

Kodiaks basketball season preview 2017-18

Lethbridge College Kodiaks women's basketball team

2016-17 record: 21-0, first in ACAC south division, won ACAC and CCAA championships

Coaches: Deanna Dotts (head coach, first year), John Lowry, Emma Lowry, Shantaya Strebel.

Head coach in her own words: Coming of a national championship season, and losing six of our top nine players, we are looking to rebuild and redefine who we are as a team. We have a balanced core with a talented incoming class that will all need to step into new roles when the season begins.

Players to watch: We are returning Amy Arbon (guard), Jaclyn Heggie (guard) and Shayna Mathison (post) off of last season's team who all saw significant minutes during regular season and post-season play. Rookies Madi Gladstone (guard), Amy Berryman (forward) and Haylee-Jo Heggie (guard), as well as newcomer Courtney Kwasney (forward) will all play key roles in filling out the roster.

What to keep an eye out for this season: The Kodiaks will be a very defensive minded squad this season. After losing 85 per cent of their scoring from last season, so it will take some time to develop new scorers within the team. However, they have bought into the defensive mind set in order to keep them competitive in as many games as possible. The Kodiaks are fundamentally sound and look to have the growth potential to fight their way towards a playoff position.

Lethbridge College Kodiaks men's basketball team

2016-17 record: 15-6, third in ACAC south division, ACAC silver medalists, tied for fifth at CCAA championships

Coaches: Ryan Heggie (head coach, seventh year), Taylor Jetten, Tyson Pushor, Robert Myles III

Head coach in his own words: Hosting the ACAC championship tournament is exciting for this team! We've made the playoffs in each of my first six seasons here as head coach, however southern Alberta fans have never seen an ACAC Men's playoff game in Lethbridge during that time. We are excited to host and we feel that when March comes our team will be ready to make another run at a banner.

Players to watch: Cory Richardson (point guard) returns to captain the team, Pierce Van Gaalen (guard) is versatile and can play any position, while Keanu Funa (power forward) will be a touch matchup for opposing teams. Transfers Cole Crick (forward), Mike Clemons (guard) and Dan Lybbert (guard) all bring experience to the floor in their first season as Kodiaks.

What to keep an eye out for this season: The ACAC men's south division plays a very good brand of basketball and it will be very tough for any team to win on any given night. The Kodiaks team believes it will have to play a style of basketball that is hard to play against, by playing tough, pushing the ball, sharing the ball and defending the ball. Being a bigger threat from behind the three point line this season will be a key and the team must continue to get scoring from inside to be a threat in the conference.