

### career high

In the game against Lovejoy, seniors Zanee Logan, Isaias Sanchez and Shawn Pitts celebrate Isaias's dunk on his opponent. The Lions came out victorious against the Lovejoy Leopards, winning 82-53. "I was so excited," Isaias said. "It was probably my most achieved moment in my basketball career."



### pushing through

During a timeout against McKinney North, Coach Wes Watson tells his team the game plan. The Lions lost after a three point buzzer beater that would've tied the game was ruled a two pointer. "He gave us some hope even though we were down coming out of that timeout," junior Camryn Givens said. "His game plan made me think we could really win."

### side shot

At the game against Frisco, junior E.J. Clark jumps and shoots the ball over a defender. This was first game of their season and the Lions beat Frisco with seven new varsity members on the team. "It was just a great feeling playing with new people for the first time," E.J. said. "My goal is to get better every time I touch a ball."



In the air, senior Alex Vilarino shoots the ball while three opponents guard him. The boy's basketball team beat Frisco 84-71. "I love playing and being around a great group of guys on and off the court," Alex said. "Also being able to play with your best friends gives you a feeling you can't get anywhere else."

# on the line

## Lions lose Crosstown Showdown after buzzer beater ruled two pointer

As the 3-point shot swished through the net at the end of regulation time of the Crosstown Showdown and the crowd burst into cheers, senior Alex Vilarino thought he had just sent the game into overtime. But his foot was on the line. The shot was ruled a 2-pointer and the Lions lost to North 67-68.

"When I shot it and it left my hand, it felt like it was going in," Alex said. "Whenever it went through the basket it seemed like it was a tie game. It was pretty crazy, hearing everyone celebrating in the background and all your teammates getting hype and stuff."

Senior Shawn Pitts had no doubts that Alex would make the shot.

"I knew it was going to go in because that's his jumper," senior Shawn Pitts said. "I immediately looked down and I saw that his foot was on the line. Everybody was debating, but I was telling everyone around me it was a 2-pointer because I was looking right at his feet."

Shawn believed the shot could have changed the outcome of the game.

"If he would've made that and sent the game in to overtime, I think we would have won that," Shawn said. "His jumper is usually a 3."

During a timeout, Coach Watson drew up a play that wasn't intended for Alex to shoot it.

"It started off as a set play but it kind of broke down so he just shot it," senior CJ Givens said. "It seemed like a 3 but obviously when you go back and look at all the videos that people had, it was obviously a 2."

After the shot was ruled a 2-pointer, fans from both schools took the controversy to Twitter.

"There was a lot of videos and stuff," CJ Givens said. "People were arguing from our school in their school

talking about if it was a 3 and people thought we got cheated and stuff. There was a lot of drama going on."

Junior Camryn Givens thought the ref made the right call on the shot.

"I was pretty mad at first because I thought it was a 3," Camryn said. "It looked like a 3, but when you go back and look at it, the shot was obviously a 2 so you can't be mad at it, just disappointed."

Because it was the Crosstown Showdown, it was a high intensity game.

"Pretty much everybody is friends with all the McKinney North players so it's friendly competition," Camryn said. "But we still talked trash. Everyone from both sides is so competitive and everyone wants to win, so you know it gets intense."

The team took this as a learning experience for the next time they played them.

"From that game we took what we needed to do better and tried to put it into the second game but shots weren't falling," Camryn said. "There's really nothing you can do about that."

In the end, the boys agreed that it wasn't the shot that lost them the game.

"We missed a lot of free throws and had some defensive breakdowns and stuff like that," CJ said. "If we could've cleaned that up it wouldn't have had to come down to a last shot. But at the end of the day, it is what it is."

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by Nicole Stuessy and Zanee Logan

VARSITY BASKETBALL	EJ CLARK	CAMRYN GIVENS	CJ GIVENS	TONY LYONS	ALEX VILARINO
	18.5	179	2.8	3.2	18.8
	POINTS PER GAME	POINTS THIS SEASON	REBOUNDS PER GAME	REBOUNDS PER GAME	POINTS PER GAME