



Rima Takieddine, 10, defends her team's territory. Since about seven years old, this girl was in her basketball shorts, passionate about being part of the team. She never regretted one second of it. She loved spending two hours a day and six days a week with her JV team and coach. They had pasta parties together and entertaining bus rides home.



Alexandra Huller, 9, aims for the sky. She had played basketball since second grade and loved it from the first time she began playing it. Spending time with the girls allowed her to find best friends among the teammates.

HALF-COURT SHOTS, FULL-COURT EFFORT

Rebounding with full confidence

By: Feana Krimerman

Another season had come and gone. The old basketballs were gathering dust while spring, summer, and fall passed them by. Then winter came and the basketball courts were full of feet and basketballs simultaneously pounding the luminous floor.

It was game time and the JV and freshman girls basketball teams were ready to bounce back into action.

"We have a pretty big team with 12 girls, but each girl is vital to our wins. We each know our role and do our best everyday to get the whole team better," said **Sarah McCormick, 10**.

The JV team had five freshmen, which was the most they have ever had. However, the rise in freshman members was only a quantitative change.

"I expect my teammates to work as hard as they can. No one likes to lose, but if that happens, everyone, as a team, tried and worked their hardest," said **Joanna Lin, 10**.

Traditions stood firm regardless of change.

"I always have to make my last shot before a game. Also, I always have to do the same routine on the freethrow line," said **Abby Cooper, 9**.

Nevertheless, one's aiming abilities and routines did not have as much impact as knowledge of the game itself.

"To feel confident, I must know what I am doing. If I don't know a play then I can't be confident," said **Brittany Lintz, 9**.

As for winning, the girls did not get too adamant about it. They and their coaches knew the means were more important than the ends.

"I am usually most concerned with our effort. If we played hard and still lost, I handle it better than if I feel we could have done something more," said **Coach Stefany Reedy**.

In terms of losses, they only educated the team and the coaches on how to improve their performance.

"I think coaches take losses especially hard because you feel like there was something you could have done to change the result. A good coach analyzes a loss and then starts to think what can we do as a team to get better and keep this from happening again," said **Coach Victor Harris**.

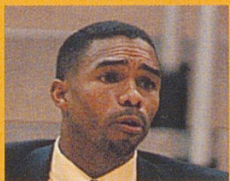
Nonetheless, there was more to basketball than just wins and losses.

"Basketball is important to me because you meet so many people and stay with the same girls, and it's so much fun to have team parties and hang out with the girls," said **Alyson Riedel, 9**.



Kristen Lintz, 9, defends the basket. Lintz thought that she improved her basketball skills since she first began the game. Her toughest competition, she believed, was Lakota West. But the tougher her competition got, the harder she pushed herself to practice with her teammates. "The more you work together as a team in practice, the more you work together as a team on the court," said Lintz.

COACH'S CORNER



"I played basketball all my life. My dad coached basketball for 35 years so it was all I knew growing up. I couldn't imagine not coaching basketball."
-Coach Stefany Reedy

"I think I'm most pleased if I can get everybody into the game. That is my goal every game."
-Coach Victor Harris



Mattie Hulett, 9, stands guard against her blue-uniformed adversary. Out of the seven years she had played basketball, she believed she had never before participated in a team where each girl felt like she had a special role on the team. The girls were very close and cooperative, which led to their success on the court.