

Thoughts on a Championship Season!!

Congratulations to the 2008-09 Germantown Bulldogs. This season certainly was special:

We used Central's Practice Gym for 6 Open Gyms last summer because of the renovation to our gym. Central and Mater Dei were both very accommodating in allowing us to use their gym during the season.

One week before the season began, Mr. Gabler asked me how practice was going and I said something that a coach will hardly ever say before a season—"We Look Good!"

On Oct. 25 we traveled to Rend Lake College and played Class L Benton. After our players went into the dressing room, Jeff and I saw Benton come out onto the floor. We thought they were a high School Team. We looked at each other and said "Don't tell the boys"! As it turned out, we stepped up to the challenge and defeated Benton 52-47 in a great game.

The Summersville Shootout was a fun game to watch. The score was 41-35 at halftime. We decided to play defense in the 2nd half and won 78-55 against Dodds (who was undefeated at the time).

Our Conference Games went well. The closest anyone got to us was 8 points. (Albers) We captured 1st place in the Conference League and then won the Conference Tournament at Bartelso.

The next morning we were at Grant School playing Wolf Branch in the Grant Shootout. For the 1st time all season, we trailed at halftime. However, we turned a 33-30 halftime score to a 50-35 lead at the end of the 3rd quarter and defeated Wolf Branch 57-43.

On 8th grade night, we defeated Bethal to improve our record to 15-0 and the 8th graders presented me with a framed picture and a gift card to Cabela's. I thank you for that.

After suffering our only defeat of the season in the St. Rose Shootout, we defeated 4 teams to win the Hoyleton Tournament.

The next week we won the Irvington Tournament. The game on Jan. 20th against Sandoval had a special meaning. In that game all 13 members on the Varsity scored at least two points.

The following week we played in the Albers Regional. In that Regional, we had to overcome some obstacles (to say the least). We defeated Albers in a triple overtime thriller. Did anyone forget that game?

We played well at Rend Lake especially on defense. With the exception of a forgettable 3rd quarter against St. Mary's Mt. Vernon, we allowed 6.8 points/quarter. Iuka was a favored team and we were beating them by 21 at halftime. It was probably our best half of basketball all season.

Kyler Scheer sealed our victory in the championship game by grabbing the final rebound just like his brother did two years earlier.

At this time I would like to invite the varsity basketball players to the front for some introductions.

Jalen Albers: On Jan 15th Jalen scored 6 points against Damiansville in the Hoyleton Tournament. He also made a 3-pointer against Damiansville on Nov. 20th. I appreciated Jalen's willingness to learn even when I demanded that he play harder and better. Congratulations, Jalen

Brandon Becker: Brandon had to make the biggest adjustment and he did it without getting upset. He is a true team player. Brandon made a big 3-pointer against Benton in the Rend Lake Shootout. I will admire him for his loyalty. Congratulations, Brandon

Drew Foppe: Drew made three 3-pointers against Okawville on Oct. 21st. He may have been our best defender. Remember what he did to the Reeves kid from Dodds or Hillebrand from Wolf Branch? Congratulations, Drew

Grant Haake: On 8th grade night, Grant made three 3-pointers against Bethal. In one practice I was upset with our defense leaving Grant open. I said he is a good shooter and you can't leave him open. I did add that his defense had a lot to be desired at which point Grant looked at me and said "I'll take that as a compliment." Congratulations, Grant

Seth Haake: Seth scored his first 5 varsity points (including a 3-pointer) at Damiansville on Nov. 20th. He was always willing to "take on the big guys" at practice. Seth won the 7th Grade Free Throw Competition at the KC Tournament in Trenton. Congratulations, Seth

Kevin Haar: Kevin made his presence felt when he was told to guard someone whether in a game or at practice. He never back away from a challenge. On Nov 12th, he scored 5 points against Aviston including a 3-pointer Congratulations, Kevin

Nick Hitpas: As the season progressed, Nick became one of our best defenders. He scored 7 points against Hoyleton in the Hoyleton Tournament. He also finished 2nd in the Hot Shot Competition at the KC Tournament in Trenton. Who could forget the 2 huge 3-pointers Nick made against Albers in the Regional Championship? I sure didn't. Congratulations, Nick

