



## Boys basketball looks to pick up where they left off last season

by Sam Wolf

Finishing their 2008-2009 season at the state quarterfinals vs. York was one of the best finishes the Parkland basketball program has ever had. With a group of four seniors and four returning starters leading the way, two of which being 6'4" Jaleel Clark and 6'7" Jon Ward, the Trojans were deemed unstoppable.

However, this year Parkland is faced with a slightly different roster. A group of six seniors, many underclassmen looking to contribute and only one returning starter in agile point guard, Nick Miller, the Trojans have just as high hopes as they did last season.

The point of concern is not necessarily experience, considering seniors Paul Pammer and Ryan Carlon were both role players who each received a fair amount of minutes coming off the bench last season. "With our guards that are coming back, we will have one of the best guard combinations in the league," said Parkland's second year coach, Andy Stephens.

With a guard combination deemed to be "one of the best in the league" by Coach Stephens, everyone has to be giving Parkland a fair chance at a repeat for a district title. However, many outsiders may consider the Trojan front line to be a weak point. With the loss of high flying Jaleel Clark and the big presence of Jon

Ward, it may seem as though the Trojans are going to have to rely solely on their guards this season.

Stephens may not necessarily agree with that statement. "We make up with toughness," said Stephens. With Parkland's two senior big men, Ben Karabasz and Jon Brannon, along with sophomores, Daulton Charles and Rob Devorcek, all playing football this season, toughness seems to be an advantage leaning towards the Trojans.

This past summer, Parkland entered the Stellar tournament, which is a basketball tournament containing teams from not only the Lehigh Valley, but all over the area from New Jersey to Ohio to Delaware to New York. The Trojans proved their toughness by taking the Allentown Fair Grounds by a storm and winning the entire tournament and Miller winning the award as the MVP of the tournament.

Parkland's backcourt has made a reputation for itself that is one to be reckoned with throughout the Lehigh Valley Conference. However, the shoes of Jon Ward and Jaleel Clark may not be so hard to fill. With Jon Brannon and Ben Karabasz each at 6'4", Parkland's starting big men should be able to hold their own. "Nazereth is pretty big and Liberty has Gonzalez, but there are no Jon Wards in this league," said Stephens.

Other than Miller, Carlon, Pammer,

Brannon and Karabasz, Parkland has a rather deep bench this year. "We have three sophomores, [Devorcek, Charles and Zach Muhr], that are going to hopefully play a lot of minutes," said Stephens. Zach Muhr, the younger brother of Parkland's starting shooting guard last year, contributed greatly over the summer along with Devorcek and Charles when several players were on vacation after a long week of Trojan Camp. Dom Posocco, another senior, is expected to greatly contribute this season as well.

"Last year is over. It is a new season. The guys from last year should feel good about it. We were really hyped up to be one of the best teams last year. "It is not going to be that way this year, but sometimes it is better to sneak up from behind," said Stephens.

Whatever the condition is, whether it be pre-elected champion or under the radar, the Parkland boys basketball season ought to be interesting



photo courtesy of Parkland Boys Basketball

Senior Nick Miller rises over the defense for the layup.

to watch. The season started Friday, December 11 against Stroudsburg, but it is not too late to come out to support the team.

## The Trumpet looks back on an incredible Trojan football season

by Sam Wolf

Parkland began their season by taking a roadtrip to Philadelphia to take on Geroge Washington High School. Parkland ended up not taking the long haul for nothing considering they kept their opponents scoreless, winning their season opener 16-0.

Parkland then took on the team which they were unable to defeat the previous season, the Liberty Hurricanes. Parkland scored when necessary, including a two yard touchdown run by Dom Posocco as time expired in the first half. Parkland went on to avenge their cross-town foes

with a winning score of 21-14.

The following week, the Trojans took on a heavily matched Easton team. Parkland struck first blood with a 22-yard kick by Mike Lawler in the first quarter but were not able to score for the rest of the game. Parkland halted the hopes of an undefeated season with a 14-3 loss.

The following week, Parkland was in need of a victory against Nazereth, especially coming off a less-than-stellar game against Easton. Parkland's heavily recruited runningback, Andre Williams, pulled through for the Trojans by scoring four touchdowns. By the way, Williams managed to score the game-winning touchdown with 58 seconds left in regulation, which was set up by an interception and a monstrous return by senior Jon Brannon. Parkland was able to find the win they were looking for by overtaking the Blue Eagles 27-20.

After losing to a one-man Freedom team, led by Darius Webb, Parkland closed out the regular season with an impressive five game winning streak. The final five games of the season included a homecoming victory over undefeated



photo by Don Herb

Mike Lawler kicks the winning field goal.

Central Catholic and an overtime victory against Emmaus on Halloween ending with Mike Lawler kicking the game-winning field goal. Parkland also had victories over Dieruff, Allen and Whitehall.

Once the regular season was over, as impressive as Parkland's was, they were able to bring their level of play to a new level never grasped before. The Trojans, being a three seed in the playoffs, took on Wallenpaupack in the first round. Tongue-tied, the Trojans breezed by with an easy 49-6 victory.

The following week, Parkland was put up against second seeded East Stroudsburg who had a hyped up quarterback back in Robbie Moyer. However the opposing quarterback did not live up to the hype as Williams and Rob Devorcek combined for eight touchdowns. The Trojans threw down another high scoring affair by winning 59-30 and advancing to the district finals.

The following week, Parkland was on the hunt for revenge when taking on the number one seed and one of the only two teams which they were not able to defeat this season, Easton. Parkland was given a great advantage over the Red Rovers

in the aspect of fatigue. Parkland had not played a game for an entire week. Easton, on the other hand, had played three games in the past eight days.

The Trojan offense and defense put up a considerably better fight against Easton compared to their week three performance, but unfortunately they were not able to walk away with a victory. Parkland lost their final game of the season 21-14. Parkland may not have left their mark on state playoffs, but their tremendous season will not be forgotten. An honorable mention goes out to the Trojan Pak for being rowdier than ever in the stands.



photo by Don Herb

Junior Kurt Kaunus looks for a big gain.



photo by Don Herb

Andre Williams slices through the defense.