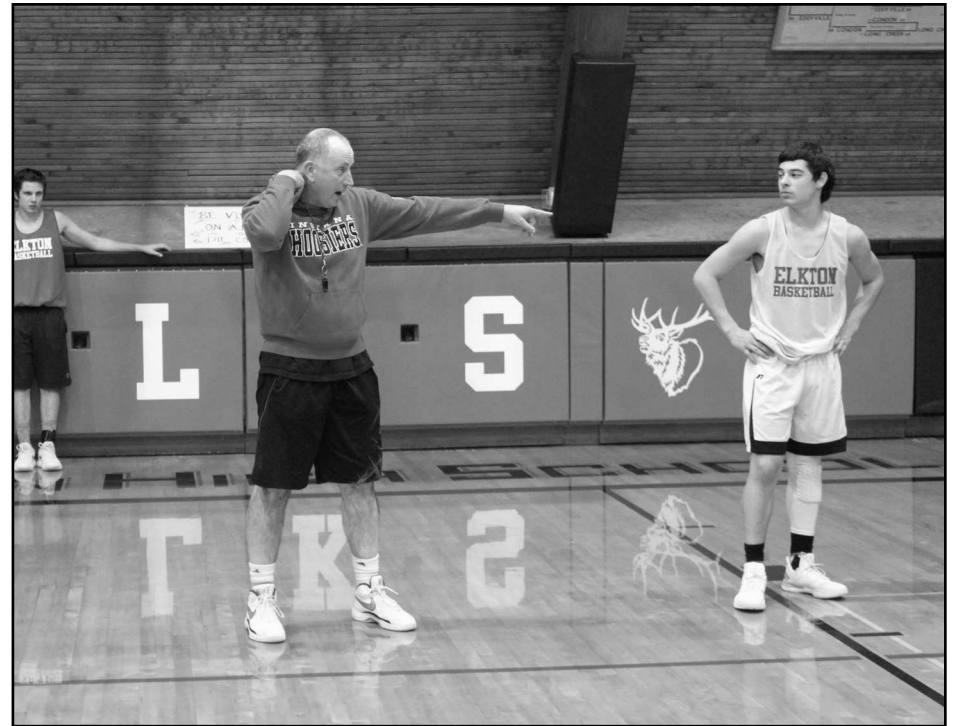




# Elkton Boys Basketball



## Team Rundown:

Elkton is not a basketball school.

But with the right mindset, head coach Gary Trout believes that this team can achieve more than last season's six-win squad.

"These kids they haven't even scratched their potential in basketball yet. And they're a group of kids that hasn't had a lot of success on the basketball court and to see them start to realize how good they can be it really all starts with that work ethic and establishing that kind of blue collar mentality, which these kids already have. It's just how to apply it here and how to put it in the right direction," said Trout.

Trout notes that the kids he coaches know how to work hard. The majority play football in the fall, basketball in the winter, baseball in spring and then work in the summer. Trout

is working to harness this mentality and to apply it to basketball.

"They come from good solid families but you know, but our basketball skills are a little bit lacking. And that's fine. But if they buy in to the blue-collar attitude, I think we're going to be fine and the potential is unlimited," said Trout. "If we start trying to be a bunch of NBA players, we're going to struggle."

The personification of this hard work comes in the form of senior guard Brad Doudna. Doudna finished last season averaging a double-double in points and rebounds and was on second-team all-league. As a leader of the team, Doudna points out that its success revolves around understanding what comes first to the team.

"It has to be teammates; team; myself," he said.

## Team Perspective with Jesse Abraham:

*On changing team attitudes:*

Last year we did pretty good but we still dogged on each other when we got upset and were losing and it was like that in football too. But this year in football we changed our whole mindset with everything. Everyone got along, whenever something wasn't going right for us we tried to keep our heads up and work our way through it and that's what we plan to do with basketball, too.

Whenever someone is having a rough day or, we always keep the practice hype up. Whenever we're going through drills we're always, okay, let's go boys, let's go, get them pumped up and when someone messes up or head drops down we pick them up, immediately.

Last year we did good but then we didn't. We got in our heads and I think we lost the game before we even got out there.

*On what would make a successful season:*

What I think about for a good season is just we want to develop good leaders. And not just because if we leave we don't want leaders to be bad next year, we want the previous people, from freshmen up, to have good leaders and we all want to be a family, just like football.

Leadership and keeping people's heads up and being a family change the way things go.

*On a teammate he is excited about:*

Well, we did bring a player in, that hasn't played previous years, Trentyn, and he's stepped up in practice without ever playing basketball. He is an amazing athlete and he has some good stuff already.

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