

Reprinted from the Patriot-News

## **HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL PREVIEW: TRI-VALLEY LEAGUE**

### **Newport, Greenwood boys lead way in TVL**

Friday, December 05, 2008

#### **EAST JUNIATA Tigers**

Coach: Brock Anders. 2007-08 record: 9-15 (4-12 League).

Top returnees: Tyler Erhard (6-4 jr F), Harris Campbell (5-9 sr G), Chris Lenig (5-8 sr G), Tyler Dressler (6-4 jr C), Blake Snyder (5-9 jr G), Nate Troup (6-2 jr F).

The big picture: With size and numbers, the Tigers look like a good situation for Anders in his first year. They'll need to develop chemistry and scoring threats to get up over .500.

#### **GREENWOOD Wildcats**

Coach: Kent Houser. 2007-08 record: 12-13 (11-5 League).

Top returnees: Trent Lesh (6-0 sr F), Ethan Pellman (6-4 sr C), Andrew Rhoads (5-11 jr G), Zach Fortenbaugh (6-0 jr G), Deaven Kelly (6-2 jr C), Jordann Ferguson (6-2 so F), Jeremy Troutman (6-0 so G).

The big picture: The Wildcats are looking to pick up where they left off, winning six straight to end the regular season before losing to Lancaster Christian in the first round of the District 3-A tournament. Improving the shooting percentage may put them back in the title race.

#### **HALIFAX Wildcats**

Coach: Pete Conrad. 2007-08 record: 18-8 (13-3 League).

Top returnees: Justin Keefer (5-11 sr G), Brandon Ribovich (6-3 sr F), Joe Schwalm (6-2 jr F).

The big picture: The Wildcats are a solid pick to return to the league race after reaching the first round of the District 3-AA tournament last season. With inside and outside threats they will present a challenge.

#### **JUNIATA Indians**

Coach: Scott Clark. 2007-08 record: 7-15 (5-11 League).

Top returnees: Brad Diffenderfer (6-1 sr G), Nick Bodley (5-11 sr G), Ben Clark (5-10 sr G), Caleb Whitesel (6-4 sr C).

The big picture: The Indians have the depth this year to avoid the second-half crash they ran into last season. Only two of their wins came after New Year's but things will be brighter if the younger players develop.

## **LINE MOUNTAIN Eagles**

Coach: Lance Adams. 2007-08 record: 5-17 (2-14 League).

Top returnees: Chad Levan (sr G, 12.8 ppg., 67 3-pointers), Adam Menko (sr G), David Wolfe (sr F), Mike Marciniak (so C).

The big picture: The Eagles are hoping to join the competitive mix in the league this year. Experience and senior leadership will help but team speed may be an issue.

## **MILLERSBURG Indians**

Coach: George Leader. 2007 record: 21-9 (13-3 League).

Top returnees: Brandon Hirsch (6-6 sr C), Tyler Seibert (6-3 sr F), Ian Klinger (6-0 jr F), Zak Maiden (5-8 jr G).

The big picture: No starters return from last year's team which reached the District 3-A semifinals and the first round of states. With size and depth, however, the Indians remain a favorite in the league. They lost the TVL championship game to Upper Dauphin by one.

## **NEWPORT Buffaloes**

Coach: Jack Messenger. 2007-08 record: 14-9 (11-5 League).

Top returnees: Mason Hoover (6-1 sr G, 11.8 ppg.), Matt Lehman (6-8 sr C, 11.4), Ryan Rosenberry (6-2 sr C), Kyle Isenberg (6-3 sr F), Jason Maschak (6-0 sr G), Jimmy Williams (6-2 sr F), Tony Malone (5-11 sr G).

The big picture: It's not hard to see why the Buffaloes are the favorite to emerge from the pack. With the senior leadership they bring back they should be more consistent in the league and may hang past the first round of the 3-AA tournament.

## **UPPER DAUPHIN Trojans**

Coach: Anthony Weaver (assistant). 2007-08 record: 19-7 (12-4 League champion).

Top returnees: Anson Amour (6-2 sr F), Zach Markel (6-0 jr F).

The big picture: The Trojans are still seeking a full-time replacement for Michael Calnon, who was recently fired as head coach. Despite the return of just one starter, question marks up and down the lineup, and a rough offseason, they are determined to defend their championship.

## **ROXANNE B. MOSES' TRI-VALLEY LEAGUE PICKS**

1. Newport .....The Buffaloes are back.
2. Greenwood .....Must be more consistent on offense.
3. Millersburg .....Experience is the main thing missing.
4. Halifax .....Keefer is the key.
5. Upper Dauphin.....Question marks abound.
6. East Juniata .....Need chemistry with the new coach and each other.
7. Juniata .....The seniors can dictate how this plays out.
8. Line Mountain .....At least someone will miss Midd-West.