

WHEN HAWKS FLY



GETTING PUMPED

Leading a team chant before the Arkansas High game, senior Ryan Martin stands surrounded by the team. "I was considered the team leader," he said. "Before each game we had team prayer, and then the coach made a speech and then I did to pump up the team. [KMcCorkle]

COMING IN CLUTCH

HAWKS GET OFF TO A RUNNING START, FINISH SEASON WITH A FLOURISH

Mystery solved. When it comes to how Hawk basketball works, there is one particular strategy.

It's called "Shoot, holla, folla, and run." Translation: they move the ball up and down the court. And fast. Add in a new offense, and the Hawks had lots to learn and not a lot of time.

"Our practices were very intense," coach Billy Brewer said. These intense practices propelled the Hawks through the season. While third quarters were sometimes a struggle, the team pulled out close games during the fourth.

But even racing up and down the court took a little time, just as it took a little time for the boys to find their rhythm. "We lacked team chemistry in the beginning," junior Grayson Kirk said.

The chemistry eventually got crackling, especially during the post-season. When they earned a spot in the playoffs, it only increased the excitement. From basketball balloons in the cafeteria to a hyped student body, the whole school was ready to see how the team would do. But no one could have predicted how the final game went down.

Story continued on page 76

VARSITY BOYS			
REGULAR SEASON		DISTRICT	
Carthage	62-52	Pittsburg	60-50
Tatum	55-58	Atlanta	65-35
Brookhill	61-48	North Lamar	59-63
Sherman	61-56	Paris	64-77
McKinney	52-72	Liberty Eylau	84-71
Denison	66-49	Pittsburg	55-34
Sherman	72-78	Atlanta	63-34
Clarksville	60-70	North Lamar	43-50
Arkansas High	56-53	Paris	65-72
		Liberty Eylau	70-59
		Gilmer	70-59
		Mabank	56-51
		Brownsboro	58-59
DISTRICT RECORD: 6-4		OVERALL RECORD: 19-12	

GRAYSON KIRK (11) "No matter what the score, we learn from it and strive to perfect it in the next game."

1. **STOIC IN SALUTE**, the varsity team lines up to honor their country during the National Anthem. "It's a short time that we can recognize those who served for our lives and it allows us to honor them," senior Demarqise Brewster said. [KMcCorkle] 2. **FACES PAINTED**, fans show their support for the team by streaking black along their cheeks. "Since there weren't really super fans for football, the football players decided to be the super fans for basketball," senior Reagan Thomas said. [KMcCorkle] 3. **AT SIX FOOT SEVEN**, junior Cross Bright starts off the game with the flick of a wrist. "It helps set the tone of the game," he said. "If I win the toss, it gets us fired up, and if I lose it, we get motivated to get the ball back and keep the tempo." [KMcCorkle] 4. **SOARING OVER THE DEFENDER**, senior Peter Gavriel doesn't let a Liberty-Eylau player stop him from going to the basket. The Hawks won the game at LE 70-59. [LGuyton]



Hunter O'Keefe [9]: "This was my first year at PG, so I had to get used to how all the guys played on the court. I knew them off the court, it was just different playing with them and not against them."

BOYS' BASKETBALL

FREE THROWS
FATHEADS
LAYUPS
VICTORY
NIKES
BALL IS LIFE
BUCKETS
SWISH
OVERTIME



Cross Bright (11)

"THE GAMES WERE THE BEST PART OF THE SEASON BECAUSE WE GOT TO PLAY IN THE NEW GYM," FRESHMAN GRIFFIN YOUNG SAID.

JUNIOR VARSITY
"WE MADE SURE WE CONDITIONED A LOT, AND WE FELT LIKE WE HAD MORE ENERGY THAN THE OTHER TEAM."

NOT SO NEW
Though they were new to the high school, the boys on the freshmen team have played together for years. From then to now, they've learned each other's every move. "It was basically the same team we've had since seventh and eighth grade, so we had a lot of team chemistry," Carson Cox said.



