

2016-17 Duluth Wildcats Boys Basketball Preview

FROM STAFF REPORTS

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Duluth's Jalen Hodges (12) shoots the ball over Archer's Aleem Ford (5) during Wednesday's class AAAAAA first round state playoff game at Duluth High School in Duluth. (Staff Photo: David Welker)

COACH: Cabral Huff

2015-16 RECORD: 16-10

RETURNING REGULARS:

Jalen Hodges, 6-5, Sr.

Adam Flagler, 6-0, Jr.

Lamont Smith, 6-1, Jr.

Thomas Kenny, 5-10, Sr.

Christian Kelly, 6-2, Jr.

OTHERS TO WATCH:

Alex Powell, 6-10, Soph.

D.J. Smith, 6-0, Jr.

William Huzzie, 6-5, Jr.



OUTLOOK: After last season head coach Eddie Hood stepped down to become the athletic director at Central Gwinnett.

Duluth hit a home run in hiring his replacement in former St. Francis head coach Cabral Huff, who won the 2014 Class A Private state title before becoming an assistant coach at Georgia State and Alcorn State.

He inherits a talented team that went 10-4 in region play last season before being upset by Mill Creek in the first round of the region tournament to miss out on a third straight state playoff trip.

The talented trio of Adam Flagler (11.6 ppg), Lamont Smith (8.9 ppg) and Jalen Hodges (8.6 ppg, 4.7 rpg) are all back. Sophomore big Alex Powell will try to fill the void left from Obinna Ofodile's graduation and William Huzzie has bloomed into a 6-foot-5 forward that could make a big difference after a big year on the gridiron.

"I really think I walked into a great situation," Huff said. "Coach Hood did not leave the cupboard bare. He left it very full. So, I'm excited about that. We had a great summer. Really got a chance to get to know the guys. What they can do well, what they can't do, what we need to work on. We had a lot of games this summer... we played a lot of different people around the state so I was able to see what we needed to work on."

He expects the Wildcats to push the ball and play a fast-paced brand of basketball this season.

"We're going to be up-tempo. We're going to be pushing that basketball at all times. If we're slowing it down there's a problem."

