

# BALL IS LIFE

## Intense training builds the team experience

To be on a sports team, you have to be more than just athletic, something the 7th and 8th grade boys basketball team proved as they worked hard on the court during practice and games. "Basketball is a fun team sport and it keeps me active," Bryn Lewis (8) said. "It's also a great way to bond with the kids on your sports team! I was new this year and being on the basketball team helped me fit in with the other Kealing students and make great new friends".

Many of the boys on the team were already friends, but there were others who met new kids through basketball, and were able to befriend experienced players who gave them tips and encouraged them to play to the best of their abilities.

Being part of the basketball team was a huge commitment, and it could also be very

tiresome. The students had to work hard to balance out their time playing the sport and doing schoolwork. Basketball players had to keep their grades up and play their best in each practice and at the games.

The coaches pushed them to play their best by introducing difficult drills such as running until someone threw up or seeing how long it took for students to do a 64 lap shuttle run. Not only were all the friends on the team a good way to motivate kids to keep working harder, professional players who worked for countless hours training were a great way to inspire our basketball players. "I looked up to Allen Iverson as a kid and I just wanted to be one of the greatest just like him," said Everett Butler (8).

In the end, the intense training and team experience paid off with a winning season.

Story by Mae Rizk



# B TEAM

Eighth graders on B-team knew the 'B' stood for Buckets, Bringin' it, and Beat down. Big baskets for 8th graders: 1. Takai Satberry, 2. Mac Connolly, 3 Aidan Foucher and 4. Andrew Kim against Fulmore. Photos by Miriam Ballard



1. At just under 6ft tall, Alvino Carbajal (8) blocks shots against Garcia. Carbajal, who played center, helped lead the eighth grade A-team to a winning season. "I like the challenge of playing basketball and am happy when we win," Alvino said. Photo by Sydney Kelley  
2. Point Guard Sean Fresch (8) passes to another player. In the game against Fulmore, he could smell the victory in the air. "I had a feeling we were going to win," said Fresch. Photo by Miriam Ballard



### Seventh Grade Skills

1. In the B-team game against Fulmore, Edward Johnson (7) races down the court. Photo by Miriam Ballard. 2. Hoping to make it to the zone championships, Lapree Habbit (7) makes his way to the hoop. Photo by Kristen Scott. 3. Scanning the scene, Jack Komassa (7) makes the decision to pass or shoot against Lamar. Photo by Kristen Scott. 4. Driving the ball toward the basket, Ikey Kohler (7) leads the way. Photo by Miriam Ballard. 5. Grabbing the rebound, Gilbert Trevino (7) shakes off defenders, Dobie Roadrunners. Photo by Kristen Scott. 6. Fast and focused, Eli Kuhn (7) prepares to pass. Photo by Kristen Scott

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### Remember the Titans

One of the leading scorers, guard Matthew Beck (8) passes to team member Dameon Boyles (8). Keeping control of the ball and getting it into the hands of the person most likely to score was key to the team's success. Photo by Sydney Kelley

Working to block a pass against Fulmore, eighth grade B-team member Archer Saenz waves his arms to create a barrier. Whether blocking, passing, or shooting the ball, all team members worked toward a winning presence on the court. "We all work together, like in *Clash of the Titans*," Saenz said. Photo by Miriam Ballard

Seventh grade A-team members keep an eye on action at the end of the court at the zone finals against Dobie. Even though they had a commanding lead over the Roadrunners, the team fought to the end, finishing with a more than 20 point edge. Photo by Kristen Scott



### Nothin' but Net in this Nest

Flying through the air, Larenz Demos (7) makes a powerful dunk toward the end of the game against Dobie. The seventh grade A team advanced to the zone finals after defeating the Dobie Roadrunners 74 to 32 at their home territory. Photo by Kristen Scott

### "When I started ballin' I was young"



From point guard to team leader, Jaleel Scott (8) has been playing basketball since he was six years old. "I watched my brothers play basketball all the time, so they inspired me to want to get out on the court and to play," said Scott. On the 8th grade A-team, Jaleel played point guard, a favorite position of his and was very determined to lead the team to victory, "One big reason I wanted to try out for the team was to win another championship for my school." Scott said. His competitive spirit and endless drive to play to his best abilities not only made him a strong member of the team, but it also helped other members of the team have someone to look up to.

Story by Noor Elhagehassan

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Page design by Bridget Rhodes

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

- Noodles / Melinda Lin (6)
- Noodles / Memphis Lamar (8)
- Lasagna / Miguel Laplata (8)
- Bacon / Mike Syms (6)
- Coffee Sponge Cake / Miloni Patel (6)
- Carrots / Miranda Simon (8)
- Oreos / Mohammed Almoja (6)
- Popcorn / Nathan Mangibin (8)
- Lasagna / Nathaniel Reed (6)
- Gum / Noel Elias (7)
- Hot Cheetos / Noel Arallano (6)
- Popcorn / Olivia Flowers (8)
- Beets / Olivia Griffin-Erickson (6)
- Hamburgers / Owen Smith (6)
- Chocolate Brownie / Owen Edgington (8)
- Strawberries / Paola Rodriguez (6)
- Bean+Cheese Nachos / Perrin Minter (6)
- Fried Rice / Victor Yao (7)
- Mangos / Raphael Stone (8)
- Olive Garden / Raul Morales (7)
- Breakfast Tacos / Reagon Kohlwe (7)
- Pizza / Rebecca Harshman (6)
- Hot Wings / Roberto Benitez (8)
- Danish Pastry / Robin Sam (8)
- Breakfast Tacos / Rohan Bhavsar (6)
- French Fries / Rosalind Yang (8)
- Fajitas / Ryan Abou-Hamdan (6)
- Fries / Ryan Aparicio (6)
- Cheerios / Samuel Jennings (7)

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