

POWER

WITH A LOT OF PRIDE!

I BELIEVE THAT BALL IS MINE! Seventh grader Brenda McElroy grabs a steal from an opposing Vestaburg Wolverine. Brenda stated, "We played as a team to win as a team."

Hard work, determination, and pride could best describe this year's Junior High Lady Bears team. With only ten girls trying out for the seventh and eighth grade teams, Coach Sherry Brzak was forced to put all the girls on one team. Brzak commented, "All season I wished I could have had two teams, but the numbers were just too small."

Despite the circumstances, the girls managed to put together a decent 4-7 regular season. They also fared well in the Ashley Junior High Tournament, placing third. "We did not always play up to our potential in the regular season but in the tournament the girls beat Vestaburg. It was definitely the highlight of the season after Vestaburg beat us last year," commented Coach Sherry Brzak.

The girls themselves, however, felt positively about the combined team. "I felt the bigger team was, in fact, a strength. We usually only have five

people on our team and there was not much choice for positions," stated eighth grader, Annette Cermak.

Cermak felt it gave the younger girls the opportunity to experience more just from being on the older girls' team. It was more challenging for them. As for the eighth graders, they benefited from the confidence and excitement the younger girls brought to their team.

Cermak also stated, "I had always played with just the girls in my class. Now I had to learn to play with other people. Although we did not win a majority of our games, we learned confidence and teamwork. Our last game was our best game, in fact. We lost, but we pulled together...we tried hard."

Despite the disappointment of having a combined team and not the record they expected, the girls realized their potential, gained confidence, and the ability to work together.

Terri Kral



K. Mepham



Geskus Photography

JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS BASKETBALL First row: Katie Beck, Annette Cermak Second row: Brenda McElroy, Nicole Ringle, Ashleigh Kauffman, Samantha

Prud'Homme Back row: Angie Turner, Sarah Turner, Coach Sherry Brzak, Tisha Stoneman, Megan Diffin.