

AL hoop teams finish basketball season with combined 30-2 record

The Andrew Lewis Middle School basketball teams went a combined 30-2 in the just completed season with the only losses coming, twice, to the Pulaski County girls.

The Wolverines boys finished their first season under former Spartan player Adam Rutledge with an undefeated record in 16 game. In their final two games before Christmas the Wolverines defeated Northside, 56-21, and Blacksburg, 57-14, to polish off the undefeated season.

"I believe this makes us the fourth team to go undefeated at Andrew Lewis Middle School," said Rutledge. "We did it my seventh grade year under Richard Morgan and I think they did it the year before last under Coach (Dewayne) Harrell. So, two out of the last three seasons we've gone unbeaten."

Rutledge sees a bright future for the high school team in coming years.

"It's hard to not get excited about the future of Salem Basketball," he said. "There is a great group of kids in the system right now and I feel the same way about the younger groups in the Salem Generals and Salem Rec organizations. The future is bright."

The girls polished off a 14-2 season with a 38-15 win over Blacksburg. For the season, Rosie Horne and Emily Warren were the team's leading scorers, while Evie Van Liew and Elizabeth Keffer patrolled the boards and led the team in rebounding. Emma Elder and Keffer did an excellent job sharing the ball and led the team in assists. Leading the charge defensively, Keffer, Van Lew, Horne, and Elder led the team in steals and blocks.

"This team was as mentally tough as any group I've coached," said coach Nat Franklin. "They just kept playing and battling regardless of the opponent or score. A really great group eighth graders that I believe will help Salem High School in a variety of sports. Happy to be a part of their journey and look forward to seeing all they accomplish in the future."

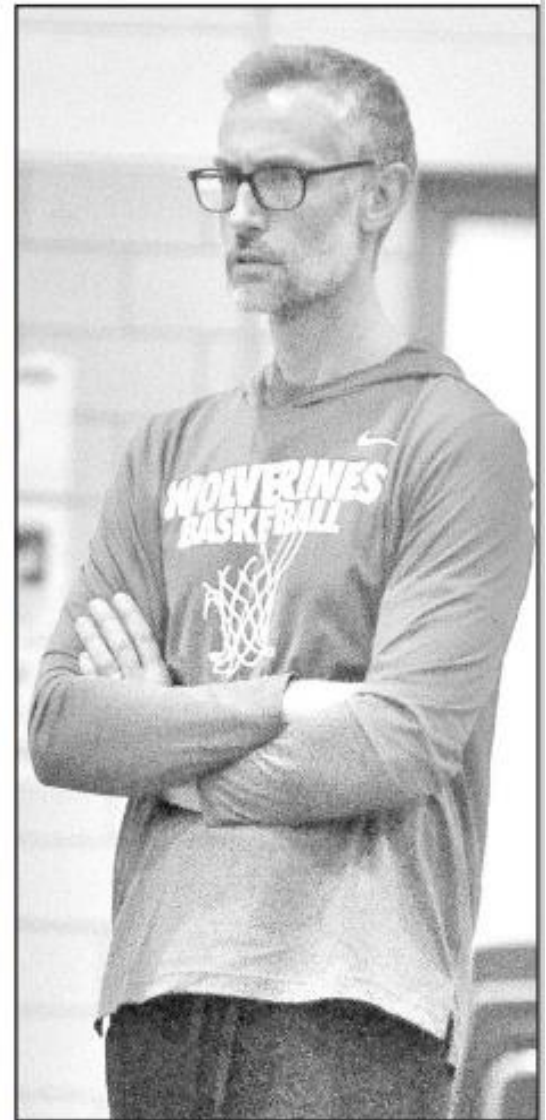


PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Adam Rutledge coached Andrew Lewis to an undefeated season in his first year as Wolverine coach.