

WINCHESTER CHATTER.....ISSUE #1....Saturday, January 5, 2019.....DAY 1.....ISSUE #1

How rare is it when a team wins the Waverly and Winchester tournaments back to back? We think only two teams have ever done it. West Central did it under Jeff Abel in 2010-11. And, the only other team to do it was Carrollton, way back in 1957-58 under head coach Dick Hamman. Triopia will try to accomplish the same feat this next week. The Trojans are rolling unbeaten in the first 14 games.

Five of the teams have combined to win seven tournaments already this season. In addition to Waverly, Triopia also claimed the early Beardstown tournament. Payson has won the Pittsfield Turkey Tournament, and the Mississippi Valley Invitational. Porta/AC claimed the Bill Rucks tournament at Mt Pulaski. Western won the North Greene Spartan Classic, and Calhoun won the Carlinville Holiday Tournament.

Triopia is trying to become the first team since Barry West Pike to win the tournament unbeaten. Barry West Pike, before the school became Western, dropped Liberty in the title game 76-69, and finished the tournament at 19-0. Triopia is 14-0 heading into the first game against Brown County today. Triopia was last number one in 1999. The Trojans were unbeaten that year, too, but lost to Liberty in the title game.

Lest we forget, 2<sup>nd</sup> seeded Payson won the title a year ago, beating number 9 Western 59-51 in a tournament that includes 10 upsets. North Greene finished 3<sup>rd</sup>, Brown County 5<sup>th</sup>, and Calhoun won the consolation title. Top seeded West Central was upset in the opening round by number 9 Western 65-53. Payson is looking for back to back titles here at Winchester. The last time it happened, Jeff Krumwiede was coaching the Carrollton Hawks to back to back titles in 2009 and 2010.

Players returning from the all tournament team a year ago included Shawn Bell and Zach Thompson of Triopia, and Drew Evans of West Central. Jonah Hopper of North Greene led the tournament in scoring a year ago with 83 points.

Payson and Rushville Industry have the same ratings as a year ago. Payson is seeded 2<sup>nd</sup>, and plays number 10 Carrollton at 4 this afternoon. Rushville Industry is seeded 14<sup>th</sup>, and finishes the day with number 6 Western at 8:30 tonight.

The 16 teams in the tournament have a combined 113 and 87 mark prior to this week. Triopia, Porta/AC, Payson, West Central and Western all have double digit wins.

Five schools average over 60 points a game. West Central leads all with 65.1 points a game. Payson is at 64.2, and Triopia at 63.5. Camp Point has the best defensive average at 37/7 points a game, followed by Payson at 45.2, and Triopia at 47.8

Two new coaches join the WIT ranks this season. They are Jeff Schmitz, who took over for Jared Hoots at Brown County, and Kyle Watson replaced Tyler Crum at Rushville Industry.

Beware of the 4-12 slot in the third game today. More upsets occur in the third game of the tournament than in any other spot in the first round. Upsets were pulled in two straight years...2016 and 2017. Today's match up is Porta/AC-Greenfield/Northwestern.

Two reminders. All coaches should pick up their all tournament brackets from either me or one of the guys doing the the WEAI broadcast, or from Adam Brockhouse or Denny Vortman. And, thanks again to tournament historian Kent Coultas, who helps provide notes for the tournament. Only 3 more years til the 100<sup>th</sup> tournament.

This is the earliest start for the tournament since 2013. Every five years, it lands on January 5<sup>th</sup>. It squeezes Waverly, but it does allow us to begin planning early for the West Central Illinois Boys All Star Classic. Hint to participating schools and coaches. We will be sending out nominating forms soon.