Hoops optimistic for season

By David Bishop

The weather is getting colder. Birds are migrating south. Christmas and Santa merchandise pop up at department stores across the nation. All these things mean that winter is coming. Winter brings with it one of Camden High’s favorite sports. Basketball. This year’s team is sure to bring excitement along with it.

Things are looking up for this year’s Camden High School team. The team is compiled of mostly seniors and is very experienced. However, they do not only rely on their older players as there is also a nice mix of sophomores and juniors. The team has high aspirations for itself.

Sophomore Trajon Pate said,“The team is looking very good. I can see us making a run to state.”

To achieve this, the team has laid out several keys to success on the hardwood.

Pate said that “Everyone has to there job each game and we can’t play as individuals, we must work as one.”

Starting point guard and senior Devin Martin believes the secret to a successful season lies with defense. He said “We need to set the tone on defense, with stops and turnovers. Once we do that everything else will fall into place.”

Unlike other sports such as football, the basketball team is not undergoing significant change. The continuity from last year has allowed the team to experience less growing pains and given them an ability to build off of the previous year. They will also have had around a month of practices and scrimmages before playing their first regular season game. This practice time will give them time to bang off rust, work out kinks, and get back into basketball shape. With such high aspirations, there is a new vibe around practice as well.

Regarding practice, Martin said,“Practices are very intense and competitive. Everyone goes hard because you practice how you want to play.”

It may seem that all of this optimism is coming from out of nowhere as last year’s team had an 8-11 record and losses to rivals Lugoff and North Central. However, when you ask anyone around this team, they will quickly and confidently tell you that this year will be different.

Pate says that this year will be different because of how close the team is.

“We play with each other almost every day and have a strong bond,” Pate said.

Martin agreed saying, “We look at each other as one big family of brothers. We argue and fuss but at the end of the day we’re just trying to make each other better.”

This years basketball team is no doubt starting off on the right foot. The entire team appears to be hungry and extremely close-knit. If they can continue that attitude throughout the season, this team can be special.