



# LEWIS COUNTY Sports

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Sports editor: Eric Trent  
Phone number: 807-8227  
e-mail: etrent@chronline.com

## 2021 PREP BASKETBALL PREVIEW



Eric Trent / etrent@chronline.com

W.F. West senior Carter McCoy rises to throw down a dunk during layup and dunk drills at practice on Tuesday.

## Loaded Bearcats Primed to Make Noise

**2A/1A BOYS BASKETBALL:**  
*W.F. West and the Rest of the 2A EvCo Hope a Phase 2 Rollback Doesn't Derail Season*

By Eric Trent  
etrent@chronline.com

W.F. West boys basketball is facing the same predicament a lot of other teams around the state are stuck in right now:

practices start Monday while some athletes are still playing spring sports from the previous season.

Bearcat baseball players are currently competing in the District 4 tournament and have an elimination game on Friday in Ridgefield, while track and field is having its district tournament this Saturday.

"Those (sports) are not done yet, so it's kind of a challenge for us not even having the spring

sports done but we have to start practice, make cuts and make tough decisions about who's going to be on what team," W.F. West coach Chris White said.

High school teams have the green light to conduct practices under summer rules, and the Bearcats have been holding open gyms once a week leading up to the first official practice of the season on Monday, May 3.

For now, until the players who also compete in either

baseball and track finish their respective seasons, the Bearcats have been making due with the guys they have available in preparation for the season opener on May 10.

When the Bearcats do all unite, they could form into a fearsome bunch. W.F. West loses just three seniors from 2019-20's team, which went 16-7 overall and 8-2 in league play, with a second-place finish in the EvCo. The Bearcats advanced to the

District 4 Tournament before falling two wins shy of a regional berth.

The Bearcats return three starters from that team in 6-foot-4 senior dunk-machine Carter McCoy, who made The Chronicle's 2020 All-Area Team as a junior; 5-10 senior Cade Haller, a second-team all-league selection; and 6-3 junior work-horse Dirk Plakinger. Senior Brit Lusk (6-3) also saw big minutes

please see **EVCO**, page C5

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# Bearcats Could Make Biggest Splash This Season

**2A/1A GIRLS BASKETBALL:**  
*W.F. West Brings Back Two Crucial Starters, Including One of the Top Juniors in the State in Drea Brumfield*

**By Eric Trent**  
*etrent@chronline.com*

W.F. West is the local 2A team coming off the most successful year, from a playoff standpoint: a state tourney appearance in which it fell one win short of a trophy.

The Bearcats finished with an 18-8 overall record but lost a talented senior class, which included three starters, from that team.

Luckily, the Bearcats bring back two big pieces and a number of solid role players from a year ago.

Leading the charge will be 6-foot-2 junior Drea Brumfield, a Pepperdine commit who is one of the state's top Class of 2022 talents. The two-time All-Area selection averaged 12.3 points, seven rebounds, 2.7 blocks and 2.4 assists per game in 2020.

Also back is returning starter Madi Mencke, a senior shutdown defender who plays tenacious defense and can also get it done on the offensive end.

A couple solid pieces looking to slide into starting roles are juniors Kyla McCallum and Lexi Roberts, who both saw big-time varsity minutes last season.

### Centralia

The Tigers have some big shoes to fill with graduated senior Carissa Kaut gone, who is now playing for Centralia College.

Looking to take over that leadership role are a pair of returning starters: juniors Jadyn Hawley and Maddie Corwin. Also back in the fold are Rhegan Jenkins and Satine Sas, who both saw varsity playing time a year ago.

The Tigers will look to improve on 2019-20's 4-16 overall record finish under sixth-year coach Doug Ashmore.

### Rochester

The Warriors also have some big gaps to fill with a trio of graduated players who are now gone and playing in college: Paige Winters, Kortney Kerbaugh and Lexie Sederburg.

The Warriors went 11-10 overall and 4-6 in league play while finishing one game short of a district playoff berth.

Rochester has two returning starters in Madison Bates and



**File Photo / The Chronicle**  
W.F. West's Drea Brumfield crosses up an East Valley defender during the State 2A girls basketball tournament last March in the Yakima SunDome.

