



Members of the Crittenden County Rocket basketball team for the 2025-26 season are (front from left) coach Brian Farmer, head coach Kenny Jackson, Dalton Murray, Logan Martin, Brady Dayberry, Brayden Poindexter, Jay Stevens, Michael Counts, manager Addie Morries, (back) statistician Lance Kayse, Junior Cowsert, Hayden Hughes, Hunter Collins, Caden Hutchison, Eden Bryant, Roane Topp, Joel Bumpus, Conner Poindexter, Emmitt Ellington, Jayden “JJ” Jones, Jack Porter, Drake Young and coaches Neal Bryant and Coley Rogers.

New skipper helps Rockets restart with fresh slate in rebound season

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County enters the 2024-25 high school basketball season with something far more valuable than returning stats or last year's record: They have a new identity forming under first-year head coach Kenny Jackson.

A 1993 graduate and former Rocket himself, Jackson steps into a program that struggled mightily last season, finishing without a win. However, he brings with him both a demanding off-season plan and the personal investment of someone who has lived the highs and lows of Crittenden County basketball.

The process of rebuilding won't happen overnight, Jackson admits, but he has made it clear that this group will be known for its conditioning, toughness and willingness to play the right way for four quarters.

"That's the only way I know how to do it," said Jackson, who has previously been very successful coaching the state's Christian school division.

Jackson's first priority since taking the helm has been reshaping the team's physical standard. He pushed his players hard during offseason workouts, emphasizing stamina, determination and the ability to finish a game with the same engery it started on.

"That's how we intend on beating teams," Jackson explains and adds that success will be measured in growth and development.

One of the biggest individual developments so far has been the emergence of point guard Logan Martin, a player who saw action in only half of the varsity games last season, but has taken advantage of a fresh start under Jackson. The coach describes Martin as someone who put in real work over the summer and earned the staff's trust by consistently making the right read. Jackson values a point guard who doesn't over-dribble or try to play hero ball, and Martin has shown the decision-making needed to steady an offense that struggled a year ago.

Junior Brady Dayberry averaged 1.2



Jackson

Courier-Journal's PreSeason Rankings SECOND REGION

1. Lyon County, 2. Hopkinsville, 3. Henderson County, 4. Hopkins County Central, 5. Union County, 6. Christian County, 7. Madisonville-North Hopkins, 8. University Heights, 9. Webster County, 10. Livingston Central.

points last season but much more will be expected from him this go round. Dayberry will play multiple spots, including the 3, 4, and even some at center. Because of his versatility, Dayberry will be a key component in the Rrocket plans this winter.

Sophmores Drake Young and Jack Porter are working at two-guard spot and will both be part of the regular rotation. Young was last year's leading scorer with 195 points and a team-high 52 made threes. Coach Jackson calls him a "great shooter" and one of the smartest players on the team.

Porter scored 34 points last season and is a strong attacker who's at his best getting downhill and challenging the rim.

Sophomore Emmitt Ellington scored 38 points last winter and averaged 1.6 rebounds per game across 20 appearances. His size and length give him upside on the wing, and he has made strides as a catch-and-shoot perimeter player.

Coach Jackson singles out freshman Roane Topp as one of the most improved players entering the season. Initially hesitant and uncomfortable with contact, he's transformed into a physical competitor who dives on the floor and battles around the rim, Jackson said. He will play the 4 and possibly some 3, where his midrange touch and willingness to shoot the three give him versatility. Topp is expected to be part of the rotation from day one.

Senior Brayden Poindexter was one of the most productive players on last year's team, leading Crittenden County in rebounding at 5.8 per game and finishing third in scoring with 136 points. Coach Jackson expects him to ease back in after football as he works his way into basketball shape, but his physicality and consistency remain major assets.

Another football player, senior Jay Stevenson is back on the court after an abbreviated impact last season. Coach

Top Returning Scorers

Player	PPG
Drake Young	7.8
Brayden Poindexter	7.0
Emmitt Ellington	1.9
Conner Poindexter	1.5
Jack Porter	1.4
Junior Cowsert	1.4
Brady Dayberry	1.2

Jackson likes his ability to come in and steady things, and he's expected to be part of the regular rotation.

Sophomore Jayden Jones is expected to help off the bench this year as a guard who can give short bursts of energy and handle the point.

Also transitioning from football is a big body in the paint, senior Michael Counts. Jackson calls him a "Rodman of high school basketball" type – a big fellow whose purpose is to box out, set solid screens and rebound.

Sophomore Conner Poindexter played in 24 games last year and contributed 36 points with 48 rebounds. The staff views him as one of the smartest players on the team, and he will see time primarily at the 3.

