

Supporting Cast will be Crucial to State Tournament Success

Dave Collins, KSID Sports Director

Kimball begins its 18th Boys State Basketball Tournament in Lincoln Thursday with a match-up against the Freeman Falcons.

Both squads have a pair of go-to scorers that will take a large part of the other side's focus, meaning the supporting cast will be key in this 1st round game.

Kimball is led by senior forwards Mike Daum and Jake Reader, the unquestioned leaders of the team and among the best players in the entire C2 class statewide.

Athletic with an all-around game, the 6'9" Daum can be unstoppable, averaging 25 points per game and 12 boards. A threat to bury three-pointers anywhere inside 30-feet, he's been compared by local coaches to Dallas Mavericks star Dirk Nowitzki. He's headed to South Dakota State for college hoops this fall but there's no doubt his most important goal at this juncture of the season is to win a State Championship.

Reader has the proverbial engine-that-never-quits and is a perfect compliment to Daum with 14 points-per-game and six boards. Both forwards can bring the ball up the floor and pass with a featherlike touch.

Freeman will counter with two skilled 6'1" guards in Isaac Frerichs and Cole Schuster. The pair average over 15 points and 4-5 rebounds each night. Kimball guards Jonathon Withrow, Colton Stull and Henry Heeg will be tasked with keeping an eye on the Falcon backcourt and playing tough defense, while Michael Ferguson can use his wide wingspan to disrupt passing lanes.

Freeman's next five average between 3-5 points a game each and seem to be counted on for similar roles as Kimball's guard grouping – start with strong defense and chip in offensively as a group to finish the job.

Kimball enters the game at 22-3 coming off two incredibly tough, emotional victories over Bridgeport and Ravenna while Freeman comes in at 23-4 with a C2-1 championship in hand.

The Longhorns and Falcons tip off at 2:45 Mountain Time at Lincoln Southeast High School and KSID will carry it live on 98.7 The Blast.