

# call it team work

## Young girls team hoping its chemistry leads to success

After losing four seniors, the varsity girls basketball team is ready to fill some big shoes, and Jessie Harder '16 and Andrea Morgan '16 plan to lead them there.

With seven underclassmen playing varsity, it is clear this young team has a big plan.

But Harder recognizes they have some regrouping to do.

"We lost four strong seniors," she said. "They were the heart of the scoring in the lineup, so others have had to step up and fill that role."

When it came to Maddie Fay '17, she wasn't scared of the challenge. She was confident in her team.

"I'm not worried," she said. "Our team chemistry is great and we always work hard."

Rachael Saunders '18 credited the two seniors for stepping up as team leaders and helping all the other players feel that confidence.

"Although we are really going to miss [last year's seniors], Andrea and Jessie are doing a great job helping everyone and leading us," Saunders said.

According to her teammates, Andrea Morgan '16 is more than a leader. She's a friend.

"Some game days we will meet at a restaurant or have team meals," Morgan said. "Katie [McGrane '17] and I will also get food from Noodles, Panera or Bruegger's on game days."

That same friendship between Morgan and McGrane existed throughout the team.

"We all get along really well and push each other in practice to get better," Ali Tauchen '17 said. "Hopefully, big things are coming,"

Those big things don't come easily, however. McGrane said she knows success will require contributions from every player on the team.

"The real focus of our team this year is that we come together and get the job at hand done," McGrane said.

To get that job done, the girls need to play to their strengths, according to Logan Cook '18.

"We have a very fast team and we like to get out and run," Cook said.

Their competitive nature is another shared trait.

"We are all really competitive and aggressive, and I think that will lead us to winning a lot of games," Maddie Huinker '17 said.

At the end of the day, their teamwork and their drive for success is what team basketball is all about.

"We always play together," Lauren Zacharias '19 said. "And we're great at picking each other up when we are down."

"Basketball isn't an individual sport. Everyone has a contribution to the win. That's how we play together."

—By Rachel Meyer

ALL PHOTOS BY AVERY KOUT



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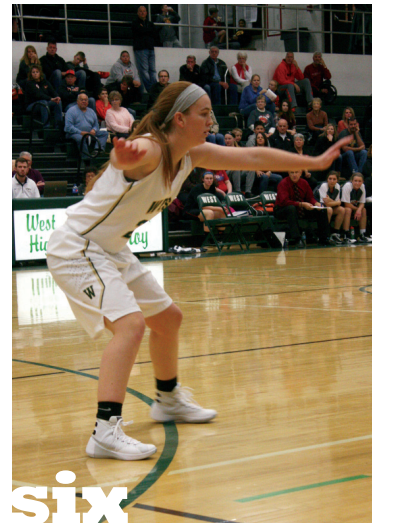
**one** Rachael Saunders '18 dribbles around a CR Prairie player to while scouting for a teammate Dec. 1 during a home game. West won 60-23. "Our defense is probably the best aspect of our team so far," Saunders said.

**two** Maddie Huinker '17 dribbles downcourt against CR Prairie. "We're better at playing as a team than as individuals," she said. **three** Katie McGrane '17 shoots while avoiding the Prairie players. "We all came into the season willing to work super hard, and so far we have been pleasantly surprised with how our team has been performing," she said. **four** Logan Cook '18 looks for a teammate to pass to. "I think with this team we can get really far," Cook said. **five** Maddie Fay '17 shoots from the outside court Dec. 1. "My personal strengths are shooting and rebounding," Fay said. **six** Jessie Harder '16 plays defense against CR Prairie. "We are a younger team than last year ... everyone has really contributed to our wins," she said. **seven** Members of the basketball team congratulate their teammates from the sidelines. "Some game-day traditions include listening to music, laughing and keeping a positive atmosphere," Andrea Morgan '16 said. **eight** Ali Tauchen '17 prepares to shoot a free throw. "Our team strengths are our chemistry and defense," she said. "We all get along well, and everything flows really nicely when we play."

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