

GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME.

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL MAKES IT TO THE PLAYOFF GAMES FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

by Harry Fulkerson, Angel Hayden, Sophia Hess, and RJ Santos

With a tough start to basketball season, the girls varsity team overcame challenges to make the playoff semifinals.

"We were down by a lot, and we were able to battle back and fight through adversity. I think this is a good representation of us as a team. We didn't start off the season great, but we have gotten where we need to be." **EMILY THOMAS, 12**, said.

During the state playoffs, the team won against

Valor Christian High School, the first seed team in the state. "It was such an amazing win, and they were the ones that knocked us out of the playoffs last year, so it was good to get revenge," **FOSTER SCHEID, 11**, said.

Overall the girls varsity team achieved a season record of 20 W - 6 L, losing by three points to Monarch High School in the Final Four playoff game.



3. FOCUSING DOWN THE COURT, SYDNEY WHITE, 12, helps her team win the playoff game. Growing up with a love for basketball, making it to the finals was an achievement for White. "Playing in the finals is definitely super exciting and nerve-racking, but the funnest part is just playing the game I love, with the team I love!" White said. Photo by S. Pallman.



2. RUNNING WITH THE BALL, AVA BUDLER, 09, makes her way across the court. Having played basketball since second grade, Budler played for varsity as a freshman. "Being a freshman on varsity is a super fun experience and definitely boosts my confidence and pushes me to my potential," Budler said. Photo by H. Fulkerson. 1. DRIBBLING AROUND THE DEFENSE, FOSTER SCHEID, 11, plays in the Final Four playoff game against Monarch High School. The varsity team made it to the Final Four two years in a row. "It is an amazing experience to be in the finals and even though it's sort of a stressful environment it's still fun to be a part of," Scheid said. Photo by A. Evangelista.



6. WITH HER ARM EXTENDED, EMILY THOMAS, 12, runs down the Denver Coliseum court. Thomas found a community through her team. "I love the community and friendships that I have found through basketball. I have found so many of my best friends on the court," Thomas said. Photo by A. Evangelista.

4. GATHERING IN A HUDDLE, FOSTER SCHEID, 11, GIANNA SMITH, 10, AND JORDAN "JORDY" WINTERBOTTOM, 10, discuss plays together during the first playoff game against Denver East High School. The team won against Denver East in the first round of playoffs, with a score of 58-35. Photo by H. Fulkerson. 5. JUMPING ABOVE THE COURT, GIANNA SMITH, 10, shoots the basketball during the Final Four playoff game against Monarch High School. Though Smith was homeschooled, she played for the varsity girls basketball team. Photo by L. Grier.

BY THE NUMBERS.

A SUMMARY OF THE SEASON IN STATS

POINTS PER GAME	P/G
1. GIANNA SMITH, 10	18.5
2. SYDNEY WHITE, 12	12.7
3. EMILY THOMAS, 12	6.9

REBOUNDS PER GAME	REB/G
1. GIANNA SMITH, 10	6.0
2. EMERSON STARK, 11	4.3
3. HOLLY JAYASANKER, 12	4.1

POINTS	TOTAL
1. GIANNA SMITH, 10	481
2. SYDNEY WHITE, 12	291
3. EMILY THOMAS, 12	186

FREE THROWS PER GAME	FT%
1. SYDNEY WHITE, 12	78%
2. GIANNA SMITH, 10	77%
3. EMILY THOMAS, 12	70%

FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE	FG%
1. GIANNA SMITH, 10	46%
2. EMERSON STARK, 11	35%
3. SYDNEY WHITE, 12	34%

HARD WORK "PLAYS" OFF.

THE GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM MAKES THEIR WAY THROUGH THE 2023 SEASON PLAYOFFS

02/21/23	ARAPAHOE 58 DENVER EAST 35	02/24/23
	ARAPAHOE 58 THUNDERIDGE 39	
03/04/23	ARAPAHOE 62 VALOR CHRISTIAN 54	03/10/23
	ARAPAHOE 50 MONARCH 53	

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BASKETBALL TEAM?

"My favorite team is [the] Arapahoe girls because they are great." **ANASTACIA "STACIA" OSBORNE, 09**

"My fav team is the Miami Heat because I grew up watching Dwayne Wade." **GRAYSON MCGOWAN, 11**

"Chicago Bulls because of their winning streak from Michael Jordan." **CADE KAMINSKI, 11**

"Denver Nuggets because [of] state spirit." **KEIGEN RICHARDSON, 11**

"The Bulls because they're just good, and I like them." **CARLOS DIXON, 11**

"The Colorado ones because I don't know any others." **ALY BRUNO, 09**

"The Lakers because I think California is just sick." **JACK FORSYTHE, 11**

"My favorite basketball team is the Denver Nuggets because I grew up going to their games." **ANGEL HAYDEN, 11**

087

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

WINTER