

Sports



(Photo courtesy of Kelli Augustadt for The Illinois Valley News)

No. 24 junior Trent Jensen makes an easy two during the home loss against Rogue River Feb. 7. The boys’ final home game will be Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.

Lorna Byrne girls’ basketball season gets underway

By
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Just a few weeks into their season and head coach Beth Boatman has seen great improvement in the LBMS girls’ basketball teams. This season Boatman is taking on the daunting task of coaching the seventh and eighth-grade Lorna Byrne squads. In one of the first practices the teams sat down and decided that a major goal was to play better as a team each week.

“I’ve seen them pull together and look and

play as a team,” said Boatman of the two LBMS teams.

With 21 girls total, Boatman is grateful to have an assistant coach, Wendy Zabriskie, who has coached before. Boatman played in high school but has not coached until this season.

“I told the girls that I am here to learn right alongside you. So you give me time and respect and I’ll do the same,” said Boatman.

Something that Boatman wants to instill in the girls is teamwork. Boatman and Zabriskie sit down regularly with them and talk about not only the game but strategy as well. Boatman hopes that with time the girls will come to

understand the aspects and concepts involved in playing the game. For Boatman, teamwork and the girls being able to move the ball on the court is key.

The girls are also excited for this season. Many times they have asked for extra practices or to stay late and work on drills. Boatman is glad that the squads are so dedicated to this season and eager to learn. Though many of the girls are seasoned players, there are a few new faces to the teams but that has not stopped them from achieving their goals. The seasoned players are not afraid to step up and help those less familiar with basketball.

Boatman has high hopes for the games to come. Although the girls still have a lot of work to do, she feels they are up for the challenges.

So far both teams have not disappointed. Each team has played two games; the seventh-grade team is currently 2-0 while the eighth grade team stands at 1-1. With each game the girls become better not only individually but as a team. With eight games left Boatman is excited to watch both squads execute what they learn in practice and grow even further.

The Lorna Byrne Vikings were scheduled to play Monday, Feb. 9, against Fleming at home.

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