

# Basketball

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committee at the start of the season.

Hopkins, Lewis and Derocher have been on the varsity since they were freshmen. Smartt since he was a sophomore.

The roster includes senior Jason Sharp and, from the JV squad, juniors Ricky Bryant, Lemoy Wilson, Dave Peaci, Andrew Burt, Zach Burton, Matt Reed and Brandon Sinawi.

"If everybody goes out and plays every night, the spotlight will be zooming around, and they'll have their time to shine," Teachman said, adding individual stats aren't important. "You have to be complete players to play for me. All have to play defense, and all have to rebound."

**Mike Teachman**  
Harrison basketball coach

the offensive load on his shoulders. He still wants to check the toughest guy on the other team and does a great job of it."

"He's fearless; he dives on the floor for the ball. He's an amazing young man. I trust him a lot, his decision making on the floor."

Hopkins (6-3, 200) is noted for his picture-perfect jump shot and in the school's all-time leading free-throw shooter.

"It's nice to know you have a guy like that on the floor," Teachman said. "He made himself a better player. Some guys are not naturally quick and had to step up their game and he did."

The leadership he learned on the football field will go a long way with him. If we come down every time and get him an open jump shot, we're going to win a lot of ballgames."

Johnson (5-9, 140) will play the other guard position. He's a sprinter on the track team and few basketball players got the ball up court faster than he does. He also dunked the ball.

"He's lightning quick and fearless," Teachman said. "He's the guy out of the starting five, we're not going to overlook, and he won't be around if they do."

"He's not concerned about playing time or stats; he just wants to win," Teachman said, adding Lewis is a leader and crafty inside player. "He can contribute sitting on the bench, going to and from games, in practice. That's the kind of guy he is."

"His contribution won't be numerical; you can't quantify it. He's going to set some picks and hold some guys eight inches taller than off the boards because he's so darn strong."

Smartt (6-0, 195) runs the team on the floor and is a consistent player whom the coach knows he can depend on.

"I thought he was awfully good last year, and he just took off this summer," Teachman said. "He decided he can take some of

better finisher around the basket."

Burt (6-2, 205) was a post player on JV and is an aggressive rebounder. He also has a two-handed dunk in his repertoire. Burton (6-4, 198) had a good summer and continues a Harrison tradition of big men who can shoot the three.

Pesci was the JV point guard and distributes the ball well. Both he and Reed have improved their shot, according to their coach. Reed is a good athlete, a tailback on the football team, and will help at football as will Sinawi.

The Hawks were WLAA and district tournament runners-up last year. This year, they'd like to be No. 1.

"A 20-game season over three months is probably a measure of a team than a three-week season," Teachman said. "We'll have to play three seasons — the regular season, the league playoffs, hopefully we'll get it in, and the state tournament season."

"Building a season is like building a wall; it's done brick by brick."

The Hawks will try to lay the foundation for a successful season Monday with a victory in their first game at Waterford Kettering.

**GOOD GROUP:** Teachman likes the collective attitude on this year's team, the spirit of togetherness and competitiveness.

"He's going to go along; they're not negative leaders," he said. "They're not kind of people everybody has to bow down to them. They're inclusive."

"Matt Derocher gets the broom and sweeps the floor every day. They've

had carries that winning idea from the football tradition and the 'refuse to lose' theme from last year's seniors. It's a nice combination."

"I know they're 17-year-olds, but I trust them — and I'm going to trust them with a lot of the basketball decisions."

**CROWD PLEASER:** "It may end up being our most important player is the sixth man, which is the crowd. If those (students) support us and yell for us," Teachman said.

"Even some of the faculty might be enthused about it. If we get that support, they could win some games for us. There's such a good feeling among the student body this year; they can get us fired up."

Wilson's shooting range extends to 30 feet. The 6-1, 190-pounder spent time in the weight room and is becoming a

better player.

(See Page E7 for more high school basketball coverage)

## BASKETBALL PREVIEWS

WAYNE MEMORIAL

Head coach: Chuck Henry, 21st season.  
League affiliation: Michigan Mega Conference.

Season opener: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9, vs. Plymouth-Canton.

Last year's overall record: 24-2 (District

Regional champion).

Notable losses to graduation: Lorenzo

Guess (MHS), Levelle Guess (Kalamazoo Valley CC), Fred Rashed (Saginaw Valley), Rodney Hurst (Albion).

Promising newcomers: Karl Calloway, 6-2, forward; Brian Williams, 6-2, guard.

Promising new starters: Quentin Turner, 6-7, forward; Shonari Dunn, 6-2, swing; Radrick

Bowens, 5-8, guard; Al Williams, 6-2, forward.

Others to watch: Matt Kunkel, 6-2, center.

Schutt's 1997-98 outlook: "The kids

have worked real hard. They're doing a

good job in practice and seem to be coming

together real good. They're working together."

"There's a brand new attitude. We should

be competitive this year."

"We'll be quick. We'll run. We'll get it

done real quick with our offense. And

we should be able to do a good job under the boards."

"The key to our season is how well we stay

together. If we play as a team and work

hard, we'll be successful."

"Our early schedule includes two of the top

four teams in the state — Romulus and River

Ridge. Plus a pair, Belleville, Ypsilanti, Willow Run and Inkster."

"It's going to be fun from the standpoint

that every game is going to be a challenge.

"I say it's going to be fun. I hope it's going

to be what it's going to be."

**DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL**

Head coach: Rick Coratti, fourth season.

League affiliation: Detroit Catholic League (Central Division).

Season opener: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9, at Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher.

Last year's overall record: 15-1.

Notable losses to graduation: Shawn

Wolosz, Kevin Renaud, Matt Van Buren,

Brian Tesssey (Wayne State football).

Leading returnees: Corey Cook, 6-3, center; Matt Coratti, 6-0, guard; George Hart, 6-0, guard; Eric Lohinger, 6-0, guard; Tom Smith, 6-1, center; Connor Lander, 6-0, guard; Nick Moore, 6-1, junior, guard; Dave Lusk, 6-2, junior, guard/forward; Don Stankert, 6-3, forward.

Promising newcomers: Rob Sparks, 6-0, sophomore, guard; Justin Ockerman, 6-0, sophomore, center.

Coratti's 1997-98 outlook: "We have a

chance to be pretty good again, if things fall

the way we're going to go."

"With Chris, Nick Moore and Joe, they

played almost 32 minutes a game last year,

and they have a lot of experience. And

everybody's healthy."

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