

SPORTS

Young players, transfers, bulk of Raider basketball team

PAIGE BOLEK

Writer

This year many teams are seeing a lack of seniors. The boys basketball team is a prime example. Not only is their team young, they have several players that transferred to Bloomington High School.

Senior James Wimp was on varsity last year and is a captain of the team. This year, there are only two returning seniors out of the five on the team and Wimp is one of them.

“Well with a young team a lot of learning takes place and that’s when leadership comes in,” said Wimp. “You have to help them out and point things out to help them understand.”

Many teams that BHS plays have a definite height advantage on the basketball team, but the



Juniors Cole Jackson (left) and teammate Brandon Monroe (right) get pumped up for the home opener against Champaign Centennial. This season, the team is mostly younger players.

Francesca Pelusi

new coaching staff is not letting that get in the way.

“Things are better than expected especially with us being so much smaller than all the other teams,” said Wimp. “Everyone is stepping up and the new coaches are pushing us making us better all around.”

New to the team this year, are four boys from different schools. Junior Cairie Brown is from Normal Community High School, junior Jeremy Fields is from University High School, and seniors Terrance and Tim Richmond, are from Thornton High School in Chicago.

“I transferred to Bloomington because the program is tougher and the competition level is better than U-High’s,” said Fields. “So far it’s been fun, but a big challenge because we work way harder than I did at U-High.”

Alabama may prevail in Bowl Championship Series

MAX JOHNSON

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At the end of the college football season the top teams in the nation are awarded the opportunity to play in one of the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) games or possibly a chance to play for the National Championship.

The Florida Gators were ranked number one in the nation in both the BCS and AP standings every week of the season this year. After being out played in the Southeastern Conference championship game in a 32-13 loss to Alabama, the Gators are going to play the undefeated Cincinnati Bearcats in the Allstate Sugar Bowl. The Gators have been consistently dominant for the majority of this season; besides a close 23-20 win over Arkansas and the loss to Alabama. Cincinnati has scored an average of 34 points per game this season against ranked opponents, although they have not played a team in the top 10 of the BCS polls they have proven themselves more than the Gators at this point in the season. The Bearcats are a much more balanced team and can be flexible in tight situations. However, Florida’s Tim Tebow will be playing his last game as a Gator and he has had arguably the most successful college career of all time. He will be playing with all he has, which must be taken into consideration. It will no doubt be a close game, but in the end the Bearcats will sneak past the Gators 23-20.

There were four teams to finish the regular season undefeated, two of which will face each other in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. The Boise State Broncos and the Texas Christian University Horned Frogs are fighting for the win in this bowl game. Both teams’ quarterbacks are statistically ranked in the top five of the nation with Boise State’s Kellen Moore number one and TCU’s Andy

Dalton ranked fourth respectively. This high level of quarterback play sets up some unique challenges for both teams. Both have explosive offenses, scoring more than 50 points in a combined seven games over the course of the season. However, Boise State has consistently dominated its opponents this season and I do not see that stopping anytime soon.

The BCS National Championship is what every team in the country strives to finish their season with. This year’s lucky contenders are the number one Alabama Crimson Tide and the number two Texas Longhorns. Alabama is coming into this game on a high note after a dominating win over conference rival Florida in the SEC championship game. In this game, not only did they secure themselves a spot in the national title game, but they also showed the rebirth of their running game with running back Mark Ingram running for 113 yards and three touchdowns against a great Florida defense. The Crimson Tide not only ran for a combined 251 yards in this game, but junior quarterback Greg McElroy threw for 231 yards. Texas had a different experience in their game against Nebraska en route to claiming the Big 12 title. Texas was the obvious favorite against the 22nd ranked Nebraska but the game was a rough ride indeed for the Longhorns. Senior quarterback Colt McCoy threw for a season low 184 yards and three interceptions. This was also the only game of the year where McCoy did not throw for a touchdown. McCoy was not the only problem for Texas their running game struggled greatly only recording a total of 18 yards on the ground. Texas had to rely on a last second 46 yard field goal to secure their 13-12 victory. Although Texas did have a season defining 41-14 win over then #14 Oklahoma State in Week 8, it is hard to see the Longhorns beating Alabama. On the back of their strong running game, Alabama will beat the Longhorns 34-14 and be this year’s national champions.