

LADY LANCER BASKETBALL

Belleville East Student Newspaper



By: Steven Stock

A famous saying in sports is that you want to peak at the right time. With only six games left in the regular season for the Lady Lancers, the time is now to go into the playoffs with momentum. As the final stretch comes, it's all about getting to playing their brand of basketball. Over the last few weeks, the Lancers have gone away from that game that we saw in November-December. Over the last 7 games, the Lancers have gone 1-6 with rough defeats. But if there's anything we know about basketball and sports, all it takes is some momentum to change things around. With this group of girls, their talent, and effort, there is no doubt they can turn it around. Fans saw last year that the ladies ended the season well and picked up a huge regional semifinal win over Edwardsville. With a great group of seniors and underclassmen, it can happen.

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The biggest issue for Belleville East lately is putting the ball in the hoop. When the Lady Lancers score 49 points or less, they're 0-13. On the flip side when it's 50 points or more, it's 6-2 with the 2 defeats being very narrow losses. With a great group of scores like Abi Monroe, Aury Brierton, Taylor Smith, and more, it's all about getting up a good shot. "We have girls who can score. We have girls who have bought into this program, and are really working hard" Head Coach Amanda Kemezys has said about her girls.

If the Lancers want to win, it's getting those three involved and other key pieces on the team as well. It'll be crucial to get Taylor Smith going as she is someone who can really score and shoot the ball well, shooting 53% from the field. When she scores 7 or points this year, the Lady Lancers are 5-2, with the two losses being narrow deficits. "She's got that killer instinct. We're trying to keep poking her, keeping it consistent. She always has the green light and we have full confidence in her" Coach Kemezys has spoken on Smith.

The effort from the girls has been there all the season. They're still working their tails off, trying to improve. It takes time and effort, which is what the girls are bringing in.

"The goal is for everyone to give their full effort, from starters to bench players every single night. We need to play with that same effort all the game and be tough the rest of the season," Coach Kemezys mentioned on the effort.

Belleville East will finish out non-conference play Monday (1/29) at Mascoutah and home versus Mater Dei on February 5th. Then, they will finish the last part of conference play with games against Belleville West, O'Fallon, Alton, and East Saint Louis. They will begin their postseason run on February 13th.