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Saint Mary's women's basketball preview

By Jon Kingdon



Photo Tod Fierner

With eight seniors and juniors and eight freshmen and sophomores, the Saint Mary's women's basketball team is both experienced and youthful. Entering his 13th year at Saint Mary's and coming off a 20-11 season, head coach Paul Thomas is approaching this season with great optimism: "The team has done a really good job of coming together. They have a strong bond off the court and they are doing a very good job of applying it on the court."

Despite losing their leading scorer to graduation, Stella Beck, who now is playing professionally in Aus-

tralia, the Gaels are returning seven of their next leading scorers from last season. With so many returning players, Thomas' initial goal is to bring the group together: "On the court there is only one ball and they have to share it. That is what practice is about. The job of our players is to make their teammates look the best."

Senior forwards Megan McKay (First team All-Conference) and Sydney Raggio (Second team All-Conference) were the second and third leading scorers and two leading rebounders from last year's team and have become the leaders on the team, says Thomas: "Megan

and Syd have taken over that role. They are both very vocal."

Redshirt senior guard Carly Turner, who missed last season due to a knee injury, is back for her redshirt senior season and is in the school's MBA program. Turner averaged 10.1 points and five rebounds as a junior and was Honorable Mention All-Conference her junior year.

Junior Jasmine Forcadilla, who averaged 7.1 points last season and led the team in assists, is going to be the leader on the floor as the team's point guard. Forwards Madeline Holland and Tyra Moe, center Claire Ferguson and guard

Emily Coddling have all stepped up their game, says Thomas.

Along with the many returning players, Thomas is excited about his three freshmen recruits who he will be counting on to contribute this year: "I love the mix and the makeup of our team. We are going to incorporate the three freshmen on the floor. It is a great way for them to learn and get the game experience and not bear the load of making the majority of the plays."

One of Thomas' goal this season is to "simply make and take more 3 pointers this year." Freshman guard Taycee Wedin, from Milwaukie, Oregon, is being counted on to fulfill that role for the Gaels. Wedin brings an impressive pedigree, having been named second team all-state as a freshman and sophomore and all-state as a junior and senior. Just as impressive, Wedin never lost a regular season game in her high school career and is the all-time leading 3-point maker (359) in Oregon history.

The other two freshman recruits are guards Milly Yates and Sam Simons, both from Australia. Yates was a five-time selection for the New South Wales Metro State team and also won a gold medal in

the Australia Schools Championship, averaging 16 points and six rebounds per game.

Simons brings both size and a good shot to her game, says Thomas: "She is a very good shooter, but more of a scorer. At 6'2", Sam can score both inside and outside, scoring on all three levels." Simons has had a great deal of international experience having competed in Spain, Italy, New Zealand and Fiji.

Thomas likes his options on offense: "Megan is very strong inside and Sydney is very versatile in that along with her strength, she can handle the ball and shoot the ball as well. We are going to enjoy multiple lineups on the floor. We will be more creative with our lineups."

With 19 turnovers a game last season, this is one area Thomas really is looking for improvement: "We have to reduce the number of turnovers and live ball turnovers."

The Gaels have a very competitive non-league schedule, playing games against Pac 12 schools, California, Oregon, Oregon State and Washington State. Says Thomas: "We value the competition."

Saint Mary's opens the season at home against the University of Wyoming on Friday, Nov 9.

Campolindo tops Miramonte in rivalry game, 30-14

By Jon Kingdon



Ryan O'Neil's touchdown run from 12 yards out.

Last Friday, Campolindo played Miramonte in their last regular season game that brought a lot of factors into play. Said Campolindo head coach Kevin Macy: "This game has all the elements. It's a rivalry game. We have the same record coming in and there is also the issue of where we both will get seeded for the playoffs."

In a hard-fought game, Campolindo (8-2) simply outplayed Mi-

ramonte (7-3) in every area coming out on top 30-14.

The Cougars utilized a very balanced offense, gaining 413 yards, passing for 226 yards and running for 187 yards.

Campolindo took the opening kickoff and marched down the field to go ahead 7-0. The drive was highlighted by a 42-yard pass from Grant Harper to Max Schoenberger down to the Miramonte 17-yard line. Af-

ter running back Ryan O'Neil converted on 4th and 2, he finished the drive, scoring from five yards out.

Macy's game plan was to contain Miramonte quarterback Matt Meredith, acknowledging how much respect he had for their passing game. Campolindo kept Meredith under a lot of pressure all game, led by defensive lineman Mason Mastrov (two sacks). Still Meredith was able to utilize both

his arm and his legs to some success. In the second quarter, Meredith ran 47 yards down to the Campolindo 10 yard line and two plays later scrambled around until he found receiver Tanner Swahlin open in the end zone from four yards out, tying the score 7-7. Meredith would finish the game with 169 yards passing and running for 57 yards on 13 carries.

Macy's plan for the offense



Photo Gint Federas

was to establish their running game: "We wanted to run the ball and be more physical than them." Harper's scrambling and running back Kaleo Nelson's running led to O'Neil's second touchdown from 12 yards out. Nelson finished the game with 115 yards on 23 carries and one touchdown and O'Neal gained 48 yards on 10 carries, scoring twice.

Following an interception by linebacker Charlie Craig late in the second quarter, Riley Bruel closed out the scoring in the first half with an 18-yard field goal to put Campolindo ahead 17-7

The second half was a repeat of the first half highlighted by Grant's 48-yard pass to Lucas Allen leading to Nelson's touchdown run and finally a 68-yard touchdown pass to Schoenberger to make the score 30-7.

After a 40-yard pass to Reed Callister, Miramonte closed out the scoring when Meredith threw another touchdown pass to Swahlin from 23 yards out.

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