

TELL US ABOUT YOU "I play three different sports, so I'm athletic and really passionate." **Leif Anderson (11)**

photo by maya raulf



we DID that



photo by jane tucker

EMBRACING EXCITEMENT

Hugging after the semi-final state playoff game against Arapahoe, Reese Trobaugh (11) and Lindsay Pleva (11) celebrate. Trobaugh appreciated the bonds she shared. "I've stayed with basketball because of my teammates and how they are always there for you," she said.



JUMP FOR JOY

Cheering, Avery Richardson (12) and the team celebrate making it to the Final Four of the state playoffs. "I love seeing pictures because everyone always looks happy," she said. **DRIBBLING DOWN** Driving, Hayley Luther (11) makes her way to the basket in the state championship game against Grandview. The team lost, 38-28. **HOPPING TO THE HOOP** Making a layup, Natalie Guanella (12) scores against Grandview. Guanella earned the award of Front Range Player of the Year.

Dreams come true in playoff run

March 3 is a date the girls basketball team will never forget. The State Semifinals. Denver Coliseum. In the final minutes, the lead bounced back and forth between Monarch and Arapahoe High School. The team on the edge of their seats.

"The whole playoffs just seemed like another game, and it didn't even feel like we were making it that far," Haley Luther (12) said. "But there we were."

Thanks to a late lay-up by Natalie Guanella (12) and clutch free throws, Monarch won 53-50. As the buzzer sounded, the team exploded onto the court, hugging and crying.

"At the beginning of the season, we all made goals, and most of our goals were to make it to the final four or to the championship game," Arezo Safi (12) said.

After beating Arapahoe, they

had accomplished their goal.

The championship game came the next day, and the spirit was through the roof. The student section cheered louder than ever and came with so much support.

"I couldn't believe it," Caroline Walley (12) said. "If you told me at the beginning of the season that we would have made it this far, I wouldn't believe you."

After a tear-jerking ending, Monarch lost to Grandview High School, 38-28. As time ran out, the student section chanted, "We're proud! To be! A Monarch Coyote!" Their booming voices filled the stadium and showed how much pride they had in their team.

"It just made me feel like the whole community was supporting us," Luther said. "It just showed that whatever happens, they got our back."



photo by jane tucker

Amelia Rosin

"I've been playing with my dad since I was a kid and he's always been super encouraging and inspiring."



photo by maya raulf

Caroline Walley

"I'm so happy I stuck with the program because it was one of the best things about high school for me."



photo by maya raulf

Arezo Safi

"In second grade I was exploring all the different sports and basketball was the one that stuck with me."

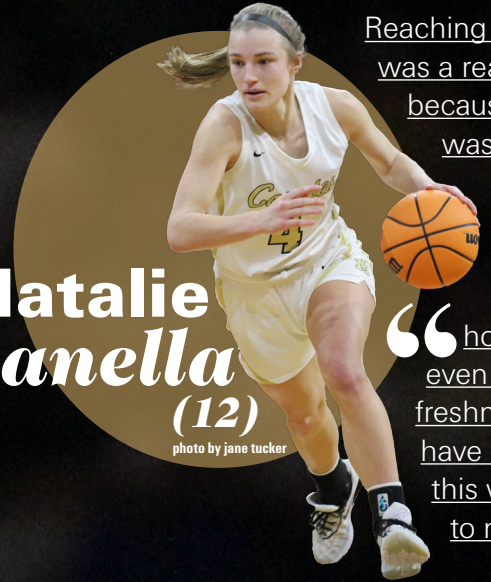


photo by jane tucker

Natalie Guanella (12)

Reaching 1,000 points was a really fun night because I knew I was going to do it at some point, but it was cool to happen at home. I don't even know if, as a freshman, I would have ever thought this would happen to me.