

# Basketball Preview

## GO BIRDS

De Pere varsity basketball players John Kinziger, left, and Jordan Meulemans are two of the best players in the state. The junior Kinziger is getting Division I looks, while Meulemans, a senior, committed to Division I Butler University.

Rich Palzewic Photo



Ashwaubenon  
Bay Port  
De Pere

Green Bay East  
Green Bay N.E.W  
Lutheran  
Green Bay Preble

Green Bay Southwest  
Green Bay West  
Notre Dame Academy

Pulaski  
Seymour  
West De Pere

**DE PERE BOYS PRESEASON RANKED NO. 1**  
**WEST GIRLS WON'T FIELD A VARSITY TEAM**

**EAST BOYS READY TO MAKE A RUN**

**CAN NOTRE DAME ACADEMY GIRLS WIN ANOTHER TITLE?**

**FRCC TO BE WIDE OPEN THIS SEASON**



# TAILGATE

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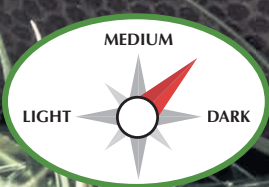
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# Welcome to the 2021-22 season: A return to normal

BY RICH PALZEWIC  
SPORTS EDITOR

BROWN COUNTY – Besides the coaches, a few game-day workers and other essential staff, I was one of the lucky ones last season.

As the sports editor of The Press Times, I was able to attend any basketball – and any other sport, for that matter – game last season amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

I'm not trying to brag or rub it in to those who couldn't attend, but the athletic directors and schools realized our paper was one of the only outlets to report on the games and get the scoop from players and coaches.

Without taking 30 minutes to look back on our website, I recall seeing quite a few games that came down to the wire.

De Pere's John Kinziger, then a sophomore, helped the Redbirds beat rival West De Pere at the buzzer.

Those teams play Saturday, Dec. 4, at West De Pere to open the season.

I have that one on my schedule – I'm sure the stands will be packed and the place will be rocking.

My other favorite mem-



**Rich Palzewic**

ory also involved Kinziger – this time playing at Seymour.

In a similar situation, the Division I recruit beat the Thunder at the buzzer again.

A believer in face coverings or not, we can probably all agree it's tough to wear one during physical exertion – something the players had to endure.

In talking to numerous athletes this season, that's one of the things they're most excited about – not having to wear a mask while playing.

In talking to various coaches, they're also happy things are fairly back to normal.

For the most part, they

can get back to concentrating on coaching and not worrying about so many COVID-19 restrictions.

What will this season look like?

I expect a top-heavy Fox River Classic Conference for both genders.

For the boys, De Pere, preseason ranked No. 1, is the favorite – at least in my opinion.

They have two Division I recruits on their roster, have height and athletes all over the place.

De Pere Head Coach Brian Winchester, a "Yooper" from Escanaba, is as intense as you'll find.

If you haven't gotten a chance to see Kinziger play, that should be at the top of your list.

Locally, I also expect to see Ashwaubenon and Bay Port fighting it out with De Pere.

With 1,900 students, Bay Port is never at a loss for good athletes.

Head Coach Nate Rykal gets the most out of his players.

After that, Notre Dame Academy, led by first-year Head Coach Brian Bobinski, could make some noise.

Seymour and West De Pere have to replace al-

most all of their scoring from last season.

The team I'm most interested to watch is Green Bay East – yes, the Red Devils.

It has a nice ring to it, wouldn't you say?

East returns three great players in Ryan Sweeney, Jalen Flowers and Bill Felix.

The three combined to score almost 42 points per game last season as juniors.

The Red Devils should be competing for a Bay Conference title this year.

I don't want to count anybody out, but for the girls, it should be a two-horse race with De Pere and Notre Dame.

The Tritons are the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 2 defending state champs and should be right there again this season.

Head Coach Sara Rohde, another "Yooper," played her college ball at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Like Winchester, she's intense and stresses hard-

nosed defense.

The Redbirds also return tons of talent from last year's 23-4 team.

Led by Jordan Meulemans, a Division I commit to Butler University, De Pere also has other options.

Meulemans, who's averaging about 30 points per game so far this season, is fun to watch.

If you haven't noticed, she and Kinziger are on the front cover.

After those two teams, everyone else will be fighting for position.

Ashwaubenon is young, Bay Port returns some good talent, West De Pere is also young, but the Phantoms beat Pulaski to

start the season.

Green Bay Preble has a new coach in Lyndsey Seela, who takes over for Jim Doell.

On a sad note, Green Bay West won't field a varsity team because of a lack of numbers.

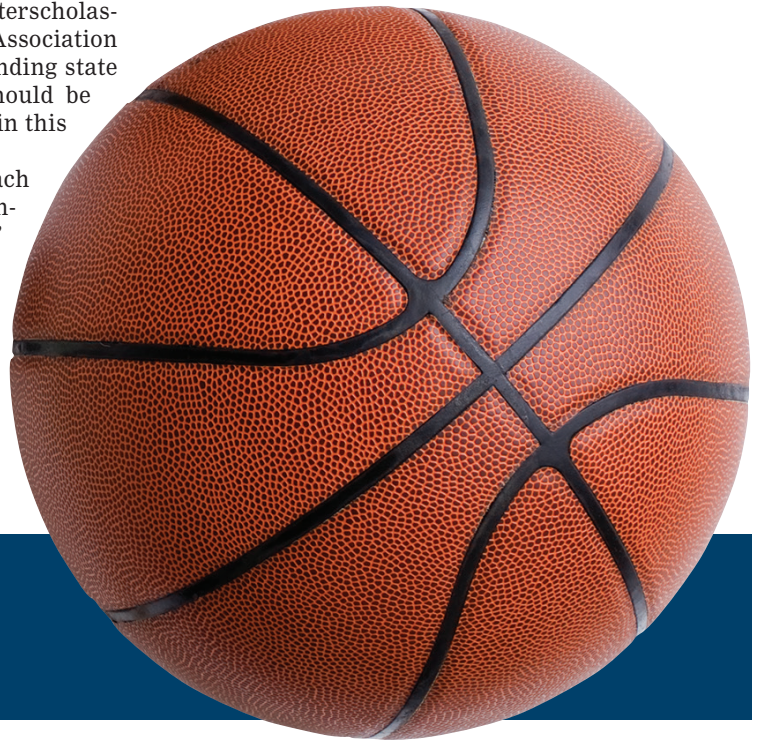
With things fairly back to normal this season, get out and watch your favorite teams and players.

We have a nice variety in the Green Bay area.

Enjoy The Press Times' second basketball tab – we didn't do one last year because of COVID-19.

You'll see previews for each team, some pictures and schedules.

I hope to see you out there.



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# ASHWAUBENON



## Ashwaubenon searching for more after regional championship

BY MURRAY GLEFFE  
CORRESPONDENT

ASHWAUBENON – The Ashwaubenon boys' basketball team enjoyed a stellar season in 2020-21.

Midway through the campaign, the Jaguars won 16 straight games, including victories over Bay Port, De Pere and Notre Dame Academy.

Ashwaubenon closed the regular season with wins over Menominee and Homestead and carried the momentum into the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 2 playoffs, where it defeated Notre Dame in a regional final before losing to Seymour in the sectionals.

"The kids bought in and understood their roles," Ashwaubenon Head Coach Mark Tomashek said. "We started slow but played better basketball toward the end of the season. They started to believe and got tougher."

This year's squad will look much the same in the backcourt but different in the frontcourt.

If the Jaguars are to compete for a Fox River Classic Conference Championship (FRCC), it most likely will have to get production from its big men.

As juniors, Marcus Tomashek and Matt Imig pumped in more than 38 points per game combined.

Their leadership as seniors will be leaned upon because small forward Boone Kirst is the only other player



Ashwaubenon's Matt Imig has his eyes set on taking the ball to the rim during a recent practice. The Jaguars finished 20-6 last season. **Murray Gleffe Photo**

returning who saw significant playing time last year.

"We're looking to do more than we did last year," Imig said. "I want to get better as a player but also make my teammates better. We need to get out of the blocks early."

Imig said Bay Port, De Pere and Notre Dame are his biggest three rivals and said his step-back triple is his fa-

vorite move in crunch time.

With Kyle Krueger graduated and Eli Zollar out with an injury, Ashwaubenon could be dealt a tough hand in the frontcourt early unless numerous newcomers make an impact.

"When you have to replace (Krueger) and other seniors (such as Brady Wittig), it's a huge loss," Tomashek said. "You don't replace their pro-

duction. You must find other ways to get it done. You have to find guys to plug in, step up and do their job."

Seniors Cayden Walton and Max Huguet are two players who have stayed with the program through limited playing time.

Both will be counted on down low.

Junior Zach Kelly is an undersized post who will

### 2021-22 Ashwaubenon boys' basketball regular-season schedule

- 12/3 – @ Wausau West – 7:15
  - 12/7 – D.C. Everest
  - 12/10 – Notre Dame Academy
  - 12/14 – @ Green Bay Southwest
  - 12/17 – @ Bay Port
  - 12/21 – Menasha
  - 12/28 – @ Concordia University Tournament – TBD
  - 1/4 – Manitowoc Lincoln
  - 1/7 – Green Bay Preble
  - 1/10 – West De Pere
  - 1/11 – @ Sheboygan South
  - 1/14 – De Pere
  - 1/18 – @ Sheboygan North
  - 1/21 – Pulaski
  - 1/25 – @ Notre Dame Academy
  - 1/28 – Bay Port
  - 2/1 – @ Green Bay Southwest
  - 2/4 – @ Green Bay Preble
  - 2/5 – @ Prairie School Tournament – TBD
  - 2/8 – @ Manitowoc Lincoln
  - 2/11 – @ De Pere
  - 2/15 – Sheboygan South
  - 2/18 – Sheboygan North
  - 2/24 – @ Pulaski
- Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

also be in the hunt to mix it up in the paint.

"They all want to be successful," Tomashek said. "They want to put the work in."

The Jaguars' pecking order in the FRCC could hinge on whether four sophomores can contribute to the lineup.

Drew Tomashek, Eason Hurd, Jayden Schoen and Jackson Sims were all behind upperclassmen last season and most played junior varsity basketball to get stronger.

However, the quartet has shown glimpses at the lower-level scene, which may indi-

cate contributions from the start.

High school basketball has been a year-round sport for many years now.

AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) programs have been increasing, and the number of sports academies is growing in Wisconsin and across the country.

"If you don't stay in touch with the kids, you're losing out," Tomashek said. "In our day and age, you have to have a complete love for the game as a coach. You must be a gym rat. It's not an easy job, but it's a very rewarding job."

## Jaguars looking toward youth to jolt program

BY MURRAY GLEFFE  
CORRESPONDENT

ASHWAUBENON – The Ashwaubenon girls' basketball team is looking to eradicate a three-year losing streak that dates back to the 2017-18 season.

The Jaguars have gone 24-42 during the span and have broken in many young players in the process.

Included in that record, Ashwaubenon finished 5-13 overall last year and 3-12 in the Fox River Classic Conference (FRCC).

"We've had lots of success off the floor," Ashwaubenon Head Coach Nicky VanLaanen said. "The first thing we stress is to be a good person. We have quality and unselfish kids. They are steady and want to succeed. It's what brings me back every year."

Ashwaubenon has been to two state tournaments – one in 2004 (lost in quarterfinals) and another in 2006 where it hoisted the gold ball.

The green and yellow had a difficult time putting the ball through the hoop scoring 50-plus points in only four games last season.

"We couldn't move kids up and down last year because of COVID-19 restrictions," VanLaanen said. "Half of my girls would have benefited from another season of junior varsity basketball. The rest of the group embraced the challenge and did what



Ashwaubenon senior Bri Lambrecht averaged 5.6 points per game last season for the 5-13 Jaguars. **Murray Gleffe Photo**

they could with a reduced season and limited contact. We took some lumps, which will benefit us this year. I believe we'll be able to consistently hit more shots from the perimeter."

Ashwaubenon lost three seniors from last year's

squad, but the main core of scorers and contributors return.

The formidable frontcourt duo of Senior Nyia Marohl and Junior Hannah Hutto returns after averaging more than 17 points and 10 rebounds combined.

"I'm excited this year for the season," Marohl said. "It was a struggle at times to get my shot off the way I wanted. With the addition of some quality talent, it will give the older players some rest in the games and put less pressure on us."