## At a Glance: 2A/1A Girls Basketball

**CENTRALIA**  
**Coach:** Doug Ashmore (6th)  
**2019-20:** 4-16  
**Returning Starters:** Jadyn Hawley, Maddie Corwin

**ROCHESTER**  
**Coach:** Davina Serdahl  
**2019-20:** 11-10 (4-6 league)  
**Returning Starters:** Madison Bates, Megan Elkins  
**Key Newcomers:** Sofie Sand (Jr.), Lauren Rotter (So.)  
**Players to Watch:** Sofie Sand, Lauren Rotter, Madison Bates

**W.F. WEST**  
**Coach:** Kyle Karnofski (2nd)  
**2019-20:** 18-8 (made state tournament)  
**Returning Starters:** Madi Mencke (Sr.), Drea Brumfield (Jr.)  
**Key Newcomers:** Kyla McCallum (Jr.), Lexi Roberts (Jr.)  
**Players to Watch:** Drea Brumfield, Kyla McCallum, Madi Mencke

**1A**  
**TENINO**  
**Coach:** Scott Ashmore (2nd)  
**2019-20:** 9-12 (lost in districts)  
**Returning Starters:** Kayla Feltus, Alivia Hunter, Megan Letts, Ashley Schow, Abby Severse, Grace Vestal  
**Key Newcomers:** Rilee Jones  
**Players to Watch:** Ashley Schow, Alivia Hunter, Megan Letts, Abby Severse

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# Tough Road Ahead for Lewis County's 2B Teams

## 2B/1B BOYS BASKETBALL:

*C2BL Squads Hit the Court in Hopes of a District Title With No State Tourney In the Fold*

By Eric Trent

etrent@chronline.com

There won't be any trips to Spokane — at least not for state basketball purposes — on the calendar for local 2B basketball teams. Thanks to the pandemic, Lewis County's teams will have to adjust their sights to focus on the District 4 tournament, and even that should prove to be tough sledding this year with a handful of powerful teams residing in the Lewis County-heavy Central 2B League but outside of county lines.

Toutle Lake, for starters, is coming off a 21-6 season and runner-up finish at the District 4 tournament and a sixth-place finish at state, with freshman Zach Swanson leading the way. Swanson, son of longtime Ducks coach Eric Swanson, earned an all-league second-team nod for his work at guard last year.

Wahkiakum is in a similar boat. The Mules went 17-7 last year and lost on Day 1 in Spokane but graduated just one senior and boast high-scoring 6-foot-3 forward Jake Leitz, one of just two all-league first-team players back in action this year.

The other first-teamer is dynamic guard-forward Jackson Esary from Kalama. The 6-foot-3 junior averaged 17.4 points and 8.5 rebounds a game as a sophomore and leads a Chinook team that brings back its full starting lineup after a first-round district exit last season.

Here's how Lewis County's teams stack up heading into the 2021 campaign.

### Adna

The Pirates finished fifth in the C2BL last year, going 13-11 overall and 6-4 in league play under sixth-year coach Luke Salme.

Gone is All-Area pick Braden Thomas, the county's second-leading scorer last year, who



File Photo / The Chronicle

Adna's Chase Collins shoots against North Beach during a 2020 basketball game in Adna.

averaged 20.2 points and 7.3 rebounds per game.

Returning starters include senior Tyler Minkoff (5-foot-10), who averaged 5.8 points, three rebounds and two steals per game, as well as junior Chase Collins (5-foot-11), who averaged 12.5 points a game and was a third-team all-league pick.

A couple newcomers who could start immediately are senior speedster Zach Berg and junior Aaron Aselton

### Morton-White Pass

The Timberwolves finished third in the C2BL, going 12-11 overall and qualifying for the district playoffs.

Gone are second-team all-league selection Hayden Young and now-sophomore Josh Salguero, a third-team all-league pick, who moved to Chehalis.

Starters have yet to be determined, third-year coach Chad Cramer said, but he has a solid group of newcomers who will be in the fold.

Tye Chhour, Conner Dill, Tyler Blake, sophomore Carter Dantinne, Gary Dotson (6-foot-4) and Kysen Collette all figure to be in the mix for big minutes.

### Napavine

The Tigers could be one of the top teams in the league this season after returning four starters from a team that went 12-9 a year ago.

All four returning starters are all-around athletes and have stayed in-shape after coming off football and baseball seasons recently.

Seniors Laythan Demarest (8 points per game) and Cade Evander (6-foot-2), along with juniors Keith Olson (6-foot-6) (second-team all-league) and Gavin Parker, should create fits for opposing teams this year.

