

Saint Andrew's boys' basketball team needs 'time to grow'

By Gary Curreri

Saint Andrew's boys' basketball coach John O'Connell isn't sure what his team will look like as they march toward the postseason.

It took 35 years and a fourth trip to the championship game for O'Connell to win a championship and he is hopeful they can reach that mountain top again.

"I have no idea, we'll find out," said O'Connell, who won the school's first state championship in 2019-20 with a 57-50 win over Andrew Jackson (Jacksonville) in the Class 3A state final RP Funding Center in Lakeland. The team fell in the regional semifinals last year losing to the eventual champion, Calvary Christian Academy, 61-58.

Saint Andrew's ended that season with a 26-5 record and 13-game winning streak and became the first team to hang a boys' basketball championship banner up in the Saint Andrew's gym. The longtime Saint Andrew's coach said 10 players graduated from last year's team.

"I think there is some talent here, we are very inexperienced," O'Connell said. "We have very, very little varsity experience. We have a lot of guys from last year's JV team and our 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th man back from last year. We have a couple of new pieces.

"We have a little sophomore point guard that moved in from Virginia," he said, "and I think he (Brooklyn Vick) will be a really good piece for this team. We must find an identity. With inexperience, there is immaturity, so it is going to take time to really gain experience and play the Saint Andrew's way. It has been a pretty good blueprint for a while, so it is tough when they are inexperienced because



Saint Andrew's junior small forward Andrew Sineway delivers a dunk for two of his 12 points in a game against visiting Coconut Creek on Nov. 22. Saint Andrew's jumped out to a 35-17 halftime lead and coasted to a 73-39 win. **GARY CURRERI/CONTRIBUTOR**

they don't always buy in right away."

The Scots opened their season with a 73-39 win over visiting Coconut Creek in Boca Raton. Saint Andrew's seized a 35-17 halftime lead and outscored the Cougars 38-22 in the second half to coast to the victory.

Darien Woody scored all 11 of his points in the third quarter to pace Coconut Creek, while Shamal Fredricks and Keydan Anderson added 8 and 7 points, respectively.

"We have a very, very young group," Edmond said. "Between last year with COVID and the experience factor, we are just a building program right now. Unfortunately, we lost a couple of key kids, starters to transfers to Blanche Ely, so we have to adjust and see where we are going to go from there."

Coconut Creek is 31-67 under Edmond as they seek to get back to the postseason. The last time the Cougars reached the state series was in 2015-16 when they finished 18-10 and fell to the eventual state champion Poinciana, 62-55, in the Class 5A regional finals.

Inaugural 'Walk the Walk' to raise money for kids' charities

By Gary Curreri

Everyone is invited to "Walk the Walk" to support children's charities with the Children's Foundation of Palm Beach County.

The organization's inaugural Walk the Walk at the Palm Beaches Marathon is at 10 a.m. Dec. 11 at the Meyer Amphitheater, 104 Datura St., in West Palm Beach.

The walk will take place on Flagler Drive, along the waterfront, and will consist of a 3-mile route (1.5 north and 1.5 south).

"Not only will this event

fund programs for at-risk children in our area," said Pamela Weinroth, executive director of the Children's Foundation of Palm Beach County, "it's a wonderful morning of family fun and activities."

Funds raised will go to support specific programs at over 30 children's nonprofit organizations. Since its inception, the foundation has raised over \$16 million to fund the programs and it has fed, clothed, provided medical and dental services, kept abuse shelters open and sent at-risk children to summer

camp, among other services.

Activities will include food stations with popcorn, pretzels and funnel cakes along with children's activities, including balloon animals, face painting, action videos and more.

Parking opens at 8 a.m. and registration begins at 9 a.m.

Register at childrensfoundationpbc.org/2021-walk-the-walk/. Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$25 for kids under 12. VIP tickets, which include a special hospitality tent as well as valet parking, are \$100. All participants will receive a medal and gifts.

Visit childrensfoundationpbc.org or call 561-488-6980 to become a sponsor or register to walk.

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