



Girls basketball qualifies for LVC's; looks on to districts

by Sam Wolf

The girls basketball squad entered their 2010-2011 campaign with little hope from those not involved with the squad. "We always knew we could do it," said senior forward Monica Hagenauer.

What exactly is 'it' that Hagenauer is referring to? After last season the trojans lost five seniors, one of which being Tara Huber, the Parkland Press athlete of the year. They also entered the season with only three returning seniors, and just four players with significant playing experience from the previous season. Being a top competitor in District XI, or 'doing it', seemed unlikely.

Parkland began their season positively with victories in their first two games, but both were against sub-par teams, and one of which contained a winning margin of only one point. Their following two games against Nazareth and Northampton would be the first true test for the squad.

The girls fell to Nazareth, led by Erica Livermore, due to a lack of well-rounded scoring with only four players being put on the stat sheet. However, they were able to overcome University of Pennsylvania recruit Kara Bonenberger and Northampton with a victory of 32-27 the following game. The girls would then go on to win ten of their next eleven games.

This brought the Trojans to their next major test of the season; the eventual Lehigh Valley Conference champions, Central Catholic.

After having a less than stellar

performance in the first have, the girls outscored the Vikettes 24-21 in the second half. However it was not enough to overcome Central's first half rally. PHS went on to lose the contest with a final count of 47-39.

The very next day, Parkland faced Nazareth for the second time of the season. After losing by only three earlier in the season, the Trojans were looking to seek vengeance. However, after a lack of defense in the first half and a severe deficit of scoring in the second half, the girls found themselves losing their second of the season to the Blue Eagles, 44-33.

"Going into our last three games of the season, we knew we had to win out to even have a shot at going to LVC's," said Hagenauer.

Their last three opponents were Freedom, Northampton, and Whitehall. The only other squad that had a chance of qualifying for conference playoffs was Northampton, led by Bonenberger.

Parkland easily defeated Freedom with a score of 39-25. The following day was the mar key matchup between the Trojans and the K-Kids. PHS began the half with a commanding lead of 14-2 after the first quarter. However Northampton was able to slightly recover, but not before the two teams headed to the locker room at halftime with a score of 26-17 in Parkland's favor.

The Third quarter held to be a close matchup with the Trojans just barely outscoring the opposition, 14-13. However, Northampton's fourth quarter rally was just enough to the score and send the game into overtime.

The first overtime ended with a tie score of 48-48 sending the game into a second over time. Parkland was able to find a one point advantage and went on to win the game, 51-50. "The first time we played them we were just looking to get put on the radar," said Hagenauer. "But the second time we were really fighting for a spot in leagues."

PHS finished their season at home against Whitehall on senior night. Parkland won the contest 36-31, and as they were walking off the floor they found out that Nazareth had beaten Northampton. This meant that Parkland was heading to LVC playoffs. "We were all really excited when we found out," said junior point guard Alissa Persichetti.

Though the Trojans finished as the number three team in the Lehigh Valley, their first round playoff matchup was against Nazareth and Livermore, who averaged 18.5 points per game this season. Though Parkland was able to contain the Blue Eagle forward to just 11 points, the girls still fell short, 48-39.

Being the three seed going into



photo courtesy of Don Herb

Monica Hagenauer was one of three Parkland players to receive an honorable mention to the All-District XI team

District XI playoffs, Parkland was able to get a first round bye. They face Pocono Mountain West on Friday at Dieruff High School. The Trojans played PMW early in the season and were able to come away with a victory 45-41. They were lead by Persichetti and senior forward Jess Fritsche who had ten points and 17 points respectively. Pocono Mountain West will be led by their sophomore duo

Swimming and diving leads into another successful season

by Andy Shah

Like the past couple of seasons, Parkland swimmers and divers have lead the Lehigh Valley Conference this winter season. Before the meet with Emmaus on the seventeenth of February, both the boys and girls squads were undefeated and strong into the league.

For the last decade or so, Emmaus boys swimming has consistently led the Conference, winning six of the last eight LVC championships. The school has repeatedly clashed with Parkland's boys, and with a stacked team of skilled swimmers, has usually won against Parkland.

Parkland girls on the other hand, have dominated their conference, winning five of the last eight girls LVC championships. Senior Kelli Sheatsley, a member of the team for all four years of her time here at the high school, said, "Our team is really close, many of us have been swimming together since were really little. I think that's helped us to swim faster because when we swim a race we know we're not only doing it for ourselves but

for our team. It also helps for motivation during practice - the team is always there behind you. I wouldn't have wanted to swim the past four years with anyone else."

Parkland's diving teams have both been dominant in the conference this year. At the Emmaus meet on the seventeenth, both teams proved unbeatable, constantly topping each of Emmaus's divers. Both teams swept during the meet, with senior and four-time diver Tori Mulchany sweeping the 1-2-3 spots.

Mark Idleman swept and won for the boys, keeping his top position in the district. He said, "No matter where and how good we are, it is always very competitive and each meet is big for us. The Emmaus match was especially big for us. We were really pumped up and energetic that night. Going into districts and into states, its important for us to maintain that. This has honestly been a great season to be a senior."

As the teams go on into states and districts, Parkland will be in the stands to cheer them on for every relay and dive.



photo courtesy of mcall.com

Senior Mark Idleman has been a leader in boys diving throught the conference this year.