

BOYS BASKETBALL

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOYS BASKETBALL OUTLOOKS

ANNAPOLIS

NICKNAME: Panthers
COACH: John Brady, 32nd year
LEAGUE: 3A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 15-8
RETURNING PLAYERS: Chris Beck (Sr., G); Anthony Butler (Sr., G); Ed Moon (Sr., C); Chris Brice (Sr., G); Warren Holliday (Sr., F); Marlon Mitchell (Sr., F).
NEWCOMERS: Tajuan Watson (So., G); Terrance Wright (Sr., G); Troy Reid (So., F); Delonte Joyce (So., G); Domico James (So., F); Jeremy Blackstone (Sr., C); William Howard (Sr., F); Matt Brady (Sr., C); Malcolm McFadden (Sr., G).
OUTLOOK: With only one returning starter, the Panthers will have to incorporate fresh talent into an athletic scheme. Nonetheless, Annapolis' goals remain high, as they do every year.

The team is stocked full of quick players, and as a result, the Panthers will be forcing the pace on offense and applying heavy pressure on defense.
 Howard, a transfer from Archbishop Spalding, could be the key to a successful season. He was a tremendous scorer in the MIAA A Conference last year and brings his explosive offensive game to Annapolis.

ANNAPOLIS AREA CHRISTIAN

NICKNAME: Eagles
COACH: Doug Scheidt, fourth year
LEAGUE: MIAA B Conference
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 10-15
RETURNING PLAYERS: Matthew Gierl (Sr., G/F); Patrick Lipinski (Sr., G); William Poulakis (Sr., F); Zac Scantlin (Sr., F); Cory Dennis (Sr., G); Tyler Lewis (So., G).
NEWCOMERS: Phillip Perry (So., G); T.J. Ellwein (Sr., F); Ryan Cato (Sr., G); Jake Dykstra (Sr., G); Conner Lipinski (Sr., G).
OUTLOOK: After a successful debut season in the Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Conference B Conference, the Eagles are ready to make a run for the postseason. With senior captains Matthew Gierl and Patrick Lipinski, Eagles coach Doug Scheidt has plenty of confidence.

"I think we're capable of beating anybody we'll play," he said. "I don't think there's a team that we can't beat. We're very young, but very capable."

Girel, a transfer from Mount St. Joseph last season, was named captain with Lipinski, a three-year varsity player and starting point guard. The two, along with forward William Poulakis, serve as mentors for a young team that consists of five newcomers to the varsity program.

"They bring tremendous experience and leadership," Scheidt said. "They understand our system and who we are as a team. They are the best captains I've ever had."

Conner Lipinski, Patrick's brother, will start at shooting guard and spend time at the point.

ARCHBISHOP SPALDING

NICKNAME: Cavaliers
COACH: Andy Bauer, second year
LEAGUE: MIAA A Conference
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 6-24
RETURNING PLAYERS: Andre Moore (Sr., G); Cliff Jones (Sr., F); Randy Kane (Sr., G); Will Udoh (Sr., F); Connor McRoy (Sr., G/F).
NEWCOMERS: Paul Graziano (Sr., G); Jourdan Stickler (Sr., G/F); Greg Brown (Sr., G); Garrett Snoops (So., G); Josh Fitzgerald (So., F).
OUTLOOK: The Cavaliers look to build on last year, and the offense will revolve around returning guard Andre Moore.

Moore, a slasher with a quick burst, averaged 13 points a game last season and will shoulder the scoring load.

"Our success will depend on how he plays," coach Andy Bauer said.

Bauer is looking for Cliff Jones, a returning forward, to take some of the heat off Moore.

"He's like a coach on the floor," Bauer said. "We're going to expect him to step up his scoring this year."

Paul Graziano, the top player on the Cavaliers' junior varsity squad a year ago, brings his outside shooting prowess to the varsity team, which looks to progress in its second year under Bauer.

"One year into the system and my philosophy, they understand what we want to do," Bauer said. "We're more talented this year than we were last year. If we play hard, we'll compete. We will be more competitive this year, and hopefully that'll turn into more wins."

