

New coach guides C.S. Lewis girls

The Watchmen girls basketball team starts out the season with a pair of road losses

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Krystal Johnson is the new C.S. Lewis Academy girls basketball coach.

Johnson, 29, takes over for Doug Scott, who was fired shortly after last season when the Watchmen went 0-14 in the Casco League and 3-19 overall. The previous season, the Watchmen finished with a 3-22 record.

Johnson's previous coaching stints include an assistant coaching position on the Newberg High School girls freshman basketball team last season. Two years ago, Johnson was the head freshman volleyball coach at Newberg.

Johnson, who is a training manager and barista at Coffee Cottage in Newberg, said the decision to apply for the C.S. Lewis job was an easy one.

"When I was assisting at Newberg, I realized that I really wanted to take a step up and be a head coach of a small Christian school," she said.

Johnson obtained her first taste of being a head varsity coach on Thursday when the Watchmen traveled to Portland Waldorf and suffered a 36-17 loss.

Former Open Bible Christian School starter Kendra Martin, now a home-schooled student, scored nine points to lead the Watchmen. Noelle Hansen scored four, Ashley Cox scored two and Natalie Nibler and Anna Martin added one point

apiece for C.S. Lewis.

The Watchmen played the game without junior point guard Danielle Davis, who had started for the Watchmen the previous two seasons. Davis was nursing an injured knee.

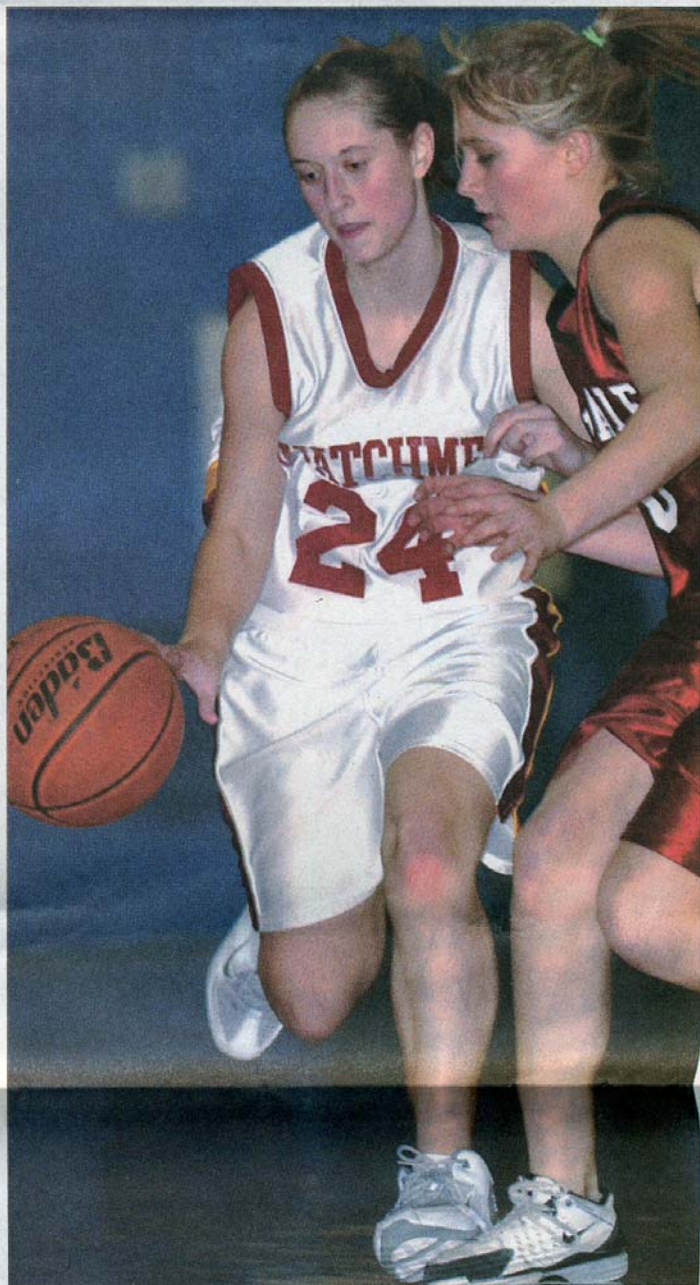
"That was our first game where they pressed us and they came out pretty strong and we had a few turnovers at the beginning," Johnson said. "We handled the pressure extremely well without (Davis) being in the game at all. I was extremely proud of how they handled it. They were very positive and that was nice for me to see."

The following night, the Watchmen, a team of seven players, moved on to play Horizon Christian, a Class 3A squad, and fell 47-27. Davis led the Watchmen with 16 points. Kendra Martin added eight and Nibler scored three for the Watchmen.

"They pressed us again and they're a 3A school, so they were a little bit bigger," Johnson said. "We handled the press a whole lot better having (Davis) in there, though."

In the loss, the Watchmen struggled at the free-throw line and connected on 11 of 26 attempts.

"That would have definitely put us closer," Johnson said of her team's free throw woes. "But for the first two games and only having seven girls, I'm extremely proud of them and we can only grow from here."



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Junior Danielle Davis (left) has been the starting point guard for the C.S. Lewis Academy girls basketball team for the past two seasons.