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# AGREE TO DISAGREE

HOW EIGHT SENIORS ON THE VARSITY BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM AFFECT DIFFERENT PLAYERS



**FAST BREAKING** above As a SM Northwest player tries to steal the ball from him, senior Walt Jones crosses the ball over to dodge him. "This is the team that ended up winning state and we lost," Jones said. "They were better than us. We lost, but it was a it was a good game. It was pretty competitive." photo by Maggie Wells

**MOVE THE BALL** above middle As the guards from Rockhurst close in on him, junior Paxton Ochs passes the ball over to attempt to get more points. "There's a lot of people saying stuff, but right when the game started, I forgot about all of that and just tried to focus on playing," Ochs said. "And I wasn't really nervous anymore." photo by Samantha Atkins

**MOTIVATING MOVES** right From the bench, sophomore Brooks Dillion cheers with excitement as his teammate scores a three pointer. "The energy on the varsity bench is pretty exciting," Dillion said. "We go crazy and get up for big plays. You gotta do what you can if your not on the court to help the team." photo by LJ Morrissey



**LOCKED IN** left At the Rockhurst game, senior Carter Brock does his handshake with his teammate during the starting lineup announcements. "I was really just trying to get into the moment trying to hype myself up," Brock said. "I like dribbling and having the ball in my hands not really doing anything specifically, but just getting the feel for having the ball in my hands." photo by Samantha Atkins



**EYE ON THE PRIZE** below In the game against Olathe South, senior Will Beck goes up for a layup. The Lancers lost by one point. "It was a game earlier in the season and I played pretty good," Beck said. "I'm super focused and locked in. I just think about making winning plays. I don't think about much else." photo by Gia Tuso

## QUENTIN OCHS

During the pre-tryout information meeting, junior Quentin Ochs stood under the fluorescent lights of the main gym, listening to basketball coach Shawn Hair talk about the season. Ochs was surrounded by eager parents and students ready to learn about what was to come for this year's boys basketball season. Ochs knew what some of them didn't — he knew exactly what coach Shawn Hair was going to say. But he didn't want to hear him say it. "We are not going to cut seniors," Coach Hair said this every year. Last year, only four seniors were on varsity. But this year it was different — eight seniors were trying out and there were 11 spots on varsity. This meant there would only be three spots for non-senior players. Ochs had been on the basketball team since his freshman year. But with all the new seniors this year, he knew that moving up to varsity was

unlikely. "Maybe some of the seniors shouldn't be on [varsity], or maybe they all should," Ochs said. "[The seniors] would hurt the numbers of juniors and sophomores getting chances, and even freshmen." This year, as a varsity alternate, Ochs had to compete during practices to get off the bench during varsity games. But being a varsity alternative also meant he was a JV starter and played almost full JV games. He knew that with his playing time on JV and the soon-to-be graduated seniors, next year could be his year for varsity. "[I have gained] confidence on JV, kind of doing whatever I want," Ochs said. "Honestly, it makes me enjoy basketball and I know that next year I will be playing a lot."

## CARTER BROCK

Senior Carter Brock maneuvered around the defender after the screen — a legal block set by an offensive player on the side of or behind a defender — set by senior Will Beck. Brock dribbled down the court as Beck's defender rolled off to help guard Brock, leaving Beck wide open... The ball had already left Brock's hands. He already knew where Beck was going to be — he knew because Brock had played with him for three years. The ball landed a foot in front of Beck, setting him up to grab the ball and make the wide-open three-point shot. With eight out of the 11 spots on varsity being seniors, the team

chemistry was like no other year before. They were comfortable enough to jokingly say "Good shot" after a teammate had missed. They had known the strengths and weaknesses of each player since freshman year. They talked for hours after their 11 p.m. curfew in their hotel room in McPherson, KS for their annual basketball tournament. The seniors knew each other. "I know where [Beck] is going to be every time and he just knocks it down," Brock said. "With the eight seniors, it's pretty easy to just tell someone straight to their face what needs to happen to win the game."

**HAVE YOU NOTICED ANY DIFFERENCE WITH THE ADDITION OF THE SHOT CLOCK?** "We definitely have longer possessions, which I think helps slow the game down against Mill Valley, and that's why it was closer than earlier in the season, so I think that helped." LOGAN VERSCHLIDEN | 12

## BOYS GIVING BACK

TWO FRESHMEN BOYS ON THE BASKETBALL TEAM PARTICIPATE IN GIVING BACK DURING THE HOLIDAYS TO THOSE IN NEED



“Right before Christmas break, all of us went to Target, and we bought a bunch of toys and other essential needs for families that have, lower incomes. I've never done anything like that before, I thought it was really cool, it was really fulfilling to do stuff for other people that need it.” MAX SULLIVAN | 9



“I had a sheet of paper that said this kids name, I think his name was Thomas, and he was four, I got him some trains. I think it was a great experience to just like give back around Christmas.” CHASE ROLOFSON | 9