Christian Kohnen: Christian was great rebounder. He had at least 10 rebounds in half the games he played. Christian also loved the jump shot from the free throw line. He was named to the All Tournament Team at the Hoyleton Tournament. Christian grabbed 52 rebounds in our 4 games at Rend Lake. Congratulations, Christian

Kyle Kohnen: There was nothing more enjoyable than watching the smile on Kyle's face after making a basket. Sometimes I think the team enjoyed it just as much. He had 3 baskets and a free throw against Hoyleton in the Hoyleton Tournament which meant we saw that wonderful smile 4 times. Congratulations, Kyle

Jordan Lampe: Jordan made two huge baskets in the 4th quarter of the State Championship game against St. Mary's Mt. Vernon. He was our team leader. Jordan was named to the All Tournament Team at the Irvington Tournament. He did whatever it took for the team to win (except make free throws) Actually that is not true. Jordan was 14 for 20 in the 6 SIJHSAA tournament games (includes Regional) for 70% I had a parent ask me in January "What are you going to do with Jordan late in a close game. I said that I trust Jordan to come through when we need him. He did not make a liar out of me. Congratulations, Jordan

Mitchell Langenhorst: Mitchell made the two biggest free throws of the year at the Albers Regional. He was Mr. Calm under all that pressure. He also couldn't miss in the Summersville Shootout where he made five 3-pointers and was named the MVP of that game. Mitchell was also named the MVP of the Irvington Tournament. He scored 58 points in three games in that tournament. Congratulations, Mitchell

Kyler Scheer: Kyler used his long arms well. We did not keep a stat on block shots this year but I would guess that Kyler had more than the rest of the team combined. In fact he used his long arms so well I began calling him the Condor that is until he started flapping his arms and started calling like a bird after he blocked a shot in practice. Kyler had two 30+ points games against St. Rose on Nov. 21st and Albers on February 2nd. Kyler was also named the MVP of the Hoyleton Tournament. Congratulations, Kyler

Travis Wuebbels: Travis was a very good shooter for us. He made important baskets throughout the season. Do you remember the 3 baskets in the first half against St. Rose at the Albers Regional? Travis made a 3-pointer at the Raccoon Shootout. Travis is not known for his speed; however, if you wanted to watch him run fast you would need to come to practice and see what would happen when Jayden got on the line with him to run sprints. He would run like Dash from the Incredibles. Congratulations, Travis

At this time I'm going to have to ask this section of the room to leave if they can't be quiet. Here's the line and yes Emmitt, you are on the wrong side of it!

The Championship Game was on Feb. 14th (Valentine's Day). I'd like to thank my Valentine, Traci, for all her support through a long season. I do realize that there is a lot of stress that coaching puts on our family and that things get hectic around the house during the season, but I'm sure there are plenty of times when you're glad I'm out of the house.

The cheerleaders did an excellent job again under the leadership of Tanis Hampton. Congratulations for a successful season. Two girls competed for and earned a spot as a high school cheerleader and a 3rd will find out next week.

I appreciate all the time and effort put in by the GYO coaches to make the Bulldog Basketball program successful. Especially, Jeff Lampe who started with these boys when they were in 2nd grade and turned them into champions.

Thank you to the Fire Department. The parade through town never "gets old".

I appreciate the support from Mr. Weber and John Kruger.

They say "behind all successful men are successful women" There were two successful "women" behind our success. Paetyn Jo Albers and Erica Lampe (like the ad said) kept our boys hydrated and entertained.

I appreciate Woofie and Jayden having fun at our practices. Thanks to Deb Wuebbels for taking them to her house and keeping Regan under control.

I appreciate the recognition we received at the Central Basketball game on Feb. 20th. Kent Jones did an excellent job of making us feel good.

I appreciate the recognition by the Clinton County Board. We also enjoyed some time at Dairy Queen that night.

I also appreciate the recognition from the Illinois House of Representatives and the visit from our representative, John Cavaletto. He provided us with a copy of a House Resolution that is in the folders.

As usual, I deeply appreciate the parental support. In my mind, no season can be a success unless most of the parents (if not all) are enjoying themselves. I like it when the parents want to go to a game instead of have to go to a game. I especially want to thank the parents of the varsity players, namely Don and Claudia Albers, Ron and Denise Becker, Joe and Diane Foppe, Alan and Sarah Haake, Doug and Denise Haake, Kevin Haar Sr., Tom and Colette Hitpas, Mark and Trishia Kohnen, Gerry and Ann Kohnen, Jeff and Tina Lampe, Tim and Vicki Langenhorst, Bob and Karla Scheer, and Rich and Deb Wuebbels. You guys are the best!!

