

OUTCOMES

- Mount Vernon 63-42
- Apple Valley (MN) 64-72
- Keokuk 71-20
- Waterloo West 58-51
- Waterloo East 71-50
- CR Washington 63-49
- Maple Grove (MN) 57-70
- CR Jefferson 76-50
- City High 45-31
- Dubuque Wahlert 68-76
- Linn-Mar 77-71
- Bettendorf 61-49
- Dubuque Senior 70-56
- Cedar Falls 61-49
- CR Kennedy 42-39
- CR Jefferson 102-74
- CR Xavier 72-55
- Dubuque Wahlert 58-46
- City High 53-63
- CR Prairie 83-53
- Dubuque Hempstead 59-39
- CR Jefferson (Districts) 73-48
- City High (Substate) 50-30
- DM Hoover (State) 51-48
- Cedar Falls (State) 61-59
- WDM Valley (State) 39-46

AIMING FOR A TITLE

“We have one goal, and that’s to win a State championship. Anything short of that isn’t what we’re looking for.”

—Connor McCaffery ‘17

Any loss is tough for a team to handle, but a disappointing defeat in the semifinals of the 2014-15 State tournament while going for a four-peat is especially hard to swallow. That loss motivated West for its 2015-16 season.

“I think that we’ll be a very good team and that we’ll be successful throughout the year,” Connor McCaffery ’17 said. “It isn’t hard coming back from it, but I am very motivated and so is everyone else.”

Entering the season, West had plenty of upperclassmen leadership. But a newcomer, freshman Patrick McCaffery, contributed to the Trojans’ winning record.

“Being a freshman on varsity is very difficult and takes a lot of time and effort, but I’m starting to get the hang of it,” McCaffery said. “It is very hard playing against older guys, just because of strength and athletic ability they have because they are older. They hold you to a higher standard.”

West opened its season against Mount Vernon, winning 63-42.

“I think the rest of the season could go very well as long as we stay focused and hungry and come to practice and get better every day,” guard Alex Henderson ’16 said.

One week later, the Trojans opened MVC play by beating Waterloo West, 58-51.

“We got out to a slow start, but we picked it up as the game went on,” Wali Parks ‘16 said. “The game really didn’t give me a great idea [of the season] because of how great our conference is. If you don’t show up ready to play, you could get beat by any team.”

But West suffered two tough losses, to Maple Grove (MN) and to Dubuque Wahlert.

“In practice, Coach Bergman would say ‘If you guys don’t do this, it will bite you in the butt later,’ and I think some of us blew it off. But it happened, and we lost and all he

could say was I told you so,” Devontae Lane ’17 said. After those losses, the team practiced with more intensity and viewed more film.

The players returned with an impressive 77-71 victory against a strong Linn-Mar team.

“They are at the top of the conference, so the game was tough,” Nate Barnes ’16 said. “The game was a great test to see where we were as a team. Tanner Lohaus was still out, and Connor McCaffery was out, so we had to have guys step up to the challenge.”

In a 72-55 victory over eventual 3A state champion CR Xavier in early February, Lohaus scored 16 points and grabbed six rebounds. It was his first game back after an ankle injury Dec. 18 against CR Washington.

“Coming back from the injury was hard, and I’m still not 100 percent, but it made me appreciate the game much more,” Lohaus said. “I was just trying to do as much as I could and be really aggressive early on, because my conditioning isn’t very good and I know that in the second half I’m not going to do as much.”

The Trojans closed out the regular season beating Dubuque Hempstead. On Feb. 26, the Trojans beat Cedar Rapids Jefferson, 73-48, in the second round of Districts.

“Our team this year is very talented and has a great deal of experience,” Coach Steve Bergman said. “We have worked very hard this season on correcting things that have caused this group to be a little inconsistent.

“If we can get this corrected, the potential for a great season is there,” he said.

But a fourth State title in five years was not to be. After beating Des Moines Hoover in the quarterfinals and Cedar Falls in the semifinals, the Trojans came up short against West Des Moines Valley in the championship game at Wells Fargo Arena on March 12. West lost, 39-46, finishing the year 21-5.

—By Anna Zimmerman



PATRICK MCCAFFERY '19 defends his Dubuque Hempstead opponent Feb. 20. “Varsity is a great learning experience,” he said. “I’ve never really played in front of a lot of people before.”



CONNOR MCCAFFERY '17 fakes out his CR Jefferson opponent in the second quarter Jan. 5. The Trojans won, 76-50. “I go up for every basket with the mindset that I’m going to make it,” McCaffery said.



DALLAS MAJORS '16 goes up for a lay-up in the second quarter against CR Jefferson. “I like the competitiveness among all the players and how everyone has a different style,” he said.

ALL PHOTOS BY ALLY BAUER



DEVONTAE LANE '17 drives to the lane and takes a jump shot against Dubuque Wahlert. “I knew we could beat them,” Lane said. “We just had to come out and attack the whole game.”



DAVID PEDERSON '16 gets an ‘and one’ during the first half of the home opener against Mount Vernon on Dec. 3. “It’s fun because we’re all friends and most of us have been playing together since we were little kids,” Pederson said.



TANNER LOHAUS '16 goes up for a basket Feb. 9 during the fourth quarter of Senior Night against Dubuque Wahlert. The team got redemption for an earlier loss by winning, 58-46.



ALEX HENDERSON '16 searches for a teammate during the third quarter against CR Washington on Dec. 18. “We have to get mentally ready for every game,” he said. “Teams play their hardest against us because of our reputation.”



WALI PARKS '16 dunks in the second half against Dubuque Hempstead to secure the win Feb. 20. “I like how involved and excited the crowd gets after a dunk,” Parks said.