### Onalaska

Onalaska had perhaps the most exciting and unexpected season of all boys basketball teams in the area.

The Loggers finished fourth in the Central 2B League before losing to state runner-up Life Christian in the opening round of districts. Onalaska proceeded to reel off three straight do-or-die victories, all 15-40 point blowout wins in the district tourney, followed by a 19-point rout of Wahkiakum to finish third in districts and claim a berth to the state tournament in Spokane.

Only (20-8) would end up falling to Willapa Valley in the opening round at state, a team that would go on to shock the tourney and place fifth.

The Loggers have now lost five seniors, including All-Area pick Carter Whitehead, who averaged 16.7 points per game. Also gone is coach Wayne Nelson, who relinquished his coaching duties to first-year coach Todd Dalsted.

The Loggers return just one starter in senior Danny Dalsted, who was the Loggers' quarterback this year. A few players who figure to make their way into the starting rotation are juniors Mason Ulery and Aiden Readman, Todd Dalsted said.

Onalaska opens its season at Adna at 7 p.m. on Thursday.

### Toledo

The Indians had a down year in 2020, finishing 7-14 overall under sixth-year coach Grady Fallon. Luckily, Fallon brings back four starters and a capable

## At a Glance:

### 2B/1B Boys Basketball

#### 2B

##### ADNA

**Coach:** Luke Salme (6th)  
**2019-20:** 13-11, 6-4 (5th 2B Central)  
**Returning Starters:** Tyler Minkoff (Sr.), Chase Collins (Jr.)  
**Key Newcomers:** Zach Berg (Sr.), Aaron Aselton (Jr.)  
**Players to Watch:** Collins (12.5 ppg, 3rd team All-League last year)

##### MORTON-WHITE PASS

**Coach:** Chad Cramer (3rd)  
**2019-20:** 12-11 (3rd in league)  
**Starters:** TBD  
**Key Newcomers:** Tye Chhour, Conner Dill  
**Players to Watch:** Tyler Blake, Carter Dantinne, Gary Dotson, Kysen Collette

##### NAPAVINE

**Coach:** Rex Stanley (22nd)  
**2019-20:** 12-9  
**Returning Starters:** Laythan Demarest, Cade Evander, Keith Olson, Gavin Parker  
**Players to Watch:** Evander, Olson, Demarest, Parker

##### ONALASKA

**Coach:** Todd Dalsted (1st)  
**2019-20:** 20-8 (3rd in district, lost in state)  
**Returning Starters:** Danny Dalsted  
**Key Newcomers:** Mason Ulery, Aiden Readman  
**Players to Watch:** Danny Dalsted, Mason Ulery, Aiden Readman

##### TOLEDO

**Coach:** Grady Fallon (6th)  
**2019-20:** 7-14  
**Returning Starters:** Carlo Arceo-Hansen, Ryan Bloomstrom, Jake Courmyer, Carson Gould

**Key Newcomers:** Carson Olmstead

##### RAINIER

**Coach:** Jeremy Landram (4th)  
**2019-20:** 11-12 (4-6 league, lost in districts)  
**Returning Starters:** Ian Sprouffs, Jake Jeske, Curtis Keller, Logan Bowers  
**Key Newcomers:** Thomas Ronne and David Cano  
**Players to Watch:** Sprouffs, Jeske

#### 1B

##### MOSSYROCK

**Coach:** Adam Deck (2nd)  
**2019-20:** 2-18  
**Returning Starters:** Gunner Mulligan (Jr.), Keegan Kolb (So.), Ryan Bellino (Sr.), Aiden Weist (Sr.)  
**Key Newcomers:** Zach Munos (Fr.), Easton Kolb (8th)  
**Players to Watch:** Gunner Mulligan, Keegan Kolb, Zack Munos

##### PE ELL

**Coach:** Clayburn Lusk  
**2019-20:** 5-15  
**Returning Starters:** Joey McCalden (Sr.), Kollin Jurek (Sr.)  
**Key Newcomers:** Jackson Lusk, Blake Howard, Aidan Lee, Jesse Zard

##### WINLOCK

**Coach:** Nick Bamer (7th)  
**2019-20:** 17-7 (lost in district semifinals)  
**Returning Starters:** Landon Tiemens, Joe Welch, Nolan Swofford  
**Key Newcomers:** Abraham Mohsin  
**Players to Watch:** Nolan Swofford, Landon Tiemens, Payton Sickles

newcomer to help create a resurgence this year.

