# 2012-2013 WBL Boys Basketball Preview

Bath
COACH: Doug Davis
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 16-7 overall, 5-4 WBL (5th Place)

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Cole Chambers (Sr., 6-3, G); Logan Rockhold (Sr., 6-0, G); Conner Rockhold (Sr., 6-0, G); Colin Gossard (Jr., 6-2, G); Taren Sullivan (Soph., 6-4, G).

PROMISING NEWCOMERS: Trent Jones (Jr., 6-5, C); Tyler Baxter (Sr., 6-5, C); Hayden Atkins (Jr. 6-3, G); Doug Sanders (Sr., 6-1, G)

TEAM OUTLOOK: Bath lost key players in Brad Davis and Nate Heffner, but returns a good core from last year. Good guard play will be stressed as Taren Sullivan will have to look to be a leader in this veteran ball club. The Wildcats will look to get the ball up the court quick for transition layups or use dribble penetration to free up their snipers.

PREDICTED RECORD: 14-7, 5-4 WBL (5th place, tied with Van Wert and Wapak)

Celina
COACH: Chris Bihn
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 4-5 overall, 9-12 WBL (6th place)

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Ryan Hoyng (Soph., 5-11, G); Matt Buschur (Sr., 6-4, F/C), Aric Fickert (Sr., 6-5, F/C), Braden Billger (Sr., 6-1, G), Kyle Berry (Sr., 6-1, G/F), Braelen Bader (Jr., 5-10, G).

PROMISING NEWCOMERS: Mason Ross (Jr., 6-4, P); Eric Moeder (Soph. 5-10; G); Jack Hinders (5-9, Jr., G); Cole Loughridge (Jr., 5-11, G)

TEAM OUTLOOK: The Bulldogs are questionable in who will be their point guard for the season. Top contenders are Braden Billger, Ryan Hoyng (WBL Honorable Mention as a Freshman), or Braelen Bader. They are one of the best teams in the league size wise, and will look to take advantage of that with Buschur, Ross, and Fickert. The Bulldogs always have fast post players and can always attack off the dribble if the pass to the block is not open.

PREDICTED RECORD: 15-6, 6-3 WBL (4th place)

Defiance
COACH: Kirk Lehman
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 22-2 overall, 8-1 WBL (Co-Champs)

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Trey Guilliam (Jr., 5-11, PG); Jordan Tobias (Sr., 6-5, C)

PROMISING NEWCOMERS: Wade Verhoff (Sr., 5-11, G); Katwan Singleton (Soph., 6-3, G); Emilio Pearson (Jr., 6-4, P/C); Jordan Wiemkan (Jr., 6-4, P); Alex Schrag (Sr. 6-3, P); Alek Smith (Sr., 6-2, G); Will Batt (Jr, 6-0, G); Derek Turner (Jr., 6-0, G); Wes Detter (Soph., 5-8, G).

TEAM OUTLOOK: Defiance loses all of its rotation players except for Guilliam and Tobias, but expect a lot of talented, aggressive JV players from last year to flow right in. Singleton and Verhoff along with Guilliam are expected to be a threat from anywhere around the floor guard-wise. Pearson, Wiemkan, and Tobias complete this team with one of the best post games in the league. They have talent, footwork, size, and determination that can go a long way for Defiance. The Bulldogs will look to use their youth for quick cuts to the basket or dribble penetration. Expect the Bulldogs to still contend with the best in the league.

PREDICTED RECORD: 16-5; 7-2 WBL (3rd place)

Elida
COACH: Denny Thompson
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 23-4 overall, 8-1 WBL (Co-Champs)

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Aric Thompson (Sr., 6-2, G); Dakota Mathias (Jr., 6-3); Ebin Stratton (Sr., 6-3, F); Brandon Stinson (Sr., 6-3, P); Jeremy Newby (Sr., 6-2, P)

PROMISING NEWCOMERS: David Diller (Sr., 5-10, G); Austin Allemier (Soph., 6-0, G); Max Stambaugh (Jr., 6-0, P/G); Trent Long (Jr., 6-1, P); Louis Grey (Jr., 5-10, G).

TEAM OUTLOOK: 1st Team All-WBL player Dakota Mathias is arguably the best player in the league. Elida will go as far as Mathias can take them, and that may very well be another state tournament berth. Mathias will be running the point this year a lot due to the loss of starting point guard Mike McDonald. Led by Stinson and Stratton, this Elida team is one of the best defensive teams Denny Thompson has ever coached. Patience is key on offense, if Elida doesn't let pressure get to them then they're the most dangerous team in Ohio. Look for the Bulldogs to be state ranked with a possibility of going undefeated (as long as they get by OG).