TOO HEADS UP

From inside the bus, the cheerleaders hold up the Fatheads they created for each player before the send-off to the playoff game. "It was funny, but I wish they would've done coach Brewer," sophomore Cameron Edwards said. [KGlover]



1. JUMPING TOWARD THE NET, sophomore Caleb Bolden goes in for the shot during the JV game against Atlanta. "I played every game and it made me work harder to get a starting position," he said. [LGuyton] 2. TRAP-PING THE OPPONENT, sophomore Connor Oullette and senior Todd Rigsby corner a New Boston player with two minutes left in the half. "Regardless how much you score, it doesn't matter unless you stop them from scoring," Connor said. [KMcCorkle] 3. MINUTES BEFORE THE BUZZER, varsity members gather around coach Brewer before taking on L.E. "The boys played really hard for me all season long," he said. [CCraytor] 4. HUDDLED UP, the freshman team discusses game tactics. "I liked being able to control the game as a starter on the freshman team," Aaron Harmon said. [AMaynard] 5. RISING ABOVE, senior Ryan Martin goes in for a lay-up. "When you score, you get really excited and it builds your confidence," he said. [KMcCorkle] 6. WITH MOMENTUM, senior Jason Smith takes a jump shot in the home game against Pittsburg. "After I make the shot, it's kind of a rush," he said. [KMcCorkle]

JV	
Pittsburg	49-21
Atlanta	53-24
North Lamar	67-23
Paris	54-41
Liberty Eylau	50-55
Pittsburg	48-47
Atlanta	60-15
North Lamar	41-40
Liberty Eylau	62-24

DISTRICT: 9-0
OVERALL: 12-4

FRESHMEN	
Longview	47-31
Mt. Pleasant	54-42
New Boston	64-14
Daingerfield	51-47
Pittsburg	69-31
Atlanta	66-35
North Lamar	32-20
Paris	53-37

DISTRICT: 8-0
OVERALL: 12-4

PAYOFF IN THE PLAYOFFS

HAWK BASKETBALL LEAVES IT ALL ON THE COURT FOR THE FINAL GAME

Continued from page 75

The clock ticks. Shoes squeak. As time runs out, the Hawks trail Brownsboro in the regional quarterfinals. And then one call changes everything.

Brownsboro could have won in regulation, but officials called a technical foul when their bench rushed onto the court in early celebration. Both free throws swished through the net. Just in reaching this game, the team was passing everyone's expectations, including their own, and now they had tied it up.

"It was a little surprising because no one thought we could make it that far," coach Brewer said.

Then came overtime. The Hawks were down by one, and as a possible game-winning shot reached the rim, an opposing player swatted it away. The officials conferred, and no foul was called. With that, the final buzzer echoed through the gym.

Heads down. Total silence. The game and season

had ended with a one point loss in overtime. As the players sat in the locker room following the game, the coaches struggled with seeing their players in that state. All that could be done after that was to recover.

"We didn't have stars, we had players. The bench could probably play just as well as the starters." — coach Brewer

"It took a week for me to get over it," coach Brewer said. "I'm sure it was longer for them."

It may have taken a while, but the team eventually came to realize that the final score was just one moment in one season. And a fine season at that.

"They all jelled together, they all had fun together," coach Brewer said. From game to game, win or lose, this was something that never changed. With this in mind, the varsity coach had one thing to say: "They wanted to prove something." Consider it proven. Page by Kylie Rogers

PLAY BY PLAY(OFF) GAME

A game all about heart and conviction. "We worked hard, stayed motivated, and gave it all we had," senior Petey Hunt said.



Petey Hunt (12)

A game that was heated and could burst an ear drum. "It was a loud crowd. They brought intensity to the game. We could barely hear the coaches," junior Tanner Cole said.

A hard fought game that was close to the end. "We played our but we wished we we could have gone back to regionals," senior Logan Stahl said.

Vs. Gilmer

Vs. Mabank

Vs. Brownsboro

Keke Johnson (12): "This is my second year to play varsity basketball at PG. The team got really close before the season and we're all good friends. It's easy to know what each player's next move is." BOYS' BASKETBALL

Job # 1614 School Pleasant Grove High School

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9

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