

Boys' basketball seeks to continue success

After an impressive last season, the team is focused on continuing their success into tonight's game against New Albany

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As the pep band begins to play the school fight song, parents and children fly up out of their seats and the Green Zone erupts as they welcome the boys' basketball team to their first game of a hopeful season.

"I think this will be one of our best seasons. Even though we're not as big as we were last year, we will be a lot faster this season," said senior guard Levi Siewert. "We also have a lot of upcoming seniors who can fill the big gaps we lost last year."

After a very successful season last year, finishing 24-2 and beating rival New Albany in the regular season, the team has a lot to live and work up to. Having several big wins to start the season against talented teams such as Lawrence North and Castle, the boys are rolling early and plan to continue their streak into perhaps their biggest game of the year tonight against New Albany.

"We have a lot of talent and new guys stepping into new roles this year, and I think we're going to surprise a lot of people this year," said sophomore Jake Heidbreder.

A major part of last year's success was because of their all-senior starting lineup outside of, now a senior, top player Cobie Barnes. Now dependent on incoming seniors and

underclassmen to lead, the team as well as coaching staff has to make adjustments to be just as successful this season.

"Even though we lost five of our top seven players last year on a team who won 24 games, we feel like we've got a good group of guys coming back this year, and the headline of that is Cobie Barnes, who has the potential to be an Indiana All-Star," said head coach Todd Sturgeon.

This year, perhaps the biggest role and key part of the team's success lies on the shoulders of Barnes, who recently committed to play basketball for Indiana State University next year. As the only returning starter, there are very high expectations of Barnes as a leader.

"Things are going to be different due to the fact that I'm the only returning starter and we have so many people who haven't played a bunch," said Barnes. "It'll be harder to teach them but they're fast learners and we'll be fine."

A common goal of all teams, no matter the sport, is that all players must be vocal and have a good relationship with each other to become successful. This goes especially for this year's team as they adjust and work to live up to the success they had last year.

"A big thing we've been working on is communicating as well as we did last year. The seniors last year talked to each other a lot and that's something we're going to have to match

with the new groups we play with," said junior Ben Purvis.

Another key part to keeping their success is the underclassmen as well as the seniors keeping things competitive with each other to make the others better. Underclassmen are working to earn themselves a spot on the varsity roster while seniors are being pushed to work for success.

"Last year, every practice was a dog fight, every play was physical and intense. We had so much talent even on the JV squad that was looking for a varsity position, and I think that really pushed every player at practice to play hard and well," said junior Grant Gohmann.

While the team has its own initial challenges and goals to better the outcome of the season, the players also have their own individual goals of what they want to accomplish.

"I want to make it to and win state, as well as being a finalist for the Mr. Basketball award and Gatorade Player of the Year. I would really like to win one of those two awards, too," said Barnes.

Every player has a reason for why they continue to play and work year in and year out, no matter the sport. Their love for the game is what pushes them to continue bettering themselves as athletes, as well as players.

"I love getting to go out and do something that I love every day while making some of the best friends I have ever had," said Heidbreder.



Grace Allen/The Bagpiper

SENIOR LOGAN LIBS shoots a layup over the Clarksville player in the game where Floyd defeated Clarksville 69-28. FC will face New Albany tonight.

For a preview of tonight's New Albany game, go to fchsbgpiper.wordpress.com.