

'Together' key word for Eagles

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Brady boys carry over chemistry formed during fall season.

Experience, height and speed are not new concepts for Brady boys basketball coach Rich Britten.

In fact, the Eagles have searched for that combination of strengths for several years.

Finally, all three may have fallen together in the 2010-11 season.

"Our average height is better than it has been for a long time," Britten said of his 23 boys out for basketball. "And I think we've gotten quicker too."

But it's experience at the core that Britten hopes will make a difference between last year's 4-16 record and winning ways this winter.

"We've got a couple of juniors and a couple of seniors who played a lot of basketball together over the summer," Britten said.

Seniors Kyle Pohlman and Christian Arterburn received all-conference honorable mention in the Sandhills Conference last year.

They combine with juniors Tyler Egenberger and transfer Sawyer Burke for a solid nucleus.

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EAGLE BOYS BASKETBALL	
Dec. 9—at Wauneta-Palisade, 7:30 p.m.	Jan. 20—at Mullen, 7:45 p.m.
Dec. 10—PAXTON, 8 p.m.	Jan. 21—STAPLETON/McPHERSON COUNTY, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 11—at Cody-Kilgore, 8:30 p.m.	Jan. 24-25—SANDHILLS CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT AT BRADY
Dec. 17—HITCHCOCK COUNTY, 7:30 p.m.	FEB. 1—WALLACE, 7:30 P.M.
Dec. 18—at Loomis, 7:30 p.m.	Feb. 4—RYANNIS, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 20-21—at Maxwell Boostertournament	Feb. 11—at Medicine Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 27-29—BRADY HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT	Feb. 18—at Sandhills, 8 p.m.
Jan. 8—ARTHUR COUNTY, 6 p.m.	Feb. 21-24—02-9 sub-district at Cozad
Jan. 14—HAYES CENTER, 8 p.m.	March 1—District final
Jan. 15—South Loup at Arnold, 7:30 p.m.	March 10-12—State tournament at Lincoln

With a host of post players each 6-foot-2 or taller, Britten hopes he's got the chemistry for a successful season.

"The key word for us is going to be together," Britten said. "We need to carry the teamwork concept we built during football over to the basketball court."

Britten said the Eagles will also focus strongly on maintaining mental and physical strength throughout games.

"Sometimes last year, halftime was not our friend," he said. "It's easy to come out strong at the beginning of the game but we have to be able to sustain that through four quarters."

The Eagles open the season Friday at Wauneta-Palisade. The Broncos lost several athletes from their 21-3 team last year.

"We need to have a strong start," Britten said. "If we can come home with a win over Wauneta-Palisade, I think that would set the tone for the season."

Britten predicts Mullen, Sandhills/Thedford and Arthur County will be pre-season favorites in the Sandhills Conference.

"It's going to be a tough road," the coach said. "There are definitely no

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