Returning starters include senior Carlo Arceo-Hansen (5-foot-11), a third-team all-league selection, as well as senior Ryan Bloomstrom (5-foot-11), sopho-

more Jake Courmyer and sophomore Carson Gould. Joining the starting rotation is 6-foot-4 sophomore Carson Olmstead.

*please see C2BL, page C6*

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# Slew of Teams Vying for Top Spot in Central 2B League

**2B/1B GIRLS BASKETBALL:**  
*Central 2B League Returns Some Big-Time Scorers, Led by Winlock’s Addison Hall and Rainier’s Kaeley Schultz*

**By Eric Trent**  
*etrent@chronline.com*

Adna was one of three local 2B teams that competed in the state tournament in Spokane last March, just days before the pandemic swept the nation and shuttered high school sports across the state.

Sports have since returned, but the basketball landscape looks a bit different, especially with the chance of Lewis County and other surrounding counties possibly rolling back to Phase 2, which would put a halt to the high-risk sport of basketball.

For the Pirates, a team that finished 21-7 overall, 8-2 in league and lost on the first day of the state tournament, gone are a trio of now-graduated players: Payton Aselton (14.7 points and 7.2 rebounds per game), Tyas Pannette and Makaela Meister. What will be missed most isn’t their offensive and defensive contributions, but their leadership on the court.

Taking over those duties now are one senior, Ellie Sliva, and a trio of juniors, Kaylin Todd (second-team all-league), Faith Wellander (third-team all-league) and Summer White, who

all played solid varsity minutes last season.

“Biggest thing for us is having this group of juniors step up into more of a leadership role,” Adna coach Chris Bannish said.

Bannish is expecting Todd to take over the point guard role after she averaged 6.8 points, 3.4 rebounds and three steals per game last season. Wellander is a two-year starter and White started during the district tournament.

Sophomore Karlee Von Moos has also started occasionally and will be an impact player as well, Bannish said. Sophomores Brooklyn and Natalie Loose also look to be in the mix, with Brooklyn putting in a ton of time in the offseason and Natalie being a plus defender and role player.

“We do retain a lot of experience,” Bannish said. “We just don’t retain a lot of leadership. We have a slew of freshmen and eighth graders who are battling to get the rest of those spots, which is good. Hopefully, if everything goes right, we’ll have 16 girls out.”

The biggest thing, Bannish said, is having a roster full of kids who want to be in the gym.

And it hasn’t been easy for a lot of the kids, many of them have just finished up either softball or track and have had to pull double-duty with practices the past week.

Bannish worked with softball coach Bruce Pocklington to schedule practices so the seven girls who play on both teams could make both. Softball prac-

tice would start right after school, then those who also play basketball would head to the gym for a 5 p.m. practice.

“There are things that the outside eye doesn’t see, that we see,” Bannish said. “The Looses, Von Moos, Danika Hallom, Kendall Humphrey. There’s seven of them that were double-dipping last week, so when they came to school, they had their school bag, their basketball bag and their softball bag. They didn’t miss a beat.

“When people ask about what kind of kids we have, they’re great kids and they want to do well, and it’s not always that way. We have 16 kids that are all contributors in the program.”

Adna will begin its march to districts when it travels to Onalaska on Wednesday for the season opener.

### Morton-White Pass

The Timberwolves ended the 2019-20 season 2-18 overall under second-year coach Curt Atkinson.

The plus side is MWP returns three players who saw significant starting time last year in Emarey Hampton, Natalia Armstrong and McKenzie Mays. After that, it’s all up in the air for an inexperienced T-Wolves squad.

“We are very young, so we’ll have to see how we handle the speed and pressure,” Atkinson said.

### Napavine

The Tigers are coming off somewhat of a down year, going 8-14 and losing out in the district tournament.

They bring back three starters, all multi-sport stars, in Natalya Marcial, a third-team all-league pick, Rae Sisson, an honorable-mention selection, and senior Vannie Fagneress. Dani Tupuola also saw big-time varsity minutes and will likely take a starting role this year.

### Onalaska

The Loggers went 12-11 overall and 4-6 in league in 2019-20

*please see GIRLS, page C6*



Rainier’s Kaeley Schultz drives to the hoop during a non-league game against Tenino on Monday in Rainier.