ARUNDEL

NICKNAME: Wildcats
COACH: Jeff Starr
LEAGUE: 4A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 19-6
RETURNING PLAYERS: Auraum Nuiriankh (Sr., F); Dererick Rhodes (Sr., G); Greg Rich (Sr., G); Terrell Tullis (Sr., G); Alec Lemon (Sr., G).
NEWCOMERS: Ronnie Harris (Sr., G/F); Sharahd Conley (Sr., G); Chris Rice (Sr., F); Andre Hilliard (Sr., F); Billy Cosh (Sr., F).
OUTLOOK: Despite heavy losses to graduation, Arundel coach Jeff Starr returns four key rotation players to a squad that won 19 wins and made its first county championship game appearance.

Auraum Nuiriankh averaged 10.6 points, 7.1 rebounds and three blocks a game and will be the leader on the court. R.J. Harris averaged more than 20 points on junior varsity and should provide consistency.

Dererick Rhodes, Greg Rich and Terrell Tullis are court veterans, and Andre Hilliard returns to Arundel after a year at AACS. One of the team's better shooters, his 6-foot 2-inch frame will open up lanes for the guards.

"This is going to be another up-and-down court team that is not tall, but athletic," Starr said. "These guys are coming in here with a winning attitude. They have experienced success at both levels and we hope to reap the benefits from that experience."

BROADNECK

NICKNAME: Bruins
COACH: John Williams, sixth season

TOP 5

- 1. OLD MILL (23-3)**
County champs and region finalists look to make another deep run
- 2. ST. MARY'S (20-10)**
Saints return the bulk of last year's conference finalist squad
- 3. SEVERNA PARK (16-8)**
Led by Brendan Bald, deep Falcons should be dangerous
- 4. GLEN BURNIE (13-10)**
Gophers build on last season with experience and added skill
- 5. ANNAPOLIS (15-8)**
Spalding transfer joins mix of fast-paced offense and pesky defense

LEAGUE: 4A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 17-7
RETURNING PLAYERS: Trae Byes (So., G); Russell Jacobsen (Sr., G); Terran Lovett (Sr., F); Todd Lyles (Sr., G); Derrick McGee (Sr., F); Sam Moore (Sr., G); C.J. Ricker (Sr., F).
NEWCOMERS: Bobby Bates (So., G); Taquan Colbert (So., G); Ryan Fidderman (Sr., G); Bart George (So., G); Ryan Jordan (Sr., F); Darnell Solomon (Sr., F).
OUTLOOK: The Bruins have a strong mix of youth and veteran leadership heading into the season. Guard Trae Byes could have a breakout season as a sophomore, picking up where last season's leading scorer, J.J. Hicks, left off. Seniors Russell Jacobsen and Terran Lovett add versatility and experience to the Bruins' roster, and senior Derrick McGee adds raw athleticism and hustle to what is already a talented frontcourt.

"In order to win, we need contributions from each and every player," coach John Williams said. "We feel that we have greater depth than in past seasons with many interchangeable parts."

CHESAPEAKE

NICKNAME: Cougars
COACH: Raymond Pack, first year
LEAGUE: 4A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 3-17
RETURNING PLAYERS: Zach Bailey (Sr., F); Jordan Emge (Sr., C); Dave Slomski (Sr., F); Jake Bell (Sr., G); Jason Tabur (Sr., F); Jesse Johnson (Sr., G).
NEWCOMERS: Phillip Johnson (Sr., G); Donald Green (Sr., F); Dylan Murcha (Sr., G); Tim Pottieger (Sr., G); Brad Pottieger (Sr., G); Deontrey Daily (Sr., G).
OUTLOOK: Chesapeake enters the season with a new coach and a new sense of direction. Raymond Pack, the junior varsity coach last season, replaced Andrew Lazzor, who led the Cougars to a 3-17 mark in 2008. Chesapeake, at times, relied on T.J. Richards, who scored 11 points a game last season. The Cougars won't rely on any one person to hold the reins this year.

"We've dedicated this season to being a total team effort," Pack said. "We always wished we could have that one guy who could lead us, but not this year. We kind of wanted it to be a team effort."

The Cougars return six players from last year's team, including forwards Zach Bailey and Dave Slomski and center Jordan Emge.

They won't intimidate anyone with their size, but Pack is confident that won't be much of a factor.

"We have some big guys down there," he said. "We box out well. We rebound. We're looking to put the ball back in the basket on the offensive glass."

