

# TIME TO...

Comet basketball teams feel they have the talent, team chemistry,

Joseph Spencer | Staff Writer

The Mason girls' varsity basketball team has set some lofty goals for the 2011-12 season, goals that include not just a GMC championship, but a trip to the state's final four in Columbus. The expectations are the highest they have ever been for the girls' varsity basketball team, according to senior center Bri Glover. The Comets return six players who saw action in 18 games or more last year, including Division One basketball recruits, Bri Glover, committed to Xavier, and Kayla McDowell who has received offers from numerous Division One schools.

"Our goals for the year are to win the GMC, and to make it to Ohio State," Glover said. "With the girls we have returning, we are aiming just high as any other year, but we have the opportunity to do something great this year."

Though these goals are extremely high, especially in the tough GMC, head coach Rob Matula believes that the team can achieve them due to the closeness of the team.

"Chemistry will be huge for us this year" Matula said. "We have played together for two to three years and

our team chemistry will be our strongest attribute this year, due to each girl being able to trust the other to have their back on the court and to do their part for



**We've got your back:** senior Bri Glover, (center) returns with strong supporting team members senior Jayla Garner, sophomore Jenna Gunn, sophomore Ashley Brown and junior Aly Herren (left to right).

photo by Corynne Hogan

the team."

According to Glover, with this season's increase in strength and speed due to offseason workouts, the team hopes to continue a long tradition of great defense at Mason.

"This year we are going to win games with strong defense," Glover said. "As a program we have always

prided ourselves in strong defensive play, and this year we hope to take that to the next level."

The Comets open up the year with two of the three teams that tied for second in the league last year, Sycamore and Colerain.

"Night in and night out there are five to six teams this year that will compete for the GMC championship," Matula said. "This is big for us because it will prepare us for a run come tournament time due to the great competition we will be facing."

Junior Kayla McDowell believes that opening with the Aves is helping the team by providing extra motivation in practice.

"The Sycamore game is great motivation for us because starting of the season with such a big games and winning will set us on the right track," McDowell said. "Every day we know that we have to practice as hard we can to prepare for the GMC, but also a pivotal game one."

According to McDowell, the team has the mindset that they can win any game due to the closeness of the girls.

"Right now we are playing with great chemistry, and this will help us greatly during the season," said McDowell. "Being able to trust each other is huge for our team and will hopefully help us win the GMC."

## THE NUMBERS

# 7

Seven football players earned First Team GMC recognition. Seniors Zach Boden, Josh Dooley, Kevin Niehoff, Conner Noe, Marcus Otte, Joesph Spencer and junior Darryl Johnson were first team all conference recipients.

# 0

The amount of losses the Comet chess team has as of November 28. The team is currently 5-0 with wins over Lakota East, Colerain, Fairfield, Hamilton, and Middletown.

# 81

The amount of points Mason High School has currently towards the GMC All Sports trophy. The Comets are in first place after the fall sports season, 8.5 points ahead of second place Lakota East.

# 6

The MHS ice hockey team won scored six goals in a 6-0 shut over rival Indian Hill on November 19.

# 100

Senior volleyball player Anna Carley is a part of the Under Armour All American Team as one of the top 100 senior volleyball players in the country.