### 2021-22 Ashwaubenon girls' basketball regular-season schedule

- 12/9 – @ Notre Dame Academy
  - 12/14 – @ Green Bay Southwest
  - 12/17 – Bay Port
  - 12/23 – West De Pere
  - 12/28 – Luxemburg-Casco
  - 12/30 – @ Marinette – 1:30 p.m.
  - 1/4 – @ Manitowoc Lincoln
  - 1/7 – @ Green Bay Preble
  - 1/11 – Sheboygan South
  - 1/14 – @ De Pere
  - 1/18 – Sheboygan North
  - 1/21 – @ Pulaski
  - 1/25 – Notre Dame Academy
  - 1/28 – @ Bay Port
  - 2/1 – Green Bay Southwest
  - 2/4 – Green Bay Preble
  - 2/8 – Manitowoc Lincoln
  - 2/11 – De Pere
  - 2/15 – @ Sheboygan South
  - 2/17 – @ Sheboygan North
- Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

In addition, Bri Lambrecht, Abby Holford and Avery Amenson saw significant time in the backcourt and increased their totals as the season wore on.

"Our two seniors, (Lambrecht) and (Marohl), are due for breakout seasons," VanLaanen said. "(Lambrecht) was our starting point guard and is capable of taking over a game. (Marohl) is an all-conference performer."

The potential is there for an increased rotation and better results as Ashwaubenon welcomes in three freshmen (Gianna Guarascio, Addy

Phipps and Bella Dahl) and sophomores (Lauren Mader, Ella Senger and Sophia Zabel) who are all competing to see the floor and potentially start.

"I feel like the upperclassmen and underclassmen will mesh well this season," VanLaanen said. "We had to go with a zone defense much of last year because we didn't feel confident to play man-to-man in one of the best conferences (FRCC) in the state. Offensively, we are a motion team that uses a few sets. We'll mix it up more this season."

# BAY PORT



## Pirates look to rebound from rocky season

BY RICH PALZEWIC  
SPORTS EDITOR

SUAMICO – After making it to the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 1 State Tournament in 2020, the Bay Port girls' basketball team took a step back last season.

The Pirates, who finished 6-14 in 2020-21, are hoping to return to glory this season under second-year Head Coach Dennis Gladwell.

"I finally feel like the team is mine," Gladwell laughed. "I feel lots more comfortable because I was able to work with the girls more and put more emphasis into what I wanted to do. We had a normal offseason, which helped. I have lots of confidence in this team. We can play with teams and won't be an easy cakewalk."

Gladwell took over last season for the departed Kati Coleman and was hired about a week before the season.

"I had already been with the program (as an assistant coach under Coleman), so that helped," Gladwell said. "I don't have anyone back from the previous coaching regime, so I can finally say this team is truly mine."

Bay Port started last season 2-10 but won four of its last eight games.

"It was an up-and-down season," Gladwell said. "We started poorly, then won four straight and then lost four in a row. We're looking for more consistency this year. We had a bunch of youth that never played



The Bay Port girls' basketball team will be looking to improve on its 6-14 record from a season ago under second-year Head Coach Dennis Gladwell. **Rich Palzewic Photo**

varsity basketball before. We didn't have a true point guard – I had to put players in positions they weren't used to playing. It's what we had to do."

Gladwell said last season's schedule was "extremely difficult" in playing

Kimberly, Hortonville, De Pere and Notre Dame Academy.

"Ultimately, our tough schedule last season will help us this year," he said.

Gladwell said veteran senior Emma Krueger decided not to go out this year because she's concentrat-

ing on softball.

Krueger recently committed to Rock Valley College in Rockford, Ill., to play softball.

She was a part of the girls' basketball state championship squad in 2019 as a freshman.

In seven games last sea-

### 2021-22 Bay Port girls' basketball regular-season schedule

- 12/3 – @ Sheboygan South
- 12/9 – Sheboygan North
- 12/14 – Manitowoc Lincoln
- 12/17 – @ Ashwaubenon
- 12/27 – @ Pius XI – 7:30 p.m.
- 1/4 – @ De Pere
- 1/7 – Notre Dame Academy
- 1/11 – @ Green Bay Southwest
- 1/14 – Pulaski
- 1/18 – Green Bay Preble
- 1/21 – Sheboygan South
- 1/22 – @ Brookfield Central – 4:30 p.m.
- 1/25 – @ Sheboygan North
- 1/28 – Ashwaubenon
- 1/29 – @ Divine Savior Holy Angels – 2 p.m.
- 2/1 – @ Manitowoc Lincoln
- 2/4 – @ Notre Dame Academy
- 2/8 – De Pere
- 2/11 – @ Pulaski
- 2/15 – Green Bay Southwest
- 2/17 – @ Green Bay Preble

*Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

son, Krueger averaged 12.4 points per game.

"She's had some injuries as well," Gladwell said. "She's a great softball player."

Sophie Vandeyacht also graduated after scoring 7.5 points per game.

Junior Kyla Hendricks (10.4), sophomore Ellie McDermid (8.5) and senior Jacki Szlagowski (5.7) are the top returning players from last season.

Hendricks nailed 36 triples to lead the team.

"Those three girls will need to step up their games from a scoring standpoint," Gladwell said. "With being only a freshman last season, (McDermid) got better as the season wore on."

Gladwell said 6-foot se-

nior Maggie Luedke, who has battled a foot injury most of her high school career, is back.

"I'm excited to get (Luedke) back on the court," he said. "She's stronger than what she's been in the past."

Besides De Pere and Notre Dame, Gladwell said Pulaski, Green Bay Southwest

"During summer play, we played against both teams and held our own," he said.

"Preble has a new coach, so you never know there. Sheboygan North has a great coach and is always tough."

Gladwell said there are 16 freshmen in the program as well, which should bode well for the future.

## Pirates have the players to make a deep run

BY RICH PALZEWIC  
SPORTS EDITOR

SUAMICO – The Bay Port boys' basketball team doesn't rebuild – they simply reload.

Using that same philosophy, the Pirates return plenty of talent from a team that finished 15-7 during the 2020-21 COVID-19 season.

"We always seem to have enough bodies and athletes to be competitive every year," Bay Port Head Coach Nate Rykal said. "You always worry about what you've lost, but then you look at your roster and know you'll be okay. It's an advantage to having a large school with good athletes and interest at the lower level. The guys who didn't play as much during the previous year are one year older and have seen their bodies mature."

The Pirates lost three solid scorers in Gunnar DeCleene (13.7 points per game), Isiah Harris (10.1) and Brock Freeman (6.8) to graduation.

"Those guys scored at a good clip and will be hard to replace," Rykal said. "But, we have lots of guys who didn't get lots of play-



Bay Port senior Nate Forystek, with ball, gets instructions at a recent practice from his coaches. Forystek averaged 13.5 points per game last season for the 15-7 Pirates. **Rich Palzewic Photo**

ing time last year because they were behind our seniors. This year, I'm confident they'll step up their games."

Rykal said he's "very excited for this season."

"We have a few guys who work solely on the game of basketball," he said. "It's fun when we have guys like that. I'm all for having my athletes playing multiple sports – and many do – but it's nice to have a few guys who focus only on basketball. If you're going to be a great

team, you have to have a team made up of guys like that and other athletes who fill in."

Rykal mentioned senior Nate Forystek, a North Dakota State University football commit, who averaged 13.5 points per game last season.

"(Forystek) has the potential to be even better this year, if he does things the right way," Rykal said.

Juniors AJ Lieuwen (10.5 points per game) and Vince Vandervest (5.5) will also see increased

minutes this season.

Rykal said the Fox River Classic Conference has traditionally been a "very difficult league, and this year will be no different."

"De Pere will be exceptional, and rightfully so," he said. "They have most everybody returning. It's exciting to have such a good team in the league. Ashwaubenon and Notre Dame Academy will also be good – right there with us. I'm looking forward to the challenges. If we can do well in our league,

### 2021-22 Bay Port boys' basketball regular-season schedule

- 12/10 – @ Sheboygan North
- 12/14 – @ Manitowoc Lincoln
- 12/17 – Ashwaubenon
- 12/21 – Appleton East
- 12/23 – Fond du Lac
- 1/4 – De Pere
- 1/7 – @ Notre Dame Academy
- 1/11 – Green Bay Southwest
- 1/14 – @ Pulaski
- 1/15 – @ West De Pere – 2 p.m.
- 1/18 – @ Green Bay Preble
- 1/21 – @ Sheboygan South
- 1/25 – Sheboygan North
- 1/28 – @ Ashwaubenon
- 2/1 – Manitowoc Lincoln
- 2/4 – Notre Dame Academy
- 2/8 – @ De Pere
- 2/11 – Pulaski
- 2/12 – @ Eau Claire North
- 2/15 – @ Green Bay Southwest
- 2/18 – Green Bay Preble
- 2/24 – Sheboygan South

*Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

I like our chances to go deep into the playoffs and maybe make it to state."

Rykal said last year was tough dealing with the restrictions of COVID-19.

"It's so nice to be somewhat back to normal," he said. "Our coaching staff is back, the way I'm used to having it. Last year, if you agreed with the restrictions or not, it was

tough. Instead of worrying only about basketball, there were so many other distractions – keeping your distance and looking to see if the kids had their masks on properly. It was frustrating because we couldn't just think about basketball – we had to think about so many other things."

**DE PERE**



# De Pere boys preseason-ranked No. 1

BY GREG BATES  
CORRESPONDENT

DE PERE – Every year, writer/editor Mark Miller releases Wisconsin Basketball Yearbook, which dives into the season ahead for high school boys' basketball in the state.

Miller releases preseason top-10 rankings for every division.

To no one's surprise, De Pere made the list in Division 1.

But where the Redbirds fell in the rankings might have surprised a few southern Wisconsin hoops followers.

De Pere was ranked No. 1 following a solid 2020-21 campaign where it fell short of state by one game.

It returns a ton of talent and depth along with two Division I recruits.

Led by junior John Kinziger, the Redbirds could be in store for a storybook season.

"It puts more pressure on our team, which is good because it makes you want to hold that number 1," Kinziger said. "To us, it doesn't mean much, except the fact we have to hold it now."

De Pere Head Coach Brian Winchester, in his 15th season, joked that getting top ranking means nothing.

"We've barely talked about it," he said. "Somebody thought highly of you, and they paid you a nice compliment, but outside of that, it doesn't mean anything in terms of our season. It's a nice compliment,



De Pere boys' basketball Head Coach Brian Winchester, right, gives instructions to his team at a recent practice. John Kinziger, with ball, averaged 22.5 points per game as a sophomore for the 22-4 Redbirds. **Greg Bates Photo**

but that's it."

The Redbird players are a close-knit group who are competitive with high basketball IQs, said Winchester.

De Pere is coming off a 22-4 season where it lost at River Falls 53-52 in a sectional final.

Two starters graduated from that team: Will Dehn (11.2 points per game) and Maddax Shinnars (7.6 points, 3.9 rebounds, 2.2 assists).

The Redbirds will also be without another starter for the season, Max Donaldson (8.3 points), who tore his ACL during the offseason.

Kinziger was named first-team Fox River Classic Conference (FRCC) for the second straight year and led his team in scoring at 22.5 points per game as a sophomore.

The point guard knocked

down 73 3-pointers and also averaged 4.3 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 2.0 steals in each contest.

Entering the season, Kinziger is 17 points shy of reaching 1,000 for his career.

Once he hits that plateau, he'll be the 12th player in program history to do so.

The other starter back is second-team all-conference guard Jack Jorgensen.

As a junior, he was third on the team in scoring at 10.8 points per game.

He led the team in rebounding (5.3) and was second in assists (2.7).

Junior Gabe Herman came off the bench last year and chipped in 6.5 points and 3.5 rebounds per game.

Known as the team's primary defensive stopper, he slides into the starting lineup and will be more of an offensive threat this season.

Winchester said he talked to Herman about him "probably being guarded by a lesser defender from many teams."

"Teams are going to pay attention to (Kinziger), Will Hornseth and Jorgensen," he said.

De Pere averaged 70.8 points per game a season ago, but what it didn't have in that high-potential offense was a true post player.

Cue Will Hornseth.

The 6-foot-8 sophomore, who's already receiving Division I offers, is strong in the post, but can also shoot from the outside and handle the ball well.

