start,” said Strope. “A major goal is to hone their skills and develop a little more through the season.”



**THIS YEAR’S** seniors were all qualifiers at the state tournament last season. Shown from left to right are Zak Tune, Blake Wiles, Lucas Laux, Jason Strope, Alex Even, and Jason Woodruff. All are working hard to return to the state meet and earn a team banner.

## Fatima Senior Spotlight



**Lauren Brandt**

- 1) To have fun and enjoy every moment of my senior year, and having my sister as a coach.
- 2) To surpass 1,000 points and being a leader.
- 3) To win a district title and make sure everyone always has fun.
- 4) My sister because she is hardworking and determined in everything she does. She has taught me a lot about the game.
- 5) Playing hard but also with respect.
- 6) I plan to attend college but I'm undecided on a major.



**Taylor Bexten**

- 1) I look forward to playing with the other seniors one last year because I have played with them since I started basketball.
- 2) To become more aggressive on both the offensive and defensive ends of the floor.
- 3) To make it through the whole season without COVID getting in the way, and winning districts.
- 4) Paul Crede, because he was one of my first basketball coaches, and he is at almost every game supporting us and telling me how I can improve.
- 5) It means playing against my opponents competitively but with respect at all times.
- 6) I plan to attend State Fair Community College and major in nursing.

- 1) What are you looking forward to most as a senior this year?
- 2) What is your personal goal this season?
- 3) What is your goal for the team?
- 4) Who is your role model and why?
- 5) What does sportsmanship mean to you?
- 6) What are your plans after graduation?



**Lydia Hurst**

- 1) Having fun and spending time with my friends, and enjoying my last season with the girls.
- 2) Being a team leader.
- 3) Winning the district tournament.
- 4) My mom because she always inspires me, and she is very hardworking.
- 5) Being proud of your team and supporting opposing teams.
- 6) I plan to attend Paul Mitchell in Springfield for Cosmetology.



**Karli Struempf**

- 1) I look forward to helping lead the team to wins.
- 2) To have more post moves this year.
- 3) Winning districts and beating our biggest rivals.
- 4) My sister because she set the standards high for me in every aspect of life.
- 5) Playing with the intention of winning but playing with manners and morals.
- 6) I plan to attend college but I'm undecided on a major.



**Dani Stegeman**

- 1) Making fun of Baker and Jonn, having fun with my teammates, and being a leader on the team.
- 2) To become more of an offensive threat.
- 3) To win districts, beat our rival teams, and to have fun.
- 4) My grandma, Margie, because she always knew how to have fun and be a friend to all.
- 5) It means giving it your all but still treating the other team fairly no matter the situation.
- 6) I plan to attend college but I'm undecided on a major.

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## Fewer players means more opportunities for Lady Comets

Fatima has 18 girls out for basketball, which is significantly fewer than in previous years and even last summer when 32 attended camp.

Coach Matt Baker said that while there are fewer players, he's pleased with the group that has chosen to don the Blue & Gold.

"I think all of the girls have a lot invested and I'm excited for the 18 players who decided to come out and play this year," said Baker. "We had a really good summer with them, despite the COVID business, with more than 20 games played. We only lost twice to Rolla, which is good, coming off last year with injuries and everything else. It was a pleasant surprise to see them come out and do that well."

The Lady Comets also participated for the first time in a fall league. "Several of them played softball as well, so it says a lot about their commitment to the program that they would spend time working on basketball during the fall," said Baker.

The biggest obstacle through last year's struggles were injuries.

"At the time, it was frustrating because we lost several games we normally would have won, but we kept a positive attitude," said Baker. "We got our younger kids some value playing time, especially down the stretch, which will be very good for us this year. The silver lining is the experience we were able to give them."

Fatima ended the 2019-20 campaign at 12-11 following a loss to Blair Oaks in the opening round of the district tournament.

