

# Basketball Season Previews

*-The Balding Eagle, October 27-*

With basketball season starting in just a few days, we wanted to do season previews this week for our girls' and boys' teams.

Both teams are coming off strong seasons last year; the girls had their best season in school history, and the boys, 11-2 after Christmas after a slow start, were Winston County's only 20-win team last year. Coach Troyer is back at the helm for the girls, as is for Coach Morgan for the boys. Below is some information on each program.

Our Lady Eagles enter the 2020-21 campaign after a productive offseason and a preseason full of hard work and great conditioning. Coach Troyer was impressed with how hard the team fought in last Friday's jamboree, and she also noted how well the girls battled on the defensive end.

A key to success this year will be consistent defense, and Troyer

feels like if the Lady Eagles are the toughest defensive team they can be, they will definitely be in position to win games. She hopes their hearts and minds will continue to improve on defense and bring the intensity every game.

Notable returning players include Senior Belle Hudson and Junior Aspen Harris. Both are outstanding leaders, and both are major contributors on both ends of the floor.



Troyer also noted several other girls as important parts of the team's rotation, and team chemistry with this group is a definite strength.

The girls have adopted the motto "Give All, Serve All, Conquer All" for 2020-21. They hope to give glory to the Lord in how they play as well as live their lives, and they hope a focus on living for God will strengthen them on the court.

Coach Troyer added, "I love this group of girls and the chemistry they have together. I can't wait to see all they accomplish this year."

One other item of interest is that this past offseason, the girls joined the Tri-State Christian Conference, and when the regular season wraps up, they plan to be in position to compete for a conference title. GCS has not been a member of a basketball conference in over a decade, so this is an exciting development for the program. Needless to say, Troyer and the girls feel like the future is bright for Lady Eagle basketball.

On the boys side, the Eagles return almost every player from last year's 20-14 campaign, and after a very productive summer, hopes are high for another strong season of Eagle basketball.

Like the girls, the boys will jump into Tri-State Christian Conference play hoping to be very competitive immediately. And with ten players with at least some varsity experience on this year's roster, the team has many reasons to be optimistic.

When asked about his outlook on the season, Senior Wes Agnew said, "I want to win; I want to win it all. I want to win our conference."

"Last year we had a team with very little varsity experience and a little bit of a confidence issue at the start of the season," said Coach Morgan.



"This year things are very different; we have a lot of experience coming back, and the team is very confident in what we can do this year."

Junior Bonner Brownlee led the squad in scoring last year with just over 18 points per game, and not far behind was fellow Junior Jacob Phillips. But a balanced, unselfish attack on offense will feature scoring opportunities for many of the team's returning players.

A major point of emphasis this offseason was being more consistent on defense, and the Eagles should be much-improved on that end of the floor. Coach Morgan identified defensive execution as a major key to success this year.

In terms of goals for the season, Coach Morgan simply noted he wants to see the team reach their full potential and be the best they can be. "If we do that, winning and other accomplishments will come along with it. I just want us to be the very best we are capable of becoming."

Phillips added, "Despite all the obstacles schools are facing this year, I am excited to see what we can do this season. We have a hard working team, a hard working coach, and it's going to be fun."

The Eagles and Lady Eagles open regular season play Thursday night at Starkville Christian. We hope to see you at games this season! Go GCS!