"He's talented, but we're going to make sure we put him in positions to be successful," Winchester said. "We're excited about him like we're excited about all our guys. We have lots of

**2021-22 De Pere boys' basketball regular-season schedule**

12/4 – @ West De Pere  
 12/7 – Green Bay Southwest  
 12/10 – Pulaski  
 12/14 – @ Green Bay Preble  
 12/17 – Manitowoc Lincoln  
 12/21 – Kimberly  
 12/28, 29 – Concordia University Tournament – TBD  
 1/4 – @ Bay Port  
 1/7 – Sheboygan South  
 1/11 – @ Notre Dame Academy  
 1/14 – @ Ashwaubenon  
 1/21 – Sheboygan North  
 1/22 – Escanaba – 6 p.m.  
 1/25 – @ Pulaski  
 1/28 – @ Manitowoc Lincoln  
 1/29 – @ Pewaukee  
 2/1 – Green Bay Preble  
 2/8 – Bay Port  
 2/11 – Ashwaubenon  
 2/15 – Notre Dame Academy – 6 p.m.  
 2/18 – @ Green Bay Southwest  
 2/24 – @ Sheboygan North

*Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

depth, and we're looking for him to help us on both ends of the floor."

Winchester said his team is in a great position with all the talented players returning.

"In addition to everyone I've mentioned, we add some good pieces from our junior varsity team," he said. "Zach Kinziger is a freshman coming in. We've got to bring this team together. Last year's team gelled well toward the end of the year – this team has to do the same thing."

Winchester's fifth starter could be senior forward Cal Matzke.

He played 7.8 minutes per game but shot only 10 times in 2021-22.

De Pere's depth off the bench could provide instant offense.

Besides Zach Kinziger, Noah Gehin, a junior, is a strong, physical player who should help on the inside.

Junior guard Hogan Demovsky provides the Redbirds with a reliable guard who can spell John Kinziger when he needs a breather.

Winchester said 6-foot-7 sophomore Ben Willingham will provide more length.

Juniors Grant Hohol, Ethan Ramos, Caleb Dietsche, Zach Kane and Trey Plos are all in the mix to get playing time this season.

"Hopefully, we're fun to watch," Winchester said. "You're going to see a team that gets after it."

# Behind talented group, De Pere ready for state run

BY GREG BATES  
CORRESPONDENT

DE PERE – If this season was a high-stakes poker game, the De Pere girls' basketball team would be all in.

The Redbirds are coming off a 23-4 campaign and lost in a Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 1 sectional semifinal.

De Pere graduated one key contributor — Sophia McCarthy — from last year's squad.

With the 1-2 combo of Jordan Meulemans and Claire Bjorge, the Redbirds will be one of the top teams in the Fox River Classic Conference and state.

De Pere is preseason ranked No. 7 in Division 1 by WisSports.net.

"We have four girls who've played varsity since their sophomore year — (Meulemans) her freshman year — so we've got lots of experience," sixth-year De Pere Head Coach Jeremy Boileau said. "We had lots of success last year that we can bring those experiences into this season. We also have one of the better sophomores in the state, Claire Bjorge. She was a big-time performer for us last year, so we're looking for big things in her game this year. I'm excited about that



Jordan Meulemans, left, is a Butler University commit. Head Coach Jeremy Boileau is also shown. **Greg Bates Photo**

opportunity for her to step up with our group this year."

Over the summer, De Pere competed in a team camp at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

For three days, the girls took on some of the top teams in the state.

"We had lots of success and learned lots about players," Boileau said. "That was a moment where I knew we were going to be good, but that summer experience showed we've got something special here. Let's bring that urgency and make this a fun experience for everyone."

De Pere is led by the stand-

out Meulemans.

The Butler University signee had a monster junior season, averaging 20.7 points, 5 rebounds and 2.9 assists per game.

"The great thing about Jordan is she can score in multiple ways, but she understands it's not only her," Boileau said. "She can create and find the open teammate and does a good job within our system. She plays fast, quick and hard."

The 6-foot Meulemans has scored more than 1,200 career points.

"This year, it's going to be different because we have

six seniors who know what they're doing," Meulemans, who drained 92 3-pointers a season ago, said. "I hold myself accountable for lots of things. I'm still going to be trying to score lots this year, too."

The aforementioned Bjorge averaged 10.7 points per game off the bench as a freshman.

She hit 35 3-pointers at a clip of 48.6%.

"Bjorge can light it up from anywhere," Boileau said. "She's a good, productive shooter and also gets to the rim and sees the floor and open teammates."

Avery Bierowski is another solid 3-point shooter, hitting 39 last season.

She averaged 6.6 points a game, the fourth-best on the team.

Another senior, McKenna Ciesielczyk, put in 6.1 points and can get to the rim.

She's a sound defensive player as well.

Oakley Witteck is a reliable point guard who handles the ball well and with care.

She put in 4.3 points per game as a junior.

De Pere runs up and down the floor, but when the perimeter-strong Redbirds get into a half-court set, their lack of height is exploited.

Meulemans is the tallest

**2021-22 De Pere girls' basketball regular-season schedule**

12/3 – Sheboygan North  
 12/7 – @ Green Bay Southwest  
 12/9 – @ Pulaski  
 12/14 – Green Bay Preble  
 12/17 – @ Manitowoc Lincoln  
 12/21 – @ Fond du Lac – 7:30 p.m.  
 12/23 – Appleton North  
 1/4 – Bay Port  
 1/7 – @ Sheboygan South  
 1/11 – Notre Dame Academy  
 1/14 – Ashwaubenon  
 1/15 – West De Pere – 3 p.m.  
 1/21 – @ Sheboygan North  
 1/25 – Pulaski  
 1/28 – Manitowoc Lincoln  
 2/1 – @ Green Bay Preble  
 2/8 – @ Bay Port  
 2/11 – @ Ashwaubenon  
 2/15 – @ Notre Dame Academy  
 2/17 – Green Bay Southwest

*Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

girl in the starting lineup at 6-foot, but De Pere has a pair of 6-footers who will come off the bench in junior Lauren Schneider and sophomore Sophie Hafeman.

De Pere didn't have a conference schedule to play last season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but it should compete for the top spot this year against Notre Dame Academy.

The Tritons, preseason ranked No. 1 in Division 2, beat De Pere twice last sea-

son during the regular season.

Notre Dame finished 28-1 and won the Division 2 state title.

"It's probably going to be us versus Notre Dame," Meulemans said. "Notre Dame is a great team. They lost a couple of great seniors last year, but they're still going to be strong because Head Coach Sara Rohde is a good coach, and they've got great players."

# GREEN BAY EAST



## Red Devils look to build upon win versus West

BY MURRAY GLEFFE  
CORRESPONDENT

GREEN BAY – One win. That one win for the Green Bay East girls' basketball team was important to achieve at a school where double-digit losses are the norm.

The Red Devils recorded a 52-16 victory over Green Bay West Jan. 30, its first win since the 2016-17 season.

"The victory was big," East Head Coach Dwight Hancock said. "It was a huge team booster, and it sparked a fire. They're learning what it takes to get over the hump. We have to keep taking steps forward and now try to achieve the middle of the pack in the (Bay) conference."

The Red Devils had not won a game since the 2016-17 season when they defeated Menasha and Wausau East.

Hancock, in his third season at the reins of the East program, said he hopes to see progress off the floor, too.

"The most important thing for me is having these girls keep their grades up in the classroom," he said. "Basketball is an extension and a privilege to play. I want to see them in the weight room getting bigger, faster and stronger. We must get the girls to get more reps in practice with shooting the ball and making it count. It's a sport to get



Green Bay East's Azalyah Douangmala shoots at a recent practice. The Red Devils finished 1-11 last season. **Murray Gleffe Photo**

them through life."

East loses do-everything forward/center Nia Weathersby who accounted for 12 points per game last season and Mercedes Castro, who graduated early.

"(Weathersby) provided leadership to our team the past few years," Hancock

said. "Whenever something needed to be said, she was the vocal voice who took over."

The Red Devils return Bailey Tlachac and Nadia Reyes Martinez who saw the floor as freshmen.

Juniors Azalyah Douangmala and Judit Munoz Lopez also return.

"(Tlachac) was one of our starters as a freshman," Hancock said. "She gained valuable experience. It was her first time playing any type of team ball. She was always willing to learn, watch and do what was expected."

Offensively, Hancock plans to run a 4-1 or 5-out

### 2021-22 Green Bay East girls' basketball regular-season schedule

- 12/3 – Shawano
- 12/4 – @ Wausau East – 5:30 p.m.
- 12/7 – @ Menasha
- 12/10 – @ Seymour
- 12/13 – @ Oconto
- 12/20 – @ Algoma – 7:30 p.m.
- 12/23 – @ Xavier
- 12/30 – @ Sheboygan South
- 1/4 – @ Menominee Indian
- 1/7 – New London
- 1/11 – @ West De Pere
- 1/13 – @ Sturgeon Bay
- 1/18 – @ Shawano
- 1/21 – Menasha
- 1/25 – @ Oshkosh North – 7:15
- 1/27 – Seymour
- 1/29 – @ Green Bay West – 2 p.m.
- 2/8 – Xavier
- 2/10 – @ New London
- 2/17 – West De Pere

*Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

offense and play a pressing style of defense.

"Losing our big (Weathersby) from last year hurts," Hancock said. "We will be small, so I want to be pesty and press most of the game. We have to be scrappy and tough. Menasha, Xavier and West De Pere have height, so we have to limit those interior passes and makes around the basket."

Hancock said the coaching staff also wants to build chemistry and team bonding beyond the hardwood.

"I know the girls have a Snapchat site where they communicate," he said. "In addition, we have a bowling activity and some

community outreach that involves raking leaves and shoveling snow for the elderly."

The Red Devils roster lists about 18 players in their program overall, with about half being freshmen.

"Jamaya Mariner has a chance to see the floor this winter," Hancock said. "She played football under coach Levi Nelson. She's a great asset and pickup for our program. She's ready to go. It's been a long time since East has had this many freshmen sign up to play basketball. I'm excited to see these girls grow as individuals and players."

## Red Devils trio returns for final season

BY MURRAY GLEFFE  
CORRESPONDENT

GREEN BAY – The Green Bay East boys' basketball team is coming off a six-win season where it lost three games by five points or less.

"Last season was difficult for us and the Green Bay (public) schools," East Head Coach Rick Rosinski said. "We were six weeks behind everybody else. For the limited experience we endured, we still battled in lots of games."

The Red Devils haven't had a winning season under Rosinski since 2010-11 when they went 13-10.

"You take it year-by-year and work with what you have," Rosinski said. "There are lots of roadblocks we face. Things aren't always easy – whether it's in the classroom or the household. Most members in Brown County don't realize the challenges we as coaches deal with every day."

East lost guards Alex Aoki and Seth Campbell but return a vast array of playmakers from last season.

Ryan Sweeney, Jalen Flowers and Bill Felix are a 1-2-3 punch that could cause headaches for its opponents.

The trio combined to av-



Green Bay East's Ryan Sweeney goes in for a layup during a recent practice. Sweeney averaged 20.5 points per game last season. **Murray Gleffe Photo**

erage more than 41 points combined as juniors.

Flowers had eight games where he reached double figures in points.

In addition, he distributed the ball and grabbed rebounds despite being undersized.

"I like to mix it up," Flowers said. "The Malone is my favorite move. I look forward to getting out there with my guys and getting things done. I have a deep love for the coaches, and

it's been a fun four years. I love when we get together as a group after games and chow down some Buffalo Wild Wings."

Despite their accolades, only Sweeney was named to the 2020-21 Bay Conference team.

"(Sweeney is) an unselfish kid who doesn't care who scores," Rosinski said. "He's a competitor who gets along well with his teammates. I never have to raise my voice. We get drills

accomplished in practice how we want because of his leadership."

Felix, on the other hand, brings muscle to the paint.

Last season, he scored 19 points in a road game at Xavier, which wound up qualifying for the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 2 State Tournament.

This year's Red Devils will have to bring along Oliver Killian, Cole Gillespie, Tyler Boeder and Vance

### 2021-22 Green Bay East boys' basketball regular-season schedule

- 12/4 – @ Wausau East – 7:15 p.m.
- 12/7 – Seymour
- 12/10 – Green Bay West
- 12/14 – @ Plymouth
- 12/16 – Xavier
- 12/18 – Monona Grove – 3:30 p.m.
- 12/21 – Oconto Falls
- 12/23 – @ Antigo – 7:15
- 12/28 – @ Clintonville – 5:30 p.m.
- 1/4 – @ New London
- 1/6 – Sturgeon Bay
- 1/7 – @ West De Pere
- 1/13 – @ Shawano
- 1/18 – @ Green Bay Southwest
- 1/20 – Menasha
- 1/25 – @ Seymour
- 1/29 – @ Green Bay West – 4 p.m.
- 2/3 – @ Xavier
- 2/7 – Wausau West
- 2/11 – New London
- 2/15 – West De Pere
- 2/18 – Shawano
- 2/24 – @ Menasha

*Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

Alexander quickly to round out their rotation.

