

Johnston is third Jewell coach in three years

By GARY HENLEY
The Astorian

The first year without Mark Fick as the Jewell basketball coach was a rough one for the Blue Jays.

First of all, it took two people to replace Fick, who coached both boys and girls basketball at Jewell.

The girls were 6-16 overall, while the Jewell boys struggled to an 0-20 record, and finished as the 71st ranked team in class 1A, out of 73 teams.

Jewell will head into the 2019-20 season with its third coach in three years, as Joel Johnston takes over for David Samuelson.

The Casco

There were no Casco League representatives in the state tournament last season. St. Paul was the highest-ranked Casco team (16th) and lost in the second round of the state playoffs.

After a first round bye, league champion Crosshill Christian was eliminated in round two by Horizon Christian.

The Blue Jays

On the plus side, the Blue Jays had 12 players on their pre-season roster, at the end of one week of practice (up from eight at the end of last season).

The Jays were one of the youngest teams at any level last year, with three sophomores and five freshmen.

Jewell picked up some instant experience, with the addition of two seniors (Riccardo Adragna and Charles Vigouroux), while the junior class includes returners Eddie Berg, Aiden Bixel and Desmond Chronister.

The Jays still have plenty of youth. Jewell is up to six sophomores: Jack Berg, Cyrus Blodgett, Nicholas Nikander, Bradley Rodgers, Andrew Valdez and Zachary Van Dyke.

Justin Wammack is the lone freshman on the roster.



Joel Johnston

The 2019-20 Jewell boys basketball team.



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JEWELL BOYS BASKETBALL

Coach: Joel Johnston, 1st year

2018-19: 0-20 (0-16 Casco)

SCHEDULE

Dec. 4 Eddyville 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 5 St. Stephen's 7 p.m.

Dec. 13 at Perrydale 7 p.m.

Dec. 17 Grand View Christian 7 p.m.

Dec. 19 at OR School for Deaf 7 p.m.

Jan. 7 at C.S. Lewis 7 p.m.

Jan. 9 Crosshill Christian 7 p.m.

Jan. 10 St. Paul 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 13 at Falls City 7 p.m.

Jan. 17 at Willamette Valley 7 p.m.

Jan. 21 Perrydale 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 23 at WA School/Deaf 7 p.m.

Jan. 28 OR School/Deaf 7 p.m.

Jan. 29 at Livingstone Adv. 7 p.m.

Jan. 31 at St. Paul 7 p.m.

Feb. 4 C.S. Lewis 7 p.m.

Feb. 6 at Crosshill Christian 7 p.m.

Feb. 11 Falls City 5:30 p.m.

Feb. 13 Livingstone Adventist 7 p.m.

Feb. 18 Willamette Valley C. 5:30 p.m.