I appreciate the support of all our fans. There is no doubt that the best fans in Clinton County reside in Germantown. I'd also like to recognize a very special fan. Tina Lampe's father, Vince Peters, could always be seen cheering for Germantown and his grandson, Jordan. He was present in this very room congratulating us when we won the championship. Three days later he passed away. I'm sure his spirit will live forever in all of us.

I appreciate the work of Bob Scheer who was our primary "stat man". I also appreciate the work of Tom Hitpas who took care of the book. It was just a coincidence that his boy got more playing time when he started doing the book. With that being said, are there any volunteers to do the book next year?

Believe me when I say that this season would not have been successful if it weren't for Jeff Lampe. He did everything it took for us to succeed. From telling me what to do on defense to making sure the girls had the water bottles filled. Jeff traveled to watch Highland, Wolf Branch, St. Rose, Bartelso, and more to get a scouting report. He yelled at the players when they deserved it and he praised them when they needed it. He would even conduct some practices when I was attending a family matter. Jeff was the brains behind our success, but that's stating the obvious. Jeff, I thank you for all your work.

I also thank you for supplying me with many breath mints throughout the season. Actually, the players should appreciate that. Tonight, I'm repaying my debt.

Before I announce the award winners, I do want to remind the JV and 6th grade midget basketball players that an open gym schedule has been posted on my web page. There are 8 days in June and the first full week of August. Attending Open Gym is not mandatory but highly recommended.

During the course of the season, I stress that everyone is part of a team. From the player who scores 30 points or grabs 15 rebounds to the player who defends the starting point guard at practice. This year 13 parts equaled 1 whole. My hope is that the individuals who win awards thank the rest of the members of the team for helping to make it possible.

The Free Throw, Rebound, and Assist Awards are based on the statistics that were recorded throughout the year.

The Free Throw Award goes to the player who made 8 of 9 against Bartelso in the Conference Championship game and also 9 of 11 against Albers in the Regional Championship. He finished the season going 50 for 81 for 62%. The Free Throw Champion is Mitchell Langenhorst.

The Rebound Award is awarded to the player who collected 270 rebounds this season. That is an average of 9.3 per game. This player started playing a couple of years ago and has done nothing but improved. The Rebound Award goes to Christian Kohnen.

The Assist Award is presented to the player who work so hard to get the ball to the big guys in the triangle. He was also our primary ball handler. With 76 assists, Mitchell Langenhorst receives the Assist Award.

The Most Improved Award goes to the player who I felt continued to get better and better as the season progressed. His hard nosed defense improved to the point that when we need to guard an opposing player, he was assigned the job. This year, the Most Improved Player Award goes to Drew Foppe.

The Mr. Hustle Award is based on several aspects. The willingness to “fight” for the ball, to do what it takes for the team to win, to continue to play hard when you are exhausted or in pain. This year the player who exemplified those aspects the most is the winner of the Mr. Hustle Award, Jordan Lampe.

According to freedictionary.com, The Most Valuable Player (MVP) is defined as being the person that is most important to the team. In my opinion no one person is more important than another; however, this year we have a player on our team that was our focal point for almost everything we did. He pointed on the press, he pointed our defense or he work the strong side, he made life miserable for opposing players with his defense and shot blocking, he rebounded, he scored 552 points (that's an average of 19 pts/game), he made free throws. In fact he played so well this year, I did not call him Keaton one time. This year's Most Valuable Player Award goes to Kyler Scheer.

Last week Rep. John Cavaletto stopped by school and offered some advice to the boys. He said "Remember this time but don't live in the moment." We have had an enjoyable time with this season; however, it is time to pursue new challenges. In a few short months you will be worrying about making the freshman team, or whether a girl likes you. We will be worrying about whether Seth can find his shooting touch or Nick can play as a leader. Life is not slowing down for any of us. So no matter what your new challenge is, my hope is that you will approach it with the determination and effort that you learned and incorporated this season. Congratulations Again!

Thank You!