

Kirkwood women find new homes for hoops

Written by Jim Ecker

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The Kirkwood slogan of "Start Here, Go Anywhere" has turned out to be literally true for all nine sophomores who helped the women's basketball team finish fifth at the national tournament this year with a sparkling 31-6 record.

The nine Eagles plan to continue their basketball careers at four-year colleges in Mississippi, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Minnesota, Illinois and Missouri.

"All of them got new homes," Kirkwood Coach Kim Muhl said Tuesday morning at his office in Johnson Hall.

Ariel Sneed is heading to Southern Mississippi. Peyton Bockholt is enrolling at Limestone in South Carolina. Tyra Polite is returning home to Pennsylvania to play at Clarion. Kirsten Larson and Anna Martensen are both going to Wayne State in Nebraska.

Taylor Silva will play at Southwest Minnesota, Kaycee Kallenberger is going to Augustana in Illinois, Aliyah Isaac has picked Southwest Baptist in Missouri and Cassidy Clark is headed to Truman State in Missouri.

The nine sophomores will be taking a ton of points, rebounds, assists and steals with them to their new homes, leaving six returning freshmen and seven new players as the new group of Eagles for the 2015-16 campaign.

Casey Miles, A.J. Downs, Addie Oberman, Caitlin Sudduth, Cyerra Hutchins and Madison Wood all plan to play for Kirkwood again next season, according to Muhl.

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The seven new players, all incoming freshmen, are:

- + Java Brock, 5-6, G, Cahokia, Ill.
- + Arianna Dampier, 5-9, G/F, Homewood-Flossmoor, Ill.
- + Dominique Jennings, 6-0, F/C, Cahokia, Ill.
- + Lyric Douglas, 6-1, C, Overton, Tenn.
- + Rylee Voss, 6-1, F, English Valleys
- + Mesha Wheatly, 5-5, G, Crete-Monee, Ill.
- + Deleyah Harris, 5-9, G/F, Omaha Northwest, Neb.

"Hopefully we have somebody who can score," Muhl quipped.

Muhl said he'd like to add another post player to the roster, if he can find the right person.

Kate Hartman, who played at Kirkwood, will be joining the program as an assistant coach.

Hartman played at Winona State after Kirkwood

and graduated this past December. She replaces Joe Hruska, who has left the KCC program.