

Menifee County girls look for new identity without Williams

By Brad Laux
Sports Writer

For the first time in four years, the Menifee County girls' basketball team will have to turn to someone other than Chelsea Williams for scoring. The Lady Cat guard graduated this past spring and took her game to Auburn College after scoring over 2,500 points, including averaging 23 points, eight assists, six steals and four rebounds a game last year.

Coach Paul Ricker hopes that person is junior forward Leanne

Mullins. He anticipates teams will have overlooked Mullins in the past because of Williams' dominant contributions.

Seven letter winners return for the Lady Cats, but it is the newcomers, including a handful of transfers, which Ricker hopes can help Menifee County return to the kind of season it had in 2007-08 when the team won 17 games.

"Leanne Mullins will be a very much last year because our guard play was so strong," Ricker said. "The fact that no one knows

who she is, is my fault. We probably haven't used her enough in the past."

Seven letter winners return for the Lady Cats, but it is the newcomers, including a handful of transfers, which Ricker hopes can help Menifee County return to the kind of season it had in 2007-08 when the team won 17 games.

"The transfers have made us better all around," Ricker said. "The transfer that arguably will make the biggest impact is Devin Jovett, a sophomore who will play either the point or off-guard position. Ricker is impressed with her strength, athleticism and speed. She also has the ability to handle the ball and run a team, and he especially likes her skills in the transition game."

The other two transfers are both exchange students. Paula Gutierrez is a junior forward from Spain who has never played basketball before, but Ricker is impressed with how quickly she has picked up the game. Mariana Elmás also is a junior forward. Although she is new to the game, Elmás was a team handball player in her native Brazil. That sport's skill set is similar to basketball, making her transition to the game easier.

"Paula is fast, strong, athletic

and can finish around the rim," Ricker said. "Mariana's experience with handball makes her our best passer. She knows how to cut to the basket and lead people with her passes. She is very athletic, a hard worker, dedicated and focused."

Ricker says forward Haley Lane is the team's most improved player. She can take the ball to the basket effectively with either hand. Guards Laranda Coffey and Cera Hall both shoot and defend well. Coffey also gives the team versatility and speed, but will be out the first part of the season as she recovers from ACL surgery.

"All four freshmen will play a lot," Ricker said. "They are athletic, but lack strength."

Two other guards figure into the rotation, junior Samantha Munday and sophomore Rachel Thomas. Both are hard workers and great defensive players. Thomas also brings quickness and athleticism. "We are fairly deep, but young and inexperienced," Ricker said. "Scoring the ball across half court against pressure will be the question. If we can get into our offense, we'll be fine."

Because of the team's athleticism, Ricker wants to play up tempo, but he also likes the Lady Cat's

ability to score in the half court and wants to get the ball into the post more this year.

"We will run a secondary break and our half-court offense will use the dribble-drive," he said. "We will mostly play man-to-man defense, but some zone. Fouls, fouls and our opponents will dictate what defense we play." Despite losing the firepower of Chelsea Williams and Dorsey, Ricker thinks the Lady Cats will be better this year.

"Our strengths are working together to achieve a common goal," he said. "We have battled chemistry problems in the past, but it is the best this year it has ever been. These kids enjoy each other both on and off the floor."

Ricker knows the road ahead will be full of challenges. "The players know that winning will be tough; we have no easy games," he said. "We will take hits from the start, but improve every game. The second time we see opponents they will see a difference. 'People are counting on us, which serves as a motivation,' he added. "Our goal this year is not to get blown out in any game, improve as the season goes along and try to put off an upset in the district (tournament)."

who she is, is my fault. We probably haven't used her enough in the past."

"The transfers have made us better all around," Ricker said. "The transfer that arguably will make the biggest impact is Devin Jovett, a sophomore who will play either the point or off-guard position. Ricker is impressed with her strength, athleticism and speed. She also has the ability to handle the ball and run a team, and he especially likes her skills in the transition game."

The other two transfers are both exchange students. Paula Gutierrez is a junior forward from Spain who has never played basketball before, but Ricker is impressed with how quickly she has picked up the game. Mariana Elmás also is a junior forward. Although she is new to the game, Elmás was a team handball player in her native Brazil. That sport's skill set is similar to basketball, making her transition to the game easier.

"Paula is fast, strong, athletic

Ad Designer:
Joshua E. Harper
Steve Scaff
Layout Designers:
Joshua E. Harper
Articles/Photography:
Melissa Mitchell
Charles Mattax
Joshua E. Harper
Brad Laux
Kym King
Sales Representative:
Sandy Hamilton
Debbie McCord

Frenchburg Foodland
238 Main St. - Frenchburg, Ky
606-768-2205

open 7 days a week Sat. & Sunday
9am - 6pm

Ferrall's Logging & Lumber
2349 Indian Creek Road
Frenchburg, Ky
606-768-2650

Good Deals on Lumber

Medco Flowers
Good Deals on Lumber

1852 Hwy. 460 East
Frenchburg, Ky
606-768-3070

Easton - Paul Funeral Home
Back Street - Frenchburg, Ky
606-768-2585

Best wishes this year!

David & Jennifer Smallwood, Owners

Farm Bureau Ins.
101 Main St.
Frenchburg, Ky
606-768-3343

Have A Great Season
And A Wonderful Year

Boots General Store
8980 Hwy 460 E • Denniston, Ky
606-768-3255

Good Luck!

David & Jennifer Smallwood, Owners

Menifee County Rosters

Menifee County girls

Name	Number	Grade	Height	Position
Leanne Mullins	2	11	5' 8"	Forward
Samantha Munday	11	11	5' 4"	Guard
Paula Gutierrez	12	11	5' 6"	Forward
Mariana Elmás	22	11	5' 6"	Forward
Chelsea Walker	31	10	6' 2"	Center
Rachel Thomas	35	10	5' 3"	Guard
Devin Jovett	23	10	5' 3"	Guard
Paige Warren	10	9	5' 4"	Guard
Haley Lane	21	9	5' 6"	Forward
Cera Hall	4	9	5' 7"	Guard
Laranda Coffey	5	9	5' 6"	Guard
Corie Baldwin	33	7	5' 7"	Forward
Allie Heaton	32	7	5' 4"	Forward
Ashton Woodard	15	6	5' 5"	Forward

Head coach: Paul Ricker



Menifee County Boys

Head Coach: Justin Moore
Assistant: Brian Adkins - Assistant: C.J. Ellison



Player	Class	Height	Weight	#	Position
David Meeks	Sr.	5'10"	150	4	G
Caleb Howard	Sr.	6'1"	175	65	F
Blake Greene	Sr.	6'3"	170	14	F
Patrick Greene	Sr.	6'3"	170	24	F
Zach Daniel	Sr.	6'5"	185	35	C
Daluce Sparks	Sr.	5'10"	160	20	G
Chris Welch	Sr.	6'1"	165	40	F
Keenan Hacker	Jr.	5'10"	155	3	G
Cody Peck	Jr.	5'10"	175	5	G
Ethan Hunt	Jr.	5'10"	165	35	G
Steven Warren	Jr.	5'11"	160	45	F
Nathaniel Brooks	Jr.	6'2"	170	25	C
Drew Swartz	Fresh	5'5"	145	1	G

Superintendent: Charles Mitchell - Principal: Brenda Warren
Athletic Director: Connie McVey
Colors: Green/White/Black - Nickname: Wildcats

Menifee County Board of Education

Charles Mitchell Superintendent
Proud to Support our Wildcats and Lady Cats

"Building a foundation for Success"