

2010-11 Lady Eagles' basketball team will feature new faces in new positions

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Fans of the Austin Lady Eagles' varsity and junior varsity basketball teams are going to see some new faces playing new positions in the 2010-11 season.

Coach Jared Petersen isn't quite sure who will be playing where just yet.

The girls started practice just four days before this interview occurred, so he was still judging performances, strengths and weaknesses.

"We lost our four strong seniors – Katy McIntosh, Chelsea Jones, Michelle Goodin and Ashley Dowling – to graduation, so we are going to have a different look this year, and we will be a different team," observed Coach Petersen.

What he is blessed with is a lot of returning players. Seniors include Shantel Gray, Kelly Hollan, Brooke Stollings, Samantha Wooten and Lyndsay Davidson. Returning juniors are Mikaela Clark and Crystal Napier. Sophomores are Jessie Davidson, Camry Howard and Brenna Oeffinger. Two other sophomores under consideration for some varsity play are Kourtney Mace and Alexa Hensley.

The coach also plans to add freshman Megan Smith to the varsity mix.

Players being considered for the 2010-11 JV squad include sophomores Danielle Richey, Christina Hopkins and recent Seymour transfer Riley Deaton.

Freshmen are Taylor Jeffries, Brenna Riley, Cassidy Turner, Helen Brock and Jennifer Broadus.

Looking over the crew, Coach Petersen is pleased with the turn-out and optimistic about this season.

"We lost a lot of strength, but these girls are very hard-working with great attitudes. Sure, we're going to be compared with the 2010 State Champions, and everyone we meet is going to be bringing their A game to us," he predicted. Petersen added, "We're going to experience some 'hiccups' along the way this season, but by the end we're going to have a pretty solid team to go into sectional."

Looking over the Mid-Southern Conference opposition, Petersen said he felt both Scottsburg and Brownstown look strong this year. "They may be the top two everyone will be looking at. Silver Creek and Eastern should be good as well," he commented.

Starting his sixth year as head coach of the Lady Eagles, Petersen's teams have accumulated an impressive 93-35 record over the past five years.