"In the offseason, (Killian) and (Alexander) stepped up in workouts," Rosinski said. "I think you'll see a big difference with them on the floor, both offensively and defensively. They make good decisions with the ball."

If the Red Devils are to make waves this season, they'll most likely have to

get by Seymour, West De Pere and Xavier to reach the upper echelon of the league.

"If our kids take what they've done in the summer and last season to the court this year, I think we can hang with anybody," Rosinski said. "In the past, we've been mislabeled or underappreciated by most programs. We have a chance to surprise and compete."

# GREEN BAY N.E.W. LUTHERAN



## Green Bay N.E.W. Lutheran remains hot on the court

BY MURRAY GLEFFE  
CORRESPONDENT

GREEN BAY – The Green Bay N.E.W. Lutheran boys' basketball team is coming off a 16-11 season where it qualified for the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 5 State Tournament after losing eight of their first 11 games.

For Head Coach Mark Meerstein, it was the eighth time out of the past 12 years the Blazers either made the semifinals or finals at state.

"We were fortunate we got to play all of our post-season games at home last season," Meerstein said. "We had different guys put up big games last season. Our defense got better by the middle and end of the season. We get to see many different styles of offenses and defenses with the non-conference teams we schedule. The physicality in the Packerland Conference prepared us for the four-game post-season run to get to La Crosse."

Meerstein, whose first season at N.E.W. Lutheran was 1991, enters his 31st season with quite a few pieces back from last year's team.

Tristan Lynch, a 6-foot-6 post player, averaged a shade more than 11 points and six rebounds per game as a sophomore.



Green Bay N.E.W. Lutheran junior Elijah Meerstein, with ball, averaged 8.2 points per game a season ago for the 16-11 Blazers. Meerstein also dished out a single-season school record 178 assists.

Murray Gleffe Photo

He'll be expected to carry most of the load in the paint that Marshal Bukowski commanded as a senior.

Bukowski's totals (19.2 points, 7.6 rebounds per game) will be missed.

Filling the other front-court position could be Caleb Gosse, who according to Meerstein, "has made tremendous strides and looks to produce more this season."

The backcourt appears

to be in a good position with Elijah Meerstein and Lucas Dhein returning for their junior and senior seasons, respectively.

The duo combined to average more than 17 points and eight assists last year.

"We're expecting big things from our returnees," Meerstein said. "Most of them have been playing on the varsity level in some capacity since they were freshman. (Dhein) is looking to score

off the dribble more this year. (Lynch) will have to play bigger for us, and Elijah (Meerstein) will have to do a little bit of everything."

Others looking to contribute include Henry Huguet, Charlie Sabel and Jack Henschel.

N.E.W. Lutheran will continue to run their staples on offense and defense, despite losing their speedy guard Elijah Lange.

### 2021-22 Green Bay N.E.W. Lutheran boys' basketball regular-season schedule

- 12/7 – Algoma
- 12/10 – @ Gibraltar
- 12/14 – @ Kohler – 7:15
- 12/16 – Kewaunee
- 12/28 – Hilbert 10:30 a.m.
- 1/4 – Manitowoc Lincoln
- 1/8 – @ Oconto
- 1/11 – Gresham – 7:45 p.m.
- 1/14 – Peshtigo
- 1/18 – @ Sevastopol
- 1/21 – Southern Door
- 1/25 – Sturgeon Bay
- 1/29 – @ Algoma
- 2/4 – Gibraltar
- 2/7 – @ Kewaunee
- 2/10 – @ Sheboygan Christian – 7:15 p.m.
- 2/12 – @ Weyauwega-Fremont – 2:30 p.m.
- 2/15 – Oconto
- 2/18 – @ Peshtigo
- 2/21 – Sevastopol
- 2/24 – @ Southern Door

Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

"We like that the court is 84 feet," Meerstein said. "We like to get the ball down the floor and score 65% on transition baskets. We will sprinkle in a few different looks to keep everybody fresh and not get stale. Defensively, we'll continue to play man-to-man."

For all the accolades Meerstein has accomplished, he downplays his success, rather talking about his family and former players who've come through the school.

"I enjoy talking to former players about their

success at the next level or getting a degree from college," Meerstein said. "I'm also proud of my family. I have a daughter, Morgan, who started her college coaching career as a graduate assistant at the University of Dubuque. Sam is playing college ball as well. What I've learned through the years is to gather as much information and adapt it to our team. I go to clinics and learn from other coaches, such as Dick Bennett and Bob Parker. I've been fortunate to have been surrounded by great people."

## Green Bay N.E.W. Lutheran hoping for back-to-back winning seasons

BY MURRAY GLEFFE  
CORRESPONDENT

GREEN BAY – The Green Bay N.E.W. Lutheran/Providence Academy girls' basketball team celebrated its first winning season last year, a first since 2016-17.

It was a big accomplishment going 13-9 for the Blazers, who compete in the Packerland Conference and have an enrollment of a shade more than 100 students.

"We had a slow start, and the girls had to mesh together," N.E.W. Lutheran Head Coach Nicole Natzke said. "Our offense had to figure out who the shooters and rebounders were last season. It took some time. We also had a tough schedule to begin with, so it made a difference. Our conference is tough with the likes of Southern Door and Kewaunee. However, those games prepare us for the postseason. Many teams we play compete in a level or two up from us in the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association playoffs."

If the Blazers are to repeat their success from a season ago, they'll have to do it without five of their top six scorers who gradu-



The Green Bay N.E.W. Lutheran girls' basketball team finished 13-9 during the 2020-21 season.

Murray Gleffe Photo

ated in June.

Josie Nelson and Bailey Scholz were double-digit scorers.

In addition, Mattie Zimmer, Stephanie Frappy and Ellie Jung brought an inside-outside punch to N.E.W. Lutheran, who beat Peshtigo, Oconto and Sturgeon Bay during a stretch when it won 10 of 12 games.

The 2021-22 program will look much different with Leah Schmidt being

the lone holdover.

Schmidt averaged a shade more than six points a game but also led the team with eight rebounds a contest.

She'll most likely be asked to lead a young squad this season.

"Our offense will look different this season," Natzke said. "We'll change it up with a 3-4 out to get more girls involved with the scoring. We'll have more balance.

Defensively, we are fast. We have smart basketball players."

Brynn Rice, Gabi Hillmann and Natalie Lange all saw limited action but are upperclassmen who have been around the program for a few years.

"We'll have to replace a talented senior group from last season," Natzke said. "Our returners are willing to put in the work and step up in a leadership role. (Schmidt) is

going to draw lots of attention, so we must be multi-dimensional with our inside-out game. I told (the other girls) over the summer I need my next group of shooters to get the job done. We have to continue to get stronger with workouts."

With most schools in the Green Bay area pushing 1,500 to 2,000 students, N.E.W. Lutheran remains a small school, which catches some people by surprise when it qualifies

for state.

"N.E.W. Lutheran has girls come from all different areas," Natzke said. "They don't get to build relationships with each other from an early age. They must bond together quicker than other high school teams that went to grade school and middle school together. We only have around 60-70 girls in the high school. I still love coaching basketball. It's fun to walk in the gym and see their smiles."

### 2021-22 Green Bay N.E.W. Lutheran girls' basketball regular-season schedule

- 12/3 – @ Algoma
- 12/9 – Gibraltar
- 12/14 – @ Kewaunee
- 12/18 – Reedsville – 2:30 p.m.
- 12/28 – Hilbert – 6:30 p.m.
- 1/3 – Oconto
- 1/7 – @ Peshtigo
- 1/11 – Sevastopol
- 1/15 – @ Southern Door
- 1/17 – Gillett – 6 p.m.
- 1/20 – Sturgeon Bay
- 1/22 – @ Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah – 3 p.m.
- 1/24 – Algoma
- 1/28 – @ Gibraltar
- 2/1 – Kewaunee
- 2/5 – @ Three Lakes – 12:30 p.m.
- 2/8 – @ Oconto
- 2/11 – Peshtigo
- 2/14 – @ Sevastopol
- 2/17 – Southern Door

Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.



# GREEN BAY PREBLE



## Hornets searching for victories under first-year coach

BY RICH PALZEWIC  
SPORTS EDITOR

GREEN BAY – After long-time Green Bay Preble girls' basketball Head Coach Jim Doell retired this past offseason, the Hornets were left searching for a new leader.

Enter Lyndsey Seela.

Seela takes over a Hornets' squad that finished 3-11 last season, but that included a 55-51 victory over Bay Port in a Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 1 regional game.

Preble then lost to De Pere in the next round, 62-28, to end its season.

"My coaching started in Colorado," Seela said. "I'm originally from Coleman, but then I went to Carroll University to play ball and got my master's degree in sports performance psychology, which led me into coaching."

Seela coached two years in Colorado and then coached at the college level for six or seven years, including being the head coach at Marian University in Fond du Lac.

"After my college coaching, I put things on pause for a few years," Seela said. "I tried something different for a few years, but now I'm back."

Seela said it's a little daunting taking over for



The Green Bay Preble girls' basketball team, which finished 3-11 last season, has a new head coach in Lyndsey Seela.

Rich Palzewic Photo



Lyndsey Seela

Doell.

"I always wanted to get back into high school coaching, but I was waiting for the right timing," she said. "(Doell) built a great program and did great things with everything he touched. I can't look at him and compare myself, but if I'm to be

honest, I do feel a little pressure. Overall, I feel comfortable."

Seela, who was hired in late July, said not coaching during the COVID-19 pandemic was positive for her coming into this season.

"I don't know any different now," she said. "The amount of burnout coaches went through last year was difficult. I didn't have to feel that – it feels fairly normal for me this season. The girls come in with their masks but know they don't have to wear them during exertion. I know the girls well, but there are some new faces with new talent – it's exciting."

Part of the reasons the Hornets struggled last

season were because of their late start – like the other three Green Bay Area Public Schools had to deal with – and also not having the services of senior Carley Duffney, an all-stater now playing at the University of South Dakota, a Division I college in Vermillion.

Duffney tore the ACL in her knee in July 2020 and missed the season.

"We believe we can be a competitive team," Seela said. "Being a new head coach, I'm redefining my role. It's free will for these girls. For years, they've been told to do it one way, so I think there's a benefit to maybe being able to do it another way – something new and naïve. I feel strongly these girls will

### 2021-22 Green Bay Preble girls' basketball regular-season schedule

- 12/3 – Manitowoc Lincoln
- 12/9 – @ Green Bay Southwest
- 12/14 – @ De Pere
- 12/17 – Cedarburg Tournament – 5:45 p.m.
- 12/18 – Cedarburg Tournament – 5:45 p.m.
- 12/30 – @ Neenah – 7:30 p.m.
- 1/4 – @ Sheboygan North
- 1/7 – Ashwaubenon
- 1/11 – @ Pulaski
- 1/14 – Sheboygan South
- 1/18 – @ Bay Port
- 1/21 – @ Manitowoc Lincoln
- 1/25 – Green Bay Southwest
- 1/28 – @ Notre Dame Academy
- 2/1 – De Pere
- 2/4 – @ Ashwaubenon
- 2/8 – Sheboygan North
- 2/11 – @ Sheboygan South
- 2/15 – Pulaski
- 2/17 – Bay Port

Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

work hard."

Sophomore Helena Paphlam returns as the Hornets' leading scorer from last season, averaging 11.3 points per game.

"We're getting to know each other," Seela said of Paphlam. "She's got some skills. We're excited to improve those skills, challenge her and make her better. She has a good basketball IQ and has experience."

Seela said her team lacks experience and height.

"I won't hide the fact

we aren't tall," she said.

"We'll be an active team and make people run. We're not a legitimate run-and-gun team, but we'll use our quickness to our advantage."

Besides Duffney, Preble lost seven other seniors due to graduation.

"People have told me what we lost," Seela said. "I recognize a few names, but again, I only recently came back into the basketball world and didn't know much about last year's team. New and naïve will be good for us."

## Preble loses 'twin towers,' looks to up the tempo

BY RICH PALZEWIC  
SPORTS EDITOR

GREEN BAY – Naturally, when you lose two players who were 6-foot-8 and 6-foot-7, it's going to change the makeup of your team.

The Green Bay Preble boys' basketball team will face that challenge after "twin towers" Ashton Markell (10.8 points per game) and Mike Schultz Jr. (7.1) were lost due to graduation.

