

## Missed But Never Forgotten

Throughout high school, I have solved multiple math equations, read numerous literature books, and completed a multitude of lab reports, but the one thing I am going to miss most about the past four years of my life will be high school athletics. From the bus rides filled with laughter and jokes to the high fives after making great plays, sports have truly given me countless memories I'll never forget. High school athletics created my competitive nature while teaching me sportsmanship. It disappointed me with failure, but applauded me with success. It pushed me to my limits, and provided me with a reason to work hard. I have learned that sports truly aren't just games; they are filled with life lessons that prepare us for what our futures have in store.

Over the past five years as the starting point guard for the Warren East High School Lady Raider basketball team, I have experienced only twenty wins. Along with only winning twenty games in a five year span, we have also not won one district game. As a person who gets angry over losing a game of monopoly, the last five seasons have been some of the most frustrating times of my life. I have played thirty-two minutes of games, scored twenty points, and still lost, but it has all taught me something very important for my future. It has taught me how to overcome frustration and continue to lead my teammates no matter what the numbers read. It has taught me to persevere and work hard even if the outcomes never seem to fall in my favor. It has, most importantly, taught me how to lose. Throughout my future I am going to fail. I am going to face moments where my hard work will seem to never pay off, but I won't give up.

On the other hand, after three years of failing to reach the fourth region softball tournament, myself and the other lady raider softball players won the fourteenth district and the fourth region softball championship, along with placing in the top five in the Kentucky State Softball Tournament last season. Running and jumping into my teammate's arms after making a dive and catch for the last play of the game is something a person will never forget. I finally, after many seasons, both basketball and softball, filled with frustrations, received a taste of victory and sense of pride. My hard work had paid off.

High school athletics have shaped me for all things I will face after graduation and beyond. It has taught me how to persist through failure. It has taught me how to work hard to reach success. It has taught me that ups and downs are something we will face every day, but it is how we react to failure and how we celebrate success that creates the character of a person. I have been blessed with coaches, teammates, teachers, parents, and friends that gave up their time and effort to work with me, support me, and push me so that I could be the best I could be. High school athletics will be missed, but they will never be forgotten.