

STORY OF THE WEEK - JANUARY 7, 2016

THE ROUNDUP

BY AND FOR THE STUDENTS OF HALF HOLLOW HILLS HIGH SCHOOL WEST

NEW COACHES, NEW SEASON, NEW HOPE

Story By Matthew Gold & Design by Michelle Zhang

The 2014-2015 Girls Varsity Basketball Season was one that they would like to forget. The team finished with a disappointing 3-15 overall record. This disappointing season, along with others, may have led to replacing the entire girls basketball coaching staff. But this season has provided a new opportunity for team.

The new-staff has implemented a different culture that has resulted in a revival of the team. The first place to look is their record. They have already tied the amount of league wins that they have had from the past three seasons combined with a 4-1 league record. They also now sit with an overall record of 6-2. The Lady Colts' two losses have been very narrow ones. Their only league loss was by one point in a hard fought double overtime game. Hauppague hit a heroic shot with 1.7 seconds left and ended the game in heartbreak for the Lady Colts.

While their record is an easy place to start, there is more than meets the eye when talking about this team.

A huge majority of the team is composed of both juniors and seniors and they have all built a very strong chemistry. This leadership is led by the team's senior captains Paulina DiFatta, Samantha Pierre-Louis, Taylor Sachs,

passes and puts them in uncomfortable spots. These schematic changes derive from Coach Dugan's experience in the Boys Basketball program as the JV coach and have directly resulted in wins. When asked about the team's

success coach Dugan said, "This team consistently demonstrates resiliency. We have fought back from two 4th quarter deficits in league play. That is crucial because if the girls believe that we are never out of the game, then we really are never out of the game."

When playing under first year coach, X's and O's aren't the only aspects of the game that contribute to the team's success.



Senior Captains: Paulina DiFatta, Alyse McAlpine, Samantha Pierre-Louis, Taylor Sachs, and Maya Khanat.

Alyse McAlpine, and Maya Khanat.

The new head coach, Bryan Dugan, along with assistant coach, Colleen Darge, have changed the way the players operate on the court. First, offensively they have turned to a pick and roll style of offense. This allows for that strong team chemistry to truly flourish with great ball movement and fluency. Second, the style of defense has changed; it has transferred from a slow-moving zone to a defensive style that forces opponents to make tougher

A mutual respect has to be formed between Coach Dugan and the girls, and that's not an easy feat to accomplish. According to the players the coaches have passed that test with flying colors. The coaches have also shown more knowledge of the game, and they are highly respected. They treat the team with fairness and they're very supportive, which has also been seen among the players as they support each other on and off the court.

Continued on the back...

THE LAST-ONE: TORI HARRIS

By Maya Khanat

It's always very dangerous to think ahead, and this team definitely still needs time to grow. Seeing as their previous seasons didn't turn out as planned, the team is definitely on the upswing. It has already progressed leaps and bounds from not only previous years, but from just previous games of this season.

Playoff aspirations have started to take hold, and the players want it bad. The last time they made the playoffs was in 2008. The magic number now is 7. That's how many league games they need to win to reach the promised land. Whether or not they reach the playoffs is up to the team, but the new culture and attitude seem to be headed in the right direction.

FUN FACT

Tori, being the sneaker head that she is, carries around three different pairs of Nike basketball sneakers. One for practice, one for home games, and one for away games.



This Junior basketball star isn't just any ordinary player. Tori "The Last One" Harris comes from a lineage of amazing basketball players. Her eldest brother, Tobias Harris, is a professional NBA player who plays with the Orlando Magic; Tyler is currently starring on the Auburn University team; Terry is playing for Houston Baptist University; her father played college basketball at Murray State; and her older sister Tesia played Division I Basketball at St. Johns University and she now has a job in the NBA.

Tori, excelling just as her family has, is the first leading scorer in Suffolk County. So far within eight games of the season, Tori averages 29.3 points per game with a total of 72 baskets, 16 three pointers, and 42 free throws on the line.

With a defensive style played by the opposing teams designed to contain her, Harris manages to dribble through the opponents and get to the basket. "It's so hard and difficult for me to play because opposing teams pay attention to me," said Tori. Harris' wide array of skills allow her to successfully help the Colts win, despite the other team's efforts.

All year around, this girl never stops playing the sport that she loves. During the spring, summer, and fall season, Tori plays on a travel team while in the Winter season, she's here at High School West to not only aid the team in reaching its goal of a championship, but also to set up a future for herself.

As Tori approaches the final year of her high school basketball career, colleges such as Hofstra University, Elon University, and Iowa State University have reached out to her. Every game Tori adds to her long list of appeals that colleges strive to find in a player. And the offers keep rolling in for Tori as she tries to keep the Colts rolling through the rest of the season.