"Yeah, it for sure changes the makeup off your team and how you play," Preble Head Coach Andy Boboltz said. "We come back this season quicker and more athletic, I think. We don't have the two bigs, but we have a good mix of shooters and guys who can play big."

The Hornets still have some height returning in 6-foot-6 senior Austin Renard (4.4) and 6-foot-4 junior Thomas Michaels (5.1).

"It's not so much their physical size but how they use their bodies and play," Boboltz, who enters his fourth year at the helm, said about Renard and Michaels.

Like the three other Green Bay Area Public Schools (East, Southwest and West), Preble missed some games to begin last season because of COVID-19 restrictions.

The Hornets' first con-



The Green Bay Preble boys' basketball team works on a defensive drill during a recent practice. The Hornets finished 3-14 last season.

Rich Palzewic Photo

test was Jan. 5, about six weeks after its other FRCC competition began play.

Preble finished the 2021 campaign 3-14 but started 2-3.

"We started behind everybody," Boboltz said. "Our three victories were against Green Bay (public) schools, so we were on an even playing ground with them. The rest of the

(Fox River Classic Conference) pretty much started on time, so we were fighting from behind the whole season. We lost some games, and that got in our heads – we struggled down the stretch. We lost that confidence and weren't able to get it back."

Boboltz said it's great to have some normalcy back. "It's been amazing – we had an offseason," he

said. "The kids bought in and worked hard. We're excited for the year. I'm seeing lots of improvement in our skills."

Boboltz said last season was one of the most difficult he's ever experienced in his 18 years at Preble.

"I've done football, track and baseball (at Preble)," he said. "Outside of the year of the fire at Preble – that was a challenge,

### 2021-22 Green Bay Preble boys' basketball regular-season schedule

- 12/10 – Green Bay Southwest
- 12/14 – De Pere
- 12/21 – Appleton North
- 12/29 – Preble Tournament – 3 p.m.
- 12/30 – Preble Tournament – 3 p.m.
- 1/4 – Sheboygan North
- 1/7 – @ Ashwaubenon
- 1/11 – Pulaski
- 1/14 – @ Sheboygan South
- 1/18 – Bay Port
- 1/21 – Manitowoc Lincoln
- 1/25 – @ Green Bay Southwest
- 1/28 – Notre Dame Academy
- 2/1 – @ De Pere
- 2/4 – Ashwaubenon
- 2/8 – @ Sheboygan North
- 2/11 – Sheboygan South
- 2/15 – @ Pulaski
- 2/18 – @ Bay Port
- 2/22 – @ Notre Dame Academy
- 2/24 – @ Manitowoc Lincoln

Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

for sure – COVID takes the cake. There were so many things outside of basketball we had to deal with."

The Hornets lost eight seniors to graduation, a number Boboltz said will be hard to replace.

"We lost our starting five, so we'll have to overcome our lack of experience," he said. "We have guys who got some minutes last season, so we'll lean on them heavily."

Ashwaubenon, Bay Port and De Pere are the top teams in the FRCC, Boboltz said.

"I'd like to think we're

in the mix toward the top of the conference," he said. "With winning only three games last season and no starters coming back, that's a bold statement, but that's the attitude we need to come into the season with. Let's get after it and not accept a three-win season. Do we have the talent and experience of a De Pere team and some of the other teams in the conference? We don't have that, and that might affect some of the outcomes, but we're going to come out hard and compete."

# GREEN BAY SOUTHWEST



## Polkowski: 'Ashwaubenon, Bay Port and De Pere can have the pressure'

BY RICH PALZEWIC  
SPORTS EDITOR

GREEN BAY – The Green Bay Southwest boys' basketball team faces a challenge: Replacing long-time starter and sharpshooter Owen Stieber, the grandson of Dick Bennett, the former coach of the Wisconsin Badgers.

"You can't replace a guy like (Stieber)," Southwest Head Coach John Polkowski said. "What he brought to the program over the years was a good work ethic and a love for the game – it will be difficult. He was a leader on the floor, and we'll have to find that new guy this season. It doesn't have to be only one person – it can be a collaborative effort."

Though Stieber's 16 points per game are gone, the Trojans, who finished 4-12 a season ago, return plenty of firepower.

Junior Connor Pytleski (15.2 points per game) and senior David Danforth (10.7) are the top two returning players from last year.

Polkowski also mentioned senior Braydon Schoonover, who he said "should have a great season."

"I'm excited with the group we have," Polkowski said. "It's a nice mix of seniors and juniors, and



Green Bay Southwest boys' basketball Head Coach John Polkowski, with mask, gives instructions to his team during a recent practice. The Trojans are coming off a 4-12 season.

Rich Palzewic Photo

we have some size. When you look at our roster, there's lots of talent from top to bottom. It's more about who wants to show up at practice and show us what they've got. We have lots of potential."

Polkowski said the Trojans also have a 6-foot-9 transfer student from Florida.

"We have some height, but we need to figure out how to use it," he said. "We're figuring out our

identity. Our height might put teams into positions they aren't used to. To say we'll play differently, that might be the case (with more height). Defenses have to be more aware of what talent we have on the floor. That's the angle I look at – making us hard to guard."

Like many other coaches in the area, Polkowski said it's good to have the COVID-19 season in the rearview mirror – for the

most part.

"I'm most happy for the kids," he said. "We had our summer back and got to play ball. It's as normal as can be, and the kids are excited to get back. Last year, we couldn't do anything in the summer and fall and didn't start the season until late December."

Polkowski said the playing field is level this year. "That's the thing most people forget about last

**2021-22 Green Bay Southwest boys' basketball regular-season schedule**

12/7 – @ De Pere  
12/10 – @ Green Bay Preble  
12/14 – @ Ashwaubenon  
12/17 – Pulaski  
12/21 – @ Hortonville  
12/29 – Oregon – 6:35 p.m. (Kress Events Center)  
12/30 – Luxemburg-Casco – 5 p.m. (Kress Events Center)

1/4 – Sheboygan South  
1/7 – @ Manitowoc Lincoln  
1/11 – @ Bay Port  
1/14 – Sheboygan North  
1/18 – Green Bay East  
1/21 – Notre Dame Academy – 5:30 p.m.  
1/25 – Green Bay Preble  
1/28 – @ Pulaski  
2/1 – Ashwaubenon  
2/4 – Manitowoc Lincoln  
2/8 – @ Sheboygan South  
2/11 – @ Sheboygan North  
2/15 – Bay Port  
2/18 – De Pere  
2/24 – @ Notre Dame Academy

*Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

season – (the Green Bay public schools) couldn't do anything until before the New Year," he said. "All of us struggled early in the season because we couldn't be on the court while other teams were."

Polkowski likes Ashwaubenon, Bay Port and De Pere as the top teams in the Fox River Classic Conference, but teams shouldn't sleep on his Trojans.

"Those three teams –

if they are the top teams – have every right to be listed as the favorites," he said. "They are senior-led, and De Pere is loaded talent-wise. As much as I'd like to put my team in that mix, we have lots to prove. I'm okay with that – we are an underdog. That takes the pressure off of us. Ashwaubenon, Bay Port and De Pere can have the pressure. We can get comfortable as the season moves along."

## Trojans to run and gun, play pressure defense

BY RICH PALZEWIC  
SPORTS EDITOR

GREEN BAY – Coming off a 12-4, COVID-19-shortened season, the Green Bay Southwest girls' basketball team looks to continue that momentum into a new year.

"I'm excited to get back to normal with things," Southwest Head Coach Berri West said. "Last season, we couldn't practice on the weekends, so we'd have five days in the gym and sometimes three or four games (per week). It was intense, with lots of strategy and film watching at night. The kids had to do lots on their own."

West said with what her team went through last season, it's made her feel good about this year.

"We were young a season ago," she said. "Coming out of it at 12-4, it should bode well for us. It was nice to have a normal offseason. We have a full schedule for the varsity, we're back to lifting weights – we couldn't lift last year – and have a normal practice schedule."

West said Notre Dame Academy and De Pere are the two favorites in the Fox River Classic Conference (FRCC), but opponents can't count her team out.

"It's deserved," she said. "I don't think anyone



Green Bay Southwest's Marji Stevens, with ball, goes up for a shot Nov. 16 against Hortonville. The Trojans finished 12-4 last season.

Murray Gleffe Photo

expected us to finish 12-4 with half a season and take out some of those teams that were playing full schedules. I only had two kids last year with varsity experience – we surprised some people."

The Trojans will have to replace two starters from last season: LaCyia Hill and Madison McFerrin.

The two were the top scorers from 2020-21 and

combined for more than 26 points per game.

"It will be tough to replace them," West said. "A benefit for us this season will be our balanced scoring. In the past, Southwest has had one or two big scorers. This year, we have quite a few scorers, some of them coming off the bench who will be contributing. That's a big advantage to us. We don't

have one phenomenal shooter, but we have six or seven who can shoot the 3-pointer, including my post player."

West said she has two players more than 6-feet tall, two who are good dribblers and can bring the ball up and multiple shooters.

"That's something that'll be different for Southwest," she said. "It's

exciting."

The Trojans' leading scorer returning from last season is Addison Pytleski, who averaged 9.1 points per game.

**2021-22 Green Bay Southwest girls' basketball regular-season schedule**

12/3 – @ Notre Dame Academy  
12/7 – De Pere  
12/9 – Green Bay Preble  
12/14 – Ashwaubenon  
12/17 – @ Pulaski  
1/4 – @ Sheboygan South  
1/7 – Manitowoc Lincoln  
1/11 – Bay Port  
1/14 – @ Sheboygan North  
1/18 – @ Oneida Nation – 5:30 p.m.  
1/21 – Notre Dame Academy  
1/25 – @ Ashwaubenon  
2/4 – @ Manitowoc Lincoln  
2/8 – Sheboygan South  
2/11 – Sheboygan North  
2/15 – @ Bay Port  
2/17 – @ De Pere

*Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

West said. "Besides the two seniors we lost, everybody will be back."

West said the FRCC will be wide open behind the two top teams in De Pere and Notre Dame.

"We've become rivals with Bay Port and Pulaski," she said. "We are schools that seem to graduate lots of seniors – usually – and have to replace players. They also have

similar styles to what we do – get up the floor. There are several new coaches in the conference who can also throw some wrinkles into the mix. I know Ashwaubenon has a big and talented freshmen group. Aside from De Pere and Notre Dame, it should be wide open."

West said her coaching style won't change – get up and down the floor. "That's always been my style," she said. "We want quick outlets, pressure defense and go for the steal rather than sitting back. We like to switch up defenses and mess with teams that way."

West said the FRCC will be wide open behind the two top teams in De Pere and Notre Dame.

"We've become rivals with Bay Port and Pulaski," she said. "We are schools that seem to graduate lots of seniors – usually – and have to replace players. They also have

# GREEN BAY WEST



## Young Wildcats get up and down the floor

BY RICH PALZEWIC  
SPORTS EDITOR

GREEN BAY – The Green Bay West boys' basketball team is looking to bounce back from a winless season during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Last year wasn't what we wanted or expected," West Head Coach Jerry Overstreet said. "It was also a blessing being able to play. I had seven seniors, so for them to get out and play – even with COVID-19 restrictions – it was great to see. We were resilient with what we were dealt with. It was important for the kids to get into the gym and get a mental health break. I'm excited about this season. We're hoping 2021-22 is going to be more fulfilling."

The Wildcats, who finished 0-15 last season, won't have the services of their two leading scorers who graduated: Jefferson Cooper-Holmes (18.7 points per game) and Jackson Spoentgen (11.4).

"Those two will be hard to replace," Overstreet said. "They pumped in 30 points a game for us."

With the loss of five other seniors, Overstreet said his team has youth.

"We're starting young," he said. "We'll have a full squad. I've pulled up three or four freshmen, we have some sophomores and a few guys coming back who didn't play last year because of COVID-19."

West has two seniors returning from last year's team.

"Juan Perez-Medrano (3.1 points per game) and Bishop Bufford (4.9) will provide leadership from the guard position," Overstreet said. "They've been in the program since I've been here and are committed to it. They understand the culture – they'll have to pull us."

Overstreet said this



The Wildcats will need a new top scorer because Jefferson Cooper-Holmes, who averaged 18.7 points and almost nine rebounds per game graduated last year.  
**Rich Palzewic Photo**

year's roster allows him to get up and down the floor.

"You have to adjust that every year," he said. "Last year, with having six or seven players, we couldn't do that. This year, we can push it. We'll be smaller but quicker. Our basketball IQ should also be better. We're challenging the kids to play basketball and enjoy it. We'll have some bumps in the road. Physically, we won't be as big, but that speed might be the difference."

