

# Living the Dream

## Kelly Weigand hired to Weleetka head girls basketball position

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Kelly Weigand has spent most of her life in small towns in Okmulgee County.

From attending Schuler Public Schools to being an assistant girls basketball coach at Dewar High School, Weigand has enjoyed the small-town life.

This school year, Weigand is enjoying life in another small town - Weleetka.

This past May, Weigand was hired as the head girls basketball coach, taking over the Lady Outlaw program after Shawn Campbell resigned from the position at the end of the 2015-16 season.

"I was excited," Weigand said. "I asked 'When can I come down and meet the girls?' and 'When are camps?' because I knew that camps had already been scheduled. It was a just an immediate reaction of being excited."

Immediately after being hired, Weigand was quickly thrown into the 'fire' of being a head coach, as the team attended a camp at Okemah at the end of May.

Weigand is no stranger to small school girls basketball, as the 2006 Schuler graduate was a dominating force both offensively and defensively for the Lady Bulldogs throughout her time at Schuler, including guiding SHS to the state tournament her senior season.

After her high school graduation in May of 2006, Weigand took her basketball skills and knowledge to the collegiate level, attending Oral Roberts University in Tulsa.

After leaving Oral Roberts, Weigand got the itch to go into coaching and became an assistant coach at Bacone College in Muskogee under the head coach Robbie Shay. Weigand was on the Lady Warriors' staff for almost two years before returning to Okmulgee County in 2012, becoming a girls basketball assistant coach under Todd Been.

Near the conclusion of the 2015-16 school year, Weigand felt the urge to be in control of her own team as a head coach.

Around the same time, Weleetka High School was looking to hire a head girls basketball coach for the 2016-17 season, so Weigand put her name in the ring and came out as the best choice to guide the Lady Outlaw team this coming season.

Having played the game of basketball on both the high school and collegiate levels, as well as being an assistant coach for the past six years, Weigand believes it made it an easier transition into becoming a head coach.

"Yes, I would say that, just the overall experience of playing," Weigand said. "Not necessarily playing, but being underneath different coaches, you kind of learn the dos and don'ts of the head coach world as well."

"Coming from a small school, you really know how the system already works and what to expect coaching at a small school level."

When she decided to become a head coach, Weigand wanted to stay as close to Okmulgee County as possible. The Weleetka job allows that dream to become a reality, as Weleetka is less than 60 miles from Okmulgee County.

Weigand will begin her coaching debut this evening (Friday) at 6:30 p.m. in Wetumka when her Lady Outlaws take on their rivals, the Wetumka Lady Chieftains in the 2016-17 season opener.

"We're going to be pretty young," the WHS head coach said, about her 2016-17 squad. "A lot of good freshmen coming up. I'm going to have around 15 and they're going to be pretty versatile, as far as, I've got a few post kids. I have guards that can shoot outside or some that can play inside. We will be able to speed it up (and) slow it down. So, it's going to be pretty exciting."

Weigand has some primary goals that she would like to see her team accomplish this season, which includes making a deep run in the postseason and hopefully a trip to the state tournament in March, as well as winning the conference championship.

One of the more likely goals that the new WHS head coach, as well as assistant Robin Wittman, has set for her young team this season is to find a way to improve each time they take the floor.

"Growing as a team and getting better everyday at what we do," Weigand said, about some of her team's goals this season.

While all of this season's games are important, the game that will be circled on everyone's calendars at both Weleetka and Okmulgee County is January 13, 2017. That will be the date that Weigand will make her return to Dewar, as the former DHS assistant coach will have her team ready to come away with an important win, as it's not just a homecoming of sorts for Weigand, it will also be a conference showdown.

"I think both teams are going to be fired up because I was at Dewar," the Weleetka coach said about her return regardless because everybody is going to get to see each other and get to play each other.

"It's not going to be like 'Hey, I want to beat you because it's you personally. It's going to be 'Hey, we want to win this game.' We're both competitive. Regardless of who you're playing, you always want to go out and win and compete."

Besides the return to Dewar, Weigand and her Lady Outlaw team will be battle-tested throughout the season, as they will compete against other conference teams - Wilson, Hanna, Butner, Graham-Dustin, and Midway, who enters the conference this season. Other opponents



**Weleetka head girls basketball coach Kelly Weigand**

for the first-year head coach will be Depew, Oktaha, Warner, Forum, and Kinta.

Weigand will also guide her Lady Outlaws into three regular-season tournaments this season. The first tournament will be the Quanton Tournament December 8-10. The second regular-season tournament will be the Moss Tournament January 5-7. The final regular-season tournament will be the Paden Tournament January 19-21.

The postseason will get underway with district tournament action February 10-11, followed by the regional tournament the following weekend (February 16-18). If the Lady Outlaws can avoid two losses at the end of the regional tournament, the Weleetka squad will advance to the area tournament February 23-25.

If Weigand and her Weleetka team can find a way to get through the first three rounds of playoff action without suffering two losses, the next step on the Lady Outlaws' journey will be the Class A state tournament in the Oklahoma City area March 2-4.

With her knowledge of small school basketball, Weigand could very well find herself coaching at the state tournament in her very first season as a head coach.

Weigand has this final statement:  
"Go Weleetka Outlaws!"