

# GROUNDBREAKING CHAMPIONS:

## *Girls Basketball wins first State title in school’s history*

**BY: CHANCE HAUSMAN, GIOVANNI MACHADO & HANNAH EDELHEIT**  
A&E Editor, Sports Editor & Web Editor

The Cherry Creek girls basketball team ended their most impressive season with an overall record of 24-4, and, more importantly, the first State Championship in Creek girls basketball history.

The team placed first overall out of the eight teams in the Centennial League. With a talented roster, the girls were able to make a impressive run in the 5A state playoffs.

Placed at an impressive fourth seed for the 5A playoffs, the team earned a first round bye in the state tournament. In the second round, the Bruins took on the 29th seeded Arapahoe Warriors and made quick work of them, winning 57-26.

The girls advanced to the third round of playoffs where they took on 13th seeded Rangev and easily beat the Raiders 70-14.

The Bruins now found themselves in the Elite 8 playing fifth seeded Fossil Ridge. The Bruins squeaked out a victory with a score of

51-47. With their ticket punched into the Final Four, the Bruins still had their toughest games to come.

The girls took on first seeded Highlands Ranch, and, in a nail biter, won 53-52. With their confidence at an all time high, the Bruins made their way into the championship game only to see their rival, Grandview.

The Bruins had met the Wolves twice already before their championship battle. With the series split 1-1, the game was expected to go down into the history books. With the Bruins’ eyes set on a first ever State Championship, they went into the game with a chip on their shoulders.

The Bruins were down the entire game until a dramatic fourth quarter run. An impressive “and one” by sophomore KaCee Kyle and a last-second layup by junior and captain Jana Van Gytenbeek helped the Bruins overpower the Wolves with a final score of 51-49.



PHOTO BY GIOVANNI MACHADO

**CHAMPIONS:** For the first time, Creek’s Girls Basketball team wins the state Championship. The last time Creek reached the finals was in 2004. “I just feel proud,” sophomore KaCee Kyle said. “I’m so proud to be a Bruin. And now our banner has a year on it”  
 “It’s a sense of pride. I can’t explain,” junior Jana Van Gytenbeek, point guard, said. “That was our goal, and it is nice to bring one back to our school.”



PHOTO BY GIOVANNI MACHADO

**JUST IN TIME:** Creek took a two-point lead for the first time since the first quarter with 3.5 seconds remaining in the game. Grandview couldn’t comeback afterwards. “We had to stall,” Van Gytenbeek said. “There was 20 seconds so we had to stall the first 10, so that we could attack to get the last shot.”

**CARRYING ON:** Junior Jana Van Gytenbeek, point guard, taking the ball up during the first quarter. Even being behind most of the game, Van Gytenbeek kept calm and was key to the comeback, scoring 23 points. Van Gytenbeek scored the winning point with just 3.5 seconds remaining. “It just feels good to win the state championship,” she said. “It doesn’t matter who made that shot.”



PHOTO BY GIOVANNI MACHADO



PHOTO BY GIOVANNI MACHADO

**THE STARS:** Sophomore KaCee Kyle and Junior Jana Van Gytenbeek celebrate after the game. “In the moment it was unbelievable,” Kyle said. “Jana ran up to me and said ‘We made history!’ I was in shock.” Kyle scored 21 points and Van Gytenbeek scored 23, comprising over 85% of the points scored by the team. “Good players don’t crack under pressure, so went it got to the final seconds, Jana was calm with the ball. So when I got the ball, I knew the key was not to panic,” Kyle said.



PHOTO BY GIOVANNI MACHADO



PHOTO BY HANNAH EDELHEIT

**SWISH:** Junior Jana Van Gytenbeek trying a three-pointer during the third quarter of the game. Creek started the second half 6 points behind Grandview. Van Gytenbeek had scored 4 points in the first half but exploded for 19 points in the second half.

**CRUNCH TIME:** Creek fans were stressed during the fourth quarter of the game when Creek was still losing and the seconds were slipping away. Second after second, the crowd got more apprehensive, but at the end Creek fans left the stadium with a game they will never forget.



PHOTO BY GIOVANNI MACHADO

**NOW OR NEVER:** Coach Clint Evans addresses his team during a timeout. At this point, the Grandview was leading 49-47. “We picked up the intensity with about four minutes left and we made all the big clutch plays when we had to,” Evans said. Creek started the fourth quarter 8 points behind but somehow managed to come back. “Coach said something really inspirational,” Van Gytenbeek said. “He always gets us fired up, and we always have confidence in each other, so we knew we could come back from that and get the win,” “We knew that it wasn’t going to be easy,” Senior Bella Sparaco said. “Instead of falling apart when we were down, we came together,” “Every one of us played a role and had a part in getting where we did.”

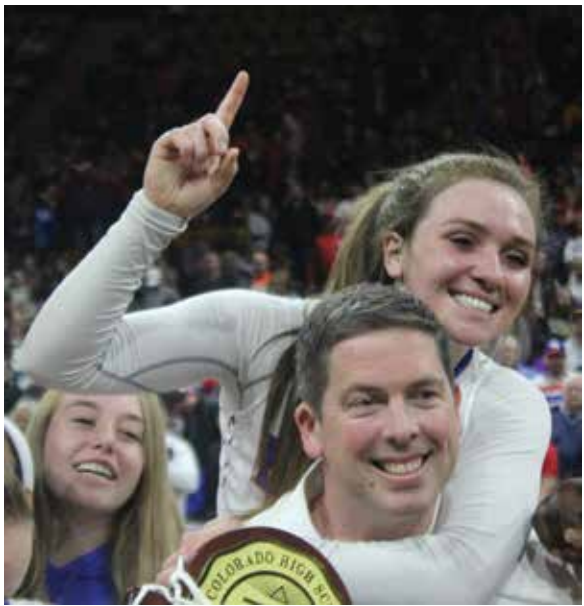


PHOTO BY GIOVANNI MACHADO

**HOW HISTORY IS MADE:** Junior Jana Van Gytenbeek and Coach Clint Evans embrace after the game. “We all love each other so much that we’d never get down on each other, or tell people to stop shooting, or to tell people to stop doing what they were doing because we all have faith in each other,” Van Gytenbeek said. “And our coach is hard obviously, but he has the most faith in all of us.”

“The girls were really receptive to being pushed, so I just felt like we got a lot out of it because we put in a lot,” Evans said.

“It’s a sense of pride. I can’t explain. That was our goal, and it is nice to bring one back to our school.”  
 - Junior Jana Van Gytenbeek

“The girls were really receptive to being pushed so I just felt like we got a lot out of it because we put in a lot.”  
 - Coach Clint Evans

“I just feel proud. I’m so proud to be a Bruin, and just taking the trophy.. And now our banner has a year on it, and that was the only one that was empty.”  
 - Sophomore KaCee Kyle



PHOTO BY GIOVANNI MACHADO

**STARTING STRONG:** This was the first year under Coach Clint Evans’s coaching. “I’m the most competitive person I know,” Evans said. “I always want to win. I want to win everything. My attitude won’t change after winning state title.” “He has a huge impact on winning,” Sophomore KaCee Kyle said. “He has such a great basketball IQ. He knows what to do in a game in each situation, he is a huge impact of why we won.”