

**BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW: KLAA capsules WITH PHOTO GALLERY**



Jake Menzel is back for his senior year at Lakeland after averaging 11 points a game last year.



Grant Osborne of Lakeland.

By KEITH DUNLAP  
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A preview of the upcoming boys basketball season for the Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

**North Division**

**THE FAVORITE:** Walled Lake Central. Coming off a 17-4 season, the Vikings figure to be in the hunt again with a good core of talented players back. Junior PG Walter Kelsner should be on the top juniors in the area, senior G Nate Collins is a marksman from the outside, junior 6-5 C Ade Ogundeji has a long wing span that will affect some shots and senior G Trevor Williams is another dangerous outside shooter.

**WHO'S NEXT:** Walled Lake Western. The Warriors have a new coach in former Milford head man Chip Lutz, and the transition will be eased by a talented group of returning players. Senior PG Jerald Booker could be poised for an all-state type of season, and he'll be flanked on the perimeter by seniors Daryl Porter and John Flowers. The frontcourt will be anchored by seniors Demond Young and Marcus Bailey, who shoulder a lot of the rebounding load.

**THE DARK HORSE:** Lakeland will be a tough squad to play against mainly because the Eagles should be a good defensive team and also an experienced team with five seniors entering their third year of varsity basketball. Senior G Timmy **Brotherton**, senior F Grant **Osborne**, senior G Luke **Ells**, senior F Nate **Lonergan** and senior C Jake **Menzel** are all veteran stalwarts that will be counted on heavily for the Eagles.

**THE REST:** Waterford Mott hopes to compensate for a lack of size with good guard play. Senior Juan Webb is a transfer from Kettering who will lead the team at point guard, while junior Tim Williams, junior Demarquis Johnson, senior Seth Terry and senior Kyle Kennedy will also play prominent roles.

Over at Walled Lake Northern, the Knights will have to compensate for an overall lack of experience and size on the roster. Northern will be led by senior guards Isaac Savage and Brandt Williams, and junior G Steve Maleszyk.

Waterford Kettering hopes to also be in the mix behind first-year head coach Mike Tomczyk, who came over from South Lyon East.

**Predicted order of finish:** 1. Walled Lake Central; 2. Walled Lake Western; 3. Lakeland; 4. Waterford Mott; 5. Waterford Kettering; 6. Walled Lake Northern

## Central Division

**OAKLAND COUNTY CONNECTION:** South Lyon was hit hard by graduation losses, but the Lions usually are in the hunt for a league title and could be again this season with what still should be a good defensive team. Senior guards Joe Newman, Jaelon Neer and Luke Wolfe, senior F Anton Skupin and junior F Josh Remstad will headline the Lions.

South Lyon East has a new coach in Ron Levin, who has only two seniors on the roster and will try and set a foundation for the future. The best players for the Cougars likely will be senior F Trent Willenborg, senior SG Stosh Schelske, junior PG Dorian Watson, junior F Luke Trent and junior F Josh Smith.

Also with a new coach is Novi, which saw Brandon Sinawi take over the program over the offseason. Junior C Naji Ozeir will likely be the go-to player for the Wildcats.

## West Division

**OAKLAND COUNTY CONNECTION:** Milford could be a sleeper team in the league this season with four starters back, most notably senior G Connor Young (10.8 ppg). Other contributors will be senior PG Sam Jaklic, senior SG Devin Vogel, senior PF Kyle Valden and junior C Jackson Hale. If Milford can become more consistent offensively, it could contend.

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