

WHS Basketball Airs At 5:30 P.M. Tuesday

Written by Mike Kelly

Monday, 21 November 2011 11:41

Watauga High boys basketball coach Rob Sanders has announced that Tuesday's basketball games at Cloudland High School in Roan Mountain, TN., will start 30-minutes early. The JV girls game will officially tip-off at 3:30 p.m.; our coverage begins at 5:30 p.m. on Oldies 100.7 FM. The WHS girls are coming off their first winning season since 2000-01, and their most successful conference season since 1996-97.

They will play a Cloudland team that was 20-11 last season and returns eight players from that team, including five seniors. The Highlanders officially opened the season with a pair of games this past weekend. They defeated Cumberland Gap 68-37 on Friday night; they knocked off Sullivan East 45-36 on Saturday. This is also the first meeting between the WHS girls and Cloudland since the 2002-03 season.

The WHS boys hope to replace a senior class that produced 48 wins that last three years. Jake Pifer, a three-year varsity player and two-year starter, headlines a team that features a lot of new faces.

"As a coaching staff, we just have to find the combinations that will work for us," Sanders said. "This is a good group. They're talented, but they just had to adjust to the game at the varsity level."

Cloudland, which was 27-8 last season and reached the Elite Eight in the Tennessee state playoffs, lost five quality seniors to graduation. Only three players, who say a lot playing time last season return, including three seniors.

Dylan McClellan is their best athlete. According to head coach Brandon Carpenter, who is in his 11th year with the program and his second as head coach, McClellan really came into his own during the second half of last season and was an All-District selection.

The Highlanders are currently 0-3. They lost to Cumberland Gap 63-61 Friday night, and they dropped a pair of games on Saturday, losing to Sullivan East 56-49 and to David Crockett, 93-86.

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