

# Menifee County boys go from hunter to hunted

By Brad Laux  
Sports Writer

The Menifee County boys' basketball team enters the season in an unusual position: as favorites.

Coming off a 16-11 campaign, the Wildcats are being picked by many publications as the team to beat in the 61st District. Just one season removed from a three-win season, Menifee County brings athleticism, experience, versatility and depth into 2009-10.

This year the Wildcats are planning on increasing their run-and-gun offense and extending their full-court pressure defense.

"We are going to give the kids more freedom within the offense. Our defensive schemes are more complicated. We are building on what we did last year," coach Justin Moore said. "They'll read (the play) and adjust this year."

Moore has a model for his high-octane team: Elliott County. The Lions' senior-laden group won their third consecutive regional title and advanced all the way to the state semifinals last season.

"We want to mirror Elliott in chemistry, effort, IQ, style and understanding (of the game) and mim-

ic those things," Moore said. "The ultimate goal is that enough kids know the system, react and have the freedom to do it (without having to think about it). Elliott did that last year."

Menifee County will have a team dominated with superclassmen. Twelve of the 13 players on the roster are either juniors or seniors.

"The kids believe we'll be good," Moore said. "Now the kids have that swagger and know how to win. They expect to win when we step on the floor."

All but four players return from last season's team, and unlike each of the past two campaigns, everyone is healthy.

Senior point guard David Meeks returns for his third season as a starter. Last year, even with the fast-paced style of play the Wildcats featured, he averaged just two turnovers per game.

"David is a good shooter, especially from 3-point range. He sees the floor and has to for our offense to work," Moore said. "He has improved every year."

Just like Elliott County's regional championship teams, Menifee County is led by athletic twin brothers (Blake and Patrick Greene).

"Blake Greene is the

quickest player on the team. He gets to the hole fast and has improved his 3-point shooting. Last year he averaged 16 points and six rebounds (per game). Moore said, "Patrick is about as athletic as anybody in the region. He dunks the ball at will. He has a quick first step. He has worked on his 3-point shot and is a threat from there this year."

Moore hopes that Meeks and both Greens can be counted on to consistently hit outside shots this year, an area where the Wildcats really struggled last winter.

"Shooting is our biggest weakness. We can get to the rim, but zones really hurt us," Moore said. "The kids really worked on that and now we legitimately have four 3-point threats. We shot well in the spring and summer, but the million dollar question is can we shoot well in the season."

A trio of 5-10 junior guards all factor into the rotation. Kennan Hacker will be Meeks' backup at the point. Hacker was out for much of last season, but will be looked to this winter for his ability to penetrate. Cody Peck brings strength, quick-

ness and aggressiveness to the backcourt. Moore calls him a "bull" and likes his ability to rebound despite his size. Ethan Hunt is quick and strong, and Moore thinks is ready for a breakout season.

Junior, power forward Steven Warren is another "blue collar" style player, who missed part of last year with a knee injury. Nathaniel Brooks is a 6-2 junior center, who will add depth to the front line.

The lone freshman on the club is 5-5 sparkplug guard Drew Swartz, who Moore calls "scary good" and says is full of potential.

"We are quick, athletic and have great defensive skills. Everyone knows our tempo. We are going to play as fast as we can," All "A" state tournament) Moore said. "It will be different this year when we attack the rim, because when teams collapse, we will have players who are spotted up and (the driver) will kick it out."

Two of the keys to the Wildcats continuing their upward progression are experience and depth.

"We have three, three-year starters and six of our top eight are in their third year as major players," Moore said. "We can go 10 deep without a major drop off. We want to be able to sustain our first-quarter pace in the fourth quarter."

Moore has very specific goals for his team. "Last year we averaged 70 points per game. This year we want to average 78," he said. "Another goal is 12 turnovers per game. It will be hard at our pace."

"Our goal is to walk on the floor at EKU (for the All 'A' state tournament) and Rupp (for the KHSAA Sweet 16)," he added. "The kids are sacrificing to make it happen. The keys are to step on the floor with a purpose, focus and remember our goal."

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Have a wonderful season

Amanda Sublett, Registered Pharmacist

**Menifee County News**

Wishing The Ladycats and Wildcats Good Luck on your 2009-2010 Season!

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Good Luck Wildcats and Lady Cats

Amanda Sublett, Registered Pharmacist

# Boys Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Dec 1, 09	Sayre	home	7:30 PM
Dec 5, 09	Lee County	at Wolfe County	7:30 PM
Dec 10, 09	Owsley County	away	7:30 PM
Dec 11, 09	Morgan County	home	7:30 PM
Dec 15, 09	West Carter	away	7:30 PM
Dec 18, 09	Rowan County	away	7:30 PM
Dec 21, 09	East Jessamine	at East Jessamine/West Jessamine	7:45 PM
Dec 27, 09	Estill County	at East Jessamine/West Jessamine	6:00 PM
Dec 30, 09	Lexington Christian	home	6:00 PM
Jan 2, 10	Deming	at Mason County	6:30 PM
Jan 5, 10	Fleming County	away	7:30 PM
Jan 7, 10	Nicholas County	home	7:30 PM
Jan 12, 10	Rowan County	home	7:30 PM
Jan 14, 10	Bath County	home	7:30 PM
Jan 16, 10	Fairview	home	7:30 PM
Jan 19, 10	Powell County	home	7:30 PM
Feb 2, 10	Russell	home	7:30 PM
Feb 4, 10	Bath County	away	7:30 PM
Feb 6, 10	Rowan County	home	7:30 PM
Feb 8, 10	Wolfe County	home	7:30 PM
Feb 16, 10	Bryan Station	away	7:30 PM
Feb 18, 10	Estill County	home	7:30 PM

# 2009-2010 Girls Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Nov 20, 09	Rowan County	away	7:30 PM
Dec 1, 09	Nicholas County	home	2:30 PM
Dec 8, 09	Rowland	home	7:30 PM
Dec 18, 09	Sayre	home	7:30 PM
Dec 19, 09	Estill County	home	6:00 PM
Dec 19, 09	Boonville	away	7:30 PM
Dec 19, 09	McCreary Central	at Berea	4:30 PM
Dec 20, 09	TBA	at Berea	
Dec 21, 09	TBA	at Berea	
Dec 22, 09	TBA	at Berea	
Dec 28, 09	Logan County	at Logan County/Russellville	6:00 PM
Dec 29, 09	TBA	at Russellville	
Dec 30, 09	TBA	at Logan County/Russellville	
Jan 2, 10	Bath County	away	7:30 PM
Jan 5, 10	Fleming County	away	6:00 PM
Jan 9, 10	Wolfe County	home	5:30 PM
Jan 16, 10	Fairview	home	6:00 PM
Jan 25, 10	Russell	home	7:30 PM
Jan 28, 10	West Carter	home	7:30 PM
Jan 28, 10	Shelton Clark	away	5:30 PM
Feb 1, 10	Morgan County	away	7:30 PM
Feb 1, 10	Powell County	home	7:30 PM
Feb 9, 10	Boyd County	home	7:30 PM
Feb 12, 10	Fleming County	home	7:30 PM
Feb 12, 10	Ross Hill Christian	home	7:30 PM
Feb 15, 10	East Carter	away	7:30 PM
Feb 19, 10	Lee County	away	8:00 PM
Feb 20, 10	Wolfe County	away	7:30 PM

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Good Luck Jordan Mann and the MCHS Wildcats

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