

CRASH THE BOARDS

Against Wylie, sophomore Ne'seana Carter reaches for an rebound. Ne'seana led the team in offensive rebounds with 99 on the season. "Each game I set a goal for the number of offensive rebounds I get," Ne'seana said. "That game I was scared I wouldn't reach my goal because they were really tall."

CELEBRATION

At the final home game of the season, freshman Quincy Noble hugs sophomore Nicole Stuessy. The Lionettes defeated Lovejoy to secure second place in district. "When the seniors were on the bench at the end of the game, they were cheering for us underclassmen," Nicole said. "It was one of my favorite moments of the season. I hit two 3-pointers that game."



Chelsea Salinas



Kendra Murphy

DEFYING THE ODDS

Lionettes make statement with young team

"At first I was afraid of not being able to compete with opponents, but we competed really well this season."

- Quincy Noble, 9

At the beginning of the year, the Lionettes had no idea what to expect for the upcoming season. Graduating seven seniors the previous year left a gap in the team.

"Last year there were 11 of us, and seven of them were seniors so there we only four returning players this year," senior Mariah Bautista said. "We didn't know who was coming up and who would be on the team. I was nervous about that because after losing that many players, it's hard to come back."

It would be five underclassmen, three of them being freshmen, to fill that gap.

"Going into the season, I was worried that the freshmen weren't going to get along with the seniors," freshman JaMiya Braxton said. "I didn't know if I would be good enough to compete, or if the older girls would listen to me even though I know a lot about basketball."

Their season started off rough, but by the time district play came around, they learned each other's strengths.

"Because we were young and didn't have much experience playing with each other, people didn't expect us to do well," freshman Quincy Noble said. "Nobody even had any confidence that we would be a good team."

Seniors taught the underclassmen about the responsibilities of being on a varsity team.

"I didn't think the freshmen would catch on to all the traditions and what our values are as a program," senior Krissy Fontillas said. "I feel like they learned, but it took a little longer for some of them and not so long for others but overall they caught on pretty quick."

Even the players were surprised at how their season turned out.

"At first I didn't expect us to do as well as we did," Mariah said. "But when I saw the freshmen who had come in and how hard they worked, I felt like we could go far. I think we could've gone even further than what we did."

The Lionettes made it to the second round of playoffs where they lost to Bryan Adams in a competitive game.

"Playoffs were a really fun experience," JaMiya said. "The end of the Bryan Adams game was hard. The game was on the line and we were all getting mad at each other. If we had worked as a team it may have ended differently."

Despite the initial doubts, the Lionettes finished with a winning record and second in their district.

"I don't know if we were even picked to go to playoffs," Krissy said. "Even being second in our district proved that our age doesn't really matter and that we can compete with the big dogs."

by Nicole Stuessy



Colin Mitchell

TO THE RIM

In the Wylie East game, freshman Quincy Noble drives to the basket. Quincy led the team in scoring and was district offensive MVR. "This was one of our better games of the season," Quincy Noble said. "We played together really well as a team and held the lead the whole game. It was one of our last games of the season."

HUDDLE UP

In a timeout, senior Emily Oleson watches Coach Deb Harris draw up a play. Coach Harris won co-coach of the year. "She has taught me that it's not just the stuff on the court that matters," Emily said. "We had to keep up with our grades and stay out of trouble. She cares about us as a person first and a player second."



Kendra Murphy

DRESSED TO KILL

Practice shirts keep Lionettes focused

11 wins

7 shirts

14 district games

9 players

"We wore shirts that were the other team's colors the day before game day in practice. They said "one focus" on the back because our focus was on the other team and how to beat the them."

--Emily Oleson, 12



Kendra Murphy



Kendra Murphy

REACHING OUT

Against Prosper, senior Krissy Fontillas passes the ball around a player on defense. It was a close game until Krissy drained three 3-pointers at the start of the second half. "They were playing a zone so someone passed it to me in the corner and I shot and made it," Krissy said. "I did it two more times, and that gave us a pretty good lead."

WHIP MY HAIR

In the lane, freshman Kayla Moutry drives the ball to the basket against a Sherman defender. The Lionettes had an easy victory, winning 48-33. "It was nice having an easy game the same week we played North," Kayla said. "It got our confidence up, and we were able to spend more time focusing on our next game."