GLEN BURNIE

NICKNAME: Gophers
COACH: Mike Rudd, 13th season
LEAGUE: 4A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 13-10
RETURNING PLAYERS: Danny Murphy (Sr., F); Tyler Rudd (Sr., G); C.J. Eldridge (Sr., G); David Deavers (Sr., G); Shaun Noble (Sr., C); David Clyde (Sr., G/F).
NEWCOMERS: Justin Kuntz (Sr., F/C); Nahum Holmes (Sr., G/F); Charles Dailey (Sr., G); C.J. White (Sr., F); Devin Colbert (Sr., C); Larry White (Sr., F); Larry Mike (So., F).
OUTLOOK: Expectations are high for the Gophers, who will try to build on their streak of 10 straight winning seasons. The Gophers also have won three of the last five region titles, and with their two leading scorers returning from a year ago, the team has lofty goals for this season, according to Rudd.

"I like our chemistry right now," he said. "If we can keep building on that, we can be pretty strong."

Danny Murphy led the team in scoring and rebounding last year, and Tyler Rudd was the second leading scorer and shot 33 percent from behind the 3-point line.

"Danny, Tyler and Justin (Kuntz) are all going to be good players," Mike Rudd said. "We are a fast, uptempo offense, and we will mix things up throughout the game. We're going to mix it up a lot on defense with zone and man."

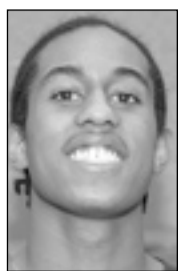
INDIAN CREEK

NICKNAME: Eagles
COACH: Will Bartz, fourth year
LEAGUE: MIAA C Conference
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 8-13
RETURNING PLAYERS: Justin Dangel (Sr., F); Miles Ripley (Sr., G); Sam Papavasiliadis (Sr., G).
NEWCOMERS: Zack Simon (Sr., F); Jordan Pegues (Sr., F); Eddie Jenkins (Sr., G); Cyle Porter (Sr., F); Christian Hartman (Sr., F); Julius Smith (Sr., F).
OUTLOOK: The Eagles' second year in the MIAA C Conference could prove a challenging feat for a team with only three returning seniors.

Miles Ripley and Sam Papavasiliadis will run the backcourt and receive help from fresh-faced youngsters Eddie Jenkins and Cyle Porter, who will both need to mature fast and make serious waves to provide depth on the Eagles' bench.

Justin Dangel will be the Eagles' go-to

PLAYERS TO WATCH



GROCE



PINKNEY

Nick Groce, St. Mary's, Sr., G
UMBC signee stepped into stardom as junior; lightning quick on both sides of ball.

Marvin Pinkney, Old Mill, Sr., F
Linebacker brings football toughness to boards.

Brendan Bald, Severna Park, Sr., F
Versatile Vermont recruit leads Falcons with slashing play.

Danny Murphy, Glen Burnie, Sr., F
6-foot-6 post presence can dominate down low.

Tyler Rudd, Glen Burnie, Sr., G
Heart of Gophers hustles every minute he's on the court.

Brandon Belt, Southern, Jr., G
High-scoring guard is focal point of Bulldogs' offense.

Auraum Nuiriankh, Arundel, Sr., F
All-county performer emerges as veteran leader for Wildcats.

Trae Byes, Broadneck, So., G
Young player gained valuable experience as a frosh; poised to break out.

Chris Brice, Annapolis, Jr., G
Headly guard leads athletic Panthers squad

D'Triche Allen, Meade, Sr., F
Defensive menace causes havoc in the post

guy in the post. Dangel is the first four-year basketball player in Indian Creek history and has been a consistent scorer and a scrappy hustler in the paint.

"We're trying to change the culture at Indian Creek," coach Will Bartz said. "We had a rough time our first year in the MIAA."

The Eagles finished only 1-11 in the C Conference, but will look to improve this year and grab one of the four playoff spots.

"We're a big defensive team, and we no longer have to play zone all game," Bartz said. "This year we're looking to change the pace of our games and get pressure up front. Our goal is one game at a time, and ultimately, we want to compete."

