



March, 2014 Part II

The first year without the Noga family

Just have to say it! After, a steady 10 years of the Noga family being one of the first to enter the gym there is an end. Sari (2009) and then Mikayla (2014) made the trip from Parkers Prairie religiously for 10 years. There will be a different feel at the first day of North Tartan practice this Saturday and they will be missed!

New runs will continue with the Hedstrom family beginning their 11th season, the Special Peschels in year 5, mini-Buck follows her sister's footsteps, and at the 10U level, add another Coley! Don't forget about the Burich family! It is rumored that it will be their 10th first day of practice.

Side Note

Congrats to Hannah Stewart and Sarah Jacobson on their run at the North Dakota State Tournament. Championships for both!

NORTH TARTAN and Social MEDIA

Not a High School Blog Spot: Our Philosophy

Throughout the course of the High School season it is always enjoyable to follow each of the athletes that are involved and participate in the North Tartan program. There are nights I find myself traveling to one game while getting updated text messages from three others. Often, while engaged in a game I find myself drifting back to my cell phone several times and checking the avenues of social media to keep up with scores throughout the state. As the director of North Tartan, the winter season is one day after another of anticipation. The success stories of milestones being met, and records being broken happen often. I am not going to lie, I love to see North Tartan kids excel in high school and listed on the top of leader boards. Although this is true, the focus needs to be on high school team basketball. This is why North Tartan does not become another "twitter blog" feeding the environment about individual athletes. Yes, milestones like 1000 points, 1000 rebounds, and 1000 assists are tweeted for the social media community to see and those accomplishments should be celebrated.

Aside from that, think about it... athletes listen to their coach, and they should. The game plan isn't all about one player or one thing all the time. Most of the time it is a defensive effort combined with a plan to expose a weakness on the other team. Twitter and social media sites are used to glorify, compare, and spit out statistical measures of an athlete's performance and career. People love to hear about and see these things, but they have little bearing on what a college coach is actually looking for in a player. The intangible things you can't teach athletes are what they are looking for.

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I have numerous success stories of athletes that averaged points in the “teens” and are very successful at the next level... why? It's about team ball, being unselfish and playing hard. Tyseanna Johnson is proving that.

Social Media / AAU clubs / and Twitter is an unhealthy mix during the high school season. No one player on a team is the sole reason for the win. Some of the best players to come through our program have not regularly showed up in the box scores. They do all of the little things for their team that allows them to be successful. Why would I tweet out “Congrats #23 hitting 31 upsetting rival” Was #23 the only player? How does a player on the opponent team now perceive your club? What about the coaches? I have seen some ridiculous twitter feeds over the course of the winter as if individual athletes are used to compare AAU clubs. After 16 years of coaching Varsity basketball I stepped away to grow North Tartan. Those 16 years have helped to shape my views on team basketball. Those 16 years have given me the knowledge to know that it's not one player that makes a team or program great.

Again, milestones need to be celebrated. Players of the Year are long term accomplishments, they need to be recognized. Individual “shout-outs” during the high school season, sorry! You are not going to hear it from this club.

Gatorade Player of the Year

A history of honoring the future

The Gatorade Player of the Year award was established in 1985 to recognize and celebrate the nation's most outstanding high school talents for their athletic achievement, academic excellence and exemplary character. Now in its third decade, the Gatorade Player of the Year award has become one of the most prestigious accolades in

USA TODAY High School Sports, in partnership with The Gatorade Company, administers the selection process for Gatorade State and National Player of the Year awards. All final selection decisions are the result of a collaborative effort between USA TODAY High School Sports and The Gatorade Company.

3 GPOY For North Tartan!

A first in program history

CHASE COLEY (MN)

The 6-foot-4 senior center led the Millers to a 23-6 record and a berth in the Class AAA sectional finals, scheduled for March 13. A 2014 Minnesota Miss Basketball nominee, Coley averaged 24.4 points, 18.4 rebounds, 9.4 blocks, 6.2 assists and 5.7 steals through 29 games. A roster invitee at April's inaugural SchollyMe All World Game in California, Coley owns Minnesota prep records for blocks in a game, season and career. She also ranks among the top three in state history for single-season and career rebounds.

