

2014-15 Basketball Preview

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Senior Devin Vogel can score in a variety of ways for the Mavericks.

MEN'S TEAMS

After an appearance in the district finals last season, the Milford High School Mavericks look to pick up where they left off last March. The Mavericks returned four of five starters this year as they got things rolling on November 21.

Point guard Connor Young will run the offense. He will be joined senior captain Sam Jaklic who plays lockdown defense on every possession. Senior Devin Vogel, veteran power forward Kyle Valden and center Jackson Hale also return.

A key for Milford will be how well senior power forward Brendan Edgar and junior Sammy Lee can contribute quality minutes off the bench.

Milford has their first home game of the season on Friday, December 12 when they host cross-town rival Lakeland. The Mavericks open KLAS West Division action on Friday, January 9 as they travel to Grand Blanc.



MILFORD

LAKELAND MEN

Lakeland High School will start the season with a bang as they take on archrival Milford on Friday, December 12.

The Eagles bring back an experienced team who shared the North Division crown with Walled Lake Central last year. Jake **Menzel** returns as one of the strongest post players in the entire KLAA. He will be joined by senior forward Grant **Osborne** and senior point guard Timmy **Brotherton**.

The Eagles will look to seniors Nate **Lonergan** and Luke **Ells** who played key roles in the championship run last year. Coach Bob Brugger is also excited to add freshman center Cassius **Phillips** who will be counted on to play key minutes off the bench.

After battling Milford on December 12, the Eagles will travel to Howell on December 16 and will look to defend their KLAA crown as league action begins with a tough test at home against Waterford Mott on Friday, January 9.



LAKELAND

WALLED LAKE CENTRAL MEN

Walled Lake Central returns a solid number of seasoned veterans this year. The Vikings will look to junior point guard Walter Kelsner to run the offense this winter.

“We expect most of our offense to run through Walter. He is one of the best juwho niors in the area. He can dribble drive and shoot the ball really well,” Head Coach Chuck Spolsky said.

Senior guard Nate Collins is expected to be one of the leading scorers this season while junior center Ade Ogundeji’s shot blocking ability will have an impact on every shot in the lane.

Trevor Williams will be the “X” factor this year and junior center Malik Abiola is expected to have a break out year.

The Vikings will take on Northville from the Kensington Valley Conference on Friday, December 12. Central opens the defense of their KLAA North Division Championship on the road as they travel to Waterford Mott on Friday, January 9.



WALLED LAKE CENTRAL

WALLED LAKE WESTERN MEN

Walled Lake Western welcomes back five seniors this fall under new Head Coach Chip Lutz.

Senior guard Daryl Porter, who is a great finisher around the basket, will be joined by senior Jerald Booker and John Flowers, who bring speed and tough defense to the wing spots.

Senior Marcus Bailey is the Warriors' man on the glass according to Coach Lutz. "He's a tremendous rebounder, offensively and defensively. He also finishes well around the basket," he said.

Coach Lutz will look to guards Dana Scott and Cody White as well as forward Delano Smith to contribute key minutes off the bench.

Western will open the home portion of their season on Tuesday, December 16 as they take on Grand Blanc in a KLAA crossover game. The Warriors will play in the Motor City Round Ball tournament on Saturday, December 27 before they start league action on Friday, January 9 as they host rival Walled Lake Northern.



WALLED LAKE WESTERN

WALLED LAKE NORTHERN MEN

The Knights are anxious to tip off the regular season after a number of rugged pre-season practices that started on November 17.

Point guard Isaac Savage returns for his senior season and will be a key to the play at both ends of the court for Walled Lake Northern. Coach Ron Thompson, who starts his 6th season behind the bench, will look for him to take his game to the next level.

The Knights will also depend on the duo of senior Michael Eller and junior Mike Nelson to provide a strong inside presence in the paint. Senior guard Brandt Williams will be looked upon to provide strong perimeter defense and scoring after a strong junior year coming off the bench.



WALLED LAKE NORTHERN



Northern senior Isaac Savage returns for his senior season and will be a key to the play at both ends of the court.

To compete in the tough KLAA North Division, Coach Thompson is depending on junior guard Steve Maleszyk and sophomore guard Nathan Miller to play lock down defense in the half court against the other team's best guards. Freshman guard Andy Millikan and senior guard Tyler Nicewarner will provide a spark off the bench. Matt O'Brien and Bobby Iaquaniello will round out the Knight's 10 man rotation.

The Knights will begin the 2014-15 campaign with a pair of home games this week. After taking on Farmington Harrison from the rugged Oakland Activities Association on December 9, Northern will host Livonian Churchill. A challenging December schedule will prepare the Knights for the sizzling conference opener as they travel to Walled Lake Western on Friday, January 9.

ORCHARD LAKE ST. MARY MEN

The Orchard Lake St. Mary Eaglets got a late start this year as practice didn't begin until December 1.

Senior guard Jason Boswell is a veteran combo-guard who helped lead the Eaglets to the district championship last March. He's joined by senior forward Evan Henry and center Jacob Bauss who will be the keys in the paint.

Senior forward LaMon Mathison is the top defensive player who is making the transition from the football season and Jason Bailey returns for his junior year and will provide scoring punch for the Eaglets.

UD-Jesuit looks to be the pre-season favorite in the Catholic League Central division. Coach George Porritt knows you can't look past Warren DeLaSalle, Brother Rice and Catholic Central as he expects games to be decided late in the fourth quarter. The Eaglets kick off their league schedule by hosting Brother Rice on Tuesday, January 6.