KEY SCHOOL

NICKNAME: Obezags
COACH: James Peters, first year
LEAGUE: MIAA C Conference
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 13-11, C Conference champions
RETURNING PLAYERS: Jake Maldonado (Sr., G); Charlie Flannigan (Sr., G); Ben Ricketts (Sr., G).
NEWCOMERS: Anthony Fusco (Sr., C); Ben Smit (Sr., F); Isaac Anthony (Sr., G); Tommy Attridge (Sr., F); Harrison Barton (Sr., G); Chris Fusco (Sr., G); Kai Pinkney (Sr., C); Brendan Schrader (Sr., G).
OUTLOOK: First-year coach James Peters faces a changing of the guard as he tries to compensate for his team's lack of fast-post size in favor of a more uptempo, fast-break offensive style. Senior guards Jake Maldonado and Charlie Flannigan are a solid backcourt punch, and two of the Obezags' top scoring threats.

"Jake and Charlie both need to play well in order for us to win," Peters said.

Senior guard Ben Ricketts adds depth to the backcourt, returning from a knee injury that cut short his junior year. A majority of this year's roster are juniors bumped up from last season's JV championship squad, and the winning experience of those players should help keep Key on a competitive edge in the C Conference.

"We're a new team, essentially all guards and one center, but we're hoping that winning will be contagious," Peters said. "And all of our players know how to win."

MEADE

NICKNAME: Mustangs
COACH: Darryl Adams, sixth year
LEAGUE: 3A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 12-13
RETURNING PLAYERS: Talon Clark (Sr., G); Dwight Salmon (Sr., F); D'Triche Allen (Sr., F); Hamzat Bakare (Sr., G); Jemuel Brown (Sr., F).
NEWCOMERS: Joey Wilson (Sr., F); Ryan Johnson (Sr., F); Doni Hancock (Sr., G); Travis Curtis (Sr., F); Gilbert Burgess (Sr., F); Ryan Rivers (Sr., F); Quinton Young (Sr., G); Carlton Tracey (Sr., G); Joe Curry (Sr., G).
OUTLOOK: Led by retiring starters Talon Clark and Dwight Salmon, the Mustangs will look to establish themselves defensively in order to compete at a high level.

"Our offense is going to have to come from our ability to defend and disrupt teams from what they want to do," Meade coach Darryl Adams said.

The Mustangs will rely on Clark, a talented guard, as well as the defensive capabilities of Salmon and D'Triche Allen, who Adams said is one of the better shot blockers in the county. Adams said Salmon is a capable player who he would like to see emerge as an offensive threat this season.

"We like to consider ourselves a defensive ball team," Adams said. "We have to remain feisty and try to get teams out of their comfort zone all year long."

Meade will challenge itself early with some tough competition outside of the county, as well as some tough county rivalries to start

the season.
 "We really, really want to come together and get some wins early to gain some momentum," Adams said.

NORTH COUNTY

NICKNAME: Knights
COACH: Andrew Lazzor, first year
LEAGUE: 4A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 14-10
RETURNING PLAYERS: Ronald Fisher (Sr., G); Mike Davis (Sr., F); Stedman Beatty (Sr., C).
NEWCOMERS: Chris Wheeler (Sr., G); Jordan Diggs (Sr., F); Walter Dines (Sr., G); Jordan Kess (Sr., F); Malcolm Britts (Sr., G).
OUTLOOK: Last season, the Knights had one of the tallest rosters in the county, but now have no players taller than 6-foot-3. First year coach Andrew Lazzor faces the challenge of replacing the old team formula of pound the ball into the post with a more run and gun style to utilize his roster's speed and quickness.

"We're a guard-oriented team," Lazzor said. "We don't have much size, but we've got a lot of shooters and good speed. The key will be for us to get our athletes in great shape through conditioning."

Senior guard Ronald Fisher is a talented scorer who can create his own shot off the dribble, as well as a motivator and pesky defender.

"Ronald is a big-time contributor," Lazzor said. "We've got to play ends consistently, and that's exactly what Ronald does. He's a scorer and a defensive leader."

NORTHEAST

NICKNAME: Eagles
COACH: Kevin Gast, seventh year
LEAGUE: 3A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 2-18
RETURNING PLAYERS: Chris Biederman (Sr., G); Glynn Davis (Sr., G); Mike Riesett (Sr., C); Shane Gerban (Sr., G).
NEWCOMERS: D'Andre Savoy (Sr., G); Dylan Peinx (Sr., G); Justin Daniels (Sr., C); Barry Watkins (Sr., C); Tyler Kress (Sr., C/F); Donovan Lange (Sr., G); Maurice Jackson (Sr., G).
OUTLOOK: After losing four seniors and starting point guard Anthony Miller, Kevin Gast has a squad full of speed and youth, but will return only one starter in center Mike Riesett. Riesett will have to set a strong example as a mentor to help develop low post players like Justin Daniels and Tyler Kress.