## At a Glance: 2B/1B Girls Basketball

2B	1B
<b>ADNA</b> <b>Coach:</b> Chris Bannish (9th) <b>2019-20:</b> 21-7 (8-2 league, lost in state playoffs) <b>Players With Varsity Experience:</b> Ellie Sliva (Sr.), Kaylin Todd (Jr.), Faith Wellander (Jr.), Summer White (Jr.), Karlee Von Moos (Soph.) <b>Key Newcomers:</b> Brooklyn Loose (Soph.), Natalie Loose (Soph.) <b>Players to Watch:</b> Kaylin Todd	<b>Players to Watch:</b> Kaeley Schultz, Faith Boesch, Selena Niemi, Isabella Holmes
<b>MORTON-WHITE PASS</b> <b>Coach:</b> Curt Atkinson (2nd) <b>2019-20:</b> 2-18 <b>Returning Starters:</b> Two	<b>TOLEDO</b> <b>Coach:</b> Brian Layton (4th) <b>2019-20:</b> 23-6 (made state tournament) <b>Returning Starters:</b> Stacie Spahr, Gracie Madill, Marina Smith, Greenlee Clark <b>Key Newcomers:</b> Emma Cline-Maier, Grace Tauscher, Vanesa Rodriguez, Taylor Langhaim
<b>NAPAVINE</b> <b>Coach:</b> Shane Schutz <b>2019-20:</b> 8-14 (lost in districts) <b>Returning Starters:</b> 3 <b>Players to Watch:</b> Rae Sisson, Vannie Fagneress, Natalia Marcial, Dani Tupuola	<b>MOSSYROCK</b> <b>Coach:</b> Autumn Moorcroft (4th) <b>2019-20:</b> 21-6 (2nd in districts, lost in state playoffs) <b>Returning Starters:</b> Payton Torrey, Hailey Brooks, Caelyn Marshall <b>Players to Watch:</b> Payton Torrey
<b>ONALASKA</b> <b>Coach:</b> Alana Olson (1st) <b>2019-20:</b> 12-11 (4-6 league, lost in districts) <b>Returning Starters:</b> Alex Cleveland Barrera (Jr.), Callie Lawrence (Jr.), Cierra Russ (Jr.), Morgan Hamilton (So.)	<b>PE ELL</b> <b>Coach:</b> Danny Cox (1st) <b>2019-20:</b> 8-13 (8-10 league) <b>Returning Starters:</b> Annika Mason (Sr.), Charlie Carper (So.), Rachel Ward (Sr.), Sadie Howard (Sr.)
<b>RAINIER</b> <b>Coach:</b> Brandon Eygabroad (4th) <b>2019-20:</b> 18-7 (lost in districts) <b>Returning Starters:</b> Kaeley Schultz, Faith Boesch, Selena Niemi, Isabella Holmes	<b>WINLOCK</b> <b>Coach:</b> Tori Nelson (5th) <b>2019-20:</b> 7-13 <b>Returning Starters:</b> Addison Hall, Karlee Jones, Azhia Camps, Elizabeth Wolfe, Angie Gil-Munoz <b>Key Newcomers:</b> Madison Vigre <b>Players to Watch:</b> Addison Hall

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File Photo / The Chronicle

Centralia's Benito Valencia shoots against Tumwater during a 2020 Evergreen 2A Conference boys basketball game at Ron Brown Court in Centralia.

## EvCo

*Continued from Sports 1*

last year off the bench and will slide into a starting role.

In all, the Bearcats have seven seniors this year and White said there's been a lot of dedication from players who weren't previously in the forefront but could make a big impact this season and help fill the gaps.

Whalen Deskins, Gabe Cuestas and Camryn Bostwick are a trio of seniors who've put in a lot of work in the offseason, while junior Seth Hoff (5-9) is an electric, all-around athlete who saw some varsity time last year as well.

"They're great leaders and they've put in tons of work," White said. "Some of these guys who've been in the shadows on JV and it's time for them to step up and shine. So we're excited about them."

Another guy who could make a big impact, literally and metaphorically, is 6-9 sopho-

more Soren Dalan, who nabbed a few cameo appearances for the varsity team last season before injuring his foot. Dalan's mother played basketball, and his dad played football, for the University of Washington.

"That's pretty good genetics right there," White said. "He's just growing into his body and he's really coming on strong."

White feels the 2A EvCo should map out pretty similar to how it did last season.

