



Pickford Panthers



Paul Griffin Takes Over Girls Hoops Program at Pickford

Paul Griffin, a 1975 graduate of Cedarville High School with more than 20 years of coaching in the Eastern Upper Peninsula, will take over the Pickford Panthers girls basketball program.

"I'm excited and thankful for the opportunity to coach at the varsity level," said Griffin, a 22-year veteran corrections officer at Kinross Correctional Facility.

Presently the assistant baseball coach at Pickford, Coach Griffin will have four players returning from last year, including seniors Callie Smith (guard/forward) and Jenna Ledy (guard) in their third varsity season, senior Amanda Felty (center), and junior Justine Hatfield (forward/center), both in their second year.

First-year players are senior Ariel Niznik (guard), and juniors Michelle Mayer (guard), Melissa Stevenson (guard), Marlee Michalski (forward), and Kelcie Brown (forward), and sophomores Abbie Andrzejak (guard/forward) and Kristen Cline (guard).

"We will get to know each other as a team with each practice and game time," added Griffin. "This is a good group of athletes. We have skilled players with quickness."



The Pickford Panthers 2009-2010 girls basketball team includes (front, from left) Kristen Cline-5, Melissa Stevenson-10, managers Taylor Thurmes, Kayla Rambo, and Elissa Griffin, Michelle Mayer-4, Ariel Niznik-15; (back) Abbie Andrzejak-20, Jenna Ledy-11, Justine Hatfield-22, Kelcie Brown-12, Callie Smith-32, Amanda Felty-23, Marlee Malaski-25, and Head Coach Paul Griffin.

The trio of Justine Hatfield, Callie Smith, and Jenna Ledy will be Panthers captains this season and will be called upon to lead the squad.

The Panthers will play the up-tempo style of basketball

using fast break opportunities and pressure defense.

Josh Galarowic will return to coach the Panthers junior varsity team.

"Our numbers on the varsity and junior varsity are strong,"

said the coach.

Coach Griffin and his wife, Dawn, have four children, Jennifer, 23, Kara, 21, Derek, 15, and Elissa, 11.

Pickford will battle for the Eastern Upper Peninsula Con-

ference title with Brimley, Engadine, Cedarville, and DeTour and will play non-conference games against Rudyard, St. Ignace, Newberry, Gaylord St. Mary, Pellston, and Mackinaw City.

Mckinley Portice To Lead Pickford Panthers Boys Into Hoops Season



The Pickford Panthers 2009-2010 boys varsity basketball team includes (front, from left) managers Lucy and Darcy Bennin, Jordan Lavigne-10, David Hurban-14, Paul Morrison-12, Tom Gough-34, Charley Helsey-30, Matt McBain-40, Thomas Curtis-45; (back) managers Lance Cryderman, Jonathan McBain, Lance Batho, Head Coach Shawn Bennin, Kyle Decker-32, Josh Reid-21, Mckinley Portice-22, Nathan Gregg-52, Isaac Leach-42, Jacob Eddy-24, Dylan Rye, and Assistant Coach Steve McConkey.

As Coach Shawn Bennin begins his third season at Pickford, he will have fourth-year player Mckinley Portice (forward/center/guard), one of the best players in the area, to help build the Panthers team for the 2009-2010 season, joined by seniors Nathan Gregg (center) and Dylan Rye (guard) returning for their second and final season for the Panthers. They will be joined by 12 first-year players.

Ten juniors are making their debut on the varsity, Paul Morrison, Matt McBain, David Hurban, Thomas Curtis, and Charley Helsey at guards, Jacob Ebby, Tim Gough, Cody Becks, and Josh Reid at forwards, and

Kyle Decker at center. Sophomore players are Issac Leach (center) and Jordan Lavigne (guard).

"I am excited about our numbers and the upcoming season," said Coach Bennin. "We have a blend of talent with size and speed that will carry us into the season. Our depth will be stronger and the work ethics of the players will make us a better team."

Coach Bennin and assistant coaches Steve McConkey and Drew Paquin will prepare Pickford to battle for the Eastern Upper Peninsula Conference with Cedarville, DeTour, Engadine, and Brimley. The non-

league schedule includes Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, New-

berry, Mackinaw City, Rudyard, Lincoln-Alcona, and Gaylord

St. Mary to prepare the Panthers for the tournaments.

PICKFORD PANTHERS		28 Cedarville		9 At Lincoln Alcona	
Girls JV/Varsity Basketball		February		12 at Newberry	
December		4 at DeTour		14 Engadine	
1	Newberry	6 Lincoln Alcona		21 at Brimley	
4	at Gaylord St. Mary's	9 at Rudyard		27 at St. Ignace	
7	Rudyard	13 at Escanaba		29 at Cedarville	
11	at Cedarville	18 Engadine		February	
16	at St. Ignace	25 at Brimley		1 Mackinaw City	
18	at DeTour			3 at Sault Ste. Marie	
January		Boys JV/Varsity Basketball		5 DeTour	
4	at Mackinaw City	December		10 at Rudyard	
9	at Lincoln Alcona	8 Sault Ste. Marie		19 at Engadine	
11	Pellston	10 Cedarville		22 Newberry	
13	Mackinaw City	15 St. Ignace		24 Rudyard	
15	at Engadine	17 at DeTour		26 Brimley	
22	Brimley	January		March	
26	St. Ignace	4 at Mackinaw City		2 Gaylord St. Mary's	