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Sherwood girls: At the threshold

by John Y. Wehmueller | Staff Writer



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For years now, Sandi Williams has been packing her varsity rosters with freshmen.

Some, like graduated 2010 All-Gazette second-teamer Courtney Knight (14.1 points per game) stayed for four

years and developed into good players. Others did not pan out, and were later replaced by another round of fresh faces.

Led by Knight, now-senior Kendall Thomas (10.7) and a large sophomore class, the Warriors reached the .500 mark a year ago. With their six top scorers after Knight returning, this could be the year Williams has been building toward.

"It's definitely getting there," Williams said. "I think the girls realize we could have been above .500 give or take a few errors. It's just the small things. We have a saying, 'It's never the elephant, it's always the gnats, mosquitoes and flies.'"

Thomas, who scored 24 points on eventual state runner-up Gaithersburg last year, is the unquestioned leader. The team's go-to scorer, she will also be its primary ball-handler and one of its best defenders.

Fellow senior Abby Iacangelo is not the scorer Thomas is, but adds another ball-handler and backcourt defender.

Two 6-foot juniors, Katie Ruth (8.1) and Meghan McDonald (6.2), return in the paint. Ruth adds 3-point range to her post arsenal. Alia Smith, Amanda Harrington and Emily Engle round out a large junior class.

Further evidence of the program's maturity: There are three sophomores on the team who played junior varsity last year. Madison Doan, Maddie McCarthy and Lauren Ratino are this year's injection



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