



Midland Basketball: A Season To Remember

by Sam Allen

The fans can see it coming! They know all too well what's about to happen. Senior Zach Allen is gripping the ball in anticipation looking for the one who will be there. Sophomore Brecken Pyles cuts through the defense, Zach whips him the ball, he catches it and goes up for the perfect lay-up. The crowd goes wild.

That is just one of the many highlights of the Midland Varsity Basketball games. Most of the articles this season have been highlighting the score and the top 2-3 players that scored the most. What are left out of those articles are the fans favorite moments or the exciting plays they come to expect. The plays that locals will talk about saying "remember when".

This year the Varsity team has had us on the edge of our seats, holding our breath, and screaming in cheers. These players have taken hard hits; unfortunate losses and still gives us an intense game night after night. These players all deserve recognition for a hard but memorable season. This year's team is made up of 3 seniors, 3 juniors and 4 sophomores.

Starting with Seniors, Dom Rosa is well known for scoring the most points of the season, and he is also the team captain. Dom has scored 436 points so far this year and has the most playing time of any other player. Dom also holds the top spot for the most rebounds at 208. Even though he holds the top spot in the most turnovers of the season, he also has the most steals on the team. From jump ball to the end of the game handshakes, Dom gives it all he's got. Dom can be seen leading his team in a prayer before the start of every game. He shows leadership and dedication and has given fans a great season.

When the opposing team's top player is sinking 3's and dodging our defense, you can hear the fans start to say one name. Finally someone yells down to the coach, "Put Landon on that guy!" Senior Landon McFadden is a beast on the court. He may be shorter than most but his speed and agility make him a force. He is quick on his feet and has no mercy in defense. His aggressive defensive moves may have given him the most fouls of the year at 69 but his offense skills are just as strong. Landon holds the highest percentage for 3 point shots and is tied for the highest percentage in free throws.

The final senior on the team is Zach Allen. Zach can get a crowd hyped with the dominating energy he brings to the court. Being the "big guy" on his team, he's known for using his size and strength under the hoop. Zach will box out every opposing player he's up against giving him the 2nd most rebounds on the team. He can make the lay-up, sink a few 3's but his mid range shots are the best. Zach's assists to the players cutting in and his brick wall screens are game highlights, but if this guy is running its best to get out of his way.

Three juniors help make up the Varsity team, Trent Allen Hayden Grandsart, and Caleb Dorsey. Trent Allen stands the tallest on his team at 6' 3" which probably contributes to him having the most blocks of the season. Trent's Jump and reach appear to put him 20-ft in the air. Trent may have one of the lowest amounts of playing time this season, but he makes his time count having the 3rd most rebounds of the year and the 3rd highest free throw percentage. The fans can't wait to see him dunk that ball.

Caleb Dorsey, the teams' silent attacker, can be an unassuming force. On defense he's quick on his feet and will appear out of nowhere for a steal, then a fast break for a lay-up. On offense Caleb quietly stands at the 3 point line going unnoticed by the defense. His team passes him the ball and he sinks the 3! Caleb holds the 2nd highest percentage in 3 point shots and is tied with Landon for the highest free throw percentage.

Hayden Grandsart has a strong defense and isn't afraid to shoot his shot or end up at the bottom of the pile to get that jump ball. Hayden shares the 3rd highest average for 2 point shots with Ian, a sophomore, who still managed to hit 3 digits in points made this year with less playing time than most. Henry Elsasser another sophomore whose carefree demeanor may fool his opponent into thinking he's not a threat but once unleashed Henry's defense is dominating. He can stay within a centimeter of his opposing player from one side of the court to the other, never letting his rival gain an inch.

Our top 2 2-pt. average players are both sophomores, Matthew Bumber and Brecken Pyles. Brecken holds 2nd place on the team for the most steals. Brecken will stand toe to toe in defense and in a blink of an eye his hand swings down swatting the ball back toward his hoop. He makes a break for it catching its bounce pattern, to then dribble on a breakaway for a lay-up.

Matthew's name can be heard from the stands when we need a strong defense with more points. Matthew's lay-ups are like no other. Whether he's going up sideways or shooting as he falls to the ground, he will sink his shots. He can pull a foul on his unique shooting style and the fans love it. This plays in the teams' favor not only because he has the highest average for 2 point shots but he also has one of the top percentages for free throws.

Every emotion has hit the fan section at least once this season. We have witnessed the good the bad and the "what the" moments. These players are so much more than the score. One player does not win a game. It takes a team who are utilized in their strengths. Every player on this team is capable and will show the spectators what they can do just given the chance. The season is coming to an end but if you are lucky enough to attend one of their games you can join the other locals to share the team's moments and say "remember when".



Trent Allen



Ian White



Dominic Rosa



Brecken Pyles



Matthew Bumber



Zach Allen



Landon McFadden



Henry Elsasser



Caleb Dorsey



Hayden Grandsart