

# Lady Whirlies bounce up scores, leave competition trailing in dust on gym floor

BY MATT GERBER  
Sports Editor

Finishing another amazing season on Feb. 6, the Lady Whirlies basketball team enjoyed a 21-1 record, suffering their only loss of 49-51 to Page at the Little Four Tournament. They retaliated nine weeks later by defeating the Pirates 53-41.

Longtime coach Phil Weaver has remained involved with Grimsley sports for 37 years, leading both women's and men's basketball teams and assisting with men's golf as well. Weaver played for GHS and Duke's freshman team. He also coached his fraternity team during college.

Wayne Butler, Hank Bullard, and Phil Barry all help Weaver run practices and scout teams. They also advise him when they deem suggestions necessary.

"I hope we have put our players in a position to succeed, and we have fairly evaluated their ability to contribute in different situations. I know we have taught them more than they can absorb about how to be a better player. I just hope we have stressed the correct things and put everything in proper perspective," said Weaver.

Just as important to the team's

success as the coaches are the dedicated players who work the court. One of the most important factors behind the team's outstanding performance is the mutual respect the players have for each other and their coaches. Not only is the squad very talented, but many of them have been playing together for three or four years.

"Our team chemistry is great, and after last year's disappointing loss, the team is focused upon our goal of winning a state championship," said senior Roxanne Neumann. Neumann, one of four captains, also leads the team in three-point shooting.

Helping Neumann with the offensive side of the game are scoring leaders Trumae Lucas, who scored 24 points against North Durham, and Krystin Fields, who scored 22 points against Northeast Guilford. Lucas and Fields also lead in rebounds, along with Nicole Hargraves. Fields had 12 rebounds against Northeast, and Hargraves contributed 10 rebounds against Dudley.

Brittany Nicholson, Brittany Schaefer, and Amber Cook are all defensive leaders for the Whirlies. Lucas and Fields lead the team in steals, while Lucas and Hargraves lead the team in blocks.



From left: Juniors Krystin Fields and Trumae Lucas and seniors Rickiah Wingfield and Roxanne Neumann hustle for the ball, while junior Amber Cook uses some fancy footwork. The women's basketball team ended the season with a 23-1 record and then competed in the state playoffs.

Another key to the team's achievement is the depth of talent on the bench, many of whom easily deserve recognition as leaders.

"Whoever is on the floor and can motivate the team the most is our leader, and many of our players demonstrate that quality," said senior Brittany Nicholson.

Despite the program's stellar record, the Lady Whirlies will not be satisfied until they reach their ultimate goal of winning a state championship. Because the squad has set its aim so high, the

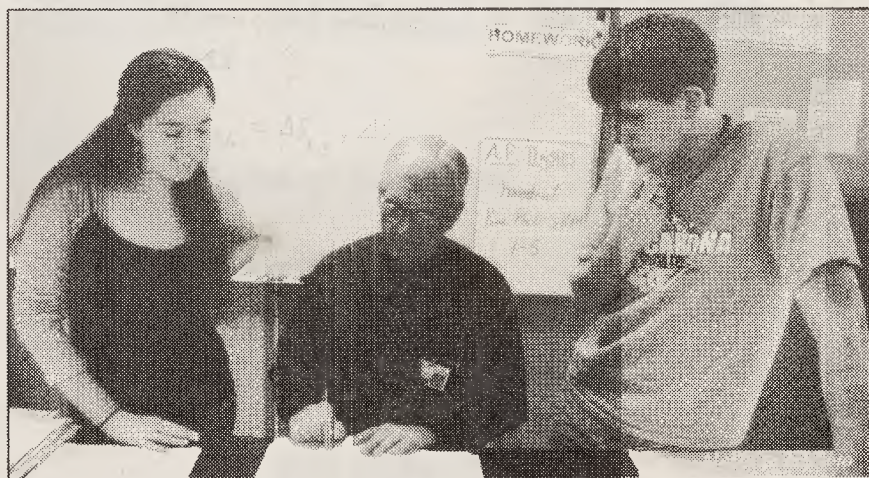
athletes still must overcome additional challenges.

"Staying both focused and determined are imperative to winning the state championship," said Nicholson.

Focus and determination are also traits the Lady Whirlies carry with them to the classroom. The five seniors, Nicholson, Neumann, Cole, Schaefer, and Wingfield comprise a GPA averaging over 4.0. This is an exceptional feat.

Post season began February 19 at home.

## To teach is to learn; to coach is to guide *Doing both proves doubly challenging*



Coach and physics teacher Durante Griffin shares mutual respect with his students who also swim for him. Senior Sarah Peterson and junior Sam Hyman know that Griffin has their best interests at heart in both the water and lab.

BY RACHEL WEINSTOCK  
Copy Editor

Athletics and academics may appear to be polar opposites, but teachers who also coach find many similarities between the two.

"They are the same thing. Teaching and coaching require the same amount of organization and preparation. With coaching, practices are your day to day instruction. The games are considered the tests that show how prepared you are," said English teacher and varsity boys' basketball coach Darren Corbett.

Coaches who teach tend to agree

that communicating information, encouraging hard work and determination, and working with students to help them reach their full potentials are equally important on the field and in the classroom.

Despite the personal satisfaction of coaching, it is often difficult to avoid over-scheduling when one is concerned with grading tests, winning the big game, developing lesson plans, and completing tedious paperwork. Personal time for family and relaxation are minimal during the season of play. However, Spanish teacher Jade Dickerson says taking a lot of time for oneself is necessary during this hectic period.

"You have to take time for your-

self. It is essential for growth as well as stability. So no matter how busy I think I am, sometimes I have to stop myself and take consideration," said Dickerson.

Generally, games and meets do not conflict with classes. Some teachers try to schedule sixth period planning if they have events that would necessitate leaving class during that time. Others are fortunate enough to have games that occur at night or on weekends.

"I teach a zero period so that I will not miss class. However, I do feel badly about not being able to offer after-school help to my students during the season," said volleyball coach and math teacher Roberta Rohan. Teachers unavailable for after-school help sessions frequently offer to assist students during lunch so that they can still benefit from small-group tutoring.

Occasionally, these teachers fear that students whom they do not coach will mistakenly believe they favor those whom they do. All agree that they make every effort to treat each student fairly, whether or not he or she is an athlete. As professionals, it is the teachers' job to remain unbiased. Ironically, math teacher and men's soccer coach Matthew Martineau confesses that he may even have higher expectation for athletes he teaches.

"I think that a lot of my players would rather be in another teacher's

class. They know that that the level of expectations in my classroom is the same if not higher for my athletes than for my other students," said Martineau.

Members of sports teams must meet certain academic standards to participate, which creates a great level of pressure for teachers whose athletes are not performing well in the classes they teach. Typically in high school general consensus is that academics trump sports in terms of importance.

"I think that it is a great opportunity to get a struggling athlete more help, but I would never and never have 'ensured' that a player will be able to play," said U.S. history teacher and JV softball coach Larry Williamson.

Both teaching and coaching offer adults a means of forming connections with students and sharing in their plentiful successes; the most common similarity between coaching and teaching is that both are extremely gratifying professions.

"The most rewarding part of teaching and coaching is being able to share in successes that our students and athletes attain. It is a great feeling when a student scores well on a difficult test or swims his best time. He may not be the top student or the best swimmer, but it is a pleasure to see each individual do his best," said swim coach and physics teacher Durante Griffin.