

Young hoopsters struggle against top ranked GMC

Although the boys varsity basketball team ended with a 2-19 overall record, this was not representative of the general attitude of the players. Varsity coach Wally Vickers believes that the team members were prepared for the difficulties they would face, and were conscious of the problems associated with being a young, inexperienced team.

"We were very aware that being a team as young as we were, we would have to grow up quickly," said Vickers. "We also suffered many injuries which hurt our continuity."

The varsity squad was made up of only two seniors, with no players returning with varsity experience. Instead, Vickers built his team from junior varsity members and underclassmen. Also, multiple injuries throughout the season caused changes in the line-up for almost every game.

However, Vickers does not try to make any excuses for the teams' less than enviable season. "Obviously with only two wins, there were not many outstanding season highlights," commented Vickers. "What did occur, though, was consistent improvement, and in most cases our players performed much better in the second half of the season."

Sophomore David Smith started for the team this season, and he too was not making any excuses. "This year was a learning experience," he said. "Even though we were disappointed with the end result of the season, we are going to have a lot of young, returning players for next year."

Junior Adam Crockett also looks

forward to changes for next season. "We gained a lot of experience this season, and we were young. There will be no excuses needed for next year."

Imagine you are a basketball coach, and your final record is 7-13. Would you be disappointed? Coach Manuel Lanker was not. "The team was enthusiastic and they played hard all year," said Lanker.

Cary Beck thought they did well despite the finish. "Our record doesn't tell what kind of season we had," he said, "because all of the players improved tremendously and gained a lot of experience," Beck further explained.

At one point in the season they went on a skid of five consecutive losses. "We were really disappointed as a team, but we didn't give up," explained Lanker.

That positive attitude helped them win three of their last five games. Two of those victories came against league rivals Hamilton and Middletown. The win over Middletown was their second, to complete a season sweep over the Middies.

As for expectations, the JV basketball team was able to hold on to them by competing with the teams in their division according to

Varsity Basketball Scoreboard

Western Hills	L 36-57
Lima Sr.	L 51-75
Princeton	L 48-57
Milford	W 64-49
Lakota	L 49-61
Hamilton	L 48-69
Middletown	L 54-76
Walnut Hills	L 48-68
Fairfield	L 39-71
Harrison	L 39-49
Lemon Monroe	L 49-56
Lima Sr.	L 57-74
Princeton	L 53-62
Milford	W 65-61
Lakota	L 63-87
Hamilton	L 49-73
Middletown	L 46-77
Moeller	L 57-65
Cincinnati Hughes	L 52-65
Fairfield	L 41-51
Hamilton	L 34-55

Final Record: 2-19

Boys JV Basketball

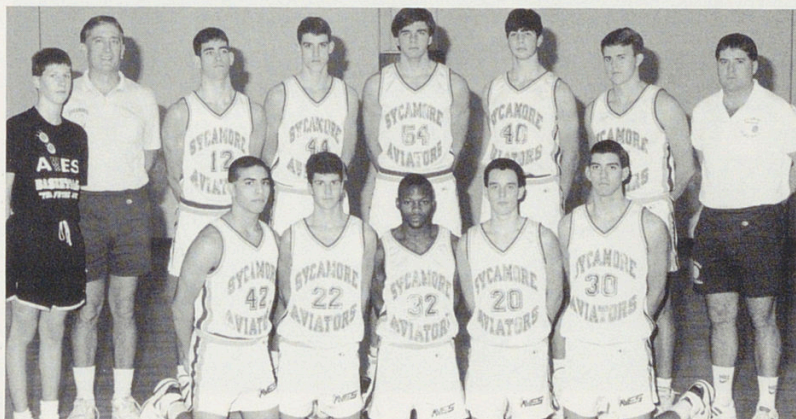
Western Hills	L
Lima	L
Princeton	W
Milford	L
Lakota	L
Hamilton	L
Middletown	W
Walnut Hills	W
Fairfield	L
Harrison	W
Lemon Monroe	L
Lima	L
Princeton	L
Milford	L
Lakota	L
Hamilton	W
Middletown	W
Moeller	L
Hughes	W
Fairfield	L

Final Record: 7-13

Lanker.

When asked what the team could have done to improve their season, coach Lanker said, "We should have won a few of the closer games. It took a long time to discover how to win."

by Scott Webb
and Jon Ruben



Front Row: E. Abusway, R. Taylor, E. Figgins, A. Crockett, D. Smith. Back Row: J. Buken, Coach Gausman, M. Fogelson, C. Beck, T. Urlage, R. Callif, B. Life, Coach Vickers.