Overall, Baker said following that

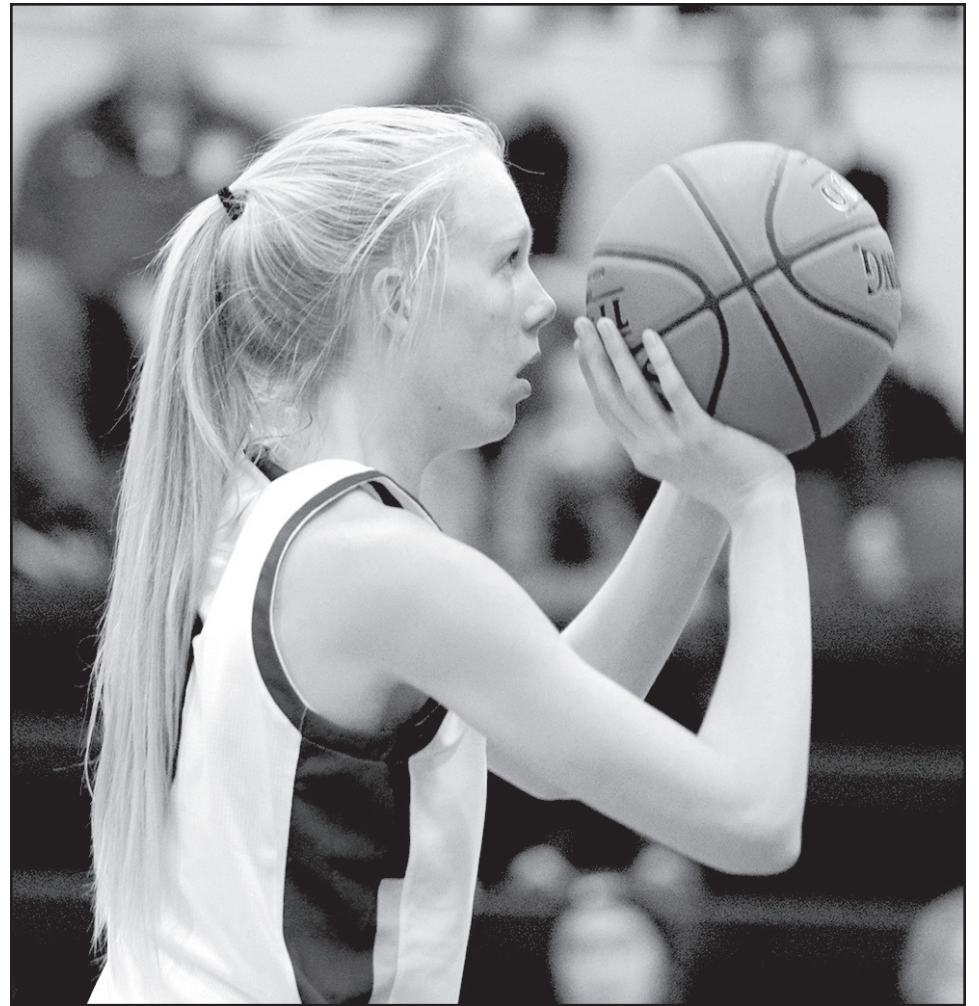
game that he was proud of the girls despite the rough season.

"I'm pleased with how the girls battled all year with all the injuries, etc.," he said. "Whatever could've gone wrong did, but the kids stayed committed and that's all you can ask as a coach."

This year's squad includes five seniors, Lauren Brandt at 5-10 is back and healthy. "Her ankle is feeling good and she had a good summer on the AAU circuit," said Baker. "We had to move her to point guard last year and that's not her best position, but she made the transition and did a good job. This summer she settled into that role a little more and she looks like she has it all together so I expect her to have a much more comfortable year bringing the ball down the floor."

Brandt earned first-team Central Missouri Sportswriters & Sportscasters Association and Show-Me Conference honors. She averaged 15 points and nearly four rebounds a game while dishing the ball three times and stealing it twice per contest. Brandt hit 37% from three-point range.

Struempfl (5-7) has been nursing an injury but is playing well in practice. "This is the best I've seen in four years," said Baker. "She's a very tough young lady and she's always been a really good rebounder, but now she's working on putting up a lot more shots. She finishes well and likes to



**MORGAN LUEBBERING** is back and healthy, and Coach Matt Baker believes she'll be a big part of the team's success.

See Lady Comets  
Page 20B



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## Brandt joins Lady Comets

Fatima alum Morgan Brandt, a 2019 graduate of Columbia College, officially joins the Lady Comets coaching staff this year, and said she is excited to be in this position.

Brandt helped with practices last year when she could, and attended as many games as possible because her sister was playing.

“Baker asked me if I wanted to help with the fall league, and then he asked if I wanted to help during the school year,” said Brandt of Coach Matt Baker. “I was absolutely interested and it worked out perfectly, especially because it’s my sister’s final year of high school. I love the atmosphere here at Fatima and I love helping out. Also, playing basketball my whole life, it was nice to get back around it again.”