Several other coaches in the Bay Conference tabbed West's biggest rival,

Green Bay East, as a top contender.

"I believe East will be right at the top as well," Overstreet said. "They give teams matchup problems – we want to duplicate what they have."

Overstreet said if his team doesn't find success this season, he'd be happy if East did.

"There's nothing like our city rival with East," he said. "At the same time, they are a Green Bay School. We're going to try and do our best to beat them twice. The Silent Night game is amazing. If it can't be us, let it be another Green Bay school."

Overstreet said the Silent Night game, which is aimed at supporting homeless and unaccompanied youth in the area, is special.

"I didn't understand the magnitude of the Silent Night game until I was in it," he said. "The atmosphere is what you want. I wish we could have that every game. The rivalry is huge. We've lost two of the last four games to East by one point, so we've been right there. They've beaten us 11 consecutive times, so our goal is to not make it 12."

Overstreet said New London, Seymour, Shawano, West De Pere and Xavier should all be competitive in the Bay.

## Green Bay West girls' varsity won't play this season

GREEN BAY – The Green Bay West girls' basketball program won't field a varsity team for the 2021-22 season.

The Wildcats, members of the Bay Conference, played only three games during the COVID-19 shortened season in 2020-21.

### 2021-22 Green Bay West boys' basketball regular-season schedule

- 12/10 – @ Green Bay East
- 12/11 – Milwaukee South – 2:30 p.m.
- 12/13 – @ Algoma – 7:30 p.m.
- 12/16 – West De Pere
- 12/21 – Appleton West
- 12/23 – Shawano
- 1/4 – @ Menasha
- 1/6 – @ Xavier
- 1/11 – @ Peshtigo – 7:30 p.m.
- 1/14 – Seymour
- 1/20 – @ New London
- 1/25 – @ Shawano
- 1/29 – Green Bay East – 4 p.m.
- 2/1 – @ Marinette
- 2/3 – @ West De Pere
- 2/11 – Menasha
- 2/15 – Xavier
- 2/18 – @ Seymour
- 2/21 – Bonduel
- 2/24 – New London

*Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

petitive in the Bay.

"As a basketball fan, the East-Xavier games should be fun to watch," he said.

Growing up in Racine and attending Case High School, Overstreet said he likes what West represents.

"When I came to West and saw what it was, it reminded me of being home," he said. "It's an easy connection based on the diversity at the school. We're building from the bottom up – I know where I'm at, and I know where the program is."

West went 0-3 last season and was outscored 213-27.

One of those losses was an 80-0 setback at Appleton Xavier in January.

The Wildcats, who will still have a junior varsity squad, will still participate in their annual Silent Night game against Green Bay East which helps support homeless and unaccompanied youth in the area.

The event has raised more than \$10,000 after games in past years.

# To all student-athletes, coaches and staff, have a great season!

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# NOTRE DAME ACADEMY



## Notre Dame girls looking for a repeat performance

BY MURRAY GLEFFE  
CORRESPONDENT

GREEN BAY – The Notre Dame Academy girls' basketball team is coming off a magical season where it won the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 2 state championship.

"We had lots of experienced players from last year," Notre Dame Head Coach Sara Rohde said. "We had chemistry, worked hard and were motivated since last April when everything came to a halt. The girls wanted it, and it translated on the court to a state championship. It was a unique experience playing two games in one day to win a title. The stars were all aligned."

If the Tritons are to repeat, they'll have to replace four key ingredients to their gold-ball run.

Sammy Opichka, Charley Apple, Georgia Gregoire and Faith Barington combined to average close to 40 points per game on the way to winning 28 games.

"Not much will change offensively and defensively," Rohde said. "Those four kids led in different ways. It was a special class that came through Notre Dame. If anything, we might run a few more sets for some players if we see something we can exploit or take advantage of."

The Tritons won half their games last season by



Notre Dame Academy senior Sarah Hardwick scored 11.3 points per game last season for the Tritons, who won the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 2 state title.

Murray Gleffe Photo

40-plus points, and the cupboard won't be bare this year.

Notre Dame might have the best frontcourt in the conference in returning sophomore Gracie Grzesk and senior Sarah Hardwick.

Grzesk averaged double figures in scoring and shot more than 50% from the floor.

In addition, her size

proved valuable on defense, as teams struggled to score against the Tritons.

Meanwhile, Hardwick returns as the senior staple that will most likely have to provide leadership to a young but talented group.

She said her favorite post-move is a "dribble-to-the-middle and drop-step-to-the-basket."

"My goal is to get this group together early,"

Hardwick said. "A big part of a program is to make sure everyone feels included. Every season I look forward to playing Kimberly and De Pere. You have to beat the best to get to the top."

Guards Trista Fayta, Caroline Brabant and Hope Barington were three super-subbs who provided a spark for Notre Dame last season.

### 2021-22 Notre Dame Academy girls' basketball regular-season schedule

- 12/3 – Green Bay Southwest
- 12/9 – Ashwaubenon
- 12/11 – Kettle Moraine – 4:30 p.m.
- 12/14 – @ Sheboygan North
- 12/23 – @ Hortonville – 7:30 p.m.
- 12/28 – Strongville – 6 p.m.
- 1/4 – Pulaski
- 1/7 – @ Bay Port
- 1/11 – @ De Pere
- 1/14 – Manitowoc Lincoln
- 1/18 – Sheboygan South – 5:30 p.m.
- 1/21 – @ Green Bay Southwest
- 1/25 – @ Ashwaubenon
- 1/27 – @ Kimberly – 7:30 p.m.
- 1/28 – Green Bay Preble
- 2/1 – Sheboygan North
- 2/4 – Bay Port
- 2/8 – @ Pulaski
- 2/11 – @ Manitowoc Lincoln
- 2/15 – De Pere
- 2/17 – @ Sheboygan South

Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

As underclassmen, they contributed on offense but were pesky in the coveted full-court Notre Dame press.

"We have some kids who have had some injuries and limited minutes," Rohde said. "However, they have stuck with the program and have been waiting for their time to shine on the court and contribute. They want to be here and are coachable. I'm excited to see what they can do."

In addition, Sydney Whitehouse, Aubrey Guyette and Hannah Greisen will probably see extended minutes after playing in

limited games last season.

Notre Dame's schedule will again feature several power-house out-of-conference programs in Pewaukee, Appleton East, Kettle Moraine, Hortonville and Kimberly, in addition to the 18-game Fox River Classic Conference slate.

"We've talked to this group about staying in the moment," Rohde said. "Because we won it all last year doesn't mean you don't work hard in a new season. There are lots of variables that go into a year. Every team is different. We have to find our own identity."

## Notre Dame searching for success under first-year head coach

BY MURRAY GLEFFE  
CORRESPONDENT

GREEN BAY – One season ago, the Notre Dame Academy boys' basketball team beat Ashwaubenon, Bay Port, East Troy, Freedom, West De Pere and Xavier on its way to a 17-9 record and a regional final berth.

Fast forward 12 months, and the Tritons are under new leadership.

Head Coach Brian Bobinski takes over for A.J. Alexander.

Bobinski is no stranger to the program, having been a long-time assistant.

He's been a teacher at Notre Dame for more than 20 years.

This should provide stability in the long haul for a program craving to advance deeper in the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association playoffs.

"It's an honor and a privilege to take over this program," Bobinski said. "We want to build consistent success like we have within our other sports here at Notre Dame. Typically, in the past, we've had one or two good years and then some mediocre or down years along the way. It's no secret we've struggled during the post-season in the past couple of decades. We have to



Brian Bobinski

find ways to compete with Bay Port, De Pere and most recently, Ashwaubenon."

Notre Dame returns do-it-all guard Chris Mitchell, who averaged more than 12 points and three assists during his junior season.

"When I took over this program, I noticed how hard of a worker (Mitchell) is," Bobinski said. "He puts in an incredible amount of time with his shooting and footwork. It's the only sport he plays. He has crafted different skills through the years and will be a big part of what we do this season."

Keegan King, Emmett Lawton and Daniel Hornacek were staples in the Tritons lineup last year but much of the time, deferred to Garrett Grzesk, George Kress and Danny Nennig, who have since



The Notre Dame Academy boys' basketball team should be among the top teams in the Fox River Classic Conference under first-year Head Coach Brian Bobinski. Murray Gleffe Photo

graduated.

"We lost three tremendous players from last season," Bobinski said. "Two of them are playing at the next level. Some things will be new in the backcourt/frontcourt, but we have to move on and find ways to succeed. (Hornacek) had an amazing football season as the featured running back. He's a tough, strong point man who is hard to guard. He's also an elite defender who typically holds a scorer below his average.

(Lawton) is another great athlete who led his soccer team this past season to state. As an underclassman, you only saw glimpses of what he can do. He's an all-court player."

This year's Notre Dame frontcourt might consist of Luke Warden, Ethan Wall-Atim and newcomer Andrew Rader.

Warden and Wall-Atim are coming off seasons where didn't score many points, but they played valuable minutes.

"We are looking for-

### 2021-22 Notre Dame Academy boys' basketball regular-season schedule

- 12/3 – @Wisconsin Lutheran College Tournament – TBD
- 12/10 – @ Ashwaubenon
- 12/14 – Sheboygan North
- 12/17 – @ Cedarburg Tournament – 5:45 p.m.
- 12/18 – @ Cedarburg Tournament – 5:45 p.m.
- 12/23 – Randolph – 5 p.m.
- 12/28 – Beaver Dam – 1:45
- 1/4 – @ Pulaski
- 1/7 – Bay Port
- 1/11 – De Pere
- 1/14 – @ Manitowoc Lincoln
- 1/18 – Sheboygan South
- 1/21 – @ Green Bay Southwest – 5:30 p.m.
- 1/25 – Ashwaubenon
- 1/28 – @ Green Bay Preble
- 2/1 – @ Sheboygan North
- 2/4 – @ Bay Port
- 2/8 – Pulaski
- 2/11 – Manitowoc Lincoln
- 2/15 – @ De Pere
- 2/18 – @ Sheboygan South
- 2/22 – Green Bay Preble
- 2/24 – Green Bay Southwest

Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

ward to seeing Wall-Atim this season," Bobinski said. "He's long, lanky and deflects lots of passes away. He has a tremendous wingspan. (Warden) brings an added dimension with his height. He's skilled and can bang with anybody in the tough, rugged Fox River Classic Conference."

Every season, Notre Dame has good numbers at every level, which usu-

ally gives coaches several options to put on the floor.

"We have several kids who can score," Bobinski said. "Most of them need to take it to varsity games and produce more often. We'll run a motion offense – hopefully, with willing playmakers and finishers. Defensively, we'll play an attacking style. We'll make in-game adjustments to the opponent we're playing."

# PULASKI



## Patience is a virtue: Pulaski's offense slows down opponents

BY MURRAY GLEFFE  
CORRESPONDENT

PULASKI – The Pulaski boys' basketball team is coming off a 4-14 season where it lost nine games by 20 or more points.

The Red Raiders struggled to rebound with nobody taller than 6-foot 2 on the roster.

"We need to have our younger players gain experience," Pulaski Head Coach Dave Shaw said. "Our starting lineup will have guys that have seen minutes at the varsity level. We need to develop a rotation on our bench as well."

This year's squad will have a different feel because Bo Bramschreiber, Nash Lemerond and Aaron Staszak graduated.

Furthermore, the Red Raiders will have to go much – or all – of the season without Derek Block and Mason Petzel, who were injured during Pulaski's play-off football run.

"We will be even smaller this season," Shaw said. "We were counting on a few football players to bring us some toughness inside, but they are dinged up. We will need to do several different things to overcome the situation – gang rebounding and five guys attacking the glass on a missed shot. Our



Pulaski guard Brady Wotruba does a two-ball drill during a recent practice. The Red Raiders finished 4-14 last season.  
**Murray Gleffe Photo**

guards must get in there, scrap and grab some loose change as well."

The one consistent from last year is Derek Shaw, who scored a little more than 10 points a game as a sophomore.

"He's our most experienced player back and has lots to carry on his shoulders," Dave Shaw said. "He has to lead this team and contribute in scoring and many other different

facets during a game. It's a handful to take on as a junior. He'll be the guy most opposing teams will try to take away. Hopefully, he's ready to go."

Brady Wotruba, Joseph Hasser and Gatlin Robaidek will need to increase their production from a season ago, where they combined for six points per game.

Other newcomers – Kyle Olson, Dylan Dorn and Colin Schultz – making the

jump to varsity could also crack the rotation in 2021-22.

