

MSU Lady Eagles working for post season berth For third consecutive year

MOREHEAD - After two consecutive berths in the Ohio Valley Conference post season tournament, Morehead State University Lady Eagle head coach Loretta Marlow looks at her roster with expectations of returning to the OVC tourney in March, 1988.

The Lady Eagles finished the 1986-87 season with a 12-11 record overall, finishing fourth in the OVC with a 5-7 record.

Marlow said their weakness this season is in the point guard position. "I'm now looking for someone to fill that position," she said.

Although MSU lost starters Tiphonie Bates (17 points per game and 3.9 rebounds) and Sheila Bradford (10.3 points and 8.5 rebounds), Marlow believes if the team works together early they can minimize the loss of the starting point guard and center.

"The loss of Tiphonie and Sheila

will play a big part early. I really don't think people realize the extent of the loss that will be felt," Marlow said. MSU returns three starters who also finished last season one-two-three in points per game.

Kelly Stamper (5'11" juniors) averaged 14.1 points and 7.9 rebounds last season. Stamper was named to the All-OVC first team.

"I look for Kelly to be a leader both on and off the floor," said Marlow. "Kelly fits well into both the guard and forward modes."

Sophia Berofo (5'4" seniors) and Kelly Downes (5'7" sophomores) will be counted on heavily at the guard positions. Berofo averaged 11.9 points and Downes had 10.6 points last season.

Marlow said both Berofo and Downes will be assets as the three-point goal role is extended to all games this season.

"Their capability from long-range

will open up our inside game," said Marlow.

Marlow said the big change in the line-up will come at the center position. Marlow said she plans to use a rotation system, playing Kim Patyk (6'2" sophomores), Christi Smith (6'2" freshmen) and Drazzella Conners (6'2" juniors) in the middle.

"The big change for us this year will be having the height in the middle," said Marlow. "It will take some of the pressure off the guards."

Marlow said the Lady Eagles have a much needed quickness and depth to their bench this season.

"We never had so much depth," she said.

"I expect a faster paced game. With the rebounds we have, they should be able to get the outlet pass to Terena Hildish and D.D. Bradford for the fast break," Marlow said.

The Lady Eagles will open up the 1987-88 season Friday and Saturday, November 27 and 28 at the Appalachian State Tournament.



Loretta Marlow

**MSU Women
Open The Season
November 27 - 28
in Appalachian State Tournament**

1987-88 EKU Prospectus

Four returning starters and 12 lettermen for 1987-88 give Eastern Kentucky University hope of repeating last year's successful season which saw the Colonels post a 19-11 overall record and come within a last-second shot of, perhaps, going to the NCAA Tournament.

Max Good, who completed his sixth season at EKU in fine fashion with his team's 9-5 second-place Ohio Valley Conference regular-season finish and OVC tourney runner-up trophy, was recognized for his and his staff's efforts and was voted 1986-87 OVC Coach of the Year.

Good, his staff and players and Colonel fans are still wondering what must be done to be invited to post-season play. The Colonels won 19 games, averaged 87.7 points per game (sixth best in the country), made 7.2 three-point shots per game (third in the nation) and were later named as the eighth most improved Division I team in the nation for last year's play.

Yet, following the last-second, three-point loss to Austin Peay in the OVC tourney finals, the Colonels were not invited to play in either the NCAA or NIT tourneys, a severe disappointment to Colonel faithful.

However, in regards to this coming season, EKU returns three twin-digit scorers from that '86-'87 club, including senior guard Jeff McGill (6-1, 18.0) who scored 15.7 points per game and who led the OVC in three-point field goal accuracy (86-110, 59%). McGill, a second-team All-OVC pick, also handed out seven assists per contest last year.

Joining McGill as returning starters are 6-7, 200-pound senior center Tyrone Howard and 6-7, 210-pound junior forward Randolph Taylor. Howard scored 13.1 points per game, pulled down 4.9 rebounds a contest and set new school and conference records for season field

goal percentage (.678), which also finished as the second highest percentage in the nation last year. Taylor, a two-year starter, led the club in rebounding last season at 6.3 and also added 5.5 points per game to the attack.

Two seniors, 6-11, 195-pound forward Bobby Collins and 6-5, 185-pound forward Lewis Spence — alternated as starters last year. Collins, a defensive whiz that occasionally provided an offensive spark, scored 7.4 points and averaged 4.2 rebounds per contest. Spence, who was a second-team All-OVC choice as a sophomore, hopes to rebound from a sub-par shooting season that still netted him 10.4 scoring average. He collected 4.6 rebounds per game.

EKU sports four other seniors who each saw quite a bit of action last season. These four, all junior college players, helped provide the depth necessary for the Colonels' successful 30-game season. Included among these players are 5-11, 175-pound point guard Curtis Stephen (4.1 ppg.), 6-6-1/2, 210-pound forward-center Ben Phillips (3.3 ppg., 4.5 reb. avg. 1.6-1.1, 190-pound guard Junior Curtis (3.2 ppg.), and 6-3, 185-pound forward Charles Baker (2.4 ppg.).

Rounding out the returning lettermen are 6-8, 230-pound center Nelson Davis (1.6 ppg.), 5-9, 170-pound guard Jerry Goodin (2.7 ppg.), and 6-6, 215-pound forward Vernon Evans (1.4 ppg.).

Three newly-signed players will join these 12 lettermen as 1987-88 Colonels. These include Darrin O'Bryan, 6-2, 185-pound junior guard transfer from Ranger, Tex., Junior College); Mike Smith, 6-3, 200-pound freshman center (Chadley High School, Detroit, Mich.); and Ron Peck, 6-8-1/2, 215-pound freshman forward-center (Cathedral High School, Indianapolis, Ind.).



Max Good



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