New faces will be on field for baseball Bearcats

BY THOMAS J. BARR THE ANDERSON NEWS

LAWRENCEBURG — Veteran skipper L.W. Barnes will see a lot of new and young faces when his Anderson County Bearcats take the baseball field this week.

Having lost nine seniors to graduation last spring, many Bearcats will have new opportunities to claim playing time this year.

"We have only four seniors and three of those gained a lot of experience last season, so we will be inexperienced in many positions," said Barnes.

One place there will be no question is behind

the plate. Three-year starter Bailey Cole will be handling the pitching

"He should be one of the best catchers in the region this year," said Barnes. "His leadership and understanding are immeasurable. He will also be utilized on the mound and as a utility player."

Don't be surprised if Cole plays all nine positions this season.

On the hill, Cooper Burgin is another of the top seniors returning. He expect to be in the top three in the rotation, as well as in the outfield when he isn't on the mound.

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OPENER

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The Walton-Verona defense held Anderson County scoreless for a near-eight minute stretch while senior Justin Hester helped his team grow its lead with his shooting from deep in the first half. Hester hit four first half 3-pointers, helping his Bearcats grow a double-digit lead.

Sutherland ended the run and scoring drought for Anderson County with three minutes left in the first half. Walton-Verona was able to hold off any momentum by Anderson County, taking a 27-17 lead into halftime.

In the third quarter, both teams had steady scoring outputs, getting everyone involved. Walton-Verona and Anderson County were held to one three each during the period. Walton-Verona grew its lead to 12 points

going into the fourth quarter.

Anderson County began to fight and clawed its way back into the game with a 7-0 run to cut its deficit to 42-37 with four minutes left to play. However, Walton-Verona responded by getting to the foul line. The Bearcats hit 8-of-10 free throws in the fourth quarter to stave off Anderson County.

Walton-Verona built its lead back up to double-digits, icing the game. Walton-Verona walked away with a 57-44 win to advance to the Eighth Region Semifinals against North Oldham on Monday, March 17 at 6:30 p.m.

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