"The next group of guys is going to have to figure it out relatively quickly and be big contributors," Shaw said. "When their number is called because of foul issues or whatever the reason, they'll have to be ready to go."

The Red Raiders will continue to run their swing offense with multiple

### 2021-22 Pulaski boys' basketball regular-season schedule

- 12/3 – Wittenberg-Birnamwood – 7:15 p.m.
- 12/7 – Luxemburg-Casco – 7:15 p.m.
- 12/10 – @ De Pere
- 12/14 – Sheboygan South
- 12/17 – @ Green Bay Southwest
- 12/21 – @ Seymour
- 1/4 – Notre Dame Academy
- 1/7 – @ Sheboygan North
- 1/11 – @ Green Bay Preble
- 1/14 – Bay Port
- 1/18 – @ Manitowoc Lincoln
- 1/21 – @ Ashwaubenon
- 1/25 – De Pere
- 1/28 – Green Bay Southwest
- 2/1 – @ Sheboygan South
- 2/4 – Sheboygan North
- 2/8 – @ Notre Dame Academy
- 2/11 – @ Bay Port
- 2/15 – Green Bay Preble
- 2/18 – Manitowoc Lincoln
- 2/21 – @ Shawano
- 2/24 – Ashwaubenon

*Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

screeners working with teammates to find a shooter.

The system has been effective in the past for Pulaski as evidenced by its 2013 Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 2 gold ball.

"Our offense developed with the personnel we had when I started coaching," Shaw said. "It was the best way to compete and control the basketball for a good shot. The last few years we

haven't been in tune with where'd I'd like our offense to be. I'm hoping this group gets back to those principals."

The Red Raiders will tackle old foes Shawano and Seymour from the Bay Conference in non-conference tilts.

"We have some rivalry games we like to play," Shaw said. "Geographically, it's close and the kids enjoy it."

## Red Raiders to rely on depth, defense

BY MURRAY GLEFFE  
CORRESPONDENT

PULASKI – The Pulaski girls' basketball team has been knocking on the door to the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) state tournament for several years.

Two seasons ago, first-year Pulaski Head Coach Doug McElrone took the Red Raiders to the sectional final, where they ran into the buzz-saw known as Beaver Dam.

Last season, Pulaski moved up to Division 1 and had to tangle with De Pere (regional final loss, 62-46) and its probable two future Division I recruits.

In 2021-22, Pulaski moves back to its customary Division 2 bracket, but potentially waiting in their wings to get over-the-hump are the defending champions, Notre Dame Academy.

"We've had two successful seasons since I've been coaching, and I expect more of the same this year," McElrone said. "We legitimately have 13 or 14 girls who can get varsity minutes right now. Our program isn't going to rewrite the ship. We know the types of kids we have and what they can do. We run a 5-out on offense and let the kids play. As in years past, our defense will create our offense."

The talent is there, as the Red Raiders return five of their top seven scorers from last season, but Sheridan Flauger, now playing



Pulaski senior Ashlyn Szymanski shoots during a recent practice. The Red Raiders finished 14-8 last season.  
**Murray Gleffe Photo**

at Division II UW-Parkside, graduated.

Ashlyn Szymanski and Brynn Egnarski anchored a backcourt that averaged close to 17 points and 11 rebounds per game on a team that won 14 games, including wins over Bay Port, Green Bay Southwest and Sheboygan North.

"I think we're going to turn some heads this year," Szymanski said. "We have a fast team. Everybody has a role. The team communicates well on the floor. We know when a pass is

coming or what to do on a screen to get open."

If Pulaski is to increase its win total, the defense will most likely have to remain stout.

Last season, the Red Raiders held teams to 40 or fewer points in 12 games.

Madeline Christenson, Olivia Kubiak, Taylor Olson and Ella Wiese all contributed on that side of the floor to make the Red Raiders one of the best in the conference.

The unanswered question going into the season

is, can Pulaski get production from its frontcourt to alleviate opponents from overplaying them on the perimeter?

Sophie Majewski and Gabrielle DeCleene could fit the bill, with both pushing 6-foot and having the ability to throw their bodies around in the post.

Also in the mix is Sydney Gwidt who didn't play in 2020-21.

"Those frontcourt players have put in lots of time over the spring and summer months to be comfort-

### 2021-22 Pulaski girls' basketball regular-season schedule

- 12/9 – De Pere
- 12/14 – @ Sheboygan South
- 12/17 – Green Bay Southwest
- 12/28 – @ Appleton North
- 12/29 – @ Luxemburg-Casco – 7:15 p.m.
- 1/4 – @ Notre Dame Academy
- 1/7 – Sheboygan North
- 1/11 – Green Bay Preble
- 1/14 – @ Bay Port
- 1/18 – Manitowoc Lincoln
- 1/21 – Ashwaubenon
- 1/25 – @ De Pere
- 1/28 – @ Green Bay Southwest
- 2/1 – Sheboygan South
- 2/4 – @ Sheboygan North
- 2/8 – Notre Dame Academy
- 2/11 – Bay Port
- 2/15 – @ Green Bay Preble
- 2/17 – @ Manitowoc Lincoln
- 2/21 – @ Shawano
- 2/24 – Ashwaubenon

*Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

able," McElrone said. "We still aren't going to be big compared to other conference teams. We have gained our physicality by doing cross-fit."

Unbeknownst to many, Pulaski is a community that is growing but only has a little more than 3,000 people in its incorporated area.

"I don't work at the high school," McElrone said. "However, it's cool to walk into the hallways and have kids acknowledge you. It shows lots of students are showing up to follow our games and make a difference."

Teams can now play a maximum of 24 games (per WIAA guidelines) before

the postseason begins.

It gives squads who compete in the 10-team Fox River Classic Conference the ability to schedule additional games, where in previous years, they were unable to make happen.

"I don't know if it opens anything up for our program," McElrone said. "I'm an old school coach who values practice time and teaching fundamentals to get better. With the new format, it will be important to have some depth and not just play five or six girls for an entire 36 minutes. For the kids, it's great. They want to play as many games as they can. In the end, that's what's most important."

# SEYMOUR



## Speed, new defense key to Seymour's success

BY GREG BATES  
CORRESPONDENT

SEYMOUR – New Seymour girls' basketball coach Ryan Goltz is bringing change to the program.

The Thunder are coming off a six-win season and Goltz is going to speed up the offense and has implemented a man-to-man defense.

Goltz, who spent the previous three years as the Green Bay West girls' basketball coach, said he's been encouraged by what he's seen so far.

"I've learned these girls want to be here, get better and work together," he said.

Goltz is the program's third coach in as many years.

"It's exciting to get a new look with a new coach because we struggled last year getting a new coach," senior Adrianna Volz said. "We're starting to click with trying new things. We've got more height with our underclassmen, so I'm excited to see how they can help out the team."

Goltz said he has some good talent on this year's roster.

"We've got good varsity



Ryan Goltz

experience — four or five girls who started a few games last year, and then we have a few younger girls who will be fighting for some minutes, too," he said.

Seymour lost two seniors off of last year's team — third-leading scorer Kyle Vanden Langenberg (8.4 points per game) and Gracie Schadrerie (3.4 points) — and second-leading scorer Micayla Silas (10.2 points) moved out of state.

Volz led Seymour in scoring last year at 10.8 points per game.

Also back are Sam Nieland (7.6 points), Heather Krause (6.9 points) and Rilee Powless (6.1 points).

"Having them step up will open up things for the



Adrianna Volz

younger returning players who take their roles and hopefully be three- to six-point-getters," Goltz said. "Having three or four kids score — we've got 10 that can get out there and score on any given night."

Goltz said he's expecting bigger things from the senior Powless.

"(Powless) had a bit of a down year from scoring nine a game as a sophomore to about five or six last year," Goltz said. "She's shown some good strides and taken some leadership roles. I'm hoping she has a great year."

After scoring 6.6 points per game as a sophomore — to go along with 7.6 rebounds per game — Volz bumped into double figures last season.

"I've got to be more of a leader to the underclassmen on the court and try and get them scoring opportunities, too, while also helping the team score and doing what I can," Volz said. "I've gotten more confident in my ball handling, too, and feel confident in myself taking it down the court."

Goltz has put in a four-out, one-in motion offensive scheme, which he's always used at each of his coaching stops.

Seymour averaged 48 points per game last season.

"To me, that's the purest, fun form of basketball, but it takes time," Goltz said. "Running the motion is something that gives these kids the ability to use their strengths, create for others and put others in positions to use their strengths. Creating space and letting kids drive is going to be huge for us and create more opportunities."

Seymour's defense allowed 56.4 points per game last year as it played mostly a 2-3 zone.

Goltz switched to an up-in-your-face, man-to-man defense.

"We're working on de-

### 2021-22 Seymour girls' basketball regular-season schedule

- 12/4 – @ St. Mary Catholic
- 12/7 – West De Pere
- 12/10 – Green Bay East
- 12/14 – Antigo
- 12/17 – @ Winnebago Lutheran Academy – 7:15 p.m.
- 12/21 – @ Shawano
- 12/23 – New London – 6 p.m.
- 1/4 – Oneida Nation
- 1/7 – Xavier
- 1/11 – @ Menasha
- 1/21 – @ West De Pere
- 1/27 – @ Green Bay East
- 1/31 – @ Bonduel
- 2/4 – Shawano
- 2/8 – @ New London
- 2/11 – @ Xavier
- 2/17 – Menasha

*Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

fense because we struggled with other teams scoring on us," Volz said. "We're trying a new defense, and hopefully, that will help us."

Along with his upperclassmen, Goltz has pulled up a couple of freshmen — Salem Boyd and Keira VandeHei — to varsity who he said believes can make an impact.

The freshman class is deep, according to Goltz.

Seymour dropped its opening postseason game a season ago.

"We've gotten some good girls to help us," Volz said.

Even though it's his first season at Seymour, Goltz said he's not looking at this as a rebuilding year.

"We're all hoping to win," Goltz said. "There were a few close games last year, and hopefully, we can get a few wins early and build off of that knowing we can get back to winning. It can be contagious once you win a few games."

## Seymour boys to replace most of its scoring

BY GREG BATES  
CORRESPONDENT

SEYMOUR – Last year marked the end of an era for the Seymour boys' basketball team.

Mason Dorn — the all-time leading scorer in Seymour basketball history — graduated.

Dorn, who averaged 27.5 points per game, was a part of a senior-laden group that led the Thunder boys' squad to great heights.

The team finished 21-7 and advanced to a Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 2 sectional final.

Dorn, second-leading scorer Logan Griesbach (11.6 points), third-leading scorer Treyton Cornell (9.2), fourth-leading scorer Caden VanHandel (5.4) and sixth-leading scorer Evan Vanden Langenberg (4.0) will all have to be replaced.

Those five accounted for 84.4% of Seymour's scoring a season ago.

"We graduated five seniors who played a ton of minutes," second-year Seymour Head Coach Bobby Kuchta said. "Late in the year, all five of them started. There are lots of



Daniel Inman

opportunities out there. We always have high expectations. We're going to have to be disciplined, which we're trying to get into the guys' heads. We can't shoot quick, challenged shots, and we can't force shots on offense because we lack size. We lack varsity experience."

Seymour's two most experienced players back are senior post Daniel Inman and sophomore point guard Tru Cornell.

Cornell was the team's fifth-leading scorer at 4.2 points per game, and Inman chipped in 3.7 points and 2.9 rebounds.

"(Inman) brings physicality and experience, which we're going to miss early," Kuchta said. "He's a garbage kind of guy — inside points, offensive

rebounds and defends the post. Points in the paint for him are going to be big, but he's got a chance to be a 10 points, 10 rebounds guy every game."

Unfortunately, Inman will be out of the lineup until early to mid-December recovering from a broken right arm.

Cornell showed glimpses of the future as a freshman, coming off the bench and making a difference.

He shot more than 50% from the field and was 18-for-35 from beyond the three-point arc.

"(Cornell's) expectations are going to multiply from last year," Kuchta said. "He was a role player for us and skilled, but now he's going to be asked to do lots — point guard, score more, shoot more and defend the best player on the other team as a sophomore."

Senior guards Gunar Weyer and Sam Daugherty will be in the starting lineup as well.

Both got playing time on varsity a season ago, with Weyer averaging 2.1 points per game and Daugherty 1.2.

After those four guys, Kuchta said he and his coaching staff are evalu-

ating talent and looking for others to crack the starting lineup.

In the mix will be seniors Chester Baranczyk and Mason Pautz and juniors Pace Jefferson, Mark Rusch and Nate Krull.

