



# Yoncalla Girls Basketball



## Team Rundown:

Yoncalla's fall from the top of 1A did not happen gradually but came all at once. Since being seeded fourth at state in the 2013-14 season, the team has had three straight years of losing records and last season finished the season ranked 46th of the 62 teams in the 1A classification.

But Nicolas Edera, in his first year as a head coach, is already thinking about the long term success of the team.

"The expectations are not to go out there and compete and win a state championship now, but I also told [the team] that they are the stepping stones to start doing that to build the mountain. And they understand that," said Edera.

"But I tell ya, in preseason we might not win a game and I'm okay with that. They just have to trust me

and we'll put the pieces in the right direction."

When Edera was hired for the job, there were a total of four girls signed up to play this season. After getting a few more girls interested, the roster is now up to nine and includes four freshman. Before coaching at Yoncalla, Edera was an assistant at Sutherlin, where he won three consecutive titles, and most recently was an assistant at Tacoma Community College. To get this program to the same level of a powerhouse like Sutherlin, Edera understands that the program has to first grow roots.

"We're back to basics and we can start over. We're planning on being here quite a few years to get the elementary program started and when we get to here, then we can just plug them in when they know what to do," said Edera.

## Team Perspective with Shanausi Hardy

*On the upcoming season:*

I'm looking forward to having a positive season. We haven't had positive seasons the last couple years and just a fun season whether we win a bunch of games or not. I just want to have fun. Just having fun with each other, being friends and being a family as a team and not getting mad at each other.

*On what she can bring to the team:*

Being a good teammate. Having a good attitude all the time, doing my best, not slacking off.

*On what she wants to accomplish:*

Just possible districts. Even if it's not state, I'm looking forward to possible districts. Then if we can go to state, that would be awesome but we're not there yet.

## Team Perspective with Jamie Ladd

*On being a senior:*

It feels pretty good. I've always been the only one from my class to ever continue to play basketball. So I've always been around people who are either older than me or younger than me and no one in between.

I have liked this role. It makes my performance improve, I feel like. I feel like a lot of young eyes are watching me and trying to figure out what the standard is and I hope that I can display that for everybody else.

*On what she wants from the team:*

Just everybody working together as a team. We're up as a team, we're down as a team. If we just work harder than our opponents then we should go far this season.

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