

SPORTS PREVIEW



Dayville/Monument Tiger Samantha 'Sam' Adams, left, hangs onto the ball as Denali Twehues moves in during a practice scrimmage Dec. 3 at the Dayville School gym. Their head coach Cheyenne Perkins is in back.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter
Dayville/Monument Tiger Drew Wilburn shoots the ball in practice Dec. 4 at Dayville School.

Tiger girls team of 8 hopeful with new coach, new plan

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Cheyenne Perkins is taking the reins as the Dayville/Monument Tiger girls basketball head coach this year, working with new assistant coach Heather Near.

Perkins played high school basketball and played for Trinity Bible College in North Dakota. She coached junior high basketball last year and was a Tiger varsity volleyball assistant coach from 2016-18.

She's taking over where former head basketball coach Taylor Schmadeka, who is now a Grant Union Prospector boys assistant coach, left off.

Perkins said it's rewarding to help youth learn to enjoy the sport, and she hopes to build the program. "I love basketball in general, so I love teaching it," she said.

The team lost three valuable players to graduation, including Faythe Schafer, Kyla Emerson and Courtney Nichols.

This year's seniors are returning starters Aubrey Bowlus, Denali Twehues and Miranda Cook.

The team of eight includes one junior, three sophomores and one freshman.

"We're going to be in very good shape, because we don't have very many girls," Perkins said.

She said Twehues will bring versatility to the team as both a point guard and post player.

"We have strong posts in Aubrey Bowlus and Miranda Cook as well," the coach said.

She said the team has four tall players, and some speed, adding Twehues and Bowlus are team leaders.

"I'm feeling confident



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter
Dayville/Monument Tiger Aubrey Bowlus, right, goes after a rebound with Denali Twehues in back during a team practice scrimmage.



Miranda Cook

that our players can fill the shoes and can step up," Perkins said.

The Tigers will face nine opponents in the 1A High Desert League: Crane, Prairie City, Adrian, Jordan Valley, Ukiah/Long Creek, Huntington, Harper, Burnt River and Four Rivers.

"We have a strong league, especially Crane and Jordan Valley, but I'm excited to see how the girls step up, including the younger girls," Perkins said.

Two goals she's working toward are unifying the girls from the two schools and improving their mental toughness.

"I want to focus on the mental game, because we practice the physical



Aubrey Bowlus

game," she said, adding the team also needs to work on "attitude, how you react, mental health, keeping your cool, playing with your teammates and not getting frustrated."

The coach said she'll look to the seniors to motivate and guide the team.

Near added that the seniors are good role models.

"The girls respect them," she said. "The seniors will be a big part of their success."

Bowlus said she's looking forward to her senior year in basketball and rolling with the changes.

"We're a completely new team," she said. "We're all playing different positions, plus we have a new coach."

Bowlus and Twehues said they've been playing basketball together since fifth grade.

"We have a lot of new



Denali Twehues

starts this year," Twehues said. "I do think we have a lot of potential. We're going to be working out some kinks in the first couple tournaments."

She added, "Defensively we have (sophomores) Aubreyanna Osborne and Katie Barker. Everyone has improved a lot from last year. It's exciting to see how we play together with the new starters and new coaches."

Bowlus said they'll be the ones their teammates will look up to, because they're seniors.

"We just have to influence the younger players to make it about your personal successes," she said.

Cook added, "We have to show them that they have to keep their spirits up."

Twehues said they'll be working on a lot of drills, including fundamental skills to increase their confidence, and focusing on the

small successes in the game.

Perkins said, because they are somewhat young and inexperienced, they'll be looking at, "not only at who wins on the scoreboard, but little wins in the game itself — offensive rebounds, not as many turnovers, keeping the opponent to fewer points."

"I want us to have fun, because if you can't enjoy what you're doing, then you're not going to succeed," she said.

Perkins said "togetherness" is especially important.

"I feel there are some underclassmen that will also have to be strong leaders," she said. "All the girls are going to have to step up tremendously."

At the end of November, the girls held a "Teams-giving" event with pizza, pie and time together setting goals. They're also planning a Secret Santa team gift exchange.

Perkins said their early games will be a learning experience, highlighting areas of their game to improve.

