



The Nicholas County Bluejacket Junior Varsity, under the direction of Assistant Coach Greg Letcher, includes: Bradley Burden; Bradley Bussell; Todd Cook, Chris Edson; Sam Fubon; Dwayne Kerney; Shane Kenney; Rodney Mitchell; Brian Simpson; Brian Smoot; Kyle Smoot and Jeremy Warner.

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Lady Jackets rebuild and gear up for season

By Heather Mathes-Harris
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff
CARLISLE - The Kentucky Hoops magazine grants Nicholas County Lady Jacket Head Coach has some rebuilding work to do but it also added in the 1993 Yearbook Edition, "to everybody else it will probably look like rebuilding."

"Of course we've got two starting positions slated," Kim Daniels at Last season, Denkins, a six foot three senior who has officially signed with University of Kentucky, over aged 18 points and 14 rebounds a game and has been ranked the number one player in the state by the Lexington Herald Leader and Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Kim has been honored and much of the load will have to fall on her shoulders. And with three starters gone she will really have to assert herself to her fullest potential - but we feel she can do it," Kenney said.

"We will also be expecting a lot more from Michelle Hopkins. We expect her to be on those boards getting into a good rebound situation and she will also help in scoring."

Other than those two positions, Kenney is working towards finding the best combination.

"Our starting lineup will change a lot, we've got to find which combination works together best for the team," Kenney said.

"We've got six seniors to work with. Alexis Gilbert, a five foot six inch forward, is a good shooter, she's able to score when we need her."

"Jennifer Willoughby, a five foot eight inch senior, is also practicing at the point. Tara George works well as a guard also."

"Tarys Livingston may also make the difference for us. She has practiced at forward and seems to be strong."

But Kenney adds no one can expect to start at the point at which they ended last year.

"We lost three seniors, Nikki Smoot, Christy Hutton and Renee Linville, who all scored in double figures in every game," Kenney said.

"And I told our players last night, even if we had the same calibre of talent we still would not start at the heights of our season because we don't have players who've had the that work pay off."

kind of playing experience it takes to out knock everyone you have to go up against right at the start.

"Christy and Nikki played together for five years and Renee, who lettered major rebuilding work to do but it as a freshman, made the difference because she filled the position she had to fill right when we needed her most."

"We've been ranked number two by the Lexington Herald and fourth by the Courier, but they are basing their ranking by last year's performance and we've lost quality players."

"We've got the talent. We've got kids who are mature and who want it. The whole team has just got to keep a positive attitude, grow and learn and we will be able to beat somebody."

"Some of these kids haven't had all the opportunities others have had and we will not start off where we left off, but we are moving in a positive direction."

But Nicholas County's major rebuilding work doesn't stop with the variety, or with this year, for that matter.

"Our junior varsity will send players on the court who have had no playing experience whatsoever," Kenney said.

"But a lot of players, Melara Jones, Danita Livingston and Jennifer Livingston, have all got the skill, and good hands to achieve some success."

"And some of these young players on the junior varsity may even find themselves on the varsity, I'm not saying they can't work up to playing that level - they can."

"And I'm really proud of the tradition we've built. When we began this program in the early 70s we had Dennis Darwell and all those players who built on the fundamentals to have a great team."

"Now we've got young kids coming up in the seventh and eighth grades who are eager to learn and eager to play. So it looks like the future of our Nicholas County Lady Jacket is to program is bright."

"For this season's JV, we're not looking to win every game, we're looking to gain experience and hope we learn something from each game so we can take our play to higher levels on in the season and during the program is bright."

"I'm proud of our teams, proud of their success and enthusiasm. We've got to work and now I hope we'll see that work pay off."



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