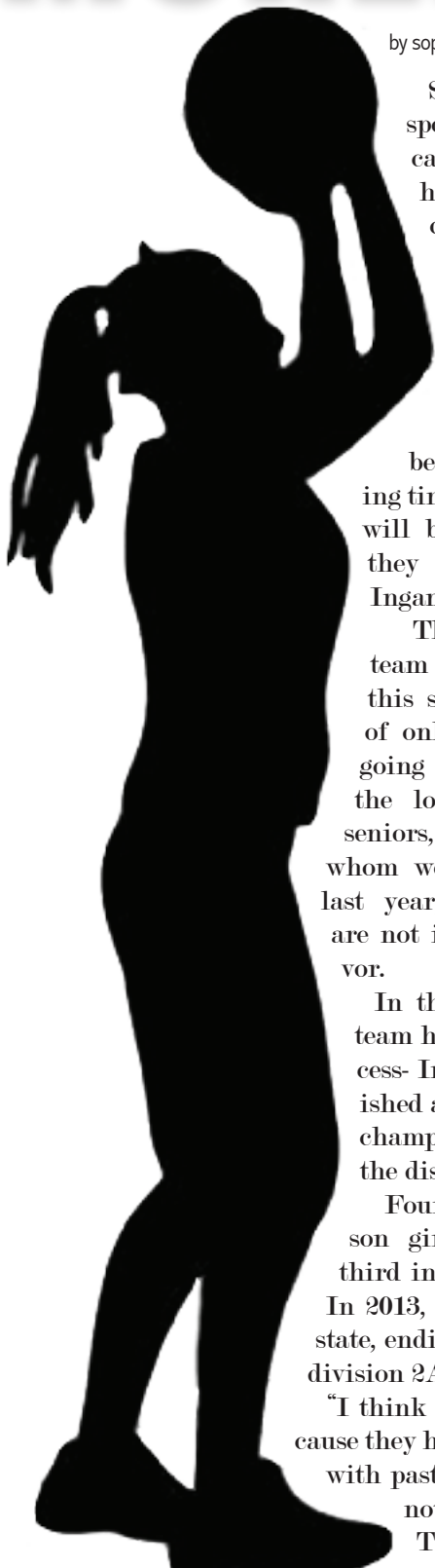


Is less MORE? High school sport participation declines

by sophomore Abby Lashbrook.



Student involvement in sports at Hudson has drastically changed. The numbers have dropped significantly compared to previous years.

Is this a drawback for our teams, or do Hudson students find this as an opportunity to gain individual attention?

“Many players come out because they want more playing time, and with less players they will be getting the playing time they want,” said senior Morgan Ingamells.

The Hudson girls basketball team could be at a disadvantage this season. With the possibility of only ten girls going out and the loss of four seniors, three of whom were starters last year, the odds are not in their favor.

In the past, the girls basketball team has had a fair amount of success- In 2003 and 2007 the team finished as the NICL East Conference champions. In 2003, they were also the district champions.

Four years ago, in 2011, the Hudson girls basketball team placed third in the NICL East Conference. In 2013, they made it all the way to state, ending as the state runner-up for division 2A.

“I think people are not going out because they haven’t had a great experience with past coaches which makes them not want to go out the next year. This is upsetting because if

there is an new incoming coach, they aren’t getting the chance to prove themselves if the player doesn’t go out that year,” said senior Morgan Ingamells.

For some, basketball is not their only sport. As students graduate, basketball is not always the first choice, as many chose another sport to play in college.

“It’s all about perception, not reality,” said activity director Kevin Wurzer. “Girls tend to specialize in many sports, so as they go off to college, they want to play a different sport such as volleyball, softball, track, etc. Which creates a loss of girls basketball players in not only high school, but college as well.”

Girls basketball isn’t the only sport losing players. The wrestling team has been decreasing in size. In 2011, there were

“More people in the room will create a better atmosphere for the team, but having less people can lead to a close knit group of guys that are all great friends.”
senior Noah Huber

25 wrestlers out, but by 2015 those numbers were cut in half.

“There are up years and down years. With wrestling you’re not

going to see as many people out because it is such a tough, long season that people are afraid to go out for it,” said senior Noah Huber.

Students not participating in sports doesn’t only affect the students, but it also impacts the athletic boosters. Part of the profits made are from sporting events held in Hudson.

With less events, there could be a loss in funding, which could mean loss in support from the community. Future teams could see fallout from the lack of funds and community encouragement.

“We are not the only school dealing with the decrease in players. It’s happening everywhere,” said Wurzer.



Winter Sports Schedule

November

Nov. 9

Girls basketball begins

Nov. 16

Boys basketball begins

Nov. 24-6:15 p.m

VBB girls at East Marshall

December

Dec. 1-6:15 p.m

VBB boys vs. East Marshall
 VBB girls at Denver

Dec. 3-6:30 p.m

V wrestling at Parkersburg with West Marshall

Dec. 4-6:15 p.m

VBB (b/g) vs. Columbus

Dec. 5-10:00 a.m

V wrestling at Rockford

1:00 p.m

VBB girls at Wartburg College vs. BCLUW

Dec. 8-6:15 p.m

VBB (b/g) at South Hardin

Dec. 10-6:30 p.m

V wrestling vs GRNT and East Marshall

Dec. 11-6:15 p.m

VBB (b/g) vs Dike-New Hartford

Dec. 12-10:30 a.m

V wrestling at Nashua

Dec. 15-6:15 p.m

VBB (b/g) at Sumner

Dec. 17-6:30 p.m

V wrestling at Columbus

Dec. 18-6:15 p.m

VBB (b/g) vs Union

Dec. 19-10:30 a.m

V wrestling at North Polk (Alleman)

Dec. 22-6:15 p.m

VBB (b/g) vs Jesup

Girls basketball team welcomes new coach

Micah Ruroden will be the girls head basketball coach this season. Ruroden was the head JV basketball coach for the boys last year and also the assistant coach for the varsity boys basketball team. Most Hudson Pirates know him for coaching the high school track team the last two years and for being the assistant coach to the high school cross country team.