In the backcourt, senior guard Chris Biederman will be the Eagles' floor general in charge of getting his teammates good looks from inside and behind the arc. Seniors Glynn Davis and Shane Gerban add experience, inside-outside versatility, the ability to shoot from long range and take the ball to the rack.

"Our biggest goal is learning to play as a team," Gast said. "If we do that, we could have a really good season."

Gast will also face the tough task of changing the ideology and identity of a program that suffered 18 losses last season, but the seventh-year coach remains confident that with hard work and focus, his team could return to the thick of competition in the 3A East.

OLD MILL

NICKNAME: Patriots
COACH: Greg Smith, eighth year
LEAGUE: 4A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 23-3, county champions
RETURNING PLAYERS: Marvin Pinkney (Sr., F); Anthony Smith (Sr., C); Kadeem Joseph (Sr., F); Trae Summers (Sr., G/F); Chris Shaw (Sr., C); Mike Holley (Sr., G); Chris Day (Sr., G); Eric Savage (So., F).
NEWCOMERS: Marquel Pratt (Sr., G); Daon Riley (Sr., G); Marvin Salmond (Sr., G); Joe McCargo (So., F).
OUTLOOK: Coach Greg Smith hopes his team will be able to reload as opposed to rebuild after losing its top three scorers, rebounders and assist men from last year's county champions.

Junior guards Mike Holley and Chris Day are the team's top returners along with sophomore sensation Eric Savage, who averaged six points and four rebounds per game as a freshman.

The Patriots chances of winning a fourth county title in five years will depend on their ability to run.

"We are going to press and we are going to try to be in your face for 32 minutes," said Smith, whose team averaged 79 points a game last year. However, a lack of size could end up being Old Mill's Achilles' heel.

"Our tallest player is 6-foot, 4-inches ... so it's going to be difficult to repeat," Smith said. "But if we can hang around until they end, I think we can give people some fits."

ST. MARY'S

NICKNAME: Saints
COACH: Brian Konik, fourth year
LEAGUE: MIAA B Conference
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 20-10, lost in B Conference title game
RETURNING PLAYERS: Nick Groce (Sr., G); Trey Quinn (Sr., F); Jonathan Akpanunam (Sr., G); Ronnie Hoffman (Sr., G); Mark McNeill (Sr., F); Neill Hercules (Sr., G).
NEWCOMERS: Tyler Brady (Sr., F); Mike Wilde (So., G); Kam Tower (Sr., F).
OUTLOOK: The nucleus of this year's squad benefited from last season's run to the B Conference title game, which they played without leading scorer Josh Morgan-Green, who graduated. Nick Groce will fill in where Green left off as the Saints' top offensive weapon. The Saints also return four starters to the lineup along with Groce, but the long road back to the B conference title game could be tougher than in previous seasons.

"The competition in the conference is very high this season," coach Brian Konik said. "We're going to have to play our best in each and every game to get back to where we were a season ago."

All eyes will be on Groce, who has committed to play next season at UMBC, and three other seniors are being recruited to play sports collegiately.

"Having four college-bound athletes on our

roster won't hurt," Konik said. "But we still have to play with discipline and maturity."

SEVERN

NICKNAME: Admirals
COACH: Stan Brudish, first year
LEAGUE: MIAA B Conference
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 15-10
RETURNING PLAYERS: Ben Montgomery (Sr., C); Tyler Thurston (Sr., G); Alex Testoff (Sr., G); Pat O'Malley (Sr., G); Kyle McGovern (Sr., G/F); Andrew Adams (Sr., G); Tre Duncan (So., G/F); Chris Edgar (Sr., F); Matt McKetney (Sr., F).
NEWCOMERS: Alex Jones (Sr., C); Cole Bailey (So., G); Marc Burton (Sr., G/F).
OUTLOOK: Brudish, the former coach at Boys' Latin, replaces Charles "Tank" Duckett who coached the Admirals for 10 seasons.

"I'm a friend of Tank's, and I think he did a great job with the guys," Brudish said. "I'm taking over a program that was well-coached. They all have some great fundamentals and have been taught well."

Brudish's go-to guy will be junior guard Andrew Adams, a physical slasher with the ability to shoot from all over the court.

