

Playing tough defense to be key to Brady Eagles' success

Written by Austin Benson

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Inexperienced team shows promise.

The Brady Eagles boy's basketball team is showing a blue-collar attitude in the first weeks of practice and head coach Dave Jacobs said he thinks the hard work will carry over into games.

"We are working very hard and the guys are determined to have another good season," Jacobs said.

With the loss of leading scorer Zach Mann, Jacobs said the team will play tough defense and use a balanced offensive attack to win games this season.

"Playing tough defense is what will keep us in games," Jacobs said. "Right now our biggest upside is the willingness to work hard on the defensive side of the floor."

The Eagles have four returners with varsity experience, two of which have started basketball games. Troy Lusk, a full-time starter a year ago, has stepped up in practice and done a good job, Jacobs said. Lusk leads with both his voice and his example.

Replacing a player like Mann who can score in bunches won't be easy, Jacobs said, but the Eagles will attack with a number of players.

"Regardless if you have a player who can score or not you want to spread your scoring around," Jacobs said. "This year everyone will be involved in the offense. If one guy is having an off night, someone will be there to pick it up."

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Jacobs and the Eagles will use their stingy zone defense and balanced scoring to hopefully be a contender in the Sandhills Conference.

He said Stapleton-McPherson County will have a very good team.

"They were tough last year and they have a lot of kids coming back," Jacobs said. "They'll be tough to beat."

Sandhills-Thedford will also contend due to their height and decent athletes, Jacobs added.

However, he is unsure this early in the year just how good the Eagles will be.

"It's too early for me to tell right now. I'll know more after we have a couple games under our belt," Jacobs said. "I see us being very competitive like always and the kids will step up."

The Eagles biggest challenge this season, starting Friday in a matchup with Wauneta-Palisade at 7:30 p.m., is adjusting to a new starting lineup and getting used to new players.

Members of the 2013-14 Brady boy's basketball team are (*denotes returning letterwinner):

Seniors—Eric Roe, Austin Widick*.

Juniors—Troy Lusk*, Trevor Mann, Dalton Mays, Cody Most, Jon Taullie and Chase Viter*.

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Sophomores—Tustin Golter, Brant May, Fabian Norton, Dayne Porter, Nate Sitorius* and Alex Trobaugh.

Freshmen—Seth DeStefano, Jack Griffiths, Matt Neiman, Tyrell Rossman and Radley Shaw.

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