

1. Waiting for senior Grayson Kirk to take his first shot, junior Connor Ouellette takes a breather before they get back in the action in a win over the Pittsburg Pirates. "Free throws are the time where I get to stop and catch my breathe," Connor said. "Then I start to think about what defense we will be in next." (THurst) 2. Sophomore Aaron Harmon defends the ball as the Chapel Hill Bulldogs run an in bounds play. "I stand in front of the ball to try and distract them, and if they happen to throw the ball in my hands, we have the ball." Aaron said. PG won 70-61 in the first playoff game and advanced to the area finals. (BSwanson) 3. Trying to find an opening, sophomore Xavier Benson goes for the goal over the Paris player. "Whenever I shoot, I feel really pressured to make the shot, and when I make it, I know that I did because of all my hard work has paid off." Xavier said. (THurst)



# IT'S BETTER TO BE BOTH LUCKY AND GOOD

Superstitions work like a charm all the way to Regionals

As the rest of the team strolls in, junior Cameron Edwards sits on the locker room bench with his pre-game Chipotle bowl. Sophomore Luke Harmon sits on the opposite bench with his Cane's chicken strips while senior Trey Reynolds finishes a pack of Sour Skittles.

"I always have to have Sour Skittles before every game because they make me play better," Trey said. "If I forget them, my dad will have to bring me some."

Whether they were away or at home, the Hawk basketball team had a routine they followed before every game.

"We started to win when I ate Chipotle, so I did it before every game after that," Cameron said. "I used to go to other places, but I decided one day I wanted Chipotle and we won the game after I ate it."

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Finals the Hawks played a tough game against Brownsboro, winning 67-65.

"I was really happy we won against Brownsboro cause they beat us out of the playoffs last year," senior Cross Bright said. "I wasn't nervous just ready to play them."

The season ended the same way it started: a loss in the Mt. Pleasant gym. In the Regional Quarter Finals, the Hawks fell short to North Lamar with a score 57-47.

"Mt. Pleasant's gym is cursed. We could not make a shot—everything kept bouncing off the rim," junior Coryuntae Jones said. "Football and volleyball both lost playoff games in Mt. Pleasant. In every sport that we play there, we end up losing."

Even though they lost the final playoff

Those routines, or superstitions, were a big part of every game day. Junior Jackson Pace wore the same undershirt, junior Connor Ouellette taped his ankles, and Coach Billy Brewer wore a necklace, all for good luck.

"I had a lucky white Nike undershirt that I wore," Jackson said. "As long as we kept winning, I didn't wash it—just Febreezed it."

These superstitions seemed to work for the Hawks as they set the tone for district with a nine-game winning streak in the preseason. The good luck continued into district as they ended with a record of 6-3 and moved into the playoffs. In a slow-paced game against Tyler Chapel Hill, the Hawks took the first round with a 70-61 win. Advancing to the Area

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game, it was still a great season for Coach Brewer.

"I couldn't ask for a better season, all the kids worked hard and pushed themselves to be better," he said. "I just wish we could have gone further."

But they might not have got as far as they did without Cross Bright's unusual superstition. During introductions Cross reached over and rubbed Coach Brewer's head before running on to the court.

"I would rub Coach Brewer's head before every game for good luck," Cross said. "The first time I did it he pushed me away and said it was greasy, but I kept doing it and he couldn't out run me."

Pages by Anna Miller

STORY WAS ON TWO SPREADS



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