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“Strengths are our block and hitters. We have a lot of height and basically a wall on defense. The back row is flying around and working their butts off,” said Strand, who is returning to the court after sitting out her junior year due because of a knee injury.

Junior returners include Jaylene Montano, Haley Debban, Shaylee Williams and Sydney Hunter.

“We have a really deep bench which is really good for us. Being able to throw people into situations where they hit middle on one rotation and outside on the next is really advantageous for us,” Scholl said. “Anyone can play any position. They also like doing it and there’s been no complaining about what they need to do.”

Hunter said the team has all the more motivation after their success last season, but some of the same issues that team faced are still being worked out.

“Communication is a struggle right now. When things are going well, we have no issues, but if we let a point go then suddenly no one is talking,” Hunter said.

Despite that challenge, Strand said the team keeps surprising her.

“We were up for practice at 5 a.m. this morning and we were all kind of dreading it, but we found a way and found energy and momentum,” Strand said. “We’re like sisters. We don’t fight and we’re together

through other things off the court.”

After a long preseason with an earlier-than-usual start, Scholl felt the big test would be seeing how the team comes off the bench in the early games.

“The energy they need, they have it in them, but they’ve only played each other so far,” she said.

## SCHEDULE

- Sept. 8 vs. McMinnville, 4 p.m.
- Sept. 8 vs. West Salem, 6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 10 vs. West Albany, 6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 15 at McKay, 6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 22 vs. North Salem, 6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 24 vs. Sprague, 6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 29 at South Salem, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 1 vs. McKay, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 5 at West Albany, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 7 vs. Forest Grove, 5:15 p.m.
- Oct. 7 at Sprague, 6:30
- Oct. 13 at McMinnville, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 20 vs. South Salem, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 22 at West Salem 6:30 p.m.



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