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New coach, new opportunity

Center Line's coach Warczinsky prepares to take the squad over the hump

By Sue Teggart
C & G Sports Writer

MADISON HEIGHTS — The Center Line girls basketball team is ready to start a new season under the leadership of a new head coach.

Trevor Warczinsky, who took over coaching duties for Mike Jenkins, is leading the Panthers after previously coaching the JV team the past two seasons.

Having played for him earlier in their careers, the players have made an easy transition.

"I've had most of them on JV," Warczinsky said about his familiarity with the players. "There's only three that I haven't coached ... so it's been a very easy transition for all of us."

"He's probably one of the best coaches since I've played at Center Line," senior captain Stephanie Lee said. "There's no fooling around in practice. We get down to business and have taken steps to improve in big ways."

Center Line begins a new era with six returning varsity players.

Lee (guard) and senior captain Thelmeka Perry (post) will provide the leadership.

Warczinsky said Lee — a four-year varsity player — is the Panthers' best shooter and ball handler, while Perry will control the inside game.

"Stephanie is a solid contributor on both sides of the basketball and leads the team in scoring," Warczinsky said. "Thelmeka is our post presence. She brings a lot of toughness to the team and gets a lot of those stats that don't get noticed."

Rounding out the Panthers' starting five is three-year varsity member and junior point guard Mackenzie Gasowski, and seniors Amber VanDoorne (guard) and Stephanie Stoyka (guard).

Warczinsky said VanDoorne, a senior transfer student, has been a positive asset with her rebounding, while Gasowski is the floor general and controls the offense.

Other returnees include seniors Ashley Marlow (guard) and Jessica Owens (guard). Newcomers are juniors Lindsey Riddell, Jenna Brown and Sidney Wilshire, sophomore Sarah Riehl and freshman Brianna Norfleet.

Lee said Center Line lacks height, but makes up for it in quickness and smart play.



Photo by Tracy Dreslinski
Center Line High junior Lindsey Riddell drives past Madison Heights Bishop Foley senior Kam Hailfeigh during a Dec. 28 game. Center Line aims to make an impact this season with new coach Trevor Warczinsky at the helm.

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"We're a lot smaller than other teams, so we've been practicing being big," Lee said, adding that the team's physical play makes up some for its lack of height. "Everyone's 5 foot 4 or 5 foot 5, but we're really fast. We have a lot of speed."

With the new coach comes a new opportunity for a fresh start. Over the past three seasons, Center Line has gone 27-36. Warczinsky will attempt to turn that around.

At press time, the Panthers were 2-3 overall. They'll now turn their focus to league play.

"Our goal is to win the league, and we think we're capable of doing it," Warczinsky said. "We have high expectations. This is a special group of girls, and I think we can do some good things when we work hard."

Fans can catch Center Line in action at 7 p.m. Jan 7 against New Haven High at home.

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