

You had to be there!



Ella Koloc (9)

Examining her opportunities, Ella Koloc (9) looks to pass the ball. "Beating Solon was the best," Koloc said. "It was a close game, and actually winning was an amazing feeling."



Alexis Hartman (10)

Going for a free throw, Alexis Hartman (10) releases the ball. The JV team went 6-9 for the season.



Eva Winn (10)

Eva Winn (10) goes up for a three-point shot to help the team tie the score against Maquoketa. The Hawks lost to the Cardinals, 68-53.



Hailey Hellmann (11) squeezes a shot past a Mount Vernon defender. The varsity team went 3-16 for the season.



Carlee Smith (9)



Mia Peyton (10)



Sydney Morris (11)

## Pre-Game Rituals

Goofiness—a word to describe the many new rituals developed by the girls' basketball team.

The girls choreographed their own dance to "I Want You Back" by the Jackson 5. The dance involved hip thrusts, pointing at other teammates, and shoulder shakes.

"I loved doing the pre-game dances with Leah (Wegmann) and Sydney (Morris)," Allison Collier (11) said. "It was a great way to loosen up and just forget about our nerves."

Other activities included Collier cat-cow-ing across the locker room. "I couldn't believe what I was seeing," Miah Winkowitsch (11) said. "My stomach hurt from laughing so hard."

Another ritual consisted of taking selfies in the locker room mirrors.

"The selfies started with a few people, and then it evolved into including everyone," Macey Kleitsch (11) said. "It'll be cool to look back at

them when we're older."

With every selfie taken and posted on various social media apps, Ella Koloc (9) also posted a poll on her Instagram story. The polls would jokingly ask, "Are we better dancers or basketball players?" and "Do you think we will win tonight?"

"The polls were never meant to be serious. We were just trying to be goofy," Koloc said. "We wanted our friends to vote on our polls (so we could) see what they actually thought."

When the girls made it to the court, their goofiness continued. After the majority of their warm-ups, they took turns shooting half-court shots.

Mia Peyton (10) became particularly good at making these shots, making at least one a night.

"I didn't really have a shooting strategy," Peyton said. "I just chucked the ball at the backboard and hoped for the best."

## On the Court



Miah Winkowitsch (11) motions for a pass. The varsity team battled against Solon, resulting in a 41-50 score.

Allison Collier (11) searches for an opportunity to pass the ball. Collier scored a total of 96 points throughout the varsity season.

Pushing past a defender, Kayla Felton (9) dribbles down the court. "I could tell as a player, we were all improving individually and as a team," Felton said.



**Varsity Basketball.** Front Row: Sydney Morris, Kayla Felton, Hailey Hellmann, Mia Peyton, Eva Winn, Ella Koloc, Miah Winkowitsch; Back Row: Coach Rich McMahon, Morgan Collier, Georgie Hilby, Macey Kleitsch, Allison Collier, Kinley Kolbet, Leah Wegmann, Coach Shannon Funke, Coach Rod Conrad.



**Junior Varsity Basketball.** Front Row: Rachel Wenger, Alissa Holtz, Olivia Hilby; Row 2: Kayla Felton, Miah Winkowitsch, Katie Crock, Danielle Krogmann, Alexis Hartman, Chloe Thein; Back Row: Coach Shannon Funke, Haley Hamm, Carlee Smith, Lori Hilby, Erin Hellmann, Hailey Hellmann, Morgan Collier, Erin Monaghan, Coach Rich McMahon.

## A "You Had to be There" Moment Eyelash Catastrophe



During the game against Benton Community, Georgie Hilby's (12) eye lashes were ripped out.

"At first I thought I had lost my contact so I went to catch it, only to catch a clump of eyelashes," Hilby said.

Both crowds laughed about it once everyone realized what had happened. It became a running joke for the season.



Alissa Holtz (10) grasps tightly onto the ball, keeping it from the defender. "It was cool to see everyone work harder than we have in the past," Holtz said.



Moving down the court, Brigid McMahon (10) dribbles toward the hoop. "I'll never forget the feeling of everyone on the team becoming better friends," McMahon said.