Morgan said being able to work with Lauren is beyond anything she ever considered possible, but she wants to help every player reach their potential.

“I want these kids to be successful outside of school and teach life lessons along the way,” said Brandt. “I’m hoping to be more relatable to the kids, someone who is closer to their age who went to school here too. I’m just trying to pass on to them everything I’ve learned from basketball over the years. I want these young ladies to have fun with it while they’re here at Fatima.

Brandt said she thought coaching was something she’d considered later in life, but for now, this is a great fit. She earned a degree in biology from Columbia



**MORGAN BRANDT** has officially joined the Lady Comets’ team as an assistant coach. She holds the all-time scoring record at Fatima, and is happy to impart her knowledge to the players.

College, where she was a four-year starter for the Lady Cougars, and plans to pursue a degree in nursing and perhaps later, become a nurse practitioner.

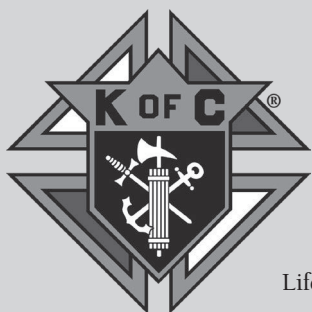


**DANI STEGEMAN** will be tapped to provide solid rebounding for the Lady Comets.

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**ELLIE BRUNE** makes a pass during a recent practice. Below, Alli Robertson gets an easy bucket in a scrimmage.



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Linn Wildcats and Chamois Pirates  
in your upcoming sports seasons!

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**Lady Comets  
From Page 17B**

go strong to the rim but we want to give her the option to shoot from the outside.”

Struempfh earned second-team Central Missouri Sportswriters & Sportscasters Association and Show-Me Conference honors. She scored 10 points and grabbed four rebounds a game while adding three assists and 2.5 steals per contest, with a mark of 75% from the stripe.

Stegeman is a long-athletic player at 5-10 and averaged four points and three rebounds a game last season. “She brings a lot of defensive energy and has done a good job focusing on rebounding,” said Baker. “She’s spending a lot of time with Coach Brandt adding some post moves to her repertoire.”

Bexten (5-6) has always been a shooting guard and she’s very steady. “She’s always level-headed and I’m hoping she keeps shooting the way she has been in practice,” said Baker. “She’s probably been our most consistent shooter, and we need that to continue to give us another long-range gunner off the bench. She played a lot of minutes last year so she’ll be a solid senior.”

Five-foot-10 Hurst is a great teammate. “She always has a great attitude and plays hard,” said Baker. “Lydia played well during the summer and got a lot of minutes. She’ll back up Luebbering and give us another experienced forward coming off the bench.”

The team’s two juniors are Morgan Luebbering (6-1) and Anna Eichholz (5-5).

“Morgan just keeps growing,” said Baker. “She had a knee injury last year but seems healthy and we want to do all we can help her stay that way. We want her to come all the way back from that injury. Morgan may be the most important piece for us this year. She can shoot the three and she’s a great shot-blocker. I really feel like

she is almost 100 percent and trusting herself. We’ll need her to hold down the middle for us, especially against bigger teams.”

Luebbering averaged 10.1 points and five rebounds per game through eight before she was injured.

Eichholz will back up Brandt in the point-guard position. “She’s a high-energy kid that makes things happen when she’s on the floor,” said Baker. “Anna is very good off the dribble and attacking, and gets to the rim probably as well as anyone in the program. If she makes good decisions and limits her turnovers, she’ll see minutes at the varsity level.”

Sophomores are Ellie Brune (5-10), Lydia Brunnert (5-9), and Emma Bower (5-10).

“Ellie had a great freshman year,” said Baker. “She’s one of the most talented kids we’ve had here, be it off the dribble or shooting. She’s long and athletic and can get everywhere. She struggled a bit last year but she had a huge summer and it builds confidence. If she can play that way, she’s going to put up some numbers that will surprise some people.”

Watch for Brunnert to be very aggressive around the basket.

“Lydia is the most natural rebounder I’ve been around,” said Baker. “She has a nose for it, and she works her butt off. She does everything we ask her to do. The big thing is she’ll need to find a way to score. She’ll give us some tough minutes.”

