

1. Playing at home versus Dowling Catholic, senior Jared Bacon sclaes his opponents, attempting to make a basket. The dragons lost 66-72. (Photo by Ashley Long)

2. While playing Dowling Catholic senior Erik Francois makes an aggressive drive towards the basket. Despite their strong efforts, Dowling Catholic won 66-72. (Photo by Ashley Long)



3. During an away game at Dowling Catholic at West Des Moines sophomore Camden VanderZwaag makes a hard drive towards the basket. The boys lost the game with a close score of 69-71. (Photo by Kati Anderson)

4. During an away game at Urbandale, junior Dawson Jones towers above his opponents while going up for a layup. Varsity played an away game against the J-Hawks winning 68-35. (Photo by Makenzie Hill)

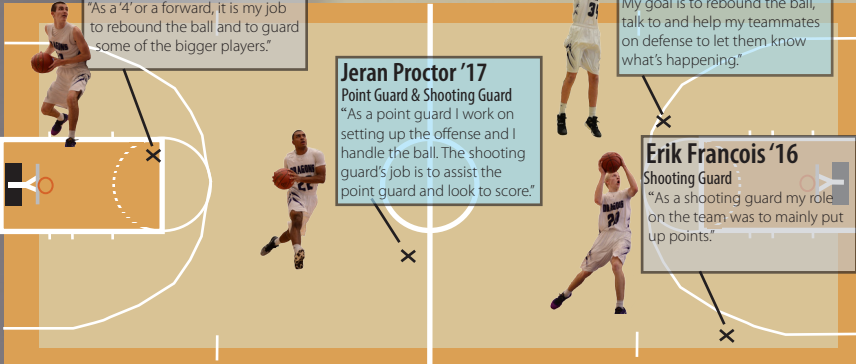


**Dawson Jones '17**  
Center  
"I mainly play center or post. My goal is to rebound the ball, talk to and help my teammates on defense to let them know what's happening."

**Jeran Proctor '17**  
Point Guard & Shooting Guard  
"As a point guard I work on setting up the offense and I handle the ball. The shooting guard's job is to assist the point guard and look to score."

**Erik Francois '16**  
Shooting Guard  
"As a shooting guard my role on the team was to mainly put up points."

**Grant Kramer '17**  
Forward  
"As a '4' or a forward, it is my job to rebound the ball and to guard some of the bigger players."



# Record Reversal

Team starts 2-8, finishes 9-2

With an early season front-loaded with opponents like Dowling Catholic, Valley, Ankeny and Hoover, the boys' basketball team anticipated a challenge. "Playing the hard teams at the beginning kind of prepared us (for the season ahead)" senior Erik Francois said. "It made us stronger."

Head coach Bobby Sandquist agreed. "The CIML was as tough across the board as it ever has been and was senior dominated," he said.

As the season approached, the team geared up to take on the toughest part of their schedule during the first 10 games of the season. "In the off-season we scrimmaged a lot," sophomore Camden VanderZwaag said. "We worked on our shooting, since last year we struggled at it."

The team started 2-8. "We always played our hardest, but there were just certain games that were close that we wished went the other way," Francois said.

With the season off to a rough start, the team looked to turn it around.

Senior leadership and work ethic helped hold the team together. "They were a great group of young men," Sandquist said. "Their character, work ethic and positive attitudes

created a great culture within our program."

Nine games in, Waukee was the next opponent. "The game was close right from the start," Francois said. With Johnston down in the fourth quarter, junior Grant Kramer hit free throws, pushing the game into overtime.

This was not enough. The game went to a second overtime where Johnston lead by three in the final seconds. Then, Waukee senior Adam Rose hit a buzzer beater three to send the game into yet another overtime.

With senior starters fouling out, the Dragons could not hold on in the third overtime. The final score was 98-105.

"That was the first game that we trusted our offense," VanderZwaag said. "We got stops when we needed them."

After a nail biting loss in the triple overtime thriller to Waukee, the focus changed. "The Waukee game was the big turning point (in the season) even though we did lose," senior Jared Bacon said. "We played a lot better. Waukee was good at the time, they were really good offensively."

After the Waukee game, the team won home games from Ames and Cedar Rapids Kennedy. "The Waukee game gave us some

confidence," Francois said. "We started being closer with top ranked teams... We started playing better basketball."

They flipped their starting record completely from 2-8 to 9-2. "The players brought an excellent work ethic and positive attitude to practice each and every day creating a great learning environment," Sandquist said.

The students and coaches felt good about the season. "We had a fun group," junior Grant Kramer said. "It was enjoyable to go to practice because everyone was having fun."

The season came to an end in the first round of the playoffs. "Our defense kind of fell apart in that game," VanderZwaag said. "We were making our shots but just couldn't stop them." Roosevelt came out on top.

"The season flew by and truthfully I believe the players and coaches made the best of it," Sandquist said. "As a program and a team we made several individual and team improvements from the previous year as well as individual and team improvements within the season from start to finish."

The team ended the season 11-11.



5. Senior Jared Bacon presses against his defender as he drives towards the basket. The team played at home versus Valley losing 48-67. (Photo by Kati Anderson)

6. While being guarded by two defenders junior Grant Gossling makes a side pass to a teammate as he runs down the court. (Photo by Ashley Long)



7. Sprinting down the court junior Nathan Buckallew makes a quick pass to a teammate, starting up a play. "I play point guard or guard and my goal is to limit turnovers and create scoring opportunities." Buckallew said. (Photo by Ashley Long)

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## The job of a Dragon

A major part of playing basketball is knowing your position and the responsibilities that come when playing on a team. Players must rely on one another to be smart and back each other up while on the court. We asked some of our Dragons what their roles were when it came to being part of a team.