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Photojournalist of the Year

Home of the Spartans

This photo was taken at my very first event of the school year. I hadn't touched a camera since June, and I was out of practice. It was difficult to get pictures of the Pep Club because they wanted to smile and pose for the camera, but I caught some real emotions when they were cheering. I like this photo because of the subject's facial expression. I can almost hear his scream when I look at the photo. I also like that you can see the unity of the student section with all of the red white and blue.

Right: Pep Club leader Luke Cummings cheers for his school's football team as they run onto the field.



Shooting for the Stars

This photo was taken at the first basketball game that I genuinely love the photos from. It was the pink out game and originally I didn't like the random bits of pink in the back. After further contemplation, I decided I love it. It adds pops of color in an otherwise very neutral and boring photo. It also adds to the story of the photo. Her facial expression is priceless, it is *crisp*, the background is blurred, you can read "Spartans" and "Holt", and the color is beautiful. I love this photo. I also don't think I've seen any girls basketball photos that look quite like it.

Right: Junior Bri Mason takes a shot during an intense game against Holt.



Sensational

This photo was taken during halftime of a basketball game, I had never really focused on photographing dance or cheer before, so it was something new. I really like the symmetry in this photo and how clear the “FHC Spartans” is on their shirts. I also really like the colors in this photo because usually the gym produces ugly yellow photos.



Right: Sophomore Heidi Strauss dances during the Varsity Boys Basketball halftime.

Sink or Swim

While I had shot swim before this event, I had never shot swim with our program's most prized possession. I got to use a Canon EOS R6 for this meet, and it handled the light in the Rec Plex incredibly well. The excitement for the new camera kept me interested in the event and I was able to stay patient and continue trying for the photo I wanted until I got it. I like this photo because of how vibrant the colors are. I also love the splash of the water and that you can see her face as she turns.

Right: Junior Xime Avila turns during her first swim meet of the year.



In It To Win It

This photo was taken at the District game. It was against one of the school's biggest rivals. I took a lot of chances that led to getting this image, and I couldn't be more happy with it. At first I was annoyed with the other photographer that you could see on the left side of the photo, but then I realized that it added to my photo. It shows how important this moment was by having a local news photographer there as well.

Right: Senior Kennedy Jensen, the team's pitcher, holds up their District Title as the team cheers.



Overview

This year has been a rollercoaster. With so much going on outside of school, it was hard to focus on photography. But I have still learned so much. The biggest thing I think I have learned is to try and look at my photos from a new perspective. I used to choose my photos based on the sharpness and aesthetic of the image, instead of focusing on the story being told. I would choose a super sharp and in focus image of someone standing still and doing nothing over a less sharp image of a complete story being told. I've also learned that photography isn't just something people do. It is a skill, and it is art. Not anyone can pick up a camera and do what I do. Not even another photographer could pick up a camera and get the exact shot that I would with my camera. Something I could have improved on, however, is variety. I planned to shoot one game of each and every sport at FHC this year and I definitely ended up favoring some sports over others. I want to expand my horizons in my photography from now on and find new perspectives.

