



TOBY BUSH'S SECOND EDITION of Pearl River Community College Lady Wildcat basketball will be better than his first.

A year ago, his inaugural unit, which was hampered by mid-season academic dismissals, finished with a 2-22 overall mark. But this go around should see a significant upswing.

"We're going to be much better," Bush said. "We've got plenty of depth and are very talented and are going to be able to field several different line ups and looks on the court.

"I expect big things out of this group."

Sophomore forward Courtney Lacoste of Hancock County High is the only returning player from last year's squad, but guard Olivia Magee returns to the squad after a standout season with the Lady Wildcats two years ago under then-head coach Ed Walley.

Bush touts Lacoste's leadership abilities.

"She has experience in this league and has outstanding leadership skills," he said. "Olivia averaged 18 points a game in 2007-2008 and seems to be back in full form."

Other sophomore players include guard Jen Ervin, a transfer from North Georgia College, from Atlanta, Ga.; forward Brittany Weathers, a transfer from Gulf Coast CC (Fla.), from Oak Grove High, and guard Shandell Peters of East Marion High.

"Brittany can be an impact kind of player," Bush said, "and Ervin is a very talented point guard.

"Right now, we're just like most teams around the country in that we're trying to put the right people in the right positions."

Other newcomers to the team include guard Kenyatta Epps of Yazoo City High, forward Sam Fairley of Hattiesburg High, guard Charlene Green of North Pike High, guard-forward Nicole Holder of Lumberton High, point guard Keair Watts of East Marion High, and guard Shundea Windham of Laurel High.

"Nicole can play different positions and that's going to definitely be a plus for us," Bush continued. "Charlene is a great shooter and is going to drop some big shots for us over the year and Jen, Keair, and Shundrea are three very solid points."

Lady 'Cats should be much improved in 2009-2010

■ Toby Bush era enters second season



TOBY BUSH



■ **LADY WILDCAT** head coach Toby Bush enters his second season in 2009-2010 after succeeding long-time mentor Ed Walley who resigned the post in 2008 after eight years. Bush was formerly the head women's coach at Neosho CC in Chanute, Kan.

Bush, who was hired in May 2008 after Walley resigned the post after eight years on the job, previously was head coach at Neosho County CC in Chanute, Kan., in the touted Jayhawk Conference in 2007-2009. But he's no stranger to the MACJC, as he played at Northwest Mississippi under former head coach Mark Dukes the 1993-94 and 1994-95 seasons and served as an assistant at East Central.

Bush will again be assisted by Zaria Williams, who was a graduate assistant at Mercer College in Macon, Ga., when he was an assistant coach.

"Zaria's is just great help," he said. "We've worked together for a long time. She does a tremendous job for us."

Williams, a Destin, Fla., native,

was a standout shooting guard at Okaloosa-Walton CC in Niceville, Fla., from 1999 through 2001; then transferred to the University of West Florida in Pensacola where she played from 2002 until 2004 and earned bachelor of science degree in physical education and exercise science.

From there, she did her graduate assistant stint at Mercer (2004-2006) where she earned her master's degree in holistic education. Williams returned to West Florida as a part-time assistant coach for one season, then served the 2007-2008 season at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Fla., as recruiting coordinator.

Bush was born in Laurel, but raised in Memphis where he graduated from Bartlett High School in 1993 and went on to earn his

bachelor of science degree in physical education in 1999 and his master's degree in sports and leisure commerce in 2006 from the University of Memphis following his two-year Juco stint at Northwest.

Bush served as head student manager for the UM Tiger squad from 1995 until 2001, then served as assistant women's coach and recruiting coordinator at East Central CC in Decatur the 2001-2002 season.

From there, he served as assistant women's coach at Mercer University from 2002 until 2007 before taking over the head coaching reins at Neosho.

Walley's 2002-2003 team won the Region 23 title and a berth in the NJCAA National Tournament in Salina, Kan.