



LOOKING FOR A TEAMMATE
Brayden Adcock '19 looks to pass against a City High defender Jan. 31. "There was one practice after winter break that we focused on the little things about executing plays and running our offense right," Adcock said. "And I think that really helped our team out a lot."

RIISING TO THE TOP

WDM Dowling Catholic	72-61
Grand View Christian	64-54
City High	66-36
Dubuque Senior	53-51
Linn-Mar	54-65
CR Washington	68-67
Liberty	77-30
Linn-Mar	57-55
Dubuque Hempstead	66-40
Cedar Falls	56-59
Waterloo East	74-61
CR Kennedy	60-43
Liberty	61-34
City High	69-48
Whitney Young (Chicago)	42-56
CR Xavier	64-45
Dubuque Wahlert	73-59
Western Dubuque	65-46
CR Prairie	54-62
Davenport West	74-39
Davenport Central	72-46
Dubuque Senior	36-39



PHOTOS BY JACK DICKENS

Dribbling down court with seconds on the clock and down one point, the player feels a surge of adrenaline rush through his body. He sends the ball toward the hoop, and it drops through as time expires. As West's bench races onto the court, relief and excitement overwhelm the player. Another Trojan victory.

to say the least," point guard Brayden Adcock '19 said. "We had been getting better and better all year it seemed as the season progressed. Then we had cancellation after cancellation to go along with no school almost every other day. It definitely made things hard ... it was different routines all the time."

The Trojans closed their regular season 15-4. But to keep winning in the postseason, the team needs consistency, post player Patrick McCaffery '19 said.

Despite that, co-head coach Paul Rundquist had praise for the entire team. "They all have (contributed) in their own way," Rundquist said. "That's what makes them a solid team."

"Our play is inconsistent, but we are starting to figure that out," he said. "Our decision-making is something that hurts us as well, but we've been getting better."

When adrenaline kicks in, the team's preparation usually offsets any anxiety. "We have practiced everything beforehand, so we have no reason to be nervous," post player Even Brauns '20 said. "We know every game matters and that we cannot take any games off."

Another key to winning games is good communication among teammates, Marcus Morgan '21 said.

"We just talk to each other and make sure we are all on the same page, so we can do what we need to in order to come out with a win," Morgan said.

Forward Cole Mabry '19 credited his teammates for pushing him in practice.

"Knowing how great (West's) program has been and the caliber of players we've had here, it's really cool to know I have that record," he said. "My work here isn't done yet, though, as we now start our journey to a state championship. That's the thing that really matters to me."

"Having the opportunity to be able to guard them in practice basically every day ... makes guarding others feel easier," Mabry said.

West qualified for its ninth straight appearance at State with a 72-46 win against Davenport Central. The Trojans lost a close game in the quarterfinals.

But unusually cold weather in January and February disrupted the team's routine, and at times they had only one day to prepare for an opponent.

—Jack Dickens

"The season has been very crazy,



1. Patrick McCaffery '19 takes a shot over Liberty's Andre Brandon '20 on Jan. 25. "We come in and challenge each other every day by competing against one another." 2. Guard Nick Pepin '20 scores on a fast break against City High on Jan. 31. 3. On Jan. 4, Even Brauns '20 goes up for a shot against two Linn-Mar defenders. 4. Marcus Morgan '21 shoots a layup against Linn-Mar on Jan. 4. 5. Joey Goodman '20 drives to the hoop against Liberty on Jan. 25. 6. Jacob Klein '19 looks to pass against Liberty on Jan. 25.



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