

Curtis Girls Varsity Basketball Team Rises To The Challenge

Warrior parents, coaches, and fans sadly disappointed after The Curtis Warriors Girls Varsity Basketball team faced a tragic 8 point loss after traveling to Albany for State Finals.

They had a long winning streak, game after game, but it sadly had to come to an end. After making their way to the State Championship and traveling to Albany (upstate) the team ended their season with an eight point loss (the final score was 75-69). Even though they couldn't win it all, they still have a lot to look back on from their victorious season. They managed to bring the PSAL City Championship back home to Curtis. And aside from the team's overall success, individuals on the team received awards such as MVP, scholar awards, and sportsmanship awards. It's safe to say that the Curtis Warriors ended their season on a good note.

The State Championship loss isn't the first problem the team has faced, explained assistant coach of the warriors, Lisa McKeon. 'At the beginning of the season, we had to blend two basketball programs together once the girls from St. Peters transferred to Curtis.' McKeon explains. She also explained how the girls quickly became a family, and that it was as if they had known each other their whole lives. 'Because the girls began to work together so well so quickly, they started to develop as a team.' Bob Daggot (Varsity Assistant Coach) explains. They finished their regular season with a record of 12 wins and 2 losses. They constantly held a winning streak as they played against Staten Island High School teams along with teams from Queens, The Bronx and Long Island. The Warriors had developed over their individual skills over this season, so now they were ready for the playoffs.

'Bob and I had high expectations of our team ever since the season started, we knew all the hard work we put in would result in a great outcome.' McKeon said. No one knew what to expect from The Warriors playing teams from other boroughs that were on their level, but the Warriors continued their winning streak. The Warriors smoked the Bayside High School Dolphins in the City Playoffs by 37 points. 'We came out full blast right when the game started which gave us our lead.' Daggot explains. Aside from their great win and an invitation to play for The State Championship in Albany, individuals of the team received awards as well. Karissa Crawford won a sportsmanship award, Gabby Torres and Danielle Santucci both won a scholarship award for outstanding educational success during the Basketball season, and Danielle Leguillo won The MVP award due to her fantastic performance in The City Championship game. Excitement filled the gym amongst the parents, coaches, and fans of the Warriors as the girls proudly held up their banner which said "PSAL City Championship" which was brought home and hung up in Curtis High School.

Now the Warriors had one more game, one more battle they had to face in order to bring home The State Championship. They were now being pushed to a limit they've never been pushed to before. But this didn't discourage or scare The Warriors, the girls were still excited and hyped for their Championship game as they traveled all the way up to Albany. McKeon explains that their game plan was different this game. She explained that because they knew absolutely nothing about their opponents in The State Finals, they had to go out into the game and first see how the other team plays in order to come up with a game plan. Because they went into the game not knowing what to expect, it resulted in Bishop Loughlin coming out

with a lead. 'We got ourselves into a hole which was too big to get out of, even though we came close, we were not able to fully complete the task.' McKeon sadly says. The Warriors resulted in losing the game 75-69, sadly having to travel all the way home without the State Championship. Not all of the Warriors went home empty handed, Danielle Leguillo managed to win another MVP award, this time on a State Federation Level.

'Yes, it would've been nice to win it all;' McKeon and Daggot explained, ' but we still have a lot to look back on.' And this isn't the end of The Girls Varsity Basketball Program's victory reign. McKeon explained that they have even higher expectations for next season, and even though some of the players won't be able to return for next season, new and improved players advancing from JV will also be able to attribute to the team. The only change the team is expecting, is for the better. And maybe next season, they'll come back on top. The season might be over, but we sure haven't heard the last from The NYC PSAL Champions, The Curtis Warriors.