



A young team Lady Lions pull together as a team

BY CAROLINE LOCKWOOD

This has been a year full of changes for the Lady Lion Basketball team. One of their most dramatic changes was the head coach position. Though he has been coaching at Brownwood High School for the past year, this is Coach Swenson's first year to coach the girls varsity team. Along with assistant coach Melinda Guy, Swenson puts the girls through intense training so the girls can play to the best of their ability.

Along with a new coach, the roster has changed somewhat from last year's roster. The team is very diverse when it comes to ages. There are two seniors: Chelsie Carlton and Chelsie Bagley, one junior: Erin Gabaree, three sophomores: Claire Storm, Michelle Kelly, and Erica Evans, and two freshmen: Katie Chastian and Alexa Gabaree.

Though some might see a young team as a disadvantage, the team has turned it into an asset. While the upperclassmen are able to think and lead the team, the underclassmen use their quickness to help put points on the scoreboard. With both of those traits put together, the team is able to compete to the best of their ability.

Erin Gabaree has no problems with the differences in age. "They (underclassmen) work hard and they are a lot of fun to be around. We are able to work together, and have never gotten into any arguments."

Alexa Gabaree, (Erin's younger sister) enjoys being on the team as well. "I have had a lot of fun while being on varsity. The upperclassmen are great leaders, plus, I am able to spend more time with my sister, Erin."

Powerlifting places third at Brownwood tournament

BY NICK FLEMING

The Lions placed third overall at the Brownwood powerlifting meet held January 17.

Powerlifting coach John Ward was pleased with the way his kids competed. He felt that they were the most focused and most disciplined team competing that day. Ward is also excited about the fact that his team this year is very young and will be competitive for years to come.

One standout competitor, senior Leslie Adams, finished first over-

all in his weight class. Senior Peter Medlock also finished in the top five in his weight class.

The season consists of six powerlifting meets and from there they travel to the regional meet. Coach Ward's goals for this year are for the competitors to achieve a personal best at every meet they participate in and secondly, to compete in regionals and make a run at a state powerlifting title. With two top three finishes already, they are on their way to achieving their goals.



Junior Mark Nickols goes up for the rebound

Lions toughen up

Varsity basketball shows they can compete with the best

BY CAROLINE LOCKWOOD

The 2003 Varsity basketball has three more games to play this season against Joshua, Granbury, and Aledo. With a very tough district and schedule, the Lions have had their share of close and exciting games.

Lead by Coach Shane Perkins, the boys are able to be competitive with some of the best teams in the state. The team includes Joseph Hawthorne, Adam Gafken, Deandray McDaniel, Marc Followell, Brock Woods, Charles King, Brian Carrier, Sammy Nichols, Tanner Sikes, Derick Rogers, Craig Callahan, Dexter Evans, and Hunter Storm.

With such a large roster, the team is able to use each player and their talent by rotating them in and out of the game. And since there will be eight returning players next year, the team should be filled with even more excitement for the future.

For those seniors who have been in the program since their freshman year, they are sad to see it all end. Senior Dexter Evans has really enjoyed being on the team.

"It has really been a great experience. I can't believe that it is almost over," Evans said



Sophomore Nicky Followell drives past a defender during a pre-district match.

Fútbol season kicks off Soccer Squad begins run for district title

BY BENJAMIN HUMENIUK

The Lions varsity soccer team has begun district play, claiming their first district win against Mineral Wells on Tuesday night.

Coach Moore and his squad began preseason play on January 3, but team is now gearing up for the ultimate goal:

"To win District," Moore said.

But in a district with opponents like San Angelo Lakeview and Stephenville, what sets the Lions apart?

"I'd say it's experience. We have 8 returning starters out of 11... so experience should be one of our strongest assets," Moore said.

And the reason for continuing to play all through high school is simple for senior goalie Timmy Scalley.

"I love soccer. I've played since I was three years old," Scalley said.

Moore confirms that experience like Scalley's contributes to a strong defense.

"Timmy's one of the best goalies in our district, if not THE best," Moore said, also recognizing Nicky Followell, Kye Darden, Daniel Taylor, and Jamal Organ as key defensive players.

However, the team's strength also lies in its pace of play.

"Overall, we're pretty quick and fast. Our team's speed is... its strength," Moore said.

Making use of such quickness, many Lions have been seeing multiple goals to their credit. Moore lauds Bart Johnson, Mason Ellis, and Kyle Seaton as top scorers, with Johnson, George Ruiz, and T.J. Green all leading in assists.

Yet, experience, strong defense, and fast players alone will not lead to a district trophy.

"I think we have a good shot at [district]," Moore said, "but we have to play good each week."



JV players Vanessa Kinsey, Kim Hunter, Johnny Aguilar, and Jeremy Seaton take a seat on the bench as they finished up their match against Coperas Cove.

DECA prepares for state competition

BY CAROLINE LOCKWOOD

The DECA teams recently placed first at a region competition in San Angelo. Since each team placed first at the regional competition, they will each advance to the state competition in Galveston at the end of this month.

Though it is a rapidly growing organization, most students are not sure what exactly DECA is. DECA is an association of marketing students who practice forms of leadership and business. In DECA, students are able to prepare for the future by working at the school store and participating in many competitions and events around the state and even out of state. At these competitions, each team consisting of two or three people presents a business proposal to a panel of judges.

DECA is coordinated by Debbie Harwell. Kristi Owen also assists with the organization. Participants in DECA include Megan Oliver, Carter English, Jon Permenter, Caroline Lockwood, Ashley Kuykendall, Amanda Chapman, JR Ragsdale, Brandon Martinez, Dyana Dalton, Michael Clark, Jenny Vargas, Jeremy Hall and Megan Scott.

The students traveled to San Antonio at the beginning of the year to attend a leadership conference. While there, the students learned the basic ideas of DECA, and how to succeed in upcoming competitions. It was not all hard work though. Megan Oliver really enjoyed her time in San Antonio.

"Though we had work to do, we were also able to enjoy the city," Oliver said. "We got to shop and explore the River Walk, and even attend a dance. It was a lot of fun." Though there is always time for fun, the students are now concentrating and preparing on their upcoming competitions.

If the team does well in Galveston, they will be able to compete in the national competition in Nashville, Tennessee. Though it is a hard task, the teams feel confident that they have a chance to advance.

"I was surprised how well we did at region," Carter English said. "If we do as well as we did in San Angelo, I feel that we have the chance to go to Nashville."

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