

CC looks to do well despite losses

BY RICHARD SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

Has Rick Coratti been taking secret classes at the Sparky Anderson School of Speaking? "We're young," Coratti said of his Detroit Catholic Central basketball team, "but we're not."

How's that?
"We've got a lot of new players," Coratti said, "but a lot of them are seniors. And some of them got time in games during different situations last season on a pretty good team."

So the eighth-year coach of the Shamrocks is saying we should find something better to cry about than the plight of his basketball team.

CC lost four starters and five key players from a 17-4 team that had the misfortune of meeting Detroit Redford in the first

BASKETBALL

game of the state high school basketball tournament.

Gone are first team, all-area selection Ryan Celoskey (Schoolcraft College), second-team all-area choice Mark Willoughby and third-team pick Anthony Coratti.

Coratti had a deep bench and several of those players return to help forward Matt Cavie (6-3) and Ryan Clark (6-2).

"Clark was a steady rebounder for us, and Jakacki is a third-year starter and was the quarterback on our football team," Coratti said. "I expect him to be our top scorer."

The Shamrocks have a couple of other returning seniors.

Jeff Niemiec (6-3) and Steve

Wasi (6-2) are coming off good summers. "Coratti said, 'Both of them can really shoot the ball.'"

In addition, the Shamrocks feature prominent size for the first time since Chris Young took his 6-foot-9 frame up the road to the University of Michigan.

Coratti says he'll go easy on 6-foot-9 sophomore Dan Waterstradt. But if the youngster can carry the mail, his coach will put more letters in his pouch.

The coach says 6-foot-2 guard Jim Cash is another sophomore with a bankable outside shot. Then there's Ryan Wroblewski (6-0), who caught the winning pass in CC's state football championship win.

"Wroblewski is coming off a good football season, and I'm looking for him to be our floor leader," Coratti said. "We think he's tall but he's slender. We'll break him

in easy and see how it goes.

"Cash is a pretty good shooter, and we're looking to use him in some different situations."

Junior guard Jared Henderson (6-1) could also play a prominent role.

How well CC does in the Catholic League will depend on how well and how quickly every team comes together.

"The Catholic League should be interesting this season," Coratti said. "Most of the teams were senior teams last year. It's hard to tell who's going to emerge."

"We have as good a chance as anyone. Warren DeLaSalle and Harper Woods Notre Dame have seniors. And when you've got seniors, it's pretty nice."

The Shamrocks have seniors. They're just relatively inexperienced seniors, for the most part.

BASKETBALL PREVIEWS

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN

Head coach: Joel Lloyd, second season. League affiliation: WLA (Lakes Division). Last year's record: 5-15. Notable losses to graduation: Brent Boge, Mike Frank.

Leading returnees: Jeff Brantley (5-9, Sr. G); Anthony Harrell (6-0, Sr. G); Dwight Garbush (5-11, Sr. G); Daniel Smith (6-2, Jr. F); Mike Tiller (5-11, Sr. F).

Promising newcomers: Daniel Wilson (6-5, Jr. F); DeAnthony Granberry (6-0, Soph. G); Jeremy Smith (6-2, Jr. G).

Lloyd's 2001-2002 outlook: "We should be much improved. We have very strong guard play to go along with two solid post players. I feel confident that we can compete very strongly within our league."

Head coach: John Senti, second season. League affiliation: WLA (Western). Last year's record: 7-14. Notable losses to graduation: Joe Ruggiero (All-Area first team, now at Wayne State); Mike Copeland; Chris Patterson; Ian Reed.

Leading returnees: Mike Patta (6-5, Sr. F); Matt Austin (6-3, Sr. F); Chad Reed (5-10, Sr. G); Brian Laskowski (6-3, Jr. F); Tyrone Martin (6-4, Sr. G).

Promising newcomers: Hassan Ahmad (6-0, Sr. G, transfer from Westland John Glenn); Cory Beard (5-10, Jr. G); Capt. Josh Wilson (5-6, Jr. G); Eddie Jackson (5-6, Jr. G); Derek Opitt (6-3, Jr. G); Chris Austin (6-4, Jr. G); Brian Graham (6-7, Jr. G); Adam Segue (5-10, Jr. G); Ron Hoffman (5-10, Jr. G).

