

Wildcats' claws out, nearly upset State #1

Breaking a 17-year drought of going to State, the Varsity Boys' Basketball Team loaded up their gear, loaded up their talents, and loaded up their bus headed for Des Moines to almost upset the #1 seed posting a final score of 51-53 against Ankeny Centennial.

"There are moral victories you can take in sports. I was just proud of our fight. We were able to neutralize some of their advantages, and we were able to execute the game plan," said a proud Varsity Head Coach, Marc Polite as he closed out his first season of coaching the Wildcats.

Though some players were disappointed at first when the shot did not drop in the final seconds, afterwards the team rejoiced as they realized their accomplishment.

"This year we wanted to show people that we could compete with anyone. Now we want to return at this point," said junior Quincy Wiseman, one of the team's top scorers.

Polite knows that nothing is guaranteed and said that he will lay out a plan to the returning athletes who wish to have another taste of performing at that outstanding level.

Those athletes planning on returning next year agree that now they know how dedicated and team-oriented each player must be to reach State expectations.

"The main thing, we've gotten a chance to get a taste of it. Getting a taste is not the whole meal. For our sophomores and juniors, where do we go from here?" said Polite.

Though the final score with all of the excitement from both teams as the three pointer looped through the air kept fans on both sides in suspense, there was a sigh of relief for Ankeny Centennial and a bitter-sweet taste for the Wildcats who proved that they could compete with the best.

~ Jay Katz & QC Times



Poised for points, senior Jamal Litt eyes the hoop as he leans into scoring two more points for the Wildcats against the Muscatine Muskies in a home game for a 69-40 victory. "In January, Senior Captain Jamal Litt was injured in a car accident. Although we faced a lot of adversity with losing such an important player and leader as Jamal, I am so proud of the way Jamal and the team handled such a tough situation," said Varsity Head Coach Marc Polite.

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For the Record

Overall (16-9)

State (6th Place) MAC (4th Place)

Bettendorf	57-45	48-49
Burlington	75-53	
Davenport Central	42-75	49-57
Davenport West	76-6	74-56
Pleasant Valley	39-32	50-33
Muscatine	69-40	54-47
North Scott	70-33	68-49
Clinton	67-50	48-49
Assumption	43-44	21-65

All MAC First Team (Jayden Houston & Quincy Wiseman): **All Substate Two** (Jayden Houston & Quincy Wiseman) **Team:** (First Elite Eight appearance in 17 seasons)



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Varsity Boys' Basketball Team ~ **Front row:** Alec Brown, Jamal Litt, Mike Lowery, Lucas Gross, Sam Wellman, Abdoul Diallo, Logan O'Brien, Makhli Jacobs; **Back row:** Head Coach Marc Polite, Assistant Coach Justin Harper, Jayden Houston, Quincy Wiseman, Nolan Mosier, Jesse Cooley, Cade Guinn, Gus Sullivan, Javier Harrison, Assistant Coach Marquez Davis.