SARAH JACOBSON (ND)

The 5-foot-8 sophomore point guard led the Deacons to an 18-2 record and a berth in the Class A state tournament, scheduled to begin March 13. Jacobson averaged 21.7 points, 6.8 assists, 2.9 blocks, 4.9 rebounds and 2.9 steals per game while shooting at 40 percent from beyond the 3-point arc. A 2013 First Team All-State selection, she leads the Eastern Dakota Conference in scoring, assists and 3-point field goal percentage.

ARIKE OGUNBOWALE (WI)

The state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Ogunbowale led the Dashers to a 20-4 record and a berth in the Division 1 sectional semifinals, scheduled for March 13. Also the returning State Player of the Year as named by the Associated Press and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel All-Area Player of the Year, the 5-foot-9 junior wing averaged 22.5 points, 12.0 rebounds, 4.0 assists and 3.0 steals through 24 games. An anchor of the 2013 USA Basketball Women's U16 National Team that won the

WHAT TO EXPECT...

Our first practice will be on Saturday March 29th. Expect to be ready and laced up. It is always smart to bring two shirts one light and one dark. Bring a water bottle and some light snacks – grapes, oranges, apples, granola bars, mixed nuts to snack on over the 2.5-3 hour practice. It is also a good idea to bring a small towel and make sure to carry your own basketball. Coaches will have basketballs but not one for each athlete. As the year goes on there will be plenty of time to get acquainted. Bring your cell phone and get ready to exchange numbers. Each practice will be a full workout!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENT

PLACE BECKER FIELD HOUSE

TIME SATURDAY, MARCH 29TH

1st Practice

SPECIAL EVENT

PLACE CONCORDIA ST. PAUL

TIME SUNDAY, MARCH 30TH

2nd Practice

SPECIAL EVENT

PLACE NASHVILLE, TN

WOMEN'S FINAL FOUR

April 6th and 8th

SPECIAL EVENT

PLACE BLOOMINGTON JEFFERSON

TIME SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

Practice 2nd weekend April 5+6

See everyone on Saturday!

With a Bounce,

Bill Larson

North Tartan

GREAT ARTICLE – did not know North Tartan had a HS program...

This certainly wasn't a thing of beauty and Park Center needed 12 extra minutes of play to do it, but the Pirates scrapped and clawed and finally found a way to victory over Marshall 73-71 in triple-overtime for the Class 3A championship.

It was first basketball title of any sort in school history.

Park Center did it without it star player, Cayla McMorris, who was sent to the bench with five fouls in late in regulation. They did it without an outside game, making just four of 33 three-point attempts.

They even did it with players too young to have driver's licenses: no player on the floor for the Pirates at the end of the game was older than 10th-grade. Four of them – guards Danielle Schaub and Ann Simonet, forward Feyisayo Ayobamidele and center Mikayla Hayes – were freshmen.

"That was a real war of attrition," Park Center coach Chris VanderHyde said. "The players we had in there have performed like that all year, so I wasn't surprised. They worked their butts off."

For much of the second half, getting to one overtime seemed a tall order, much less three.

The Pirates were their usual annoying selves on defense, forcing normally sound Marshall into an uncharacteristic 30 turnovers. But the offense was half of what it should be. They scored points off of turnovers, as they always do, but the shooting was abysmal.

"It was just one of those games," Schaub said. "The shots weren't falling, so we had to focus on other things."

It was Schaub, a 5-foot-4 the smallest player on the court, who hit the game's biggest shot. Park Center had rallied back from a nine-point second-half deficit, cutting the lead to 60-58, when McMorris fouled out with 20.1 seconds left in the game. The Pirates most dependable scorer and undeniable leader was no longer available.

No matter. When a play designed for Hayes broke down, Schaub acted on instinct, dribbling into the lane and hitting a floater at time expired, sending the game to overtime.

"I've seen Danielle hit that shot 100 times in practice so I knew it was good," VanderHyde said.

Marshall scored first in all three overtimes, yet the Tigers could not make any of this leads stick.

Hayes tied the game with a short jumper at the end of the first extra session. A steal and layup by Simonet, who finished with a game-high 26 points, capped the second overtime. And Ayobamidele had a big basket and a bigger steal to seal the victory.

"We couldn't lose, not with Cayla on the bench," Schaub said. "With everything she's done for this program, we wanted to do it for her."

McMorris, a University of Wisconsin recruit, said it was difficult to sit, unable to help her teammates when they needed her most, but that never doubted they'd come through.

"I'm a part of this team," she said. "I wish I could have been out there with them, but I knew they could do it. I believed in them."

LOVE THOSE FRESHMEN...Future GPOY?

