



Veteran player: Matt Elsey is one of eight Harrison seniors and four starters who return for this season.

Hawks from page B1

said. "Fundamentally, he's an incredibly sound post player. He has tremendous footwork and strength in his hands."

Condeni, who averaged 10 points and 11 rebounds, missed five games with an ankle injury. "When he's healthy and playing well, we're at our best," Turnquist added.

The fourth returning starter is wingman Matt Elsey (6-1, 180), a three-year varsity player like Mayberry and Condeni. Elsey averaged eight points and six rebounds.

"He's our do-everything player," Turnquist said. "He'll do the dirty work on defense when we need it; he's an underappreciated rebounder for his size and, without question, our most active player on the floor."

"He can have an impact at both ends, and he's not afraid to give up his body."

The fifth starter will be 6-5, 215-pound senior Steven (Joe) McElroy, who averaged six points and five rebounds in half a season.

"He's incredibly active and just relentless inside," Turnquist said. "More importantly, Joe is a good person; he has many leadership qualities."

Also returning are seniors Bill Richeson, Jeff Ross and Rob Whipple. Richeson (6-0, 195), an inside linebacker in football, will play a backup role at wing.

"He can provide us with a little spark offensively," Turnquist said. "He can shoot the rock from outside, and he's not afraid to take it to the hole."

Ross (6-5, 195) has been bothered by wrist and ankle injuries the last two years, but Turnquist hopes he can put that behind him and have a good season.

"Jeff is playing some catch-up, but he has a tremendous upside that we're hoping to tap," Turnquist said. "He can play the game above the rim and shoot the ball very well from the arc."

Whipple (6-11, 155) had a great summer, too, according to Turnquist, who added Whipple can be effective at either guard spot.

"He has deceptive quickness and is a solid defensive player," Turnquist said.

Five players have moved from the JV to the varsity - senior post Scott Mills (6-7, 220), junior guard Mike Bartley (5-11, 170), junior wing Andy Wingert (6-0, 185) and junior guard Eric Zatkis (6-3, 150), who was the leading scorer on the JV with 11-plus points per game.

The roster is completed by a pair of sophomore transfers - Scott Campbell (6-1, 185) from Detroit DePue and Ronnie Simpson (6-3, 190) from Orchard Lake St. Marys.

Harrison will have a late start as usual due to the football team's extended run to another state title in November.

The Hawks won't play their first game until Tuesday, Dec. 18, when they go to South Lyon.

"We knew we had a pretty fair football team and one that was planning to go quite a ways, and it worked out really well," Turnquist said. "We scheduled the

Traverse City (St. Francis) tournament (Dec. 28-29) to make up for the late start.

"We're looking forward to using that weekend to regroup, bond together and focus on the league season, which starts when we get back."

Turnquist hopes to see his team among the contenders for the Western Lakes Activities

Association title in February.

"We certainly expect to be there," he said. "There is a fine line between expectations and reality, but I really think we have committed ourselves to crossing that line this year."

"I hope we see a payoff this year. This a good group of kids, and I hope they get the rewards."

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**Something for everyone at Michigan ski shops**

By Mickey MacWilliams  
Executive Director of the Michigan Ski Industries Association

Whether you are a "rider" (snowboarder), "glider" (cross country skier) or just enjoy wearing clothing that looks like you came off the slopes, ski and sporting goods shops across the state have a wide assortment of hot new gear for the winter enthusiast.

"Equipment for the slopes has evolved over the years. Where two decades ago everyone was on skis, today we see snowboarders and ski boarders riding the lifts in almost equal numbers with skiers," says Steve Kernner, president of the Michigan Ski Industries Association and director of skiing for Shanty Creek in Bellaire. He adds that many enthusiasts will come out in the morning on their skis and switch to a snowboard in the afternoon (or vice versa). They may take an evening cross-country glide through lift trails, too.

Technical breakthroughs in ski equipment allow new skiers to learn to turn easier, and also improve the technique of the intermediate and advanced skier. The shaped ski, introduced five seasons ago, has literally taken over the market. "We really don't see anything but shaped skis today," says Ken Griffin of Nichols Ski and Patio in Waterford and Dearborn.

Turning a shaped ski is easier than turning a traditional ski. Shaped skis are shorter and wider at the tip and tail but narrower at the waist, where the binding is attached.

"This year we are seeing even shorter ski lengths, deeper sidecuts and more metal used in the cosmetics on the ski's upper layer, creating a rich, classic look," says Hi Stover, a manufacturer's representative from Great Lakes Sports Group in Piquette.

Ski manufacturers are introducing skis and bindings that are integrated and sold as one unit. "This allows the ski to flex consistently from tip to tail, even under the foot, creating more contact with the snow and allowing for better control," says Griffin. Debuting last season at over \$1,000, the price point has come down dramatically for this year. "You can get into an integrated system for around \$600," Griffin adds.

Today, skis are designed for just about every type of skier. Brian Sanderson, handgoods buyer for Boyne Country Sports, says, "We even have a new ski called the Pocket Hocket that is designed for powder skiing and grinding off logs and trees." He adds that race and recreational skis have also been tailored to skier preferences. "There is a ski for every person and purpose."

Many skiers will welcome new advances in ski boots. Called "soft boots," Griffin says they stress comfort without sacrificing performance. Some models even lace up the front, like the ski boots of the 1950s and '60s, but are much more comfortable and technical in look and performance. Dual-tipped skis - or ski boards - are enjoying continued popularity. These skis are shorter than a traditional ski and have a raised tip on both the front and back, allowing wearers to ski forward or backward and bend into terrain gardens and half pipes along with snowboarders. "Ski boards are great because you can go anywhere with them that you can with a snowboard," says Bob Thomas of Don Thomas Sports in Bloomfield Hills.

As the popularity of snowboards continues, Thomas has noticed an interesting phenomenon: experienced boarders are leaning toward strap-in bindings. Strap-in bindings that make riding the lift easier than sitting down to strap and unstrap bindings are still popular, but Thomas notes that the performance-minded boarder is sticking with the strap-in system.

For those who want to enjoy the winter but aren't likely to try snow skates, Bob Frye of Cross Country Ski Headquarters in Roseconum suggests the new adventure skis. "With these skis you can do anything, ski downhill, uphill, on flats, groomed and ungroomed surfaces - even in your back yard," says Frye. Adventure skis are short (130 to 170 centimeters) cross-country skis that are wider than a traditional ski and have metal edges and a no-wax scaled base that allows the wearer to travel uphill without sliding backwards. "They look a lot like a downhill ski, with cross-country ski bindings and a base that lets you go uphill too," Frye adds.

Look for the second part of this article next week.

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