

# GIRLS JUST WANNA PLAY BALL

## Who run the court? GIRLS

Ask any boy on the basketball team his favorite pro player and he can probably list any number of recognizable names—but the same may not be true for the girls. Despite having a strong female contender in the race for the presidential candidacy, female athletes still often go unrecognized when compared to their male counterparts.

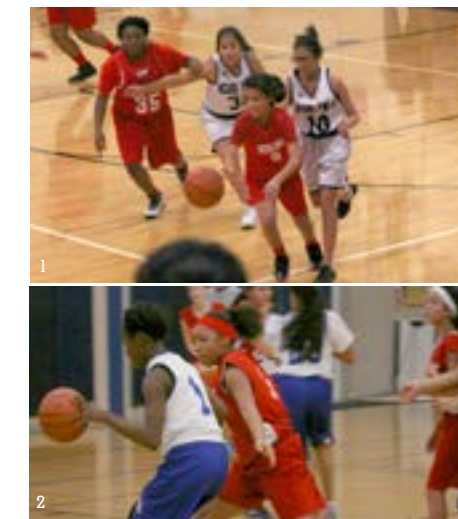
is the family that comes with it. You get to know your teammates really well and we're all good friends." said Emily Thomson (7).

So while 2016 could be the year for the first female in the Oval Office with the power to run the country, here, our lady Hornets had the power to run the court.

Story by Benjamin Robison

Each year, the teams get more and more competitive, with girls basketball rising in popularity. In fact, many players participated in club basketball all through elementary school. "I was nervous going in, but then I saw my friends and I knew we were all in the same boat." Ella Jarnigan (7) said. It was that team spirit that carried the girls through their season and gave them the opportunity to find role models in themselves and in their peers.

1. In a very physical game against Martin, Deshuntie Williams(8) and Essence Goodman (8) fight for the ball. The season was marked with highs and lows, as the 8th grade A-team teams from all over the city. "Sometimes it was hard remembering all of the plays. But I'm proud of really getting better at basketball, said Deshuntie. Photo by Annalise Wooley 2. Qu'Ran Gant (7) jumped up for the ball attempting to tip it back to her team during the tip-off. Just behind her, her team stood waiting, ready to play either defense or offense depending on which team got the ball. "Basketball was fun and energetic. We learned many different skills!" Qu'Ran exclaimed. Photo by Miriam Ballard



1. During a game against Martin, Alexis Motes (7), dribbles the ball down the court determined to score a point. "I didn't think that I would ever play basketball but I got convinced to and I felt that it would be great to try something new." Photo by Sydney Grossfeld 2. Estrella Chapa (8) ran down the court with one of Mendez's players, in an attempt to prevent her from shooting and possibly scoring. "The game against Mendez was easy but challenging at the same time but the best part was having fun with the team." Estrella claimed. Photo by Miriam Ballard



3. Lunging forward, seventh grade B-team member Esmeralda Bueno Vanegas reaches out to receive an inbound pass in the game against the Means Dragons. The November game posed challenges for the girls, but they remained focused and strong. Photo by Sydney Grossfeld 4. Racing down the court, Precious Ndubueze (8) makes a strong move to try and tighten up the score of the game against Martin. The game remained close, and despite efforts, it went down as a loss. "During the last game, it was very intense. We all really wanted to win," said Precious. Photo by Annalise Wooley

## An Inspiration on the Court

In a sport that many would consider to be a boy's sport, it can be hard to find a female player to model. But not for Sydney Grossfeld, one of the seventh grade A-team stand-out players. "My inspiration is Brooke McCarty, a player on the UT basketball team because even though she's the shortest on the team, she's one of the best women's basketball players in the Big 12." Sydney, also one of the shorter players on the court, led the seventh grade team as captain to a seven and one season, and their position as zone runner up. Sydney finds it important to have strong female figures in the athletic world and hopes to be one for her own team. "Basketball is my passion, I love the sport and want to inspire other girls to play too." she said. Story by Ava Motes



Photo by Sydney Kelley



### Run

Despite the approaching defenders, Romi Klein (7) just kept dribbling down the court. "I like the fast pace of basketball and how the score can change really quickly." said Romi. Behind her, her teammates rushed to help her shoot and score. Photo by Esmeralda Bueno-Vanegas



### Block

Creating a barrier, Serfronia Peeples (8) blocks an inbound pass from Martin. A strong defense was key to the team's strategy for the season, staying strong and using height to their advantage whenever possible. "Hard work really pays off in a game," said Serfronia. Photo by Annalise Wooley



### Jump

Several feet off the ground, Amari Wright (8) helps lead the eighth grade A-team in the game. She caught the pass from her teammate and was able to turn it around for a strong play, keeping the action moving in the close game against the eagles. "Win or lose, teamwork is the key," said Amari. Photo by Annalise Wooley

## Putting up a Fight



Emily Thompson (7) jumped through the small window of opportunity, dribbling up the court. "I originally was interested in basketball because it seemed challenging, and you can always count on your teammates to help you. It's a group effort, and you all have to contribute to the team." says Emily. In the end Kealing walked away with a win against Means YWL thanks to the hard work from their players. Photo by Esmeralda Bueno-Vanegas



Nathalie Myers (8) dribbled up the court with Mendez players trailing behind her trying to keep up. "I enjoy playing basketball because it keeps me entertained when I'm bored and I enjoy Coach Gardner because he is my favorite coach" Nathalie said. Photo by Bridget Rhodes

What food would you most like to eat nonstop for 30 seconds?

- Tiger meat / Alexander Steyaert (7)
- Pancakes / Lillian Long (6)
- Popcorn Jelly Beans / Abigail Stauffer (8)
- Calamari / Ada Latruesse (6)
- Coffee ice cream / Adison Lampert (7)
- Italian food / Adolfo Aguirre-Rabiela (6)
- Jello / Adrian Haley (7)
- Banana pudding / Aidan Chang (8)
- Burrito / Aidan Foucher (8)
- 85% chocolate / Aiden Woodruff (6)
- Curry / Akash Geeni (8)
- Red grapes / Alexander Zalles(7)
- Chocolate chips / Alice Beckett (6)
- Pizza / Alvino Carbajal (8)
- Eel sushi / Amalie White Wenner (8)
- Korean BBQ / Yo Seb Cha (8)
- Chips / Andres Hernandez (6)
- BBQ / Angel Ortega-Almanza (6)
- Crawfish / Serfronia Peeples (8)
- Ice cream / Anika Avila (6)
- Sugar snap peas / Anna Schlett (6)
- Hot wings / Anthony Garcia (6)
- Curly fries / Arlayna Byrd (7)
- Chocolate / Arushi Harkawat (8)
- Mango / Ashely Nicely-Newberry (6)
- Hot Cheetos / Asjha Arnold (8)
- Caramel / Ava Barrett (8)
- Cookie Cake / T. Beckett Schmeil (7)
- Doughnuts / Benjamin Ward (7)
- Crabs / Braden Bradford (7)

8 COLOR Run Prepare for Submission for Color ID information.

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