

Photojournalist of the Year Sydney Endicott



My contributions and what I've learned



Fusion
By OneMaize Media

Being a photographer is more than just picking up a camera and taking a photo. For me it's taking a moment and freezing it in time, looking through a lens and seeing a completely different type of world. You see peoples happy moments differently and even their sad ones.

What I've learned this year is that when capturing times of both happiness and sadness, they mean something. Every sports shot, every classroom shot, every outside of school shot, it means something to someone, somewhere.

Something that I've enjoyed this year is the connections that I've made with the people in my photos. Being Maize South's baseball team's team photographer led me to create small relationships with each one as I took photos at every single game last season.

Being an editor on staff for the OneMaize Media, I feel like I really stepped up and helped cover with photos that needed to be covered. When I and the three other editors were discussing what we needed on the website or newsmag, I was always ready to volunteer to take sports photos and asked around to see if anyone needed photos for their story.

This year one of my biggest accomplishments was placing at KSPA (Kansas Scholastic Press Association) regionals, with a photo that had been taken less than a week before. Sure I had a hundred other photos I could've submitted, but I wasn't going to submit a photo that I wasn't happy with, so I went to a basketball game, and had the mindset that I could get a photo and fall in love with it. That's exactly what I did, and I placed first. I learned that when I push myself and don't settle for something, that in the future I can do better things.

As I'm heading into my senior year, I strive to do big and better things. Next year there are no upperclassmen to look up to. Those upperclassmen are the rest of the seniors and me, and I hope that I'll be one of those older kids that the younger students will come to for advice and help on how to take a photo and how to make it perfect, or pretty close at least.

Photo #1 - A Dive for a Win



ball in an attempt to steal it from Newton High. Steinhoff makes the steal and returns it back to the other side of the court to make yet another point and puts the Mavericks in a winning score of 68-59. "Every time we win a game it's the best feeling. It just makes you feel like all the hard work you put in pays off," said Steinhoff. "Being with my teammates and competing against other schools is my favorite part."

Description - This is probably the best photo that I had taken last school year. At this game, I was on an important deadline and I needed to get just one good photo. Walking around the gym trying to find the best spot, I went and sat under the goal against the wall and waited. This was a hard shot to capture, but I'm glad I was patient and was able to take it.

Photo #2 - A double jumpe_r



Owen Byrne and sophomore back marshals jump to catch the ball that was thrown from first baseman sophomore Luke Youngdahl. Losing the first game 10-2, the Mavericks put in their all and came back in the second game winning 4-3. This pink out themed baseball game was planned in hopes to raise money for the Shelly Poynter Scholarship.

Description - In previous games I've pictured in my head a cool and exciting photo that could happen at second base. In this game I focused mostly on second base, and in the end got the chance to capture it.

Photo #3 - Strength vs. Mud



Caption - Drenched in mud and struggling to hold on to the straps, eighth grader Josh Glover soon falls in just moments later during the sixth annual Bull Rush at Maize South Middle School. Hearing people screaming and cheering for him, Glover was able to block the smell of the stinky mud. "Having people cheering me on when I almost made it across the swing was really fun," said Glover. "It felt gross because it smelled like cow poop, but I kinda blocked it out towards the end."

Description - For this photo I really tried to focus on the struggle that the younger students were having with this obstacle. I had seen that the kids before him were falling quickly and realized I could have something here.

Photo #4 - Smiles and Wins



Caption - Playing the game that determines if they go to sub-state, sophomore Kyndal Ewertz runs to Senior Peyton Hersholt after scoring her second point for the Mavs. During this game Ewertz scored a total of three points, as well as Hendershot with one, these four points put this team up with a win 6-0. "After scoring each goal it made me more excited to score another," said Ewertz. "When I see my teammates faces after scoring a point it gives me motivation to keep going"

Description - Walking into this game, I didn't know how it was gonna go. I was either gonna get pictures of these student athletes smiling and cheering, or I was gonna get photos of sadness and crying because their season had just now ended. After the first goal scored, I knew I needed to pay attention to the excitement of the girls after the next few goals scored.

Photo #5 - Pie Face



Caption - Preparing to get pied in the face, junior Brinn Armstrong soon found herself in relief as it only hits a small part of her face. At this back-to-school carnival, Armstrong helped raise money for the dance team.

Description - Walking around the carnival, I saw all sorts of connections being made between the high schoolers and younger children, and I saw an opportunity to capture that with this photo.