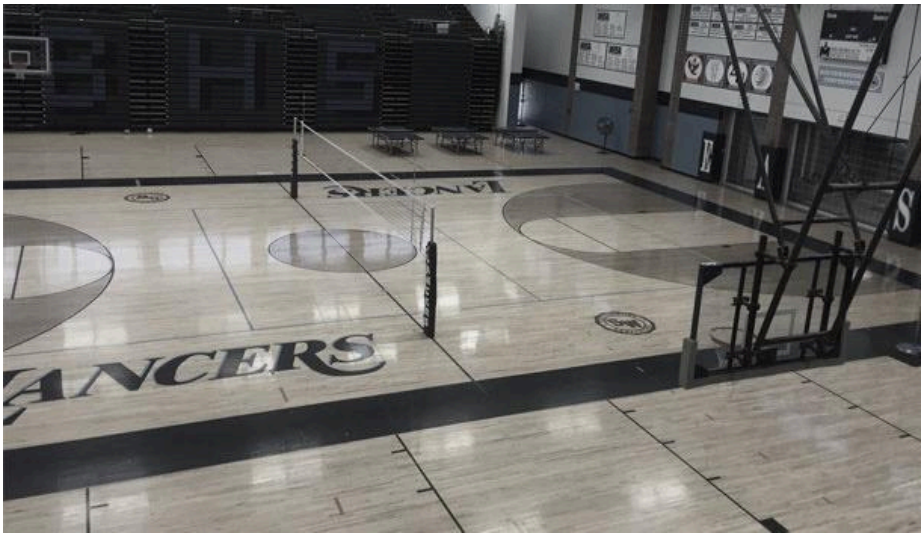
East Basketball Wrap-Up

By: Joey Van Zummeren



Girls' Team Learns to take Nothing for Granted, Boys Win Conference

Co-vid 19 took at least one thing away from all of us. Whether it was a graduation, a vacation, or a sports season, we all learned the importance of not taking anything for granted, and that nothing was guaranteed. This lesson was especially important for both the boys and girls basketball team at Belleville East. Clouds of uncertainty filled their offseason over the summer and fall with the Coronavirus ruining many sports seasons. However, both teams managed to work through and play through a season to remember.

When Summer workouts for the girls basketball team were shut down, Coach Amanda Kemezys said her team quickly learned how important it would be to enjoy every opportunity they were given because you never know what will happen the next day. She described this year's team as "the hardest group of workers I've ever had… Attitude was never a concern with them." Although the limited offseason time prohibited the team from reaching their full potential, the unexpected conflicts possibly helped them connect more on the court. Kemezys explained that the vibe and energy around the team completely turned around and that "everybody played together as a team."

The Girls' team finished with a 8-8 record with their season highlight being a victory over talented rival East St Louis. When I asked Coach Kemezys what she thinks her team could improve upon next season, she listed simply fundamentals such as eliminating turnovers from their game. Hopefully in a more normal offseason with practices, they can work on the stuff they missed in a Covid filled offseason.

As for the boys, they finished with a 11-2 overall record, finishing first in the Southwestern division. Their season is headlined by a victory over crosstown rival Belleville West, and a 85% win percentage.

Playing a high school sport teaches students many lessons: teamwork, determination, and hard work. The unprecedented obstacles for co-vid 19 however introduced many new difficult lessons to learn. Missing practice time and having to work by yourself. Not seeing your teammates for weeks on end, losing time building team chemistry. Not having any idea on what will happen next in your season. Through all of that, the boys and girls' basketball teams prevailed and both completed exceptional seasons. They both look forward to the improvements they will undoubtedly make for next season.