Freshman Caden Hutchison will play significant minutes at the 3 or 4. He has good size at 6-0 and provides a young, but strong physical presence. Another youngster is eighth-grader Kash Myers, who has a world of potential. He will join the team when middle-school season ends and will likely see some time at the 1 or 2.

Newcomer Joel Bumpus is an athlete who made great strides on this fall's football team. Jackson likes what he can bring physically to the floor.

Junior Dalton Murray appeared in eight games last season, scoring 12 points. He has a good long-range shot, the coach said.

Freshmen Matthew Counts, Eden Bryant and Hunter Collins are players who will help provide additional depth that Jackson believes will be a key component in this season's squad.

A couple of other guys who are nursing injuries could eventually be impact players once fully recouperated. Freshman Hayden Hughes injured his wrist in football and will miss the first few weeks of season. Sophomore Junior Cowsert, who played seven games last year, is out with an ACL tear.

ROCKETS SCHEDULE

Dec. 2 at Webster County
Dec. 4 vs. New Covenant Christian Academy at Marshall County
Dec. 5 at Fort Campbell
Dec. 6 at Hickman County
Dec. 8 at Hopkins Central
Dec. 9 Union County
Dec. 11 at Foundation Christian
Dec. 12 at Livingston Central
Dec. 13 at Russellville
Dec. 16 Lyon County
Dec. 18 at St. Mary
Dec. 23 at Murray
Jan. 2 Mayfield
Jan. 6 Heritage Christian
Jan. 13 Trigg County
Jan. 16 Livingston Central
Jan. 17 at McLean County
Jan. 24 Whitesville Trinity
Jan. 26 Caldwell County
Jan. 27 Foundation Christian
Jan. 29 at Dawson Springs
Jan. 30 at Lyon County
Feb. 3 at Trigg County
Feb. 5 at Heritage Christian
Feb. 6 Fort Campbell
Feb. 9 at Caldwell County
Feb. 12 Hopkins Central
Feb. 13 Webster County
Feb. 16 at Union County
Feb. 17 Dawson Springs

ROCKET ROSTER

30	Brayden Poindexter	Sr	6-2
12	Jay Stevenson	Sr	6-0
32	Michael Counts	Sr	5-9
20	Logan Martin	Jr	5-9
10	Brady Dayberry	Jr	6-1
23	Dalton Murray	Jr	5-8
2	Jack Porter	So	5-11
15	Junior Cowsert	So	5-7
1	Emmitt Ellington	So	6-1
21	Conner Poindexter	So	5-10
13	Drake Young	So	5-9
11	Jayden Jones	So	5-7
5	Roane Topp	Fr	5-11
4	Eden Bryant	Fr	6-0
25	Matthew Counts	Fr	5-11
3	Joel Bumpus	Fr	5-9
22	Hayden Hughes	Fr	5-11
24	Hunter Collins	Fr	5-9
14	Caden Hutchison	Fr	6-0
0	Kash Myers	8th	5-10

Head coach Kenny Jackson. Assistant coaches Coley Rogers, Neal Bryant, Michael James, Brian Farmer and Lance Kayse, statistician. Managers Addie Morries, Grace Vinson.



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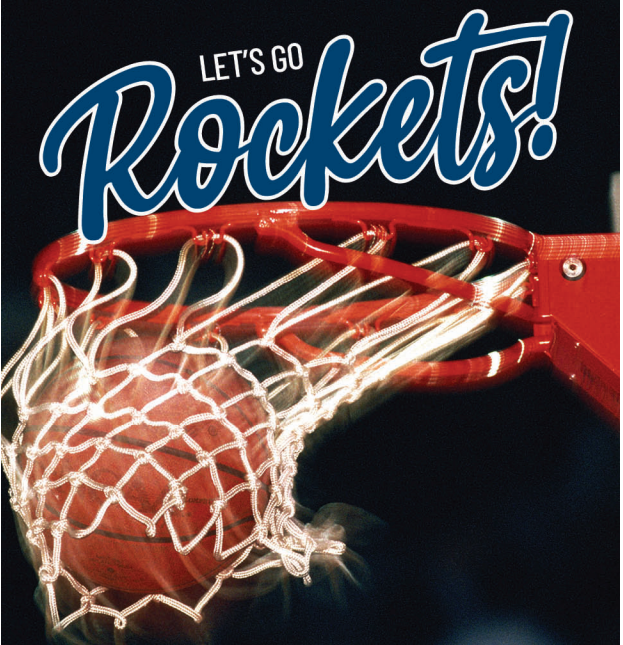


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