



Richard Clark, 12, gets ready to pass. One of nine seniors on the team, he was part of an interconnected group that served as important leaders for the team. "We had a lot of team chemistry which helped us in our season. So many great memories," said Clark.



David Buchberger, 12, dribbles his way through the defense. He learned the importance of maintaining a positive attitude through the season's ups and downs. He also benefited from the learning experience it proved to be both mentally and physically. "We had a group of nine closely-knit seniors and as a result, there was more leadership and better team chemistry," said Buchberger.

KEEPING THEIR VICTORY ALIVE

Restrictions were only in-court

By: Nate Schlimme
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Play hard and play as a team. That was the motto that team members went by day by day. To reinforce this, the team went through intense training.

"We work very hard at practice everyday working on fundamentals and conditioning. We did a lot of team oriented drills and competitive drills to try and get the kids a sense of wanting to win," said Coach Stan Kaniecki.

Even though the training may have been the same in season, off season was a different story. Players who got ahead spent their off season training in the weight room and practicing their basketball skills. Those who trained even before the season began had a head-start and an advantage which was visible.

Following individual goals, the group goals set the standard for the team's performance in every game. Goals were set for each game statistically, which gave the team an idea of how well they were doing numerically and not just physically.

Teamwork was a must in every game, but there were usually two to three players each time that were more dominant. These key players were frequently passed to because such a pass would almost guarantee a basket. Other games, less dominant players surprised the more dominant ones by stepping it up and contributing more than their usual batch to the game.

"We had a lot of fun and great team chemistry for the most

part. We really came together for some big games like Oak Hills," said Andrew Hancher, 11.

Varsity players were encouraged to pass the ball frequently and equally participate in the game. Still, it did not mean that the team divided up how many points each person would try to score each game. Without psychic abilities, the team had to improvise each time. It was up to team members to know which players had what strength and to utilize that strength.

When time was spent off court, the team got a little break. They had dinners at players' houses and at Silver Springhouse. Nonetheless, they did go back to court for a while to visit some of the freshmen and opponents' games.

The guys, although they were encouraged to be aggressive, still maintained control in their games and never went over the top. The coach told them not to do more than their abilities allowed them to do.

To the boys, losing and winning was an experience, not a determination of the value of the team. Each time the team lost, they were encouraged to work harder. That was the only way to improve and made for wise time spent to enhance the team's performance.

"You should cherish every moment because it will soon be over before you know it," said Zachary Mayer, 12.