

# Lakeland hoops looking for another late run

Jeff Theisen, 8:18 a.m. EST December 4, 2014



Lakeland's Luke **Ells** drives during a game last season. (Photo: Laura Colvin)

Lakeland boys basketball enjoyed a big finish to the season last year, with a shared division title before going on a run to the Lakes Conference title.

The Eagles will have some shoes to fill from some key graduated players, but plenty return from the 14-7 squad.

Center Jake **Menzel** is the leading returnee after putting up 11 points and eight rebounds a game last season.

Senior guard Timmy **Brotherton** is back after averaging eight points and three rebounds.

Grant **Osborne** returns at forward as he posted five points and five rebounds as a junior.

Two more seniors also return in guard Luke **Ells** and forward Nate **Lonergan**.

"We are a very experienced team, including five seniors that will be playing their third year of varsity basketball," coach Bob Brugger said. "Jake **Menzel** will be one of the top post players in the entire KLAA. Timmy **Brotherton** is an excellent scorer and Grant **Osborne** is one of the best defenders and toughest competitors in the entire KLAA.

"Our team is comprised of high-character individuals that excel both on and off the basketball court."

Key bench players include 6-4 junior Martin **Sinishtaj** and 5-8 junior Travis **Seka**.

Lakeland will get plenty of help from some newcomers.

Cassius **Phillips**, a 6-7 freshman, will provide a big presence inside.

"Very strong rebounder and extremely athletic," Brugger said. "Cassius will be counted on to play important minutes his freshman season."

Sean **Cullen** is another freshman expected to see some time.

Lakeland shared the title with Walled Lake Central last year and Brugger expects the two to be in the mix again this year, with Walled Lake Western and Waterford Mott also in the running.

"Our team identity will be that of a physical, defensive-minded team," Brugger said. "The challenge will be replacing two first team all-KLAA post players in Nick Troxell and Brad Govan. We will need to rebound by committee."

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### **Lakeland Boys Basketball**

(All games 7 pm unless noted)

12/12 @ Milford

12/16 vs Howell

12/18 @ Grand Blanc

12/19 @ SVSU Holiday Classic, 5 pm

12/20 @ SVSU Holiday Classic, TBA

1/6 vs. Novi

1/9 vs. Waterford Mott

1/13 vs. WL Central

1/16 @ WL Northern

1/20 @ Waterford Kettering

1/23 vs. WL Western

1/30 @ Waterford Mott

2/3 @ WL Central

2/6 vs. WL Northern

2/10 vs. Waterford Kettering

2/13 @ WL Western

2/17 vs. Ecorse Community

2/20 vs. KLAA crossover

2/25 @ KLAA crossover

2/27 vs. KLAA crossover

3/5 vs. KLAA crossover