"Black Hills is very talented, Tumwater is very talented," White said. "I don't know anything about Shelton. Centralia and Aberdeen seem like they're a little down this year, but I could be wrong. No disrespect to them. Everybody is really well-coached in our league, so that's going to be something that's real competitive in our league."

For now, the Bearcats are just hoping they're able to have a season at all. They are slated to host Shelton at 7 p.m., Monday, May 10 in their opener.

More than a dozen Wash-

ington counties, including Lewis County, are at risk of rolling back to Phase 2, which would be disastrous for local high school sports. A Phase 2 rollback would shutter basketball and wrestling, which are considered high-risk sports and are not able to compete under Phase 2 guidelines.

"We're sure hoping we get to play and there's no hiccups," White said. "I get pretty nervous thinking about if we get rolled back to Phase 2 and what that might look like. I just can't even keep up with all the changes. It can start to consume you. I just want to think positively and hope we can play."

### Centralia

The Tigers are coming off a 3-17 season under fourth-year head coach Kyle Donahue.

They return two starters from last year's team, including 6-foot-5 post Benito Valencia and 5-foot-9 point guard Brady Hoyt.

Stepping into starting roles immediately are junior guard Brandon Yeung and junior Landon Kaut. Some guys who also look to make a big impact this year are senior multi-sport athlete Cameron Erickson and junior Jayden Pannette.

### Rochester

The Warriors are coming off a tough year, going winless at 0-21.

Coach Derek Pringle, now in his second year, has no returning starters and will rely on a pair of talented freshmen (Parker McCafferty and Tyler Klatush) to lead his team back to a resurgence.

## At a Glance:

### 2A/1A Boys Basketball

#### 2A

##### CENTRALIA

**Coach:** Kyle Donahue (4th)

**2019-20:** 3-17

**Returning Starters:** Benito Valencia, Brady Hoyt

**Key Newcomers:** Brandon Yeung, Landon Kaut

**Players to Watch:** Cameron Erickson, Jayden Pannette

##### ROCHESTER

**Coach:** Derrick Pringle (2nd)

**2019-20:** 0-20

**Returning Starters:** None

**Key Newcomers:** Parker McCafferty (Fr.), Tyler Klatush (Fr.)

**Player to Watch:** Klatush

##### W.F. WEST

**Coach:** Chris White (6th)

**2019-20:** 16-7 (8-2, second in league)

**Return Starters:** Dirk Plakinger (Jr.), Carter McCoy (Sr.), Cade Haller (5-10)

#### 1A

##### TENINO

**Coach:** Joe Chirhart (7th):

**2019-20:** 6-14 (0-8 league)

**Returning Starters:** Takari Hickie

**Key Newcomers:** Toby Suess (Jr.), Keegan O'Connor (So.), Triston Whitaker (So.), Conleth Jackson (Sr.)

**Players to Watch:** Hickie, Jackson, Tristan Reddekopp, O'Connor

#### 1A: Tenino

The Beavers are coming off a 6-14 overall season in which they went 0-8 in the 1A Evergreen Conference.

Seventh-year coach Joe Chirhart has one returning starter: Junior Takari Hickie, a 6-foot-4 230-pound imposing force in the paint who was an all-league pick last year.

Newcomers who are set to play right away are Toby Suess, Keegan O'Connor, Triston Whitaker and Conleth Jackson. Sophomore Tristan Reddekopp, who is 6-foot-10, could also make a big impact.

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C2BL

Continued from C3

Rainier

The Mountaineers lost out in the second round of districts last season after going 11-12 overall and 4-6 in league under fourth-year coach Jeremy Landram.

Rainier brings back four returning starters, including all-league honorable-mention soph-

omore Jake Jeske, along with Ian Sprouffske, Curtis Keller and Logan Bowers.

Newcomers who could also see starting roles are Thomas Ronne and David Cano.

1B: Winlock

Gone from last year's team that went 17-7, finished second in league and lost out in the district semifinals is one of Winlock's all-time leading scorers in All-Area MVP Bryce Cline, as

well as honorable-mention selection Noah Patching.

Returning are three starters, which include Landon Tiemens, Joe Welch and post Nolan Swoford.

Newcomers Abraham Mohsin and Payton Sickles are two guys who could earn starting roles this season, seventh-year coach Nick Bamer said.