Also, senior Dane Swenson and sophomore Braden DeBruin are injured but will earn playing time once they return.

"The role players can shoot it a little, but they're not totally confident with it," Kuchta said.

Without a 30-point-a-night scorer this season, Kuchta said his team will be more balanced on offense.

During early-season practices, Kuchta was preaching the importance of defense to his players — especially this year.

Kuchta said if his guys can play solid defensively and can hold teams in the 50-point range, they will be in lots of games.

"We're working more on defense this year," he said. "It's a huge part. There's a big focus on defense because we won't have as much firepower on offense."

Seymour is coming off a second-place finish in

### 2021-22 Seymour boys' basketball regular-season schedule

- 12/7 – @ Green Bay East
- 12/10 – @ Shawano
- 12/16 – New London
- 12/18 – @ Oshkosh West vs. Wrightstown – 4:30 p.m.
- 12/21 – Pulaski
- 12/23 – Denmark – 7:30 p.m.
- 12/30 – @ Little Chute – 6 p.m.
- 1/4 – @ Xavier
- 1/7 – @ Menasha
- 1/10 – Hortonville
- 1/14 – @ Green Bay West
- 1/20 – West De Pere
- 1/25 – Green Bay East
- 1/28 – Shawano
- 2/1 – @ Freedom
- 2/4 – @ New London
- 2/11 – Xavier
- 2/15 – Menasha
- 2/18 – Green Bay West
- 2/19 – Luxemburg-Casco
- 2/24 – @ West De Pere

*Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

the Bay Conference, two games back of Xavier.

The Hawks, which placed state runner-up in Division 2, return their top two scorers in junior Alex Sherwood (17.4 points per game) and Charlie Pfefferle (15.7 points).

Xavier should be the team to beat again in the Bay.

Shawano and Green Bay East also return solid

groups of players.

"We're coming in as an underdog," Kuchta said. "We're projected in the Wisconsin Basketball Yearbook by Mark Miller as fourth in the conference. Legitimately, I think we can fight for the top two spots. Xavier is going to be tough. We could lose to Green Bay East twice, but we could beat West De Pere twice."

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# WEST DE PERE



## West De Pere lacks experience compared to last season

BY GREG BATES  
CORRESPONDENT

DE PERE – With five of their top six scorers from a season ago graduated, the West De Pere boys' basketball team comes into this year young and inexperienced.

Gone are Dawson Nordgaard (16.0 points per game), Lukas Ricker (12.9 points), Mike Moran (8.2 points), Alec Schneider (4.8 points), Raef Deschane (4.7 points) and Braydon Skeandore (2.8 points).

"It's a new season, so it's like anything in high school, you look forward to the new atmosphere," West De Pere Head Coach Todd Deschane said. "Losing the six seniors from last year is going to be a change because five of them were starters for two years, but we're excited about it. It's a new puzzle we get together and start working on it."

The Phantoms' third-leading scorer from last season, Ethan Heck, put in nine points per game as a junior.

"I'm excited to fill that role," Heck said. "I'm ready to continue pushing our West De Pere tradition we have of competing as a family, making sure we hold each other accountable and growing together as a team."

Even with an entirely new starting lineup, De-



West De Pere boys' basketball player Ethan Heck, with ball, is the team's top returning scorer from last season.

Greg Bates Photo

schane said he's looking at it as a retooling season.

"I don't look at it as a complete rebuild," he said. "Dawson and those guys were great kids to work with, but I'm excited for the possibilities of Nate (Heikkila) and (Heck) — there's a possibility those guys can play at the next level. They're gym rats and going to work. Those are the types of kids we love working with."

Heck agrees with his coach that this year's team isn't starting from the ground up.

"A bunch of our guys on the team last year, they knew how to play," he said. "The seniors had spots over

them, myself included. I feel it's sort of a rebuilding year, but not as much as people think. The talent we have coming back and our new players can fill that."

Heck said he's prepared to take more shots and step his game up.

"I think I have to up my scoring, but I have to make sure I'm not doing it selfishly," he said. "I need to get others involved. The team has to come before me."

Heck has become a better mid-range shooter and is taking guys off the dribble.

"He's going to get his touches, but we're an equitable type of offense," Deschane said. "We're not going to solely rely upon

one person. We're going to spread the ball around and move it."

Heikkila (3.9 points per game) and Danny Campbell (3.8 points) — both of whom are seniors — got minutes last season at the varsity level and will be relied on for more productivity this year.

"They can get to the rim and finish, but they can also spot up and shoot," Heck said. "Kaden (Hannula) knows how to drive, attack and finish through contact. We have more people who are good with the midrange and good down low."

Hannula, a senior, got some time last season, as did Andrew Baumgart (3.3 points), who was a freshman.

Also getting playing time will be sophomore Langdon Nordgaard and juniors Paul Kersten and Sutter Deschane.

Coach Deschane said early in the season he will be mixing up his lineup to see who fits.

"It's one game at a time, that's always been our attitude," he said. "We're going to focus on getting better and continue to grow."

Deschane said he also stresses strong defense to his squad.

"We're going to play some hard D, and that's what we're working on," he said. "We're teaching kids the basics right away —

### 2021-22 West De Pere boys' basketball regular-season schedule

- 12/4 – De Pere – 2 p.m.
- 12/7 – Menasha
- 12/10 – Xavier
- 12/13 – @ Beaver Dam
- 12/16 – @ Green Bay West
- 12/21 – Plymouth
- 12/28 – Luxemburg-Casco – 8 p.m. (Kress Events Center)
- 12/29 – Oregon – 3:15 p.m. (Kress Events Center)
- 1/4 – Shawano
- 1/7 – Green Bay East
- 1/10 – @ Ashwaubenon
- 1/13 – New London
- 1/15 – Bay Port – 2 p.m.
- 1/20 – @ Seymour
- 1/25 – @ Menasha
- 2/3 – Green Bay West
- 2/8 – @ Hortonville
- 2/10 – @ Shawano
- 2/15 – @ Green Bay East
- 2/18 – @ New London
- 2/24 – Seymour

Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

that's the way we roll."

West De Pere has a tough schedule out of the gate with three nonconference games: Little Chute, Green Bay Southwest and De Pere, the No. 1 ranked team in Division 1.

That three-game stretch will set the Phantoms up for conference action the second week in December.

West De Pere is coming off a second-place tie in the Bay Conference last season.

Xavier won the conference and went on to place state runner-up in Division 2.

The Hawks have back their top two scorers in Alex Sherwood (17.4 points per game) and Charlie Pfefferle (15.7 points), so they're going to be the team to beat.

"Green Bay East is going to be good — Rick (Rosinski) has a good group," Deschane said. "Those guys have been together for a long time. Menasha will be tough as well. Seymour is always Seymour. On any given night, anything can happen. We need to have a mentality of one game at a time."

## Young Phantoms look to compete

BY GREG BATES  
CORRESPONDENT

DE PERE – Coming off three straight undefeated seasons in the Bay Conference, the West De Pere girls' basketball program is churning out solid teams consistently.

But after eight seniors graduated last year — including its top five scorers — it might be more difficult to win a fourth consecutive conference championship.

Fifth-year Head Coach Chris Abaray said the unknowns excite him.

"We graduated eight girls last year — and not just eight girls, but some key players who were big parts of our program: Alexa Thomson, Casey Jepson and Bailey Baeten," he said. "These were all-conference players for multiple years. To replace kids like that, it's going to be tough. Right now, we have four freshmen on varsity and a number of them are going to contribute."

West De Pere, which was 17-5 last season, will have to replace 84% of its scoring.

One big boost will be the addition of Imani Ninham, who missed all of last year with a torn ACL.

As a sophomore, Ninham was the team's second-leading scorer at 13 points per game and drained a team-high 56 3-pointers.

"I'm excited for one last year and playing in front of my family with people in



The West De Pere girls' basketball team, which was 17-5 last season, will have to replace 84% of its scoring this year.

Greg Bates Photo

the gym because of last year with COVID," Ninham said. "I learned lots last year."

Abaray said getting Ninham back on the court is huge.

"We've always been about balance, so we're not going to put anything all on her," he said. "We want her to knock down shots — she'll have that autonomy. We have lots of other girls who can make shots. We have a couple of freshmen who are going to hit shots. Katie Waukau can shoot the heck out of the ball, too."

Waukau put in 3.2 points per game last season, while fellow junior Victoria Karchinski scored 2.4 points per contest.

The only returning player who was a partial starter last season is Makenzie Konop.

The senior forward/center

averaged 2.4 points per game.

"(Konop) has got to fill a big role for being a post," Ninham said. "We've always played with each other, so we have good chemistry already. Katie, too, I depend on her with the ball-handling and us two working together to get shots down."

Abaray sees Konop getting inside and providing a solid post presence.

"We're going to look for that interior post presence," Abaray said. "She does a nice job of making contact and screening. We'll need her to be a good cleanup person around the rim."

West De Pere has four freshmen who Abaray is expecting to log plenty of minutes.

Ella Francois, Madisyn Berggren, Faith Walder and

Ava VanEss make up a solid freshmen class.

"They're talented," Abaray said. "If they weren't ready, we wouldn't have them up."

Abaray said he's hoping Noelle Runke and Alana Noggle, both junior posts, will provide some inside help.

"We have 12 or 13 girls who we're going to be taking a hard look," he said. "It's nice because you have fouls to give. We have lots of the same kids, and they're going to have to come honest by the minutes to compete."

Abaray said he anticipates his starting lineup will evolve as the year wears on.

"We're going to have some growing pains early and often," he said. "Even defensively, we're bringing lots of girls into the mix who are ex-

### 2021-22 West De Pere girls' basketball regular-season schedule

- 12/3 – New London
- 12/7 – @ Seymour
- 12/10 – @ Menasha
- 12/17 – Xavier
- 12/21 – @ Kaukauna
- 12/23 – @ Ashwaubenon
- 12/28 – @ Kettle Moraine – 4:30 p.m.
- 1/3 – Plymouth
- 1/7 – @ Shawano
- 1/11 – Green Bay East
- 1/15 – @ De Pere – 3 p.m.
- 1/18 – @ New London
- 1/21 – Seymour
- 1/25 – @ Appleton West
- 1/27 – Menasha
- 1/28 – @ Kewaunee
- 2/4 – @ Xavier
- 2/11 – Shawano
- 2/14 – @ Oshkosh West
- 2/17 – @ Green Bay East

Sports editor's note: All games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

pected to play at a high level. We're going to have some growing pains with that. It's going to be lots of learning on the fly. Our expectation is you ask questions, but we keep going."

Despite a young lineup, expectations for the program are still high.

"We're rebuilding, we are retooling," Abaray said. "The expectation is to compete for conference titles every year. As inexperienced as we are, we have the pieces, we're prepared and they know what they're doing. The goal is to win conference again."

Over the past three sea-

sons, West De Pere is 40-0 in the Bay Conference.

Its last league loss was Jan. 19, 2018.

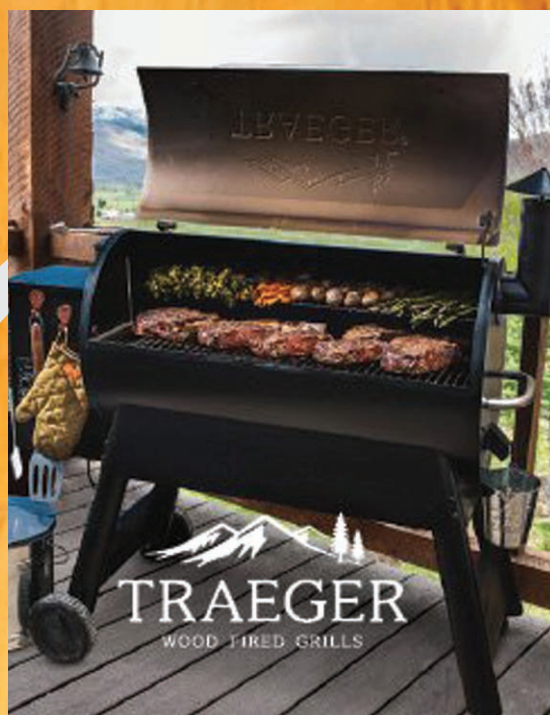
Xavier is coming off a runner-up finish in the Bay last season at 8-3.

With almost its entire roster returning, it will be a frontrunner for the conference crown.

Menasha and its star Mara Reider will have a good team after going 8-4 in conference a season ago.

"We'll be in the mix," Abaray said. "Xavier is the favorite from what they return, but we don't plan on relinquishing what we've been doing these last few years."

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