

Hook, Line and Sinker

With Tony Hooker

In second place....Villa Grove.

And just like that, it was over. My baby's dance career was done. The school's incredible run of state titles at the high school level. All of it. Finished. Kaput. Gonzo.

For the past six years, Saturdays from December to February has meant dance competitions, from the event that Villa Grove hosts to IDTA state in Springfield, with stops from Mascoutah to Bloomington and all points in between along the way. Now it's all over and I'm not sure how I feel about that.

I know that finishing second wasn't what the team had in mind. When you've done nothing in your career but hoist championship hardware on the floor of the BOS center, it comes to be an expectation.

I suppose that it's a testament to the strength of the program that State runner-up feels so disappointing to the dancers. For the seniors, I hope that over time, the disappointment of their final day will fade into the glow of all they accomplished in their tenure. Truthfully, we're talking about a high school sport here, and these young ladies are all on track to accomplish so much in their lives that State Championships and Sectional titles will be nothing

more than a footnote in their biographies. Fourteen of the sixteen girls made the 1st semester honor roll, including 11 who earned high honors.

I can only speak from my personal experience, but as time went by, being a part of the team became a burden that the dancers all had to bear. I suppose that comes with the territory when we're talking about 16 strong willed young ladies. Girl drama is a thing, folks.

Although they never talk about it, at least not with their parents, the pressure of continuing the winning streak must have weighed heavily on them. At some point, they began to dance to win and not for the sheer enjoyment of the sport. Truthfully, there was little joy for some of the girls, even in winning, by the time the music died down for the final time, and as a parent, it was hard to watch. Now that it's over, I hope that the girls whose careers have ended will someday find their joy in dance again.

Of course, this relentless drive to win is also probably largely responsible for the academic success that these young ladies enjoy. A B on a report card is as unacceptable as a runner-up finish, at least in my house.

As for the future of the

Devilettes, who knows? The team is in transition, to be sure. Three coaches in three years will do that. The junior high won their seventh straight state title on Saturday, so there is a solid foundation there, but with only one eighth grader, the help might be a little while in coming. At any rate, I hope the team can remember to take to heart the words of that noted philosopher Ren McCormick who quoting Ecclesiastes in the movie Footloose said there is "a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance." I hope that the coaches and girls can find the balance between the pursuit of excellence and the joy of expression that comes from dance.

As for me, I'm gladly taking off my dance dad hat. It's time for someone else's dad to experience the highs and lows that come from being the parent of an athlete. It's been over twenty years, without a break, from my son's first tee ball game to my daughter's last dance competition I truthfully aren't sure what Dance Mom and I will do to fill the time, but I'm looking forward to finding out. I hear that Regency is offering lessons. Maybe we'll learn to Foxtrot.

WEEKLY SPORTS WRAP-UP

Dance
The Villa Grove Junior Devilettes made it seven straight state titles as they won the IDTA Junior High Hip Hop championship on February 9.

The High School Devilettes earned a second-place finish at the IDTA State championship on February 9.

Girls' Basketball
Horse around with Trojans

Aliya Holloman scored 20 points, Jordyn Ray added 14, and Kyleigh Block chipped in 10 as the Blue Devils opened regional tournament play with a 55-44 win over Maroa-Forsyth on February 6.

Fall to Sullivan
After standing toe to toe with the tournament's number one seed for two quarters, the Blue Devils suffered a slow start coming out of the half time locker room in a 59-46 loss to Sullivan on February 7. Aliya Holloman, continuing her strong push for post season accolades, tallied 30 points in the loss. Kyleigh Block chipped in with 9. The Blue Devils finished their season with a record of 22-8, and with a strong nucleus returning will set their sights on bringing home some post season hardware in 2019-20.

Boys' basketball
Clash with Titans
Will Wilson had a double-double, with 23 points and 10 rebounds, to lead the Hawks to a 68-48 win over Tri-County on February 5. Jared Stevens and Jake Eversole each added 11 points, and Evan Wilson chipped in 10 to help the VGH cause. Stevens dished out 8 assists, Evan Wilson pulled down 9 boards, and Blake Smith pilfered 2 steals for Villa Grove Heritage.

Cage Tigers
Will Wilson's 19 points

and 9 rebounds led VGH to a 62-58 win over Hut-Pal on February 8. Jared Stevens contributed 15 points and 4 assists, Jake Eversole added 9 points, and Evan Wilson helped out with 6 for the Hawks, who picked up their 20th win of season.