PREDICTED RECORD: 20-1, 8-1 WBL (2nd place)

Kenton
COACH: Terry Rowe
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 5-14 overall, 1-8 WBL (tied for 9th place with St. Marys)

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS (*indicates returning starters): Caleb Halsey (Jr., 6-1, F); Noah Furbush (Jr., 6-4, P), Matt Bahr (Jr., 6-2, G).

PROMISING NEWCOMERS: Grant Sherman (Jr., 6-3, P); Coyln Blackford (Soph., 5-8, PG); Trevor Downing (Soph., 5-11, G); Travis Downing (Soph., 5-11, G).

TEAM OUTLOOK: Kenton loses Mauk and returns only a couple key players with talent. Look for the Wildcats to use its guardplay to get up the court quick and create havoc on defense. Sherman and Furbush will give Kenton much needed size and talent to contend with the best teams. Kenton will likely have a rebuilding year with all the new young players being introduced to varsity play.

PREDICTED RECORD: 4-17, 1-8 WBL (9th place)

Ottawa-Glandorf
COACH: Tyson McGlaughlin
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 15-9 overall, 6-3 WBL (3rd place)

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: T.J. Metzger (Sr., 6-0, G); Matt Kaufman (Sr., 5-10, G); Michael Rosebrock (Sr., 6-4, P); Jake Leopold (Sr., 6-2, P/G), Caleb Siefker (Sr., 6-3., G/P), Eric Beckman (Sr., 5-8, G), Alex Westrick (Sr., 6-6, P), Jaylen Von Sosson (Jr., 6-2, G); Noah Bramlage (Soph., 6-6, P).

PROMISING NEWCOMERS: N/A

TEAM OUTLOOK: OG returns most of its players from a state team a year ago including Noah Bramlage, a sophomore with already full ride offers to play for Miami (OH) and Kent State. This team has it all, speed, size, defense, everything. Many teams will have a struggle with OG as they can hurt you from anywhere on the court with any player. They're the team that coaches love to coach as they crash the boards hard for second chances and turn defense into offense with a blink of an eye. Metzger and Rosebrock lead this talented team with high hopes going into the 2012-2013 season.

PREDICTED RECORD: 20-1, 10-0 WBL (1st place)

Shawnee
COACH: Dick Heath
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 6-15, 2-7 WBL (8th place)

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Thomas Nolte (Jr., 5-11, G); Thad Vernon (Soph., 6-3, G); Trey Brock (Jr., 6-4); Marquis Miller (Soph., 5-11, G); Austin Lause (Sr., 6-2, F); Cole Pohjala (Sr., 6-4, F); Casey Mulcahy (Sr., 6-1, P).

PROMISING NEWCOMERS: Alex Roberts (Jr., 6-3, P); Josh Bishop (Jr., 5-11. G)

TEAM OUTLOOK: A new coach is in place and raises many questions if this Shawnee team can finally compete. They are always looking to push the ball in transition, and will spread the floor and run a basic

motion offense with a few sets worked in. Expect Shawnee to randomly run and jump the ball in man, 2-3, and 1-2-2 defenses, hoping to speed up the tempo and gamble to steal the next pass. With its speed, Shawnee will try to force opponents to panic against pressure, and make the game pace very frantic. However, the Indians will need to work on consistent rebounding. Marquis Miller showed a lot of potential last year and will have to fill a bigger role with Elijah Pughsley not playing this year.

PREDICTED RECORD: 7-14, 2-8 WBL (8th place)

St. Marys
COACH: Dan Hegemier
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 4-16 overall, 1-8 WBL (tied for 9th place with Kenton)

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Garet Fledderjohann (Sr., 5-9, G); Dustin Fisher (Sr., 5-9, G), Austin James (Sr., 6-2, F), Micah Johns (Jr., 6-1, F).

PROMISING NEWCOMERS: Quinn Zaerr (Soph., 6-2, P); Issac Fitzgerald (Soph., 5-11, G); Jared Knous (Jr., 5-10, G).

TEAM OUTLOOK: St. Marys has a whole new personnel in place this year and will look to rebuild. They are very quick, but have a limited individual skill level to attack the basket and create shots or opportunities for teammates. Dustin Fisher and Micah Johns will be looked upon to improve this team where they can be successful in later years.

PREDICTED RECORD: 4-17, 0-10 WBL (10th place)

Van Wert
COACH: Dave Froelich
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 19-5 overall, 6-3 WBL (4th place)

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Joey Hurless (Sr., 5-11, PG); Nik Wolford (Sr., 6-3, P), A.J. Smith (Sr., 6-3, P/G), Caleb Markward (Sr., 5-11, PG).

