

HOT SHOT
 Sophomore Victoria Garcia jumps to make a two-point shot. "I enjoy shooting," Garcia said. "I feel like I'm flying to a whole new world." Photo by Karel Tinkler.



FOUL FOR A FOUL
 Sophomore Lyric Middleton attempts to take a shot but gets fouled and gets to take two free-throw shots. "When you hear the refs blow for free-throw shots, it gives me my opportunity to make two points for my team." Photo by Karel Tinkler.



CAN'T TOUCH THIS
 Sophomore captain Micaela Ramacciotti steals the ball during the third quarter of McCallum's win versus Eastside. "When I can steal the ball, I love to turn everything around and try to score," Ramacciotti said. Photo by Elena Henderson.



for the LOVE of the game

GIRLS TEAM OVERCOMES LOSSES, ADVERSITY

Even a team enduring a tough season can have one shining moment, and for the varsity girls basketball team, one such moment came on Dec. 8 at home against the Eastside Memorial Lady Panthers.

Led by junior Claudia Ezeani's 11 points and constant presence on the free-throw line, the Knights defeated the visiting Panthers 48-30 to earn the team's first district win.

"Winning the game versus Eastside gave the team the strength and energy to keep up the same excitement through every game," sophomore captain Micaela Ramacciotti said.

The Lady Knights approached the game with a lot of confidence and enthusiasm.

"We went into the game with the mindset of winning and kept that throughout the whole game," sophomore Victoria Garcia said. "We were all so excited and jumped up and down."

Having lost the first three district games, the Lady Knights struggled to keep their focus and energy up after the Eastside game.

"Losing so many games is hard, but it really strengthens us together as a team, and shows us all what we need to work on," sophomore Amanda Biscoe said.

The team's worst loss wasn't even on the scoreboard. In the first district game of the season, the team's only senior, Caprycia Jones, tore her ACL and was out for the season. In her absence, a team consisting of two juniors and six sophomores soldiered on.

"Not being able to play is hard," Jones said. "This being my senior year and all, I hate that I can't play but this will make me and the team stronger."

Because of the team's relative inexperience, the players approached each game as an opportunity to learn and to improve.

"After each game, [the players] really assessed what we needed to work on and how the different skill levels played out," junior Aziza O'Bryant said.

"I enjoyed playing with my teammates and running around more than anything, win or lose it's all for the love of the game."

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THREE IS THE MAGIC NUMBER
 Junior Aziza O'Bryant dribbles the ball down the court after a made Lanier basket. "After being scored on, the only thing you can do is work even harder to get the point back," O'Bryant said. Photo by Karel Tinkler.



TWO-POINT THUNDER
 Sophomore Amanda Biscoe makes her second free throw, helping the team win their rematch with Eastside on the road. "I hear the crowd cheering and my sister jumping up and down, and I get a rush of energy after making a basket." Biscoe said. Photo by Elena Henderson.



PATIENTLY WAITING
 Sophomore captain Micaela Ramacciotti waits to find a teammate to pass the ball to. "During those few seconds, I look for people who are open and another way to get around the other team," Ramacciotti said. Photo by Allison Scheller.



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT
 Junior Claudia Ezeani watches as her shot goes in the basket, maintaining the team's lead during its rematch with Eastside Memorial. "I love shooting; shooting practice is definitely my favorite," Ezeani said. Photo by Elena Henderson.

spotlight ON CLAUDIA EZEANI



Junior Claudia Ezeani led the Lady Knights with 11 points at the home game versus Eastside Memorial, and was named player of the game. "Being player of the game really boosts my confidence and helps me want to play like that every game," Ezeani said.