

# Boys basketball: TFCA taking the plunge into KHSAA

By [Linda Younkin](#) [Email the author](#) Published 1:22 pm Tuesday, November 20, 2018



The Frankfort Christian Academy boys basketball team dipped its toe in a new level of competition last year, playing eight games against seven KHSAA opponents in addition to teams in the Kentucky Christian Schools Athletic Association.

This year, the Royals are taking the plunge, playing a full schedule of KHSAA opponents, including all three local high schools.

"Whole feet wet: That's our philosophy," TFCA coach Tim Marcum said. "We have a Bible verse we use on everything, Player of the Game T-shirts, schedules."

The verse is Isaiah 43:2: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you."

Marcum is in his second year coaching the Royals' varsity team after spending a year as the school's middle school coach. He taught in the Owen County school system for 27 years before retiring and coming to TFCA.

Last year, the Royals went 4-4 against KHSAA teams, recording two wins against the Kentucky School for the Deaf and defeating Walden and Eminence.

"It helped get us excited about the season, and more for the players," Marcum said about last year's games. "My background is in public schools, but this is all they know. Last year, we might have played in a church's community center, but now we'll be playing in gyms with legitimate officials."

Marcum said last year's 59-58 loss at Burgin was an eye-opener for his team.

"The place was packed," he said. "They had a band, kids were running around with banners, yelling. Even though we lost by one point and missed a shot at the buzzer, I told my team this is what it should feel like. It lets them feel a little more school pride."

TFCA returns three players from last year's team — seniors Bailey Ridderikhoff and Elijah Douglas and sophomore Zachary Semones. Austin Hawkins is the team's other senior, and the Royals have just one junior, Ethan Marcum.

The Royals open their season at home Tuesday against Portland Christian, the first of 10 home games.

TFCA isn't eligible for district tournament play until next year, but the Royals will compete in the 11th Region All "A" Classic this season, facing Frankfort in the first round on Jan. 15 at F.D. Wilkinson Gymnasium.