Boys and girls take on Ogallala in NSAA Hall of Fame Jamboree

Both Bronco basketball teams took on Ogallala Saturday in exhibition action.

The girls team alternated quarters between the varsity and JV and won 31-29.

The low scoring contest fit with new coach Betsy Johanson's philosophy of tough defense, as well as strong rebounding.

Boys coach Dave Kuhlen said the exhibition game was a valuable experience for his team.

Kuhlen said playing a team of Ogallala's caliber showed weaknesses that can now be addressed.

"A lot of the same struggles that they had as individuals last season showed up again on Saturday," said Kuhlen.

With some game time under their belts, the season will offically kick off Friday when W-P hosts Brady. JV action will begin at 3:00 p.m. MT/4:00 CT.

The teams will travel to Wallace Saturday. Games will begin early with JV action set for 12:00 p.m. MT/1:00 CT.

New coach leads Lady Broncos

First year Head Coach Betsy Johanson has plenty of experience to help her get through her first season at the helm of the Lady Broncos' basketball team.

Personally, Johanson has spent two years as an assistant coach. Johanson also spent time on the court playing at Doane.

"Kim Stengel at Maywood and Roger Lauhead at W-P are both great coaches," said Johanson. "I've had great opportunities with the sport of basketball. I've learned lots of things that I like, and some things I not crazy about, so it will be really rewarding to get to pull all of those together this season."

Professionally, Johanson leads a team with four returning starters.

“This is an awesome group of girls,” said Johanson “They’re very talented and are hard workers.”

Johanson added that practices have been very competitive.

Emma Skelton, Brooklyn Nordhausen, Abbie Fanning, Tailor Lee and Sydnee Harchelroad played in all 23 games last season.

Cassidy Rathe (22 games) and Brianna Einspahr also lettered.

“Emma Skelton, our senior, has really stepped it up and emerged as a leader early this season,” noted Johanson.

Lee is the top returning scorer for the team, averaging 7.6 points last season. Fanning added an even seven points per game.

Lee also led last year’s team in rebounding. Nordhausen should also help out in the middle.

“We have a lot of girls that bring things to the table, so it will be exciting to get all the pieces into place.”

Plenty of experience, plenty of expectations for W-P Bronco boys basketball team

Nine letterwinners, including six with starting experience, lead the W-P boys basketball teaminto the 2012-2013 season.

Coming off a disappointing 11-11 season, practice time is crucial according to coach Dave Kuhlen.

The Broncos return its top two scorers from last season, Logan Bischoff (17.9) and Jack McGraw (6.2). The team returns over 60 percent of its scoring, which averaged just under 50 points per game last season.

The team also returns 75 percent of its rebounding with Bischoff and McGraw setting the pace.

Hayden Pollmann, Jacob Maris, Connor Kayton and Wes Anderjaska saw plenty of court time last season also.

But Kuhlen says more time is needed on and off the court

“First, we need as many practice reps as we can get in order to develop the right habits,” said Kuhlen. “Second, our players need to watch our game video as much as possible to find their mistakes and get them corrected.”

Despite the struggles expectations are high.

“I have very high expectations for this team,” said Kuhlen. “In order to meet those expectations we need to put in the time, work hard at improving every day, and develop strong leadership.”

Four wrestlers, new coach take to the mat

Walk into the scout house to watch wrestling practice and you may have a hard time picking out the coach from the students.

In his first year of coaching, first year teacher Chad Cochran has four athletes ready to take on the new season.

Freshman Cody Barrett will wrestle at 113. Freshman Joseph Sramek will take on the 126 class. Sophomore Gage Crowel will compete at 160 and senior Donald Hunt will wrestle at 171or 180.

All are still dropping weight heading into their first meet Friday at Elwood and may wrestle a class up for a meet or two.

Even with Cochran wrestling, practices have been a challenge.

“They get tired of wrestling against each other and myself, but the good thing about wrestling is that it’s more of an individual sport so even with low numbers each guy can have success depending on how hard they want to work,” said Cochran, adding that the team has all been working hard in the wrestling room.

The Broncos’ schedule has been a work in progress. Eight meets are now planned with the possibility of another to be added.