



Mustang Hoops Update



FOUNTAIN CENTRAL BASKETBALL NEWSLETTER #32

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LADY MUSTANGS IN THE REGIONAL:

The Lady Mustangs had an awesome morning game against Sheridan at the Lapel Regional. The game went furiously back and forth in the last few minutes. At times, it looked as if the Mustangs would pull away, but then Sheridan would make a run. Sheridan was clinging to a small lead late in the fourth when the Mustangs mounted a comeback. It looked as though overtime was a possibility as Sheridan had two free throws with less than 10 seconds left. They missed and the Mustangs rushed down the floor and found Macee Williams in a sea of Sheridan defenders. Despite multiple defenders and lots of contact, Macee managed to get a shot off at the buzzer for the win as Mustang students stormed the floor in celebration.

The nightcap nearly provided Mustang fans with the same result. Senior Samantha Pigg picked a great time to catch fire from 3, hitting several big shots throughout the game. Macee Williams was saddled with foul trouble for part of the game, but Maggie Fishero and Jenna Royer stepped up and helped the Mustangs continue their interior dominance. Unfortunately, the Lady Mustangs couldn't quite hold on at the end and Wabash escaped with a regional victory.

What an awesome day of basketball for the Lady Mustang basketball program. It was a blast to watch them play, and to watch our student section cheer them on during both games. Though replacing their senior class will be tough, the Lady Mustangs will be a force to be reckoned with in girls' basketball the next two years. They certainly made Mustang fans proud this weekend and the entire season.



WRC SEASON ENDS DISAPPOINTINGLY:

Last Friday's loss to North Vermillion was disappointing to say the least. The Mustangs jumped out to an early lead and led by as many as 15 points early in the contest. Ultimately, the Mustangs allowed too many easy shots for the Falcons throughout the contest and we made many costly mistakes in the fourth quarter. I am confident, though, that our players will regroup and learn from the loss before next week's sectional.



LOCAL SECTIONALS:

The Mustangs drew Clinton Central in the sectional with Riverton Parke awaiting the winner. Seeger opens with South Vermillion, as host Southmont received the other bye. The winner of our sectional will advance to the Tipton regional and play the winner of the Lapel sectional (featuring 2A #3 Frankton) in the morning game at Tipton.

Covington again drew LCC in the opening game of their sectional, while Turkey Run will play the winner. Host North Vermillion drew the bye and will play the winner of the Rockville/Attica game.

Crawfordsville will play North Montgomery for the chance to play Frankfort in the Frankfort sectional. Western Boone will play Lebanon in the other semifinal game.



THIS WEEK'S OPPONENT:

SOUTHMONT MOUNTIES

Though the Mounties have struggled early in the season, they have shown themselves to be a dangerous opponent. Freshman Cam Chadd is one of the best athletes we face, and containing him will be difficult. The Mounties have several guys who can shoot the 3, and a good post player in Kaleb Swick, who can also step out and hit the 3 as well. Defending the 3 has not been a strength for us this season, so their shooting ability has me very nervous.

The Mounties will play with a lot of intensity, and we need to match that on senior night. They utilize the ball screen very well, and we must be ready to defend it effectively.



WHAT TO LOOK FOR TONIGHT:

Southmont will put a lot of pressure on the ball and the passing lanes on defense. Our ability to see the floor and make the correct pass will be very important. This is something we have improved on this season, but we still need to cut our turnovers. The Mounties also like to shoot a lot of 3's. We must make sure they are not getting wide-open, easy looks, and we must make sure we chase down any long rebounds. Most of the players on Southmont's squad are very capable 3-point shooters if left open.



SECTIONAL PREVIEW:

This year's sectional looks to be pretty open, as last year's was. Seeger is improved and will be a tough game for anyone. South Vermillion is capable of beating anyone in the field as well. Southmont is a dangerous host team that can get hot in any game. Clinton Central is the least familiar team in the bracket. Though they have struggled at times this year, they have some athletic players that make me nervous. Riverton Parke has improved over the season, and coach Charlie Martin always brings a good game plan.



THIS WEEK'S BASKETBALL THOUGHT:

Make every game important. Great players understand that, if they want to play in a championship, they must treat every game as if it is a championship game. Players often talk about how they play better when they are "relaxed." However, almost no one is relaxed in a championship game, so you are better off treating them all like championship games and playing through the pressure.

SECTIONAL DRAW:

TUES – South Vermillion vs Seeger (6:00); Clinton Central vs. FOUNTAIN CENTRAL (7:30).

FRI – Southmont vs SV/Seeger (6:00); Riv Parke vs. CC/FC (7:30)

SAT – CHAMPIONSHIP – 7 PM

ALL SECTIONAL GAMES ARE AT SOUTHMONT

GO MUSTANGS!!!

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SENIORS:

MATTHEW HECKLER:

Matt was a late entry to this year's senior class. I tried to get him to play in 9th and 10th grade, but he waited until his junior season to come out for the team. I am glad he changed his mind. I have enjoyed my time around Matt the last two years. Matt has been a consistent, hard worker in practice every week. More than his effort, I have enjoyed his personality in practice and in summer games.

ANDREW GOLIA:



Andrew has come a long way in four years. He has become one of our better offensive players. Sometimes I think he doesn't realize how good he is at scoring. He has gotten better and better each week this season and has earned himself a few starts. He has had several games this season in which he has been among our top 2 or 3 rebounders. We will need Andrew to have big games in the post-season.



ETHAN WOODROW:

Ethan has developed into a leader for our team. He is our all time leader in career points scored, and will end up close to 1st in career rebounds. He has been all WRC in his sophomore and junior seasons and was named *Journal & Courier* Area Small School Player of the Year last season. Ethan has become a more efficient player this season, improving his ball-handling and shooting percentage. He has also been a more vocal leader this season.

CASEY WALLS:



Casey has been a dedicated player throughout his career. He is a great teammate. He is always willing to do the "dirty work" and do the things that might not show up on a stat sheet or be written about in the paper, but he makes our team better. Casey has dealt with a lot of pain and stiffness in his knee after tearing his ACL last year, but he never complains about the pain. Casey has continued to improve throughout this season, and is becoming better each practice.

CLAYTON COREY:



Clayton is one of the fastest guards I have coached. This year, he has developed into a dangerous scoring threat for us, and when he is scoring, we are very difficult to defeat. His pressure on the ball often disrupts other teams from getting into their offense, and he is one of our best free throw shooters as well. His 3-point shooting has improved this year, though he rarely shoots them in games. His strength is still getting to the basket, but I wouldn't be surprised to see him make some big 3s in the post season.

KOBY PIERCE:



Koby will graduate among the top 10 in many, many statistical categories for his career. He is already our all time leader in steals, and is very near the top in career assists, 3s made, rebounds, and points. He has been a 4-year varsity starter and has been one of the most dedicated players I have coached. Koby is a very versatile player who can post up, drive, or shoot the 3. In practice lately, his post game has really stepped up and I think we will need that at the end of this season.

SENIORS – THANK YOU!

Together, this senior class has had a huge impact on Fountain Central Basketball. They have been reliable, dependable, and motivated throughout their careers. They have put in a ton of time in the summers to help our program, and they have spent many hours helping with our youth programs as well. They have helped establish our program as a force in 2A, and have represented our school extremely well when we have traveled. As a coaching staff, we are thankful to have coached such a great group of kids. They have also helped us win about 65% of our games the last 3 seasons. They will be missed next season.

BASKETBALL MEMORIES:

As the end of the season approaches, I am always reminded of how fast the season seems to have gone by once it is over. In the middle, basketball season seems long (it is longer than any other high school sport), but when it's over, you realize how much fun you were having. Some of my best memories of high school are from playing basketball, and I am still close with several of my team-mates, and even a few opponents from those days. I think back and I realize how difficult I must have been to coach because I thought I already knew it all. I have often expressed to my former coach, Jeff Henley, that now that I coach, I feel bad about how difficult I was. If I knew then what I know now, I would have cherished the moments more, because we had some pretty good teams, and I played with some guys who were really good players. Back then, I couldn't look past my own mess-ups, and I was more often frustrated with my own play than happy about the experience. That is why I often try to remind our players that they only get one chance to experience high school basketball as a player, and it is a great experience.

This group of players has been a lot of fun to coach so far. I hope there are more great memories to create in the coming weeks. I hope also that our players realize how lucky they are to get to play high school basketball in Indiana—it truly is a different experience than any place else.

THANK YOU PARENTS!

Our players are fun to coach. We believe that is because they have parents who have taught them how to be good teammates and to be coachable. We appreciate parents allowing us to spend so much time with their sons this winter learning to work together as a team. Thank you parents for all the work that you do for our basketball program. It is greatly appreciated.