

# Watchmen head into season under new coach

*Dave Brown takes over a program that finished with a 14-9 overall record last season*

By [B. Scott Anderson](#)

Dave Brown isn't exactly sure what to expect this season.

The C.S. Lewis Academy first-year boys basketball coach, who was hired to replace Bruce Toney this past summer, is in a new school, coaching new players and playing in a new league. It's all quite a bit different than the years when he was an assistant coach in the Newberg High School boys basketball program, a job he resigned prior to last season.

Now at C.S. Lewis, Brown said he is happy with what he's found going from a school of approximately 1,500 students to one of less than 100.

"It's awesome," he said. "It's been fun. I've really enjoyed the small school experience. There are great people and the fact that everybody has been helpful and excited about it is great. I'm liking it."

Under Toney last season, the Watchmen finished fourth in the Casco League with a 9-5 record and a 14-9 overall record. In the opening round of the league playoffs, the Watchmen fell at Perrydale 42-33 to end their season.

The Watchmen graduated the squad's top three scorers - post Ivan Soppe, forward Andy Keyser and guard Tim Scott - but returned key players such as senior guard Vas Walker, junior guard Ryan Haffner, senior point guard Tim Fodge, senior post Cody Milton, junior guard Blake Boddington and junior guard Gabe Leatherman.

The left-handed Leatherman, who saw significant time at the point guard position last season, has been hampered by an Achilles injury. Brown said Leatherman will be a key for the Watchmen this season once he returns. The only problem is that Brown doesn't know when that will happen.

"We really need (Leatherman)," Brown said. "He's worth at least three or four wins for us. I like him a lot and he wants to play a lot."

Brown, who will be aided by assistant coaches Matt Simpson and Phil James, said he plans to implement a uptempo style to the team and hopes the team will adopt the attitude of the University of Oregon basketball teams from the 1970s, under coach Dick Harter. Those players were known as the Kamikaze Kids for their determination and never-ending hustle that would ultimately lead to victories.

"We'll press and trap and put a lot of pressure on the other team," he said. "We'll try to not get in a situation where we'll not have to outrebound anybody because we won't outrebound anyone. We'll be a pretty good defensive team. Offensively, we'll see how it goes, but the kids are willing. They practice hard and really come to play. they listen and really try to do everything well."

The Watchmen open their season Thursday at Portland Waldorf and at Horizon Christian on Friday. On Dec. 4, the Watchmen open Casco League play with a 7 p.m. game at St. Paul. Brown said he wished the team wasn't facing a league game in its third outing of the season.

"Still, we're going to use the preseason to find out how we can run and how we can score and after that, we're going to find out who will play and what we can run effectively," Brown said.

Whatever happens, Brown said the Watchmen will be an interesting team to watch this season, whether it's at Edwards Elementary gymnasium, where the team plays its home games, or on the road.

"We want to get everyone and all the high school kids and pack Edwards," Brown said. "If they want to watch a fun basketball team, that's the place to go."