CCA girls basketball team finishes season strong

Special to The Clinton Courier

The 2019-20 Clinton Christian Academy girls basketball team had a magical season.

The Lady Warriors finished 28 and 4, going undefeated on their way to the first District championship in school history. After finishing the regular season on a 15-game winning streak, the girls traveled to Purvis for the AAA South State Tournament.

In their first two games, CCA defeated Amite School and then the defending State Champions, Lamar Christian, on their home court. In the South State Championship game, the girls fell behind 28 to 14 in the second half against Bowling Green. However, as they had all year, the Clinton Christian ladies cranked up their full court press and stormed back to win the school's first-ever South State Championship, 47 to 38.

Next up was the MAIS AAA State Tournament at Canton Academy. In their first-round game, CCA blew out Winona Christian 59 to 22 to set up a semi-final matchup with Columbia Academy. Once again, the girls fell behind by ten points and trailed 31 to 24 with only two minutes left in the game; but, again, the Lady Warriors fought back.

In the final two minutes, CCA out-



Special to The Clinton Courier

The Clinton Christian Academy girls basketball team includes (I to r), front row: Iris Farve, Lindsea Razinobakht, Taylor Jones, Rae Rae York, Ramsey Evans and Sara Sanders; and back row: Callie Abraham, Audrey Bryson, Rilee Evans, Grace Murray and Hanna Zeitz.

scored the Cougars 10 to 0, including Grace Murray hitting a 3-pointer with two seconds left in the game to send her team to the State Championship.

The Championship game turned out to be a classic versus North Delta. The teams exchanged the lead throughout, and the game was tied with one minute left in the game. The Lady Warriors came up just a little short, losing 60 to 57 to finish as the AAA runner-up. CCA did advance to the overall tournament for the first time and defeated AA runner-up, Greenville Christian,

60 to 34, before eventually losing in the quarter finals to 5A Jackson Prep to end their season.

The Clinton Christian girls had great team success, along with many impressive individual accomplishments. Seniors Rae Rae York and Taylor Jones provided leadership as the captains for the Lady Warriors. York scored fourteen points a game and led the team averaging five assists and five steals. She was the MVP of District 3 AAA, All Tournament at South State and State and will participate in

the MAIS All Star game.

Junior Iris Farve led the team in scoring and rebounding. Favre averaged fifteen points and eight rebounds and was named to the All District, All South State and All State tournament teams. Junior Grace Murray hit big shots throughout the year and was also part of the All District, South State and State tournament squads. Hanna Zeitz played tenacious defense for CCA and was named All District and made the All South State tourney team. Freshman Rilee Evans provided strong three-point shooting, which helped her make the All District team. Junior Callie Abraham and sophomore Audrey Bryson provided scoring and rebounding off the bench for the team.

School officials say they are proud of how this group of young women accomplished amazing things together during their five-month basketball journey, winning championships and many individual awards. However, Coach Josh Zeitz said the thing that he will remember most about this group is the class and character that they displayed at each practice and game.

The Lady Warriors will return four starters and seven of their top eight players next year, with the goal of returning to the State championship and finishing what they started this year.