"I'm excited to see how the girls play together," she said. "It's a new dynamic this year, and I'm fully confident in them."

DAYVILLE/MONUMENT TIGER GIRLS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

- Dec. 12: vs. Condon/Wheeler in Monument, 6 p.m.
- Dec. 13-14: @ Arlington Tournament, TBD
- Dec. 19-21: @ Union Tournament, TBD
- Dec. 27: vs. Alumni in Monument, 5 p.m.
- Jan. 10: vs. Four Rivers in Dayville, 5 p.m.
- Jan. 14: @ Sherman in Moro, 4 p.m.
- Jan. 17: @ Prairie City, 6 p.m.
- Jan. 18: @ Harper, 2 p.m.
- Jan. 23: vs. Sherman in Dayville, 4 p.m.
- Jan. 24: @ Ukiah/Long Creek in Long Creek, 5 p.m.
- Jan. 25: vs. Huntington in Monument, 2 p.m.
- Jan. 31: vs. Crane in Monument, 5 p.m.
- Feb. 1: vs. Adrian in Dayville, 2 p.m.
- Feb. 7: @ Four Rivers in Ontario, 5 p.m.
- Feb. 8: vs. Prairie City in Dayville, 2 p.m.
- Feb. 14: @ Jordan Valley, 1 p.m.
- Feb. 20-22: HDL District Tournament in John Day, TBD
- Feb. 25: State playoff, first round, TBD
- Feb. 28: State playoff, second round, TBD
- March 4-7: OSAA State Championship Tournament in Baker City, TBD

Tigers

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thing that makes those teams tough is their depth, but added that his team is working hard and conditioning in preparation.

Also in the HDL are Adrian, Huntington, Four Rivers, Burnt River, Ukiah/Long Creek and Harper.

He said all these teams work hard — like they do.

"I never want to take anything for granted," the coach said.

"I can only change what I have in front of me," he said. "All I know is we need to prepare for every game and be mentally ready for a good game. I'm anxious to get through a couple tournaments and see what kinks we need to work out. Our league lost some incredible players last year, and so a few of the teams will look a little different this season — it will be exciting to see what happens."

Jeff Schafer said he'll be looking to the seniors to provide leadership and consistency.

"Drew is a great leader, and we have some other kids stepping up, too, who have great attitudes and are working hard," the coach said.

Wilburn said he's seen a positive difference in the team this season with the team working together.

"We have a lot more ball movement," he said. "This is the time we've been waiting for — it's our moment."

Adams said the team is encouraging on and off the court.

"When we have bad days, they push you right up and make you feel good — it's awesome," he said. "My obligation for the team, with the other senior, is to step it up to make the team unified."

Donovan Schafer said their mostly upperclassmen team is going to be competitive this season.

"We're really picking up the pace, and we're moving more into the complicated things of basketball," he said.

Jeff Schafer is assisted by Josh Williams, in his third year with the team, and Andy Wilburn, who is in his second year as assistant. Hayden Schafer, a 2017 Monument graduate and former Tiger, is another assistant coach this season.

Jeff Schafer said that, with a couple new players and some younger players, it will take some time before the team gels and moves fluidly.

"I see our returning players more confident this year — stronger," he said. "I already like the camaraderie of our team and what I'm seeing. My team always gives great effort, and I know they will have a fantastic season."

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MOVIE SCHEDULE DEC. 13 - DEC. 19

JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL (PG-13) Dwayne Johnson, Jack Black, Kevin Hart. The gang is back, but the game has changed.
FRIDAY (4:00) 7:10
SAT & SUN (1:00) (4:00) 7:10
MON - THURS 7:10

FORD V FERRARI (PG-13) American car designer Carroll Shelby and driver Ken Miles build a race car for Ford to compete with Enzo Ferrari in the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France in 1966.
FRIDAY (3:50) 7:00
SAT & SUN (12:45) (3:50) 7:00
MON - THURS 7:00

FROZEN 2 (PG) Anna & Elsa set out to save the kingdom.
FRIDAY (4:10) 7:20
SAT & SUN (1:10) (4:10) 7:20
MON - THURS 7:20

STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER (PG-13)
Opens Thursday 12/19 at 6:30PM!

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