



Mackinac Island Lakers



Mackinac Island Begins Season With Strong Numbers

Numbers Increase For Mackinac Island Girls Program

Numbers continue to increase for the Mackinac Island Lakers girls basketball team under third-year coach Mary Patay.

The 15 players in uniform for the Lakers will include three seniors, three juniors, four freshmen, and five eighth grade athletes. Seven are returning to the squad. Seniors returning for their final season are Shelbie Mosley (guard) in her third season, Jane Finkel (guard/forward) returning for her third year on the basketball team, and Holly Leedke (forward) in her second season.

Third-year players are juniors Morgan Brodeur-Bunker (guard), Maggie Chambers (guard/forward), and Marie Bunker (guard/forward), and freshman Zhan'e Nash (center).

Second-year players are eighth grade athletes Jessica Beaune (guard), Amelia Roe (guard), Hailey Armstrong

(guard/forward), Halee Tokarz (forward/guard), and Adrienne Rilenge (guard). First-year players are freshmen Hailey Bean (guard/forward), Rebecca Blanton (forward/guard), and Shannon Blanton (forward).

"The girls are excited about the season," said Coach Patay. "Our first goal is the Northern Lights League and with the mix of talent we have to good chance at winning the league."

Coach Patay's goals haven't changed from previous seasons: "I want the girls to enjoy the sport of basketball, don't get discouraged, and to continue to work hard on fundamentals."

The Lakes compete in the league with Beaver Island, Hannahville, Grand Marais, Paradise, and in non-conference games with Maplewood Baptist, Ojibwe Charter School, and Put-in-Bay, Ohio. The league tournament is scheduled for February 26 and February 27 at Hannahville.

Laker Boys Looking To 4-Peat

The Mackinac Island Lakers are preparing for a possible fourth win of the regular season and tournament title in the Northern Lights League during the 2009-2010 season.

Fifth-year coach Jim Fisher will have to replace three stand-out athletes in Robert Chambers, Michael Gamble, and Tyler McLean, who were graduated last spring. Over the three years of their conference reign, the Lakers have lost more than eight standout players.

Three seniors, Paul Fisher (guard), Thomas Rilenge (forward/center), and Tymon Horn (guard), will return to be the leaders in their final season. Sophomore Anthony Rickley (guard/forward) and freshman Collin Armstrong (guard) round out the returning players for Mackinac Island.

First-year players are senior Jeff Roguska, junior Tyler

Joseph, and eighth grade athletes Colton Fisher and Todd Fridline.

Mackinac Island is one of the original members of the smallest conference Northern Light League (NLL) affiliated with the Michigan High School Athletic Association along with Beaver Island, Paradise, and Grand Marais.

The Lakers schedule includes NLL opponents Hannahville, Beaver Island, Paradise, and Grand Marais and non-conference games against Put-in-Bay, Ohio, Maplewood Baptist Academy and Ojibwe Charter School.

Michigan and Ohio Island Schools Renew Rivalry

The Mackinac Island Lakers and Put-in-Bay Panthers will renew their rivalry on South Bass Island in Ohio Friday, December 11. Girls and boys teams will both compete.

The battle between the Michigan island in Lake Huron and the Ohio island in Lake Erie

began in December 1994, when the Panthers made a trip to the Upper Peninsula for a weekend two-game series against the Lakers.

In the first match-up December 19, 1994, Mackinac Island defeated Put-in-Bay 97-67 as Gabe Cowell scored 38 points, Jack Dehring added 25, Bill Chambers chipped in 18, and Jason Woodard notched 13 for the Lakers. Jeremy Harlan led the Panthers with 38 points.

The Lakers edged the Panthers 68-62 in the rematch the next day as Cowell scored 21 and Dehring added 10 for Mackinac Island. Harlan answered with a game high of 36 points for Put-in-Bay.

Both island schools are small. This year, the Put-in-Bay enrollment is 86 students from pre-kindergarten to grade 12, while Mackinac Island has 79 students from kindergarten through 12th grade.

The Panthers play an independent schedule against freshmen and junior varsity teams on the Ohio mainland, while the Lakers are members of the Northern Lights League and also compete against private schools in the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

The Lakers will leave Mackinac Island Thursday, December 10, and spend the night on the mainland before taking a ferry to Put-in-Bay. They will also take a tour of South Bass Island.

Mackinac Island and Put-in-Bay girls game is scheduled to tip off at 6 p.m. Friday, December 11, with the boys game to follow.



MACKINAC ISLAND LAKERS	
Girls/Boys Basketball	
December	
4-5	Paradise
11-12	at Put-In-Bay, Ohio
16	Ojibwe
January	
8-9	Hannahville
19	at Ojibwe
22-23	at Paradise
29-30	Grand Marais
February	
5-6	at Beaver Island
12-13	at Hannahville
19-20	Beaver Island
26-27	NLL Tourney at Hannahville

Top left: The Mackinac Island Lakers 2009-2010 girls varsity basketball team includes (front, from left) Morgan Brodeur-Bunker-22, Hailey Bean-11, Halee Tokarz-20, Rebecca Blanton-4; (back) Shannon Blanton-13, Jessica Beaune-41, Maggie Chambers-24, Coach Mary Patay, Marie Bunker-32, Hailey Armstrong-10, and Amelia Roe-21. Missing from photograph are Jane Finkel, Zhan'e Nash, Holly Leedke, Shelbie Mosley, and Adrienne Rilenge.

At left: The Mackinac Island Lakers 2009-2010 boys varsity basketball team includes (front, from left) Tyler Joseph-22, Colton Fisher-15, Todd Fridline-5, Collin Armstrong-13; (back) Anthony Rickley-31, Paul Fisher-14, Head Coach Jim Fisher, manager Jamie Bynoe, Tymon Horn-32, and Jeff Roguska-10.