

Question: How do twelve girls and a coach get lucky enough to go to the state semi-finals?

Answer:

Hard Work, Commitment

What do you visualize when you think of summer? Do you think of those lazy, hazy, crazy days? Days spent basking in the sun by a blue lake? Days lying on the beach with a cool drink in your hand or sleeping in 'til noon? If you're a member of the girls' varsity basketball team, your days will certainly be crazy, and maybe a little hazy from the lack of sleep, but definitely not lazy. Hard work, always giving it your best shot, and commitment to the program are what make this team click.

Coach Carl Wayer admitted that the girls played well during the summer but he didn't see the special drive that was evident in past years, especially with some of the seniors. The team goal at the start of the season was to go undefeated and Wayer commented, "Although the girls didn't play with maturity during some of the games, we finished the regular season with a respectable 16-4 record."

Somewhere along the line a spark was lit, however, and tournament play was a different story. When asked about the most exciting game, Coach Wayer answered, "I think the Fowler game was the most exciting for the fans because of the come-from-behind win. My personal choice would be the Peck game in regional play. The girls played up to their capabilities, they challenged themselves, as well as the Peck players, and in my opinion, played an AWESOME, game. Getting to the state semi-finals was just icing on the cake."

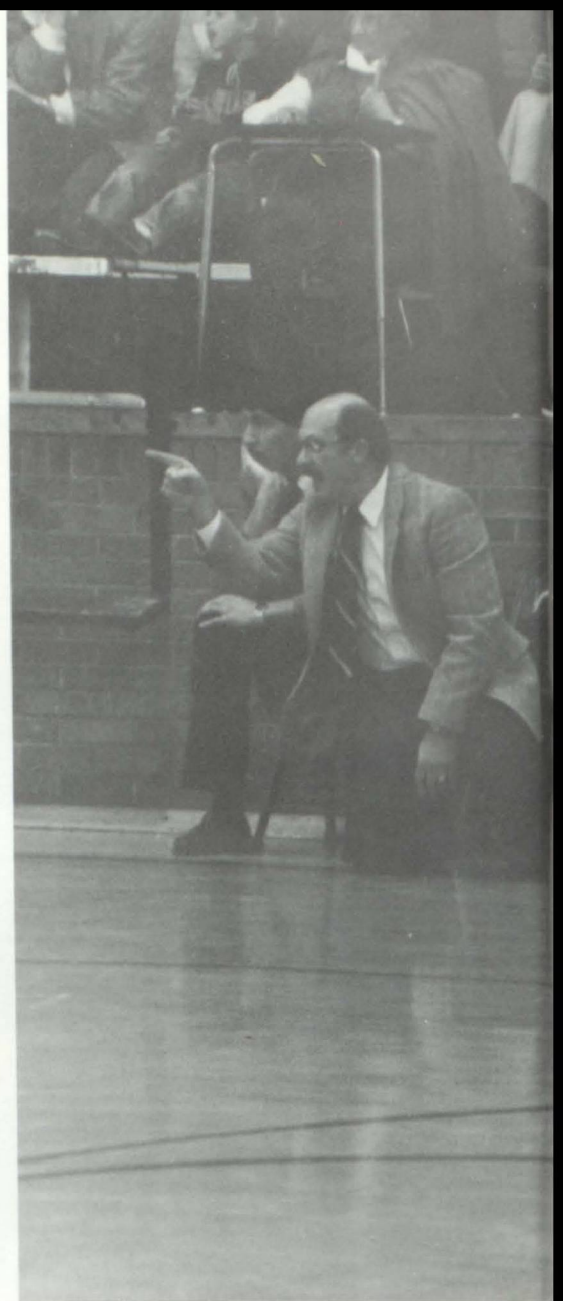
Coach Wayer admitted to sometimes feeling guilty for yelling at the girls. "First, they

have to realize it's part of my nature. I try to let them know it's nothing personal and make up for it in other ways by showing them that I care about them as individuals. Most of the girls admit that even after a great season, they wish they had worked even harder.

"I ask the girls to prepare themselves to be in a position to win every game, the same thing I demand of myself. My only regret is that I spend too much time away from my family, but I'll still coach as long as the girls want to take the time and are willing to work."

In summing up the 1987 team, Coach Carl Wayer declared, "The girls proved that the size of the heart is more important than the size of the body."

▶ "PLAY SOME DEFENSE!" roars Coach Wayer. The varsity team went on to take the District Championship from the Fowler Eagles.



Front row: Shelly Felton, Jamie Plesko, Karin Burlingame, Lisa Wingle, Chris Shaw, Amy Lytle
Back row: Coach Carl Wayer, Ulrika Pehrson (Manager), Sherry Kral, Chaunda Shaw, Angela Felton, Sheila Keck