



FINISHING STRONG

eighth graders end middle school basketball years

The 8A boys' basketball team worked together to earn 3rd place in the Southwest zone.

Eighth grade A team player Trace Young tried out for basketball because it's his favorite sport to play, and both his parents played basketball as well.

"My favorite thing about basketball is winning games," Young said. "It makes you feel good because you know that you were the better team."

According to eighth grade B team player Hunter Rogers, taking part in basketball has taught him many things.

"I've learned to have integrity and never be afraid to mess up when trying new things,"

Rogers said.

Most eighth grade basketball players also played in seventh grade.

Coach Jeremy Mauk has seen many of them grow and develop their talents throughout their middle school years.

"As a coach, it's neat to see your players come together more as a team," Mauk said. "I think they've become more confident in themselves, and they've found a true identity."

Throughout Gorzycki basketball, the players have learned the importance of teamwork.

Eighth grade A team player James Hayek believes

that the key to success is working together.

"One thing I've learned from this basketball season is that you can't be successful unless everyone is in sync, and you are willing to make sacrifices for your team," Hayek said.

Like most eighth grade basketball players, eighth grade B team player Bailey Pratt plans on pursuing basketball in high school.

"The coaches at Gorzycki have taught me that having a good work ethic is better than being super talented," Pratt said.

The 8A team finished with a record of 6-3, and the 8B team finished with a record of 5-2.



Jumping in the air, seventh grade B team player Ryder Wolfe passes the ball back to his teammate. Wolfe has been playing basketball since he was five years old. "My advice for newcomers is to never stop hustling and always go for the rebound," Wolfe said. *Photo by Megan Williams*

Heading towards the hoop, eighth grade A team player Jaden Yakerson protects the ball from the defender. Yakerson is a point guard. "Basketball has been one of my passions from a very young age and it is something I want to get better at," Yakerson said. *Photo by Halle Krogstad*

With a defender on his back, eighth grade B team player Andre Hoover searches for the perfect pass. Hoover is a shooting guard. "While I am playing, I take a few deep breaths and focus on what my job is and what I am supposed to do," Hoover said. *Photo by Halle Krogstad*