

## **SEASON PREVIEW: STILLWATER (SECTION 2)**

Last season, Stillwater won their 1st NYSPHSAA State Championship since 1988, defeating Marcellus 59-50 for the Class B title. Coach Craig Burdo spoke with us about this season's team.

Stillwater lost all starters and players who played significant roles in their success: Lukas Lilac , Jaxon Mueller, Thomas McDonough, Carter Wichelns, Kaelen Leak, Brody Burdo, James Cocozzo, and Shea Brown.

To fill this void, Coach Burdo will rely on returning reserves and players up from a strong JV. Potential starters are Jr. PG Mason Wagner – Elite shooter (reserve on last year's team), Jr. PF John Williams – Tough, physical scorer, Jr. Guard Cody LaFountain – Slasher, good shooter, Jr. Guard Aidan Callanan – Athletic, physical player, and Fr. Forward Rocco Schneller- Smooth scorer, good rebounder.

Others who should play key roles are Jr. Forward Ryan Brown – Solid offensive player, can score from anywhere, Jr. Guard Kaden Burdo - Long defensive player, good rebounder, capable shooter, Jr. Forward Justin Putnum – Solid fundamental player, Great passer and rebounder, Sr. Guard Landen Staie – Aggressive defender, Sr. Forward Matt Lutz – Long Athletic player, and Jr. Forward Caleb Vacula Adams with Sr. Guard Jack Stewart and Jr. Guard Nick Rugani rounding out the team.

Key games on their schedule are 1/14 @ Mechanicville, and 12/13 & 1/24 vs Greenwich.

Despite all the losses, Coach Burdo is optimistic about this year's team; "We lost almost all of the scoring and minutes from last year's team. We will be a very young, inexperienced team at the varsity level. The roster has a lot of guys that have seen success on the basketball court. We bring up a bunch of guys from a very successful JV team (16-3 last year). When added to the few returning players, we should be very competitive in the WASAREN league."