

New players ready to go at Amherst

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**
Reporter

There are plenty of spots to fill on this year's Amherst girls basketball team.

Five seniors who scored 33 points per game from the 2006-07 team graduated, including the team's top two scorers, Jodi Battaglia (10.2 points) and Liz Reid (9.5 points). Also gone are Mollie Lang (team-best 37 steals), Shannon McGuire (hit team-best 50 percent from three-point range) and Stephine Woods (averaged three points, forced many turnovers).

Amherst coach JoAnna Fildes didn't have a starting lineup as of press time but feels this year's seniors are ready to go.

"This year's team learned a lot from the seniors over the years and are ready to compete at the varsity level," said Fildes.

At guard, Fildes brings back seniors Casey Martin and Daisy Timlin.

"Both bring leadership and confidence to the court as seniors," said Fildes. "Martin has a great outside shot and sees the court very well. Daisy is entering her third season at the varsity level. She has confidence to distribute the ball and drive to the basket."

Fildes also returns 6-foot-1 senior center Jennifer Newhouse and senior forward Elana Korn, whom she feels complement each other under the basket.

"Jenny controls the boards and has the ability to score in double figures every game," she said. "Elana has a great athletic sense around the basket and reads the play very well. She anticipates what is going to happen next."

Last year, Newhouse averaged five points and was second on the team in total rebounds, grabbing 92. She led the team with 30 blocked shots.

Junior forward Amy Simon has a great outside shot but can also mix it up under the basket, she said.

"She has great athletic abilities all over the court," said Fildes.

Coming from JV are juniors Eva Lankes (guard) and Kaelyn Sullivan and sophomores Casey McGuire (forward/guard) and Rachel Schepart (guard).

Fildes said Lankes brings a lot of athleticism and hustle; Sullivan can step in and mix it up under the basket.

McGuire and Schepart both played key roles in the success of the Amherst JV program last year, Fildes said.

Sophomore transfer Jequana Roberts will also see some playing time as a guard.

Fildes said team strengths are unselfish play, athleticism, the ability to score from inside and outside, working well together and never giving up.

Amherst will not only field a lineup, they're also in a new league. Because of student enroll-



Amherst Central's Amy Simon, right, battles Iroquois defenders during a scrimmage last Friday. Simon is a junior forward who could see playing time this season.

Photo by John Normile

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ment and the addition of a new team, Amherst dropped from

ECIC II to III.

In order to have success in

ECIC III, Fildes said her team has to play together as one.

"We will have to use our strengths and exploit the opponents' weaknesses," she said. "They are hard workers with a 'game on' attitude."

Amherst finished 8-11 last year and lost to Starpoint in the Section VI Class A-1 quarterfinals.

Amherst opened its season on Tuesday against Orchard Park in the first round of the West Seneca West tournament. The result was unavailable before The Bee went to press. The consolation and final are Thursday.

Amherst 2007 Schedule

11-29 vs. West Valley or W.S. West at W.S. West tourn... 5 or 7 p.m.
12-4 Springville 7:30 p.m.
12-7 Cheektowaga 7:30 p.m.
12-11 at Maryvale 7:30 p.m.
12-18 Starpoint..... 7:30 p.m.
12-20 at Pioneer..... 7:30 p.m.
12-27 at Mt. St. Mary's tourn.TBA
12-28 at Mt. St. Mary's tourn.TBA
1-4 Depew..... 7:30 p.m.
1-8 at South..... 7:30 p.m.
1-10 at Tonawanda..... 6:30 p.m.
1-16 at Springville..... 7:30 p.m.
1-18 at Cheektowaga .. 6:30 p.m.
1-24 South..... 7:30 p.m.
1-29 Maryvale..... 7:30 p.m.
2-1 at Starpoint..... 7 p.m.
2-7 Pioneer 7:30 p.m.
2-11 at Depew 7:30 p.m.
2-13 Tonawanda..... 7:30 p.m.

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Team effort needed for East lady cagers

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**
Reporter

If there's one common theme for this year's Williamsville East girls basketball team, it's that everyone will get a chance to contribute.

"They're all so closely matched in skill and ability," said East coach Chris Durr. "I don't see a huge difference between the starters or the kids on the bench but that could change in the next couple of weeks. Everyone is going to contribute in one way, whether it's on defense, scoring or hustling for basketballs."

Durr needs to replace 23 points (team averaged 46 points) from its five departed seniors, including 11 points from center Kaitlin Roseti. Roseti, an All-ECIC Second Team pick, also averaged six rebounds and two blocks per game. She finished her career at East fifth

all-time in points with 681.

Other seniors who graduated were guards Molly Bojanek (6.8 points, led the team in free throw percentage, 76 percent) and Christa Morgante (4.3 points, led the team with 12 three-pointers), who were ECIC Division II First and Second Team selections, respectively and Meghan Scheidemann and Pooja Bakhai.

"As much as the points, we lost a lot of experience," said Durr.

They also lost a lot of size inside with Roseti (6-foot-1) and Scheidemann (5-foot-11), leaving Durr without a dominant presence in the middle for the first time in his 13 years coaching at East.

"I'm not sure if it will be a problem in the league because there's not a lot of height on any of the teams," said Durr. "But this year, we're going to have to commit to boxing out on defense. Our forwards are small but quick and fast and shoot well from the outside so that can be an advantage for us. If we can rebound the ball, we can do OK on the offensive end because the kids are pretty versatile."

The tallest player on the Lady Flames is 5-foot-10 senior forward Anna Stolzenburg, who will start.

Durr does return senior point

guard Bridget Steele and senior shooting guard Jessica Kowalski. Both are team captains and returning starters.

Steele led East last year in assists (67, 2.8 average), steals (53, 2.2 average) and field goal percentage (53 percent, 41 of 77). She was also third in scoring (111 points, 4.6 average).

Steele, a returning ECIC II First Team all-star, has started since she was a sophomore. She earned the team's All Hustle award.

"She's the true essence of a point guard," said Durr. "She likes to get others involved which is sometimes a detriment because she's looking to pass instead of shooting. We need her to score more than she has in the past."

Durr said he also will need more production on offense from Kowalski. She averaged only 2.8 points last year.

Six other returning players are back from last year's team. They are, besides Stolzenburg, senior Courtney Hawkins (5-foot-7 guard), Ally Kotz (5-foot-3 guard), Aleece Burgio (5-foot-9 forward) and juniors Neha Bakhai (5-foot-8 guard/forward) and Taylor Klun (5-foot-9 forward).

Hawkins is coming off an anterior cruciate ligament she suffered in the first round of last

year's sectionals. Klun and Bakhai will start.

Juniors Sarah Dipofi (5-foot-3 guard) and Kristin Ostanski (5-foot-7 guard) and sophomore Becca Rumschik (5-foot-7 guard) and Jordan Kowalski (5-foot-8 forward/guard) move up from JV.

Durr said his team will use its quickness and ability to press on defense to have success this season.

Durr sees his team, along with Hamburg and Iroquois, in the mix for the ECIC Division II title. East finished second in ECIC II last year at 10-2.

The Lady Flames finished 19-5 overall last year and lost to Kenmore East in the Section VI Class A-1 finals.

East 2007 Schedule

11-28 Lockport..... 7:30 p.m.
11-30 at Bloomfield tourn. Bloomfield..... 8:45 p.m.
12-1 at Bloomfield tourn. - Nazareth or Victor 3:30 (consolation) or 5 p.m. (final)
12-4 W.S. East 7:30 p.m.
12-11 Sweet Home 7:30 p.m.
12-14 Lake Shore..... 7:30 p.m.
12-18 at Clarence..... 7:30 p.m.

12-20 at Hamburg 7:30 p.m.
12-27 Will. East tourn. Newfane 5:30 p.m.
12-28 Will. East tourn. North or South 4 (consolation) or 5:30 p.m. (final)
1-4 South..... 7:30 p.m.
1-10 at Iroquois..... 6:30 p.m.
1-15 at W.S. East..... 7:30 p.m.
1-25 Jamestown 7:30 p.m.
1-29 at Sweet Home.... 7:30 p.m.
1-31 at Lake Shore 6:30 p.m.
2-7 Hamburg..... 7:30 p.m.
2-11 at South..... 7:30 p.m.
2-13 Iroquois..... 7:30 p.m.
2-15 North Tonawanda (senior night) 7:30 p.m.

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Fireman's Bowling

Team	Wins	Losses
Eggertsville	65	19
Main-Transit C	49	35
North Amherst	49	35
Getzville	48	36
Swornville	48	36
Main-Transit B	45	39
East Amherst	43	41
Ellicott Creek	42	42
North Bailey	41	43
Harris Hill	37	47
Snyder	37	47

200 games, 550 sets

AJ Swannie 288, 233, 223 — 744; S. Saxer 237, 215 — 646; J. Maine 230, 203, 201 — 634; A. Yambor 238, 206 — 610; F. Garus 223, 201 — 613; S. DiPasquale 235 — 610; B. Goodwill 259 — 606; M. Gaiser 234 — 606; PJ Abbarno 228 — 568; J. Daniels 219 — 572; P. Schara 215 — 583; M. Bandelian 213, 203 — 565; AJ Shisler 205 — 561; B. Krebs 205; W. Leising 203; G. Spoth 203; M. Gravelle 202; J. Clouse 202 — 589; D. Hohl 201; B. Hitzges 201; W. Bieger 200 — 569; J. Matheis 200 — 558; T. Ratzel 200; secret score winner — Mel Spoth and George Zammit, 184

Canisius College to hold baseball camps

The Canisius College baseball program will be holding winter baseball camps at the Koessler Athletic Center, 2001 Main St., at Canisius.

The camps are open for ages 9 through high school.

The camps are: elite hitting camp (Dec. 1 and 8; 6 to 7:30 p.m., 7:30 to 9 p.m., \$125), elite pitching camp (Dec. 15-16, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., \$225 overnight), holiday camp (Dec. 27-29, 1 to 5 p.m., \$95) and three-day hitting camp (Feb. 2, 9, 16; Feb. 3, 10, 17, both sessions 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$85).

Enrollment is limited. All participants will receive a camp T-shirt.

For more information, call head coach Mike McRae at 888-3207 or e-mail mcram@canisius.edu. Brochures are also available by visiting the Canisius College baseball Web site.

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