

Newton seniors take one final ride at state tournament

Cards hope their Baker's dozen brings good fortune to Wells Fargo Arena

By Troy Hyde
Sports Editor

Trevor Klonglan may not play in the Newton boys' basketball team's state tournament game against seventh-ranked North Polk on Tuesday.

But if he does, he knows exactly what he's going to do and it took him all of 10 seconds to figure it out.

"I'm excited for warmups and to be on the bench supporting the guys," Klonglan said. "And if I get in, I'm shooting it from the NBA 3-point line. I have it all planned."

Klonglan is one of 13 seniors on the Cardinals' roster and he's played in just seven games this season. Four other seniors have played in a similar number of games this winter.

But the relationships between the rare amount of seniors go much deeper than playing time.

"Basketball has always been a big part of my life and this team is like my second family," said senior Brody Fuller, who has played in eight games. "We all bonded together when we first started playing, and I don't want to give up on that."

"It's hard sometimes, but we all have important roles so that's made it easier to stick it out."

Sticking it out for four seasons and not playing much at the varsity level is not common. In today's society, most athletes would just quit because quitting is easier.

But not this group. Not these seniors. They all have roles on the team and they all enjoy each other's company on and off the floor.

"I don't think our team gets enough credit because we have a lot of guys who would play for a lot of other



Troy Hyde/Newton News

The Class 3A No. 6 Newton boys' basketball team features 13 seniors. Those 13 seniors will play in the state basketball tournament at 3:45 p.m. on Tuesday inside Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines. The group includes (front row, from left) Alex Thomason, Trevor Klonglan, Teagan Galanakis and Moses Slaughter. Middle: Kacey Sommars, Brody Fuller, Tade Vanderlaan and Ian Reynolds. Back: Jake Ingle, Brody Bauer, Cole Plowman, Carson Satterfield and Drew Thompson.

teams," senior Brody Bauer said. "It's a testament to them and how much they care about this program that they stuck it out."

"There's a real bond in that. We have grown up together, and we spend a lot of time at each other's houses. That's part of why they are willing to stick it out."

Bauer is one of the sixth-ranked Cardinals' "Big 3" on the floor. He averages 13 points, 5.2 rebounds and 2.6 assists per game, which all rank second on the squad.

He'll be an important player on the

floor when Newton opens state tournament play against North Polk at 3:45 p.m. on Tuesday.

In comparison to the Cardinals' 13 seniors, North Polk's roster on Varsity Bound features six seniors.

The other six teams playing in the Class 3A state tournament have a combined 34 seniors. Top-ranked Bondurant-Farrar's eight seniors are the second-most in the class.

"It's really special that they have stuck it out," Newton head boys basketball coach Jason Carter said. "These kids have done a tremendous job of

showing up and working their tails off all season.

"I feel like we can put our 8-13 against anyone's 8-13 in the state. A lot of these kids who are not playing are good enough to play on other teams. I have been coaching for 16 years and a lot of them would be playing on most teams that I have coached."

The back half of the 13 seniors features Fuller, Klonglan, Alex Thomason, Moses Slaughter and Teagan Galanakis.

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