Bower is a knockdown shooter and can run for days as a cross country athlete. “She’s one of those kids who never makes a bad choice,” said Baker. “She earns her way by being a very steady player. Emma handles the ball well and we’re trying to add an inside presence to her offense to expand her scoring opportunities.”

Freshmen Alli Robertson (5-11) and Kaitlyn Plassmeyer (5-2) round out the Lady Comets’ varsity squad.

“Alli is a long, tall, physical player,” said Baker. “She’s got the build of an

upperclassman already and has already put herself among the top players just with her energy and presence. Alli has a much older player’s mentality, and I expect her to be very strong for us.”

Plassmeyer did not play over the summer but in the fall has found a place on the team. “She’s not afraid of anyone or anything,” said Baker. “She shoots the ball well and has a ton of energy, and is quickly earning her stripes. We’re definitely excited to have her after the first few weeks.”

Fatima’s JV team includes eight players, with three returning sophomores, Caleigh Huot (guard), Claire Bexten (guard), and Lydia Brunnert (forward).

Coach John Fick said he’s looking these players to be aggressive on offense.

“Last year, they worked their tails off on defense but didn’t really care to score,” he said. “For us to be successful we are going to need them to change that mindset.”

Five freshmen, Chloe Adamson (forward), Elizabeth Dickneite (guard), Ella Scheulen (guard), Kaitlyn Plassmeyer (guard), and Lucy Crede (guard) round out the JV team.

“It’s going to take a few weeks for these girls to get used to everyone and the roles they have,” said Fick. “Due to the pandemic we find ourselves in, most of the girls were unable to participate in any summer league activities where we would already be a step ahead. I just ask the girls to be patient and keep a positive attitude and ask as many questions as possible.”

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## Fatima Girls Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	LEVEL	HOME/AWAY	TIME(S)
11/19/20	Camdenton Jamboree	Varsity	Away	TBA
11/23/20	Osage - Senior Night		Home	6:00 pm
11/30/20--12/05/20	Eugene Tournament	Varsity	Away	TBA
12/02/20--12/05/20	Fatima JV Tournament	JV	Home	TBA
12/07/20	Eldon High School	Varsity/JV	Away	5:30 pm
12/10/20	Southern Boone High School	JV	Home	4:30 pm 6:30
12/11/20	Southern Boone High School	Varsity	Home	6:00 pm
12/12/20--12/16/20	St. James JV Tournament	JV	Away	TBA
12/14/20	Blair Oaks High School	JV	Away	5:00 pm
12/15/20	New Bloomfield High School	Varsity/JV	Away	6:00 pm
12/21/20	Helias High School	Varsity/JV	Away	6:00 pm
12/22/20	Blair Oaks High School	Varsity	Away	6:00 pm
01/04/21	California High School	Varsity/JV	Home	5:00 pm
01/07/21	Owensville High School	Varsity/JV	Home	6:00 pm
01/11/21--01/15/21	Comet Classic	Varsity	Home	TBA
02/02/21	St. Elizabeth High School	Varsity/JV	Away	5:00 pm
02/04/21	Eugene High School	Varsity/JV	Away	6:00 pm
02/08/21	Tuscumbia High School	Varsity/JV	Away	6:00 pm
02/11/21	South Callaway	Varsity/JV	Home	6:00 pm
02/15/21	Russellville High School	Varsity/JV	Away	6:00 pm
02/16/21	Chamois High School	JVB/VG/VB	Home	6:00 pm
02/18/21	Linn High School	JV	Away	6:00 pm
02/19/21	Linn High School	Varsity	Away	6:00 pm
02/20/21--02/27/21	Districts	Varsity	Away	TBA