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Douglas County Courthouse News cont'd from pg. 3

a parcel in NE 35-15-7.

John Sulga granted Villa Grove State Bank a mortgage for Lot 19 of Country Club Subdivision, Villa Grove (7 Beech Lane, Villa Grove).

Elizabeth Trimble Partnerheimer granted Broadlands Wind Farm LLC memorandum of option agreement for a parcel in SE 13-16-10.

Tod M. Trimble granted Broadlands Wind Farm LLC a memorandum of option agreement for a parcel in SE 12-16-10.

Dana Trimble and Binnie Trimble granted Broadlands Wind Farm LLC memorandum of option agreement for parcels in SE 12-16-10 and SE 13-16-10.

Kenneth J. Lynch and JoAnn L. Lynch granted Broadlands Wind Farm LLC an agreement for a parcel in 14-16-10.

Broadlands Wind Farm LLC granted Steven R. Freeman, trustee of The Steven R. Freeman Revocable Trust, a memorandum of lease for a parcel in SE 1-16-10.

Chicago Trust Administration Services LLC and FBO Biddle IRA granted Broadlands Wind Farm LLC an agreement for a parcel in 20-16-14.

Rick G. Fears granted Broadlands Wind Farm LLC an agreement for a parcel in NE 14-16-10.

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2018-19 VILLA GROVE/HERITAGE HAWKS BOYS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Score	record
Nov 19-24	@CGB tourney (3rd)		3-1
Nov 27	@ Uni High	W 70-32	4-1
Nov 30	@ Schlarman	W 62-38	5-1
Dec 04	Westville	W 67-37	6-1
Dec 08	@ Sullivan OV	W 67-30	7-1
Dec 11	Tuscola	L 48-52	7-2
Dec 14	@ Arthur OC	W 74-60	8-2
Dec 18	@ STM	L 55-76	8-3
Dec 27-29	BSN Tourney	CHAMPS	13-3
Jan 04	LSA	L 62-64	13-4
Jan 08	@ SJO	L 52-58	13-5
Jan 11	Cerro Gordo	W 64-43	14-5
Jan 15	Chrisman	W 63-29	15-5
Jan 19-26	@ LOVC tourney	3rd place	17-6
Jan 31	@ Judah	L 59-71	17-7
Feb 01	@ Oblong	W 63-51	18-7
Feb 05	Tri-County	W 68-48	19-7
Feb 08	Hut-Pal	W 62-58	20-7
Feb 12	@ Cumberland		
Feb 15	Martinsville		
Feb 18-22	@ IHSA regionals		

HEAD COACH Corey White

2018-19 VILLA GROVE/HERITAGE Blue Devils GIRLS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Score	record
Nov 11-16	@Falcon/Bunny Classic (2nd)		3-1
Nov 20	Tuscola	L 35-39	3-2
Nov 26	@ Westville	W 62-36	4-2
Nov 27	Salt Fork	W 55-49	5-2
Nov 29	Uni High	W 60-32	6-2
Dec 03	@ Judah	W 59-45	7-2
Dec 05	ALAH	W 58-47	8-2
Dec 11	@ Unity	W 47-39	9-2
Dec 13	Cerro Gordo	W 65-41	10-2
Dec 27-29	@ Bismrk trny	4th Place	12-5
Jan 03	Arcola	W 56-29	13-5
Jan 08	@ Chrisman	W 65-36	14-5
Jan 10	@ Hut-Pal	W 56-25	15-5
Jan 12-19	@ LOVC trny	3rd Place	17-6
Jan 21	@ Cbrind	W 48-26	18-6
Jan 22	@ GRF	W 55-16	19-6
Jan 24	Oblong	W 57-33	20-6
Jan 28	Tri County	L 25-55	20-7
Jan 31	@ M'ville	W 58-25	21-7
Feb 04-08	@ IHSA reg	W, L	22-8

HEAD COACH Dan Sappenfield

HERITAGE

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2018-19 Villa Grove Devilettes Schedule

Dec 15	Villa Grove Competition	1st in IDTA
Jan 05	Charleston Competition	2nd in IDTA
Jan 12	Clinton Competition	postponed
Jan 19	IHSA Sectionals	1st place
Jan 25-26	IHSA State Finals	12th place
Feb 02	Tuscola Competition	1st in IDTA
Feb 09	IDTA State Finals Jr High	1st, HS 2nd

HEAD COACH Sarah Bouton

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