

LADY ROCKETS PREVIEW 2022-23 SEASON



Lady Rocket Basketball team members are (front from left) Chloe Hunt, Anna Boone, manager Alyssa Woodall, Addie Hatfield, Taylor Guess, Natalie Boone, manager Kady Parrish, Elliot Evans, Elle McDaniel (back) assistant coach Jessie Mathieu, manager Brianna Walker, Lex Smith, Andrea Federico, Charlee Munday, Morgan Stewart, Bristyn Rushing, Madison Walker, Georgia Holeman, Jordyn Hodge, assistant coaches Madison Champion and Bristyn Prowell and head coach Shannon Hodge.

Lady Rockets gear up with big gun

STAFF REPORT

The symbol for a 30th anniversary is a pearl, and if Shannon Hodge's 30th season lives up to the preseason hype, Lady Rocket fans are in for a gem.

Hodge has what she considers one of the best teams in the Second Region led by seniors Taylor Guess, Natalie Boone and Addy Hatfield. This year's varsity roster has no junior or sophomores, but does include seven freshmen and most of them played a good bit in varsity games last year.

The coach expects her team to be competitive with everybody on the schedule, including regional contenders Madisonville and Webster County, as well as the Fifth District's Livingston, Lyon and Trigg counties.

"It doesn't matter what the records are, it's going to be a dog fight every time you go out for a district game," Hodge said. "Our district is very competitive, emotional and it's fun – that's what basketball is all about."

Arguably one of the best players in the Second Region, Guess is the centerpiece of the squad. She averaged 21.3 points a year ago and is the all-time leading scorer in CCHS history. She is poised to become the first member of the school's 2,000 point club this season and very likely will become the Fifth District All-Time Leading scorer at some point this winter. Guess had 1,900 points to start the season and scored 26 in Monday's opening loss at Graves County. She needs 325 points to tie the district scoring mark currently held by Sandra Oliver, who finished her career in 1981 at Lyon County.

"Taylor is our go-to, and I have a biased opinion to some degree, but I think she is the best player in region," Hodge said. "She can score from three-point range, hit the pull-up jumper, and get to the line because she gets fouled a lot."

"She is the complete package. She is very unselfish, but she feels it when she needs to take over a little bit. She is also very apt to give up the ball because she wants to get others involved."

Hodge said fans can expect plenty of three-balls this season – in fact, she says her team shoots more threes than any other team she's

Coach Shannon Hodge

2nd Region Champ 2011
Region Semifinalist 2010, 2011, 2022
All A Region Champ 1998, 1999, 2001, 2008, 2011, 2017, 2021
District Champion 2011, 2017, 2018, 2022



Records Under Coach

1993-94	6-19	2008-09	11-9
1994-95	15-13	2009-10	13-14
1995-96	11-14	2010-11	21-9
1996-97	17-9	2011-12	4-24
1997-98	12-14	2012-13	4-23
1998-99	14-13	2013-14	7-18
1999-00	11-15	2014-15	16-12
2000-01	11-16	2015-16	15-16
2001-02	5-20	2016-17	25-8
2002-03	6-18	2017-18	15-14
2003-04	12-13	2018-19	14-14
2004-05	11-16	2019-20	18-11
2005-06	16-10	2020-21	16-5
2006-07	6-20	2021-22	23-8
2007-08	13-12	Total	368-407

coached in her long tenure.

Perhaps no one is more capable of draining threes than senior Natalie Boone.

Boone is an outside scoring threat and a scrappy defender. She can also score off the bounce. Hodge said Boone has the highest basketball IQ on the court and is very physical on defense.

"If there is a player on the perimeter or if we're playing somebody we can't lose in transition, Natalie understands those things. She's the player I can say, 'I need you do this on defense,' and she can do it because she's conscious of what I'm saying."

Playing the post for CCHS again this year is senior Addie Hatfield. Hodge says her center deserves a Warrior Award. She isn't the tallest on the court, but she battles with the bigs.

"She's stronger, has gotten on the leader board in the weight room in advanced PE and is getting more and more comfortable with her offense in the post," Hodge said. "She is rebounding well, and when there is that person I think has to be our leader on the boards, it has to be Addie."