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## Fatima HS Wrestling

DATE	OPPONENT	LEVEL	HOME/AWAY	TIME(S)
11/19/20	Blue and Gold Scrimmage	Varsity/JV	Home	6:00 pm
12/01/20	Boonville / Higginsville / Odessa	JV/Varsity	Away	5:00 pm
12/08/20	vs Hallsville / Cap City and Rock Bridge	Varsity	Home	5:30 pm
12/11/20--12/12/20	Union Tournament	Varsity	Away	4:00 pm
12/12/20	Rolla High School	JV	Away	TBA
12/14/20	Blair Oaks High School / Knob / Palmyra	Varsity	Home	5:30 pm
12/16/20	Blair Oaks JV tournament	JV	Away	3:00 pm
12/17/20	Fatima Dual w/ JC	Varsity	Home	5:30 pm
12/30/20	Carthage Duals	Varsity	Away	8:00 am
01/06/21	St. James High School / Tipton/ California	JV/Varsity	Home	5:30 pm
01/08/21	Capiatal City Girls Invitational	Varsity	Away	4:00 pm
01/12/21	Marshall Quad -w/ N.C. / Centralia	Varsity	Away	TBA
01/16/21--01/16/21	Owensville Tournament	Varsity	Away	9:00 am
01/19/21	@ Fr.Tolton, Macon, Tipton	JV/Varsity	Away	5:30 pm
01/23/21	Girls Wrestling @ Osage	Varsity	Away	TBA
01/23/21--01/23/21	Brookfield Invitational	Varsity	Away	9:30 am
01/26/21	@ Moberly w/ Fulton	Varsity	Away	TBA
01/29/21	Owensville JV Tournament	JV	Away	TBA
01/30/21	Grandview Tournament	Varsity	Away	9:00 am
02/04/21	@ Owensville w/ S.C.	Varsity	Away	5:00 pm
02/06/21	Hickman JV	JV	Away	TBA
02/12/21--02/13/21	District Tournament	Varsity	Away	TBA
02/18/21--02/20/21	State Championships @ MU	Varsity	Away	TBA

## Fatima HH Wrestling

DATE	OPPONENT	LEVEL	HOME/AWAY	TIME(S)
11/23/20	@ Lewis and Clark, TJ, Waynesville	JH	Away	5:00 pm
12/01/20	@ Osage, Eldon, Boonville	Junior High	Away	5:30 pm
12/03/20	@ Versailles w/ California, SoBoCo	Jr High	Away	5:00 pm
12/05/20	JC JH Wrestling Invitational @ Cap City HS	Junior High	Away	9:00 am
12/09/20	Comet Quad- w/ Rolla, Camdenton and California	7th/8th (G&B)	Home	5:00 pm
12/14/20	@ Blair Oaks w/ California	JH	Away	5:30 pm
12/17/20	@ Owensville / Pacific	7th/8th (G&B)	Away	5:00 pm

**Wrestling**  
From Page 15B

away from the state tournament a year ago.

"She took some big steps going into last year as a sophomore and I expect her to do the same thing as a junior," said Strope.

Freshman Skyla Schroeder worked hard in the off-season. "She's been working with Morgan and I'm very interested to see

how she does this year," said Strope.

Assistant Coach Les Rosenborough returns and he and Strope have been coaching together for nine years.

"It's hard to believe that much time has passed but we mesh well together," said Strope. "I'm more serious and he's more lighthearted. Where I'm lacking, he picks it up, and vice versa. We just figure out what works for both of us and the team, and it's worked pretty well."

