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ASHEBORO - Adapting is an important part of succeeding in high school sports. Teams have to adapt and adjust to many things throughout the course of the season. Asheboro High School had a big situation it had to adjust to even before the basketballs were taken out of the closet for tryouts.

Because of renovation projects at the school, the Blue Comets lost their home gymnasium for at least the 2021-22 season. Instead of playing in the comfortable confines of AHS, the team has to pack its bags and make a short trip to the Asheboro Recreation Gymnasium every day for practice and games.

It's an adjustment the Blue Comets seemed to have made rather easily as AHS is a very impressive 11-4 overall and 2-0 inside the talent-laden Mid-Piedmont Conference.

"I love it," said veteran coach Brian Nance. "It reminds me of elementary school - it's packed, it's loud and it's a great atmosphere. At first, I was wondering how much we can practice there. We are on time limits, but it has worked out really good."



Blue Comet basketball teams are calling the Asheboro Recreation Center gymnasium home this season.

It took the players on the team a little longer to share that opinion.

"At first, they weren't too keen on the idea, but I gave them the history of the McCrary gym and the history of our old gym and how they look a lot alike. Inside, it's very similar to our old gym."

Knowing construction would force the Blue Comets off campus, the



Coach Brian Nance (kneeling) addressing the team. Photo by PJ Ward-Brown Photography.

Asheboro Cultural and Recreation Services, led by Jonathan Sermon, stepped in and offered their newly-renovated facility. It took a lot of scheduling between the AHS teams and the local youth basketball leagues playing in the gym, but the result has been one that benefits everyone.

Especially the Blue Comets, who have won four straight and seven of their last eight heading into Tuesday night's scheduled MPC battle with Ledford, which is also off to a great start at 2-0 in the conference and 8-2 overall.

"We're a very young team with only three seniors," Nance said. "Our first game at Lexington, we had 34 turnovers (a 68-58 loss) and it was something different for a lot of them who hadn't played at the varsity level yet. I knew once we got over that stuff, we were going to be alright. We're starting to play with some confidence."

The Blue Comets have had to deal with plenty of adversity. Sadly, a parent of a player passed away, players have missed games for numerous reasons and Covid continues to provide a very tough obstacle to maneuver.

Through it all, led by players like sophomore Jerquarius Stanback, junior Hakeeme Butler, freshman Tyshaun Goldston, junior Tanner Marsh, junior DJ Headen, junior Josh Meadows and seniors Tramir Martin and Khyland Hadley-Lindsay, Asheboro is making a lot of early noise in the newly-realigned MPC.



*Sophomore Jerquarius Stanback.
Photo by PJ Ward-Brown Photography.*



*Freshman Tyshaun Goldston (#21).
Photo by PJ Ward-Brown Photography.*

Two of the underclassmen, Stanback and Goldston, have been extremely impressive.

"We have had a lot of athletes who were football or baseball first and basketball second," Nance said.

"Jerquarius and Tyshawn love to play basketball. When they walk in the gym, you can tell they are basketball kids. We've had some here or there, but those two guys with their size and length are basketball players."

That talent of those two as well as the talent of those around them is beginning to translate in any gymnasium.