

Oakley's teams to press, run and pass

By Tim Jones
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — Ed Oakley's first edition of the Nicholas County Blue Jackets will run, press and think of their teammates.

"We've got 'Team First' on our practice jerseys," Oakley noted, "and everyone has played hard so far and have started to play together."

Oakley said he would stress a pressing, running game. At the same time, Oakley said he wanted his team disciplined enough to know when to pull up on the break.

"Just because you push the ball up court doesn't mean you have to shoot it," the first year Nicholas County coach said.

Oakley, formerly an assistant at Hanville High School, has been happy with practice to this point.

"So far everyone's come to play and picked things up pretty well," the coach said.

One particular part of the game, Oakley has been pleased with is communication.

"I'm the kind of coach who likes to change defenses every time down the floor," the former Transylvania point guard said.

"So far, everyone has communicated real well," he added.

Oakley, a player at Transylvania in the early 80's, said his team needs to get in a little better shape.

"We've got a little ways to go in getting in shape," Oakley stated.

"It's really hard to tell, though," Oakley added, "until the first game."

Oakley said most of the Bluejackets conditioning comes in practice, although they do run at the end of each practice.

"I've only got 12 players in here practicing and I've always got 10 or 11 on the court," Oakley noted.

Oakley has settled on the five players which will start for Nicholas County this year.

Travis Sims and Brian Hilander will play forward for the Blue Jackets.

Sims is a 6-3, 195 pound junior and Hilander is a 6-2, 180 pound senior.

Guards will be Daniel Brown and Jerry Willis, a pair of juniors.

Brown, at 6-11, will play the point and Willis, a six footer, will handle second guard duties.

The center will be 6-4, 190 pound junior Jamie Simons.

Expect to see several players off the bench Oakley said.

"We've got about nine or 10 guys who can play," Oakley said, "and we're going to have to have nine or 10 with the way we'll play."

Players who Oakley expects to use are David Silbert, Shad Tibbo, Kevin Morris, Brad Briery, Shawn Sexton and Charlie Nichols.

"All will contribute and help us," Oakley said.

Nicholas County's opening scrimmage will be on November 21 at Boyle County High School.

"We're playing Casey County as part of a basketball panorama," Oakley said.

The Blue Jackets second scrimmage will be on Saturday, November 24, Nicholas County

will play Lexington Dunbar in a freshman, junior varsity and varsity scrimmage. The games will begin at 2 p.m. and will be followed by a chili supper.

Oakley wants his players to enjoy playing basketball and consider having fun one of his two goals for the year.

Oakley's second goal is a little different than the first.

"Every year our goal is to win every game possible," Oakley said.

Oakley said his team would set their sights for the Class A regional in particular.

"I really want us to think about the Class A regional," the coach said, "we want to shoot to win the Class A regional."

Good Luck Jackets!



Pictured above is the Nicholas County High School Boys Basketball team for the 1990-91 season. On the bottom row, from left to right, are David Silbert, Jarrod Wilk, Kevin Morris, Daniel Brown, Shad Tibbo, Brad Briery and Shawn Sexton. On the back row, assistant coach Greg Letcher, head coach Ed Oakley, Brian Hilander, Jamie Simons, Charles Nichols, Travis Sims, Brian Ockerman, trainer Chris Smoot and freshman coach J.W. Ballard.

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