**Good Luck Fatima Comets,  
Linn Wildcats and Chamois Pirates  
on your sports seasons!**

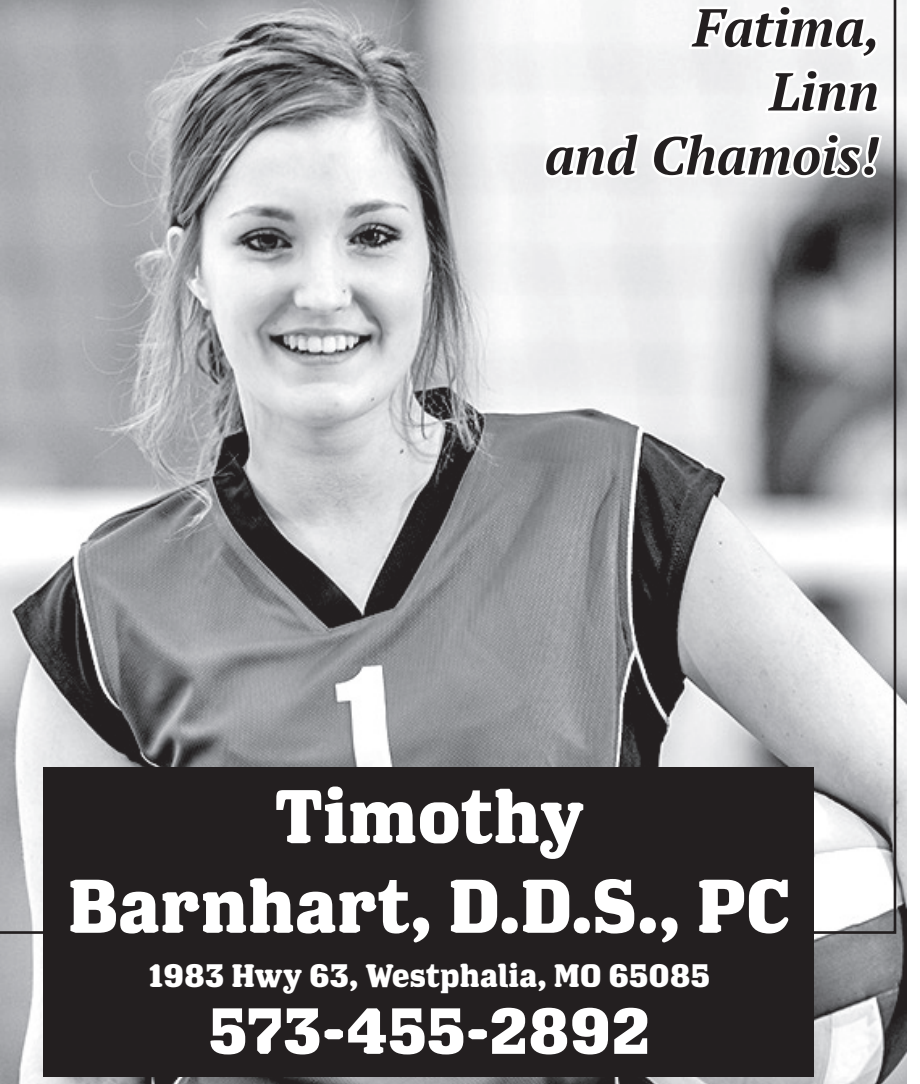
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## Fatima Senior Spotlight

- 1) What are you looking forward to most as a senior this year?
- 2) What is your personal goal this season?
- 3) What is your goal for the team?
- 4) Who is your role model and why?
- 5) What does sportsmanship mean to you?
- 6) What are your plans after graduation?



**Maria Juergensmeyer**

1) I am looking forward to ending my sixth year of cheerleading with my team. I also am looking forward to hearing the crowd yell "go back" when I stand at the half-court line. Stepping one foot behind that line and hearing the crowd cheering and counting all of my back handsprings is something that I always looked forward to. I can't wait to hear it one more time and have one more performance at homecoming and competition.

2) My personal goal this season is to hit 500 back handsprings before my cheer season ends. I have 100 left, hopefully Corona doesn't put the season to an end.

3) My goal for the team is to build our stunts to a higher difficulty level and keep up with the great bond we all have this season. Also, keeping positive attitudes no matter our situation.

4) My role models are Breylee Evers and Katie Piloski, who taught me to never give up and that it never fails to give something a shot. They both taught me to become the cheerleader I am today. My mom is the biggest role model. She has shown me what it means to be a great person. She has never missed any of my sporting events, and she shows me to always keep going even at your lowest points.

5) It means that you keep a positive attitude no matter the situation. While doing this, you need to have positive remarks, about the other sports and their abilities. No matter what the situation, always look at the positive.

6) My plan after graduation is to get a radiologic technologist degree. I have not decided where I will be pursuing my degree. While doing this, I would like to be an assistant coach on a cheer team, while advancing my way into a head coach position.



**Dawson Huhn-Meyer**

- 1) I am looking forward to having a good basketball year.
- 2) Set the record on steals in a season.
- 3) My goal for the team is to make it to state.
- 4) My role model is probably my coach because he pushes me to succeed.
- 5) Sportsmanship to me is having a good attitude on the court and playing a fair game.
- 6) I plan to go to Linn Tech to operate heavy machines.



**Carter Karst**

- 1) I am excited for our homecoming game.
- 2) To be a good leader for our team.
- 3) To make it through districts.
- 4) Jimmy Butler, because he constantly works hard to make himself better.
- 5) Having a good attitude after a win or a loss.
- 6) I plan to attend State Tech for their electronics engineering program.



**Luke Boyce**

- 1) I'm thankful that we are getting a season this year and look forward to competing with other schools.
- 2) To do whatever the team needs me to and have an impact on our success.
- 3) To play the best basketball we are capable of playing, and just for everyone to give it their all.
- 4) My parents, coaches, and other elders who have helped me along the way. They've taught me everything I know and without them, I don't know where I'd be right now.
- 5) It means a lot because that's part of why you enjoy the game.
- 6) I plan on attending State Technical College in Linn. I'm hoping to get a degree in industrial electricity and plan on going into the lineman program.

