



Jon Rice, 9

"I bring energy and I like to encourage the other people around me. Not many other people do that and I like to do the best that I can."



Mason Kay, 9

"I really like playing basketball because of the competition. I'm a shooting guard so I get pretty competitive and I have a mindset that strives to win."



Logan Boyer, 9

"I listen to music before games, it just gets me excited and pumped to compete."

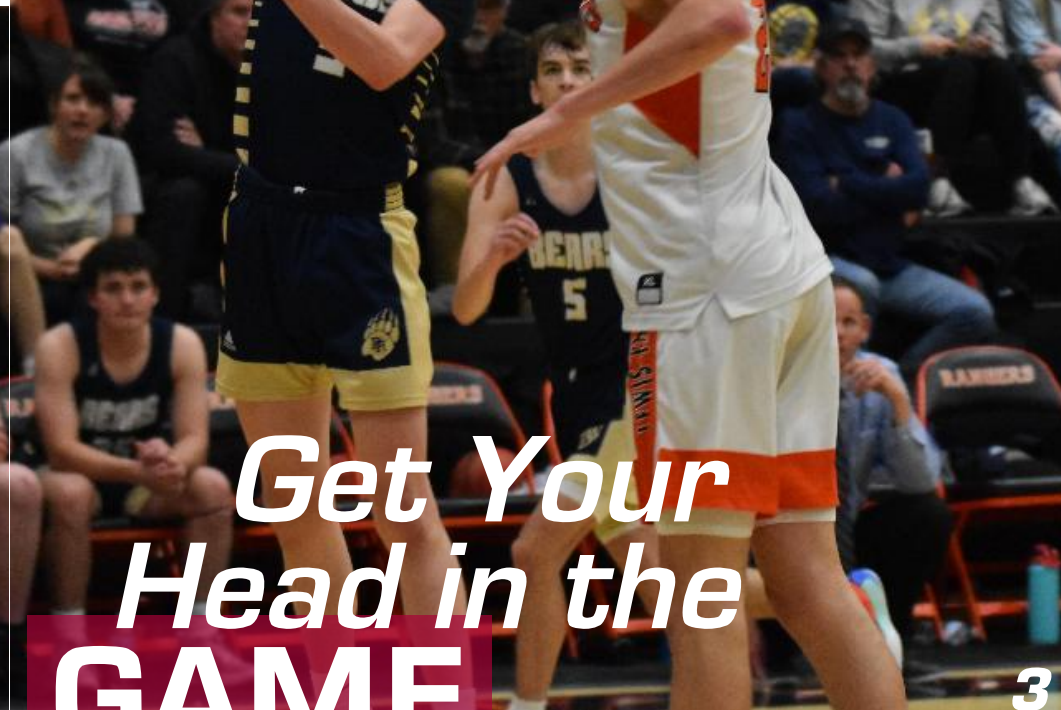


Tate Gargas, 10

"Before a game I always go in the locker room and just try to calm myself."

1. Playing defense, **James Weir, 10**, locks down his opponent. Weir thinks the team has a really good and fun atmosphere. "I think its impact on me mentally is pretty positive because it gives me something to do instead of sitting at home doing nothing," Weir said. *photo by olivia michon.* **2.** Getting around his opponent, **Austin Rees, 11**, looks for an opening to shoot. Rees loves the

definitely spending time with my teammates and making wonderful new life-long friendships," Rees said. *photo by grace lusk.* **3.** Going up to the hoop, **Oliver Hayes, 12**, shoots the ball past his opponent. Hayes likes basketball because of the team atmosphere. "I've been on a lot of teams, including some super competitive teams and teams that have gone undefeated. Even though we haven't had the accomplishments like that, the environment is fun and I enjoy it a lot," Hayes said. *photo by grace lusk.*



Get Your Head in the GAME

"The overall experience has been great. Even if you don't win or are going through a rough patch, you will enjoy every moment of it."

Oliver Hayes
Oliver Hayes, 12

Passing an opponent, **Tyler Babbitt, 12**, dribbles towards the net. Babbitt's biggest accomplishment this season is breaking the assist record. "I broke the assist record this year so that was pretty cool," Babbitt said. *photo by olivia michon.* **5.** Planning his next move, **KC Fackerell, 11**, dribbles the ball. Fackerell's favorite memory from this season was the second playoff game. "It was the best because we upset the eighth seed and are now in the sweet sixteen. This is the farthest the Palmer Ridge team has ever gone," Fackerell said. *photo by grace lusk.*



A Sweet Sixteen

THE BEARS MAKE IT TO THE PLAYOFFS AND BREAK RECORDS

This season, basketball has been more competitive than ever before. Not only did they make their way to playoffs, but, they also made it into the "Sweet Sixteen." "The Sweet Sixteen is the best 16 teams that made it past the first round of playoffs," **Luke Weir, 12**, said. The boys worked together and improved on teamwork in order to make this great accomplishment.

Another player, **Caleb Reiman, 12**, mentioned that this wasn't their only accomplishment this year. "It's one of our greatest accomplishments this year, even though we've had a lot. We broke the true shooting record, the assist record, and steals record. We broke a lot of records this year but this is probably still our biggest accomplishment," Reiman said.

As basketball improves, every year they hope that the bar they set is higher than the last. "We have a pretty high ceiling for next year, because even though this year isn't over, we have to be looking forward to next year. So we definitely have a high ceiling to reach," **Alex Kraft, 10**, said.



AS A TEAM AND ACTS AS A MENTAL OUTLET FOR PLAYERS

The crowd cheers loudly and sneakers squeak along the gym floor at one of the most competitive games of the season against DCC. Even with the roaring noise surrounding you, all you can hear is the steady beat of your heart in sync with the dribbling basketball in your hands. This year, boys basketball has been more competitive than ever before and the team has worked hard together despite tough competitors.

Not only has basketball been a physical activity for the players to partake in, it is also a way for them to release any mental hardships in a

healthy way. "I'm someone who thinks a lot and is alone with my thoughts, so when I have an outlet like basketball, being able to play everyday is really helpful," **Oliver Hayes, 12**, said.

Having such a tight bond with their teammates is not only helpful for their well-being, but it is extremely important to their game play. "Our game against DCC was our blowout game. Everyone was super excited about it and we weren't expecting to win that game," **Ty Babbitt, 12**, said. "We all joke around with each other, and overall we are all pretty close on the team." *story by grace lusk.*