"He's one, that when the clock's running down and we need a score, he's the guy we'll look to," Brudish said.

The team's three seniors, Ben Montgomery, Tyler Thurston and Alex Testoff, will try to guide the team through a tough B Conference slate.

"We'll be competitive," Brudish said. "The league is really tough. On any given night we can all beat one another."

SEVERNA PARK

NICKNAME: Falcons
COACH: Paul Pellicani, 16th year
LEAGUE: 4A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 16-8
RETURNING PLAYERS: Aaron Nutter (Sr., G); Adam Senholzi (Sr., F); Brendan Bald (Sr., G); Kevin Marshall (Sr., G); Marques Lowe (Sr., F).
NEWCOMERS: Sam Jones (Sr., G); Conner Hunt (Sr., F); Chris Cappella (Sr., G).
OUTLOOK: The Falcons look to improve on a 16-8 season that ended with a loss in the region semifinals last winter.

"I think we will be better this season than last," Severna Park coach Paul Pellicani said. "With our depth this season, we will be able to really wear teams down."

Leading the Falcons will be seniors Adam Senholzi and Brendan Bald.

"Senholzi will be a force inside for us this season," Pellicani said of his 6-foot-5 forward/center.

Bald, the Falcons' leading scorer last season, has verbally committed to the University of Vermont.

The Falcons will welcome the return of senior guard Sam Jones to the team after he sat out his junior season. Jones is an All-County player in football and lacrosse.

"He's a fierce competitor," Pellicani said. "He brings a panache to the team which is contagious."

SOUTH RIVER

NICKNAME: Seahawks
COACH: Tim Poole, second year
LEAGUE: 4A East
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 5-17
RETURNING PLAYERS: Chris Dunn (Sr., G); Ben Kovalick (Sr., G); Alvin Carr (Sr., F); Nick Luvendusky (Sr., F); David Balinsky (Sr., C); Bryan Williams (Sr., G); Chris Roby (Sr., F).
NEWCOMERS: Kyle Dunn (So., G); Derek Sewer (Sr., G); Zack Bennett (Sr., G); Arin Wade (Sr., G); Duncan Thomas (Sr., C); Dave McCaa (Sr., G); Jeff Garrett (Sr., F).
OUTLOOK: Coach Chris Dunn will be the focal point of the Seahawks' offense. The senior guard averaged 12 points per game last season, a team high, and will have to score consistently in order for South River to contend.

Senior forward Alvin Carr brings toughness down low and should be a reliable post presence for the Seahawks, who have a roster featuring a healthy dose of upperclassmen.

"We played a lot of juniors last year and we had a lot of close games that we just couldn't finish," coach Tim Poole said. "This year, we're hoping that experience will help us in big games this season."

SOUTHERN

NICKNAME: Bulldogs
COACH: Ray Bowen, fifth season
LEAGUE: 2A South
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 6-17
RETURNING PLAYERS: Brandon Belt (Sr., G); Jimmy Gibbons (Sr., G); Jack Rogers (Sr., G); Andrew Bishop (Sr., C); Lawrence Jenkins (Sr., G); Ryan Joyce (Sr., F); Andrew Jones (Sr., F); Kenneth O'Neill (Sr., G); Cory Cronin (Sr., G).
NEWCOMERS: Matt Drennan (Sr., C); Jay Greer (Sr., G).
OUTLOOK: Brandon Belt, one of the county's top scorers a year ago, returns to lead this veteran-laden squad.

"Brandon has taken his game to the next level by being a great defender and a player who can also attack the rim and find the open man," coach Ray Bowen said.

Joining Belt in the starting lineup is 6-foot-6 senior center Andrew Bishop, who can face up to the basket and hit the short jumper in addition to manning the boards.

Jimmy Gibbons, Jack Rogers and Lawrence Jenkins are three more upper-classmen who bring toughness and aggressive defense to the Bulldogs.

"Most of the seniors are three-year varsity players," Bowen said. "We expect a lot out of them."

Seniors Matt Drennan and Jay Greer, both first-year varsity players, are coming off of football season and add to the tough, physical mantra of the team.

"Getting back to the old Southern tradition of playing hard and bringing a never-say-lose attitude to the floor each night is what these players are focusing on doing," Bowen said.

- Compiled by Collin Myers, Peter R. Palmieri, Chad T. Jones and Brian Burden