## Fatima Boys Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	LEVEL	HOME/AWAY	TIME(S)
11/24/20	Eldon High School	9th/JV/Varsity	Away	5:00 pm
12/02/20--12/05/20	Fatima JV Tournament	JV	Home	TBA
12/04/20	South Callaway High School	9th/JV/Varsity	Away	5:00 pm
12/08/20	New Bloomfield High School	JV/Varsity	Away	6:00 pm
12/10/20	Southern Boone High School	9th / JV	Home	5:30 pm 7:30
12/11/20	Southern Boone High School	Varsity	Home	5:00 pm
12/14/20	Blair Oaks High School	9th/JV	Away	5:30 pm 8:00
12/15/20	Capital City High School	Varsity/JV	Home	5:30 pm
12/18/20	Dixon High School	JV/Varsity	Away	6:00 pm
12/22/20	Blair Oaks High School	Varsity	Away	7:30 pm
01/04/21--01/09/21	Owensville Varsity Tournament	Varsity	Away	TBA
01/11/21	St. James High School	9th/JV/Varsity	Away	5:00 pm
01/16/21	Hall of Fame vs Rock Bridge	Varsity	Away	TBA
01/18/21--01/23/21	St. James Tournament	Varsity	Away	TBA
01/25/21--01/30/21	Eldon Tournament	Varsity	Away	TBA
02/02/21	St. Elizabeth High School	JV/Varsity	Home	6:00 pm
02/04/21	Tuscumbia High School	JV	Home	6:00 pm
02/06/21	Charleston Shootout vs Kennet	Varsity	Away	3:30 pm
02/08/21--02/13/21	South Callaway JV Tournament	Jr. Varsity	Away	TBA
02/09/21	Eugene High School	JV/Varsity	Away	6:00 pm
02/12/21	Russellville High School	Varsity/JV	Home	6:00 pm
02/16/21	Chamois High School	JVB/VG/VB	Home	5:00 pm
02/18/21	Linn High School	JV	Away	7:00 pm
02/19/21	Linn High School	Varsity	Away	5:00 pm
02/22/21--02/27/21	Districts	Varsity	Away	TBA

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**FATIMA PLAYERS** work on a shooting drill during a recent practice. Coach Ryan Robertson said that while the overall number of players is lower than in previous years, he is confident the team has plenty of depth to make for an exciting season.

## Robertson excited about size, depth of team

Fatima returns to the hardwood after a strong offseason and while the overall numbers are down this year, Coach Ryan Robertson is looking forward to a good season.

"We are as excited as I can remember, heading into a season, in terms of where we are at, talent-wise, depth-wise, and our basketball IQ," said Robertson. "These kids have worked hard in the off-season, put on weight, and gotten stronger. We feel they're mentally stronger than they were a year ago, and I think the biggest difference will be our ability to score inside. We won't have to rely as much on our guards scoring 50 a game to win. We should get some good contributions from our post players, especially on nights when we're not shooting that well, and still have a chance to win."

After ending last year in the district semis against Blair Oaks, Fatima (17-10 last year) shrugged it off and hit the gym and there hasn't been a discussion about expectations for this year's district tournament.

"We haven't talked about it, nor will we, and we don't even know yet who's in our district," said Robertson. "I just want us to be the best version of ourselves in every game we play. Our schedule is loaded, and we will compete every time we step onto the court. We'll worry about districts down the road."

Fatima had a share of the conference title last year, and Robertson hopes to be there again. "These kids have been in this line-up for three years, and have taken some lumps from some of these teams over the years, so hopefully they have the mentality that it's their year to avenge some of the losses we've had," said Robertson.

Leading the team are seniors Carter Karst, a 6-0 2-guard, Dawson Huhn-Meyer, a 6-1 3-guard, and 6-1 forward Luke Boyce.

"Carter is one of the best overall defensive players the program," said Robertson. "He's been blessed with excellent foot speed and very high basketball IQ. On the offensive end, he's a knockdown shooter and understands the offense well. Defensively, he will be given the opponents' best offensive player to guard when he's in the game."

Huhn is a very athletic player. "He's very hard-nosed and his shot has improved tremendously over the last four years," said Robertson. "His effort and energy are very contagious throughout the program. He will provide a big lift for us on both ends of

the floor."

