



Yoncalla Boys Basketball



Team Rundown:

High school sports generally have quiet offseasons. But this was not the case for the Yoncalla boys basketball team when an OSAА investigation into a recruiting violation began last May. After an anonymous tip, the OSAА opened an investigation for undue influence by head coach Bid Van Loon. Van Loon resigned from his post in September and the school was fined \$2,500 for the incident.

With an opening for head coach, the Eagles brought on Jarred Eakin. Prior to this position, Eakin was an assistant coach at Umpqua Community College and head coach for the boys team at Umpqua Valley Christian High School for one year and the girls South Umpqua High School for two years. Through those head coaching stints Eakin's teams finished 3-66 including UVC losing to Yoncalla 100-6 in the 2015-16 season.

Despite how his teams struggled in the past, Eakin remains upbeat and is excited about this group at Yoncalla.

"You can tell in a few open gyms that I had that they play basketball here. They get it. They're doing stuff on their own that I'd have to tell other teams. Just a sense of where to be and things like that. But like any other program we've got stuff to iron," he said.

This season Eakin is committed to playing up-tempo with his team. He wants a constant full-court press and believes that he can get his team, that features star-athlete Ted Wickman, to the next level.

"I want to win the league and get to Baker," said Eakin. "And I had interviews on day one with the kids, one-on-ones with the kids and every single one of them said, even the JVers, we want to go to Baker."

Team Perspective with Ted Wickman

On coaching change:

Me and the old coach, we had a good relationship. We were pretty close so obviously it's a change but [Eakin] coached at UCC and UVC. The UVC years were kind of down but what he was running with those freshman it would work with a talented group of kids, they were just young. So the system he's trying to run with us, I'm trying to have all the kids buy into. It means just not slacking off during plays. Just trying to play every play, whether it's defense or offense, just get everyone to want to be here and give out full effort.

The goal for the season:

A run at Baker. That's the plan. Last year, I don't think we even made it to league playoffs and that was really disappointing so the plan is Baker.

On making the team better:

Our older guys are much more talented so our older guys buying into the system and getting the younger guys to want to be here. And everyone wanting to be here and give out full effort, that's what it takes.

On personal goals:

Hopefully getting the other guys on the all-league team. For me, I don't really care about what I get but hopefully some of the guys can step up and get an all-league spot.

Have a Starring Season, CG Lions!

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Good Luck Teams on a great season!

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