



# YOHAN JR. NEWS



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Winter Sports 2015

## Hobart Girