

Austin Eagles gearing up for tough boys' 2A Sectional at Paoli

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After experiencing an up-and-down season with a decidedly winning season record of 12-5 (as of February 12), the Austin Eagles under Coach Mike Deaton are looking at a tough boys' 2A sectional in Paoli.

Brownstown's Braves are the heavies in this sectional, having compiled a perfect season and ranked no. 1 in 2A teams in the state. Austin is ranked 11th, not bad for the teams the boys have faced this season.

"We've got a very competitive sectional ahead of us. Eastern's playing well, and Providence played New Albany well recently. In fact, you look at all of the teams in this sectional and they're all pretty equal with Brownstown maybe a step or two ahead," advised Coach Deaton.

The teams in this sectional include Paoli, Austin, Eastern, Clarksville, Providence, Brownstown and West Washington. The boys' draw took place on Sunday, February 21.

The coach said he wouldn't be heading to sectional without his four seniors, Brad Deaton, Ty Winchester, Ben Raichel and Zach Edwards.

Deaton has the starting post position and is one of the team's leaders. "He's more outspoken than the others, and he's started each game. We need him," advised Coach D. Deaton has averaged 7 points per game (ppg) this season.

Winchester is also a starter, serving in the spot of point guard and averaging 14 ppg. Raichel averages 18 ppg. "Ben went over 1,000 (career) points on February 11. He's had a very nice career and both he and Ty have really helped this team achieve this season," noted the coach.

Edwards has started for the Eagles for the past three years. He averages 11 ppg and is the team's leading rebounder. Edwards "...is one of our hardest workers. He's great to work with and gets the job done," said Coach Deaton.

Juniors Travis Pate, Andrew Clark and Lawyer Wintin will make the trip to Paoli. Pate started most of the year but then was injured and, advised the coach, "...is just now getting back his strength. A guard, Pate averages 9 ppg.

Clark is the team's back-up point guard. He's been on the varsity all this season and has provided some quality minutes for the Eagles. Wintin earned his way on the team through hard work and determination.

Kameron Draper and Torrey Winchester should see some action. Both sophomores, Draper started the Eagles' last five games. He is "...a hard worker on the floor. He's got a good leap and is always in the mix," said his coach. Torrey W. has split his time between varsity and junior varsity, but he's had several good games and provided a much-needed spark in the Eagles' press. Both have earned their way to the sectional.

There only freshman on the Eagles' sectional team is Ben Baker. At 6-3, Baker has played a lot with the varsity, even though he split time with the JV. His chances "...look good for being a future guard," said Coach D.

The draw for this sectional will probably play a very important part in who will survive. "I've been a coach for 15 years and have had very few byes given to my teams. So, we plan to play whoever we get on the first Tuesday night and go from there," advised Deaton.

Looking over the season, the coach is pleased with the way this group of Eagles has jelled. "We lost a lot of seniors to graduation, but we've really come together as a unit. Don't count us out of this challenge. Our chances are as good as anyone's. We simply have to play our best because each game will be tough at Paoli," Coach Deaton stated.