Hodge will rely heavily on an athletic freshman class since there are no sophomores or juniors on the team. Seven of the 10 varsity players are freshmen, but Hodge said they are used to winning and have high standards.

The other half of the Boone

sisters duo, Anna Boone, is a lefty capable of carrying some of the scoring load this season. She started as an eighth-grader last year and has tools to create havoc on the defensive end. She can also drive and score, or pop threes.

Hodge expects the Boone sisters to attract defensive pressure which will free up Guess and possibly alleviate some of the double- and triple-teaming Guess typically attracts.

"Anna Boone will get experience that will be needed to take care of the ball-handling chore next year," Hodge said. "She's quick, long and lean. She can really bother people with her length and athleticism."

Boone has been in the weight room in the offseason and is remarkably strong for her size, Hodge says.

"I think you will see that reflected in how she plays."

Last year's sixth man, Elliot Evans is the team's Energizer bunny.

"She gets our pressure going when we're pressing and she jumps better than anyone on our team. She is so athletic," Hodge said. "She shoots the ball really well, rebounds really well, jumps so well, and is so quick. You can expect her to score, defend, rebound and get better as the season progresses."

Expect minutes from Hodge's freshman bench, including Chloe Hunt, Andrea Federico, Elle McDaniel, Bristyn Rushing and Georgia Holeman. Add to that a couple of eighth graders – Morgan Stewart and Charlee Munday – and seventh graders Jordyn Hodge and Lex Smith, all of whom will join the Lady Rockets' JV squad when their middle school schedule ends.

Hodge expects each of the freshmen to provide quality minutes and praises the work ethic each has put in during the offseason. Most everyone on the team has been in the high school's advanced physical education class, which has gotten them into shape and increased their strength and endurance.

Federico is versatile, strong and has a nose for the ball, the coach said. Hunt handles the ball well and shoots well. McDaniel is the bulldog who makes things happen with her tenacity and grit.

At 5-foot-10, Rushing is

CCHS VARSITY ROSTER

Seniors

Number, Player, Height

3 Addie Hatfield, 5'7"

10 Taylor Guess, 5'9"

11 Natalie Boone, 5'6"

Freshmen

2 Anna Boone, 5'8"

22 Elliot Evans, 5'5"

20 Andrea Federico, 5'6"

00 Chloe Hunt, 5'5"

41 Elle McDaniel, 5'2"

15 Georgia Holeman, 5'5"

25 Bristyn Rushing, 5'10"

Lady Rocket

Basketball Schedule

Girls Basketball Schedule

Nov. 28 at Graves County

Dec. 2 Livingston Central

Dec. 3 Stewart County, Tenn.

Dec. 6 at Caldwell County

Dec. 9 at Lyon County

Dec. 13 Union County

Dec. 16 at Trigg County

Dec. 22 at Owensboro

Dec 26-29 at Orlando, Fla.

Jan. 5 at Christian County

Jan. 9 Caldwell, All A at CCHS

Jan. 17 Trigg County

Jan. 24 Madisonville

Jan. 26 Caldwell County

Jan. 28 at Carlisle County

Jan. 31 at Paducah Tilghman

Feb. 3 Lyon County

Feb. 4 Mayfield

Feb. 7 Calloway County

Feb. 11 at Union County

Feb. 14 at Hopkins Central

Feb. 16 at Hopkinsville

the tallest on the team and is a good rebounder with a soft touch around the basket. Holeman has God-given quickness, the coach said, and like the other freshmen has benefitted from extra weightlifting, agility and footwork in the preseason.

The Lady Rockets open defense of their 2022 Fifth District championship on Friday when Livingston Central comes to Marion. Livingston could very well be Crittenden's greatest threat in the league, but Lyon and Trigg counties each have some talented pieces to build around. This season, CCHS would like to win its second ever back-to-back district crown and the fifth in team history.

"We want to be the best defensive team in the region, and I think we have the tools to be, but it requires that maximum level of effort and next-level play that I think we've got, we just have to get there," Hodge said.