

A special season?

Talented Cavemen team has a chance to win their first state championship since 1979



By Bruce Smith
Matchup

The American Fork Cavemen have been looking forward to this season since the buzzer sounded ending last year's 5A championship game.

The Cavemen finished second last year. American Fork's team, and resulting 21-4 record was one of the best in school history, but it wasn't enough to upend the Lone Peak Knights. The Cavemen lost six players from the 2010-11 team, but return the top three scorers – Quincy Bair, Marcel Davis and Austin Waddoups.

"It's not every year you have three returning starters, and more than one Division 1 player," said coach Doug Meacham, who enters his 11th year at American Fork.

It isn't every year ... not usually. However, this is an odd year. It's likely to be a special year of Utah high school basketball, and the Cavemen should be right in the middle of it.

"I'd put Lone Peak, West Jordan and us at the top but every night in region will be a battle for us." Meacham said.

Meacham said the Cavemen players understand they have a special team, and one certainly capable of giving the school its fifth state championship, and first since



Quincy Bair was American Fork's leading scorer last season. ABOVE: Marcel Davis

1979. American Fork's first goal is to win region, but realignment has put the Cavemen against traditional powers like Lone Peak, Pleasant

Grove, Lehi, Bingham and Riverton.

It's an impressive div-

[Continued on next page](#)



ABOVE: Ben Beddes



MIDDLE: Ryan Andrus

RIGHT: Zac Hunter



Continued from previous page

ision, especially in basketball. Last year, all six teams reached the state tournament. If 2010-11 was any indication, Region 4 could be the toughest division in Utah.

So, why could this year be so special for the Cavemen?

Bair, Davis and Waddoups are special players. Bair and Davis were both named first team all-state last season. They are in their fourth year as varsity players and have signed letters-of-intent to play at Utah State next year. Waddoups was honorable mention all-state last year and has received offers from Cornell, BYU Hawaii, West Point, Missouri Southern, and is being recruited by other Division 1 schools.

Bair averaged 12.8 points per game last season and was the team’s top rebounder at 5.3/game.

“Quincy is very talented and again play an important part of our success,” said Meacham. “We have high expectations for him this year.”

Davis averaged 12.0 ppg and has shown an amazing passing ability. He has already broken the school’s career assist record and still has a season to go.

“Marcel has gotten better every year,” said Meacham. “He has bulked up and has made himself into a college – type athlete. He’s a real competitor.”

Waddoups was at 8.6 ppg and nailed 26

three-pointers. He and Davis also ranked 1-2 in steals.

“With Austin and Marcel, it really gives us two solid point guards,” said Meacham. “Both can run the team and shoot the ball.”

And there’s more. Besides the big three, American Fork boasts Danny Beddes, Zac Hunter, Ryan Andrus, Morgan Flinders, Christian Wells and more. Together, it gives the Cavemen more depth than Meacham has seen in his tenure, and even has a lot of the Cavemen alumni salivating.

Beddes (6-foot-5), Hunter (6-6) and Andrus (6-8) also give the Cavemen some size and the three are attracting attention of college recruiters. Even Andrus, who played in 14 games as a freshman and showed a nice shooting touch, is being noticed. Meacham said he has the potential to be one of the best big men to play at American Fork.

Meacham plans to make the Cavemen earn their spot among the school’s best-ever teams. The schedule may be one of the toughest on record, but Meacham thinks it will only help the team prepare for region play.

The non-region schedule features early season games against traditional powers Bountiful, Provo, Alta and Brighton, and a trip to Mesa, Ariz., for a Christmas holiday tournament.

If the team blends well and talent rises, this could be a season to remember.