Senti's 2001-2002 outlook: "We are more athletic than we were last year. We're deeper than we were last year, too, but we certainly lack experience. We don't have one guy that's going to replace Joe (Ruggiero). It's going to be more balanced than last year."

LYONIA STEVENSON

Head coach: Bill Dyer, second season. Last year's record: 4-14. Notable losses to graduation: Scott Wilson; Steve Laker.

Leading returnees: Tim Shaw (6-2, Sr. F); Steve Meadows (6-0, Sr. G); Adam Carpenter (6-3, Sr. G/F); Josh Silvestri (6-2, Jr. G); Glenn Garant (6-4, Jr. G/F); Pete Shaw (6-4, Jr. F); Andrew Shaw (6-1, Jr. G); Kurt Hattilo (6-0, Sr. G/F).

Promising newcomers: Aaron Allison (5-10, Jr. F); Justin Lohman (6-1, Jr. F); Mikhael Dobbie (5-9, Jr. G, transfer from Detroit, eligible second semester); David Stockman (5-10, Jr. G); Eddie Fields (5-11, Sr. F, recovering from knee injury).

Murphy's 2001-2002 outlook: "We'll be athletic, physical and aggressive. We'll play three fourths of the game and do a lot of running. We'll look to (Tim) Shaw and Meadows and Carpenter for a lot of leadership and scoring. We'll need some real consistent play out of Pete and Andrew Shaw. As a quarterback, (Pete) has a real good sense of what needs to be done. He gives everything he can and doesn't complain."

LYONIA CLARENCEVILLE

Head coach: Kevin Murphy, second season. League affiliation: Metro Conference. Last year's record: 8-13. Notable losses to graduation: Scott Wilson; Steve Laker.

Leading returnees: Tim Shaw (6-2, Sr. F); Steve Meadows (6-0, Sr. G); Adam Carpenter (6-3, Sr. G/F); Josh Silvestri (6-2, Jr. G); Glenn Garant (6-4, Jr. G/F); Pete Shaw (6-4, Jr. F); Andrew Shaw (6-1, Jr. G); Kurt Hattilo (6-0, Sr. G/F).

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Falcons from page B1

Kosinski and Nagy are the only sure starters. Nelson is a 6-foot guard who will challenge others for playing time.

Two of the top players moving up from the JV are junior guards Jeff McCullough (6-1) and Brandon Tucker (6-0).

"Jeff has a lot of skills and a good understanding of the game," Korpusik said. "For the first time, he'll play the most natural position for him."

"As a freshman, we had no choice but to play him at point guard. Having Ryan as more of a natural point, Jeff is more of a two guard. The position suits his ability more."

Tucker has shown improvement on and off the court,

becoming a better student and player, according to his coach.

"To this point, he has really turned it around," Korpusik said. "He has done everything he can to get himself to where he can play for us. He should be awfully proud of himself."

Three seniors are new to the team — 6-9 guard Ryan Chatman, who is new to organized ball; 6-0 guard Vincoo Hingwe, who moved to the U.S. from India last summer; and 6-1 forward Chad Moore.

Moving up from the JV are juniors Matt Cave, 6-3 post; Andy Brown, 6-10 post; Dru Frechette, 6-9 guard; and Jerry Shinkinson, 6-3 post.

Korpusik said he would have a

better idea who would be in the starting lineup after a scrimmage Saturday.

"Right now it doesn't matter who starts," he said. "From game to game, we'll find the best combination and go with them."

Lack of size and experience are challenges the Falcons have to address, as well as the transition to a new coach, Korpusik said.

"The way I run practices and manage offensive and defensive situations is different from the way Denny used to do it," he said. "I have to go with what I'm comfortable with, so the kids are adjusting to a different style of play."

"Another challenge is the schedule. Seven of our first nine

games are on the road. We're not home until Jan. 8."

Korpusik, who teaches history at Farmington High, likes what he has seen from his players in preseason workouts.

"We haven't had a bad practice yet," he said. "I think our team is very spirited and has a lot of willingness to learn. I like the current attitude."

"For the team as a whole, I want us to improve our individual skills and understanding of how the game should be played successfully."

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