

Inexperienced Eagles Look To Soar

Written by Bob Kelly

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The Heritage Christian girls volleyball team is in a rebuilding mode, but head coach Michelle York has some good players to help her lay the foundation for success in the future.

The ninth-year coach will count on four returning sophomores to lead the team and another two sophomores who will be playing their first year of varsity competition. The Eagles can have up to six sophomores on the court at the same time, a possibility that can lead to some anxious moments for York, but give her a glimpse at the future at the same time.

Sam Rodgers, Payton Fallis, Alyssa Hornback and **Courtney Costlow** each started last year as freshmen and will be joined this year by classmates

Cassidy Ball

and

Shelby Henry

to help form the team's nucleus. York said the players will get help from three returning seniors and other teammates throughout the season.

York said that some of her sophomore starters will have an adjustment to how the game is played on the high school level.

"Most of these kids have a lot of experience on the club level," York said. "They make up for any inexperience on the court by their hustle and great effort they display each game."

The Eagles' schedule is laced with perennial strong volleyball programs such as Bishop Chatard, Cathedral and Westfield, as well as Lawrence Central and Lawrence North in the Lawrence Central Invitational set for Saturday, August 25. "I think we always will have expectations to win our sectional and be competitive and successful in the season," York said. "Our goal is to take each game by game and practice by practice in order to improve to make a difference."

York said her team's theme for this season is, "win the day."

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York explained that Heritage Christian came up with the theme based on its school being faith-based and it is not just about winning the game, but also succeeding academically to where we are the only ones who are in control of our day."

"We are not an impressive team when we warm-up, and we tend to have teams take us lightly and that can play to our advantage," York said. "I think if nothing else, we want to give everybody a good match."