

UNDAUNTED

UNDERCLASSMAN



photo by Jay Williams

Jones dribbles the ball at half court in Johnson Arena

By Carlos Molina

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With high school basketball starting back into play, Jeffersonville fans will be looking forward to watching old names, such as returning juniors Bailey Falkenstein and Gerrin Moore, with the leadership of senior Michael Minton.

But few know much of the young, talented freshmen players this year's team will carry.

Jacob Jones, a freshman point guard, will be one of the two freshmen expected to get playing time on Varsity. Trey Coleman, a power/small forward, is also expected to see minutes.

Freshman point guard Jacob Jones looks to put his mark on the 2016-17 basketball season

As for Jones, the 5-9 guard has been playing basketball ever since he started grade school at Maple Elementary. During the offseason, he joins his AAU basketball teams, the 'Ville and the Eric Gordon All-Stars, which has helped the guard out with his ball skills.

"I've been playing basketball since pre-school, and I play AAU all year, and school basketball. So I have a lot of experience," Jones said.

As a freshman, the expectations for Jones are set high; not only by his coach, but as well as his teammates. Junior Gerrin

Moore, who was the last freshman to start in a JHS varsity game in 2014, sees talent in the 15-year-old.

"He's young but a lot is expected from him," Moore said, "He's going to do well setting up the offense and I think he'll be able to add some points to the board."

Jones did exactly that in the home opener, recording 13 points in a season-opening win against No. 7 Southport on Nov. 23.

"I am just expected to help my team win games," Jones said. "Contributing however I can, whether it's scoring, rebounding or playing defense."

With the upcoming season, head coach Joe Luce expects Jones to contribute to his new system by starting him and giving him more playing time in games. His confidence in what Jones can bring to the table has given him a more relaxed player on the court.

"The biggest thing with Jacob is to just relax and play his game," head coach Joe Luce said.

"He's had the chance to experience a lot of different basketball games as far as AAU, junior high and travel ball. It's a lot different playing at eight o'clock on the Varsity level. And with him, we want him to relax and play his game."

Jones' unique and vast skill set has

been what has made him stand out the most of all the other freshman. In the Red Devils scrimmage against Charlestown on Nov. 15, Jones showed what kind of talent he can bring to this year's squad, tallying no turnovers and leading the team with 16 points.

"He brings a lot of energy. He's very quick with the ball, gets it up and down the floor, finds open men and he's very unselfish," Luce said. "The one thing he did in our scrimmage against Charlestown is shoot the ball very well. He's a good decision-maker that plays very hard and brings lots of energy to this team."

Jones, and the rest of the Red Devils, will be back in action at home on Friday, Dec. 9 in a HHC conference matchup against Seymour. JV tip off to begin at 6 p.m., followed by Varsity at 7:30 p.m.



photo by Braxton Troutman

Jones looking for an open teammate in the home opener against the 7th ranked Southport Cardinals



photo by Jay Williams

Jones drives past two Southport defenders to score two of his 13 points in a 65-52 win over No. 7 Southport.

Upcoming Rivalries



Jan. 6, 2017
Home vs New Albany
Start: 7:30 p.m.



Jan. 13, 2017
Home vs Floyd Central
Start: 7:30



Jan. 14, 2017
Away vs Providence
Start: 7:30