

MAGRUDER

12/2008

Gazette Season Preview

# Tearing down, building over

BY JOHN Y. WEHMUELLER  
STAFF WRITER

The Magruder girls basketball program has now had five head coaches in four years. But turnover hasn't translated into change; paradoxically, starting over is just a part of the culture.

Erin Borsody knows this, and so instead of trying to patch the roof, she demolished the foundations. Only four players return from last year, a handful of freshman are up, and Borsody is embracing the "R" word.

"This will be a rebuilding year for the school," she said. "I'm here to restart the whole program. ... We're looking at it as a positive. Going in, the expectations are different this year."

Borsody, the oldest of an athletic group of siblings, played at St. John's (D.C.) and Goucher College. She has seen rebuilding up close, as the junior varsity coach at Blake (2004-05) and Wootton ('05-08). Both were going nowhere in the early part of the decade; both are now among the county's elite.

A young group of Colonels is hoping to get to that point by the end of their careers. Three returning seniors — guard Keely Dobbs and forwards Lauren Bevan and Laura Chase — provide leadership, but the core of the team is in the under-classes.

The fourth varsity returnee is sophomore guard Amanda Witmer, one of last season's most consistent performers. Witmer averaged 7.3 points per game and was the Colonels' co-leading scorer in their overtime playoff defeat at Gaithersburg.

Of the freshman class, 5-foot-9 forward Pandora Wilson is appears readiest to make a major contribution. She is already the biggest player on an under-sized team.

Other young standouts include freshmen Hannah Chase, Laura's younger sister, and Nadia Salameh, along with sophomore Kristy Kimball, an outside shooter.

The blueprint for the program is what Maggie Dyer did at Wootton, where Borsody spent the last three seasons.

"Maggie's a great role model to have," Borsody said. "We're doing team bonding, making sure everybody's on the same page. ... I'm really excited about the season, actually. I think it will be a good turning point for the girls and the program."



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## Season Preview Cont'd MAGRUDER GIRLS

**Location:** Rockville

**Nickname:** Colonels

**Head coach:** Erin Borsody, 1st year

**State classification:** 4A

**Last year's record:** 4-19

**Last regional title:** 1985 (1st)

**Last state title:** None

**Players to watch:** G Amanda Witmer, F

Lauren Bevan, F Pandora Wilson