Boyce is the definition of toughness, Robertson said. "He's a player that invites contact in the paint, is one of our best rebounders and he leads by example."

Junior Lee Verslues (5-10) may move to the 2-guard position this year. "His ability to shoot the ball and with the emergence of Cooper Kleffner as the point guard will give us more opportunities to get Lee some more looks at the basket," said Robertson.

Verslues was named second-team All-District by the Central Missouri Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association and earned second-team All-Conference honors.

Leo Peters, a 6-5 junior center, has elevated his game as much as anyone through the summer. "His physique has been transformed due to his work in the weight room and we look for him to be one of the best post players in the area," said Robertson.

Junior Jacob Vanderfeltz, a 6-2 3-guard, has also hit the weight room. "He's added muscle and speed to his arsenal," said Robertson. "He's a player we're going to convert to a guard, although he will remain one of the best rebounders in the program. He can hurt opponents in a number of ways, with his ability to shoot, defend, and score inside."

Nate Lehmen, a 6-4 junior center, returns with some good varsity experience. "We'll look for him to add muscle and size to the post," said Robertson. "He's another player who can stretch the defense with his shooting ability and he can score with his back to the basket."

Carson Schulte, a 5-11 2-guard, is a good three-point shooter. "His knowledge of the game has come along way over the last year," said Robertson.

Several sophomores are expected to see significant varsity time this year.

Ty Fortson (5-10 point guard/2-guard) has come along way since the summer. "He's now playing under control and has been shooting the ball extremely well so far," Robertson.

Nathan Brandt, a 6-2 2-guard, had a good off-season with plenty of summer league play. "We think he's taken his game to yet another level," said Robertson. "We'll rely on him to be a leader and will have a shoot-first mentality."

Brandt was named second-team All-District by the Central Missouri

Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association and earned second-team All-Conference honors.

Cooper Kleffner (6-0 point guard) will change things up. "His role this year may be the biggest yet," said Robertson. "We are going to rely on him to run the point and to orchestrate the offense. He is the engine of the bus and we will go as he goes."

Jack Robertson, a 6-1 3-guard, has several offensive strengths. "Jack brings a lot of basketball smarts to the table as well as pinpoint accuracy from the three-point line," said Robertson. "He will be one of our zone-busters because if it feels like leather, Jack wants to put it toward the rim."

Blake Gentges (5-9 point guard/2-guard) joined the team right after the soccer season ended. "We know what he can give us," said Robertson. "He'll be one of the best defensive players in the area and anything he gives us on the offensive end will be a bonus."

Jacob Schulte (5-11 3-guard) is a tough, defensive player. "He thinks about the team first, and will often guard the best player we see on the other team on whatever level he plays, be it varsity or JV," said Robertson.

Other sophomores include Alex Reinkemeyer (5-9 guard), and Kayden Struempff (5-11 post).

"Alex and Kayden have been doing a

good job of leading the younger players in practice," said Robertson. "They continue to bring positive attitudes every day."

Freshmen are Levin Robinson (6-5 post), and Easton Haslag (5-11 guard),

"For Levi, the sky's the limit in terms of his ability," said Robertson. "His combination of size and athletic ability is rare, and he has been very coachable, which might be his best attribute. Easton has not yet joined the team due to cross country but hopefully, with his shooting ability he'll be able to provide us some scoring opportunities."

Freshman Nolan Jaegers (5-10 guard) is a very good athlete, Robertson noted. "With a willingness to improve himself every day, he's eager to learn the nuances of the game," the coach added.

Harrison Stratman, a 5-9 freshman 2-guard) will provide long-range shooting ability for the JV and C teams.

The JV team will be coached this year by Ethan Williams.

"We are very excited to be back in the gym and getting back to work," said Williams. "This group has been working hard every day, and are playing well for this early into the season."

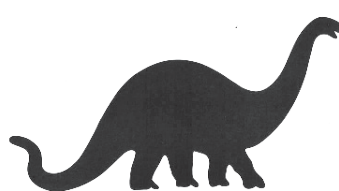
Fatima plans to play half-games at the C level on nights that JV and varsity play, meaning there are no games scheduled alone for the C team.

Also coaching for Fatima is Jeff Adamson.

*Good Luck to all the  
Osage County Sports Teams*



Here's to taking down the competition,  
all the way to the championships!



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