Mossyrock

The Vikings will look to improve on a 2-18 season in 2020

under second-year coach Adam Deck.

Fortunately Mossyrock returns four starters, which includes junior Gunner Mulligan, sophomore Keegan Kolb and seniors Ryan Bellino and Aiden Weist.

Some newcomers figuring to make noise are freshman Zack Munos and eighth grader Easton Kolb.

Pe Ell

The Trojans went 5-15 in

the 1B ranks last season under coach Clayburn Lusk.

Back are two returning starters, seniors Joey McCalden and Kollin Jurek. Five others will vie for the remaining starting roles in Jackson Lusk, freshman Blake Howard, Aidan Lee, Thomas Justice and Jesse Zard.

"We are going to be very inexperienced," Lusk said. "We have a lot of work to do to compete in our league."

Girls

Continued from C4

and bring back two full-time starters and two part-time starters.

Junior post Alex Cleveland-Barrera and junior guard Callie Lawrence (second-team all-league) both started all year last season, while junior Cierra Russ and sophomore Morgan Hamilton started a portion of the year.

First-year coach Alana Olson said she's still getting a feel for the team with only a few workouts and open gyms so far, and isn't sure who will take over the remaining starting spot.

"I have a core group of girls that have been working hard in the offseason on their own, and I'm looking forward to getting them in the gym together and seeing who emerges as the leaders of our team," Olson said.

Rainier

Four starters are back from a Mountaineers team that went 18-7 overall and lost out in the district playoffs under fourth-year coach Brandon Eygabroad.

Junior Kaeley Schultz was a first-team all-league selection last season after being named co-C2BL MVP as a freshman. The 5-foot-10 lefty forward eclipsed the 1,000-point career mark in February 2020 and will be one the league's top scorers this season.

Also back as returning starters are Faith Boesch (third-team



Winlock's Addison Hall dribbles against Naselle during the 2019-20 basketball season in a game in Winlock.

all-league), Selena Niemi and Isabella Holmes.

Toledo

Toledo finished with the most impressive performance of any area team last season.

The Indians were the C2BL league champs, going 23-6 overall before finishing 1-2 at the state tournament, falling one win short of a trophy. In what was Toledo's first trip to state in a decade, the Indians were the final 2B team left standing in Lewis County.

Gone is All-Area MVP and league MVP Kal Schaplow, but back are a slew of big-time contributors.

Senior Stacie Spahr is the Indians' all-time career and single-season rebounding leader, breaking records that were previously set in 1989 and 1995, respectively.

The 6-foot post is a Pacific Lutheran signee, a second-team all-league pick and was also the team's second-leading scorer a year ago.

In all, the Indians return four starters and 10 varsity players and will look to vie for back-to-back league titles.

Senior point guard Gracie Madill (honorable-mention pick), along with Marina Smith and Greenlee Clark were all starters last season. Emma Cline-Maier, Grace Tauscher, Vanessa Rodri-

guez and Taylor Langhaim all figure to be in the mix for crucial varsity minutes as well.

1B

Mossyrock

The Vikings have to be feeling good about this season after going 21-6 overall and qualifying for 2B state last year, and now dropping down to Class 1B this season.

Under coach Autumn Moorcroft, the Vikings went on an impressive four-game run to make the district championship game for the first time in a decade before falling to Wahkiakum.

Back are three returning

starters, which include sophomore point guard Payton Torrey, junior Hailey Brooks and Caelynn Marshall.

Pe Ell

First-year coach Danny Cox is taking over a Trojans team that went 8-13 overall and 8-10 in league play last season.

Back are three returning starters in senior leading-scorer Annika Mason, along with sophomore Charlie Carper, who proved to be a force as a freshman, and senior Sadie Howard.

Winlock

The Cardinals did not qualify for the playoffs last season after going 7-13 under fifth-year coach Tori Nelson. They're hoping to change that this year.

Back are all five starters, including one of the league's top players in junior all-area and all-league first-team selection Addison Hall.

The 5-foot-10 post/wing combo led the county in scoring with 18.6 points per game and was the only player in the county to average a double-double with 11.3 rebounds per game.

Joining her in the starting rotation are Karlee Jones, Azhia Camps, Elizabeth Wolfe and Angie Gil-Munoz.

The biggest newcomer is junior Madison Vigre, a Mossyrock transfer, who helped the Cardinals' volleyball team to their best season in recent memory and should provide another important boost to the basketball team.

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