

What does United mean to you?



"United means to me coming all together and working towards a common goal."

-Mary Yates ('23)

Can't Stop Us

Ponies battle Raptors in overtime

Coming off of a 21-1 season, the girls basketball team was faced with pressure to perform this year.

Nevertheless, they were up for the challenge and began the season just as strong as in years prior. Senior Katie Hardtke said, "Even with a target on our back we are still able to play at a higher level."

The domination displayed by the Ponies is not given justice even by their winning record, though. The team scored more than twice as many points as their opponents on several occasions, and went without a single loss from December 21 through all of January, racking up 11 wins in the process.

One major adjustment the team had to make came with the introduction of new Head Coach Tim Peper, after Coach Willie Taylor stepped down last May. The Ponies' seamlessly transitioned into the season with Peper as head coach. Senior Lizzie Holder said, "The team performed super well and adapted quickly to the new coaching staff."

Of the team's five losses, three were in overtime, and all

were by less than 10 points. One loss was an overtime defeat to Suburban East Metro rival, East Ridge.

After beating the Raptors by 10 points on January 12, they matched up again at home on February 18.

The game was close the whole way through, and went into overtime with a score of 59-59. The teams traded baskets throughout overtime, the score being 63-63 with just 32 seconds left. After grabbing a rebound, senior Amber Scalia was fouled, and hit two free throws to put the Ponies up 65-63.

The next play, the Raptors were fouled on a successful layup attempt, and made the free throw, sealing the game with a score of 66-65. "We lost, but it was a super fun game," Scalia said. "The crowd was hyped up and there were a lot of people watching."

The girls went on to the Section playoffs, but lost to White Bear Lake 57-63 on Thursday, March 10. The girls ended their stellar season at 2nd place in Sections.

By Carter Stratmann



Play like a champion





"United to me means everybody treated equally."

-Ryan Abdullah ('24)



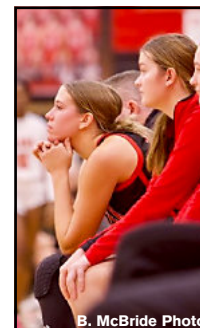
"United means to work together and agree on things."

-Anna Bushlack ('23)

Unleash Sports 033

Season Snapshot

Best Memory
"The best memory is Friday game nights."
-Lizzie Holder ('22)



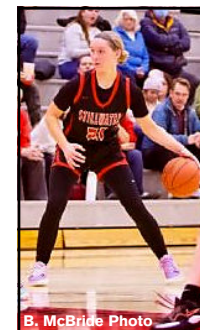
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Season Highlight
"The best highlight is team sleepovers after Friday night games."
-Lydia Knutson ('22)



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Game Time
"My favorite highlight is when we go into overtime."
-Amber Scalia ('22)



B. McBride Photo



B. Winter photo



B. Winter Photo



Photo by B. McBride



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Hyping up senior Amber Scalia, the Ponies basketball team prepares for their big game against the East Ridge Raptors at Stillwater Area High School on Friday, Feb. 18.

Team spirit surrounds the gym as the girls basketball team huddles, ready to hear their pre-game team pep talk on Feb. 18. "We love all the fans and little Stillwater girls who come to every game," Amber Scalia ('22) said.

Soaring high, junior Alexis Karlen ('23) goes for a layup. After the Ponies set up and executed the play which involved Karlen making a layup, they earned 1 point over East Ridge. "We worked together in order for my layup to be possible," Karlen said.

Ready, set.... go as both teams watch the ball get delivered back into play. Seniors Lydia Knutson and Amber Scalia are figuring out where to go, while Karlen blocks an opponent. "This is our rival team and we were pushed to our A game," Knutson said.

Varsity Girls Basketball Front: Grace Mattox, Eva Stafne, Tess Shaffer, Amber Scalia, Katie Hardtke, Annika Peper, Liana Buckhalton. **Back:** Lydia Knutson, Amy Thompson, Eyanna Cori Dizon, Peyton Shaffer, Lizzie Holder, Lexi Karlen, Maya Tompkins, Elise Dieterle.



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