PROMISING NEWCOMERS: Logan Ray (Sr., 6-5, P); Matt Bidlack (Jr., 6-2, P); Kyle Keber (Jr., 6-1, G); Connor Holliday (Soph., 5-10, G); Chris Miller (Jr., 5-11, G); Michael Smelser (Jr., 5-10, G); Nick Keber (Soph., 5-10, G).

TEAM OUTLOOK: The Cougars are one of the smallest teams Coach Froelich has ever had to coach. Joey Hurless will look to develop an effective support cast before postseason to make a deep tourney run. Their youth and speed will be effective in their motion offense and as long as they play strong, they can be dangerous. Bidlack will have to be a force inside to give the Cougars a post game they most desperately needed last year. Look for Van Wert to be in the middle pack this year.

PREDICTED RECORD: 13-8, 5-4 WBL (5th place, tied with Bath and Wapak)

Wapakoneta
COACH: Matt Bradley
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 8-14 overall, 3-6 WBL (7th place)

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Travis Bertram (Sr., 6-3, P), Jake Buzzard (Sr., 6-5, W/P), Alex Greve (Sr., 6-0, G), Alex Koch (Sr., 5-7, G), Brandon Miller (Sr., 6-2, W/P); Kyle Gibson (Sr., 6-2, W/P), Alec Temple (Jr., 6-8, P).

PROMISING NEWCOMERS: N/A

TEAM OUTLOOK: Wapakoneta returns players who have the ability to put Wapak over the edge and into the top half of the league. Buzzard and Bertram create the best post duo in the league and will have many scoring opportunities with Alex Greve at point. Their size will help them continue to be a team known for offensive rebounding. Wapak fills in the lanes quickly on fast break to get easy layups and aren't hesitant to fire a up a shot from anywhere on the floor. Look for Wapak to be in the mix with Bath and Van Wert after a disappointing season last year filled with close games.

PREDICTED RECORD: 12-9, 5-4 WBL (5th place, tied with Bath and Van Wert)

WBL OVERVIEW:

The boys basketball season is upon us with many questions after a talented 2012 class has departed. Those graduated players include Reggie McAdams, Anthony Kidston, Brad Davis, Josh Scott, Nate Heffner, Jacob Myers, Andy Faller, Seth Rosenbauer, J.D. Meyer, and Scott Moeder. But like always, the WBL is deep in talent and return players such as Dakota Mathias (Jr., Elida), Joey Hurless (Sr., Van Wert), Taren Sullivan (Jr., Bath), Trey Guilliam (Jr., Defiance), Michael Rosebrock (Sr., OG), Matt Buschur (Sr., Celina). Ottawa-Glandorf looks to be the team most capable of running the tables, but Elida is right there behind them determined to make another state run. Celina was a disappointment last year after winning the league in 2010, they're capable of a bounce back year with a new Moeder in town and Matt Buschur standing there ready for his lobs. Defiance lost 6 of their 8 rotation players, but talented JV players and a new post transfer from Tinora will give the Bulldogs an unexpected spark. Van Wert lost Jacob Myers and will have to rely on team play for the first time in a long time because of past superstars such as Myers, Corey Clifton, Jacob Bagley, and Chris Morrow. Their JV team was the best team in the league last year and Van Wert is ready for the Keber boys to emerge at any moment. Bath will be right there to contend with the Cougars as they return 5 key players including Taren Sullivan, a threat who can score 30 points on any given night. Bath lost their only true post in Nate Heffner, but will look for the soccer tandem of the Rockhold twins to beat teams down the floor. Their season will depend highly on their supporting cast as they return a lot of talent, but are they gaining any new talent? The Wildcats are expected to be in the middle pack, but don't be surprised if they challenge teams such as Elida and Defiance, especially on a good shooting night. Wapak returns Alex Greve and will finally make a spark in the WBL. Buzzard will emerge and put the Redskins in a position to upset

teams such as Defiance. Kenton, St. Marys, and Shawnee will be in the bottom pack, there's always next year unless December 21st happens. This year may have the most toss up teams ever in the WBL with Defiance's whole new rotation, Van Wert and Bath's speed but lack of size, and Wapak's unproven potential. If I had to predict, the WBL order would go:

1. Ottawa-Glandorf
2. Elida
3. Defiance
4. Celina
5. Bath
6. Wapakoneta
7. Van Wert
8. Shawnee
9. Kenton
10. St. Marys

MUST ATTEND GAMES:

- Bath @ Defiance – December 14th
- Wapak @ Bath – January 4th
- Van Wert @ Elida – January 11th (student section battle)
- Celina @ Wapak – January 11th
- Bath @ Van Wert – January 18th (sectional final rematch)
- Celina @ Van Wert – January 25th
- Ottawa Glandorf @ Elida – February 1st
- Elida @ Bath – February 8th
- Elida @ Defiance – February 22nd
- Ottawa Glandorf @ Van Wert – Ferbruary 22nd