

Prexie Pride is alive

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To: High School Staff; Middle School Staff

Prexie Pride is alive, and, currently, no better example exists than the girls varsity basketball team.

A pre-season pick to finish third and even fourth in Section 4 AA, Mike Maltony's team is 9-0 (12-5 overall). They show off a 3-4 start, have won 9 of their last 10 games, and own a one game section lead over Charleroi—everyone's favorite to win the section and whose only loss on the season is a 46-38 loss to our Lady Prexies. Mark your calendars for next Thursday, February 3rd. The Lady Prexies will likely be playing for sole possession of first place in the second meeting between these two teams. The game will be played at Charleroi High School. If you can't make that game, try to make plans to see this gritty, hard-working team take on third-place Brownsville at home this coming Monday night at 7:30 in the Wash High gym.

But this is only part of the Prexie Pride story.

The recent inclement weather necessitated that a varsity-only girl/boy double-header be played at Waynesburg High School last night. The girls team took care of business and dispatched of last-place Waynesburg, 55-20. As usual, they got quality minutes from both their starting five and several key players off the bench. The boys game was a different matter. Entering the game with a 2-4 section record and in 5th place in Section 5 AAA (the top four teams make the playoffs), the boys team took on a Waynesburg team that was winless in section play. Struggling throughout, behind nearly three quarters of the game, and mostly mistake-prone, the boys team managed to rally and get a much-needed 52-48 win to stay within reach of that fourth playoff spot.

What was so remarkable about the game, however, was what was happening in the stands opposite of the Wash High team bench. The girls team, all clad in their new travel suits and seated together along with all three of their coaches single-handedly created the energy of a home game as they out-cheered and out-spirited the Waynesburg crowd in the second half. I looked over at them somewhat in disbelief at first, thinking how could such poor play elicit so much enthusiasm and faith in our team? But their enthusiasm never wavered. At one point in the second half, we must have missed seven consecutive free throw attempts, but on the eighth they were cheering as raucously for it to drop as they did on the previous seven misses. In the game's final minutes they were all on their feet and all yelling shouts of encouragement to the boys team.

I have not yet spoken to any of our players to find out if they were buoyed by the girls team cheering them on, but I know, for me, the feeling of Prexie Pride took on an even greater significance as I reflected on their cheering, and I couldn't help but think that this year's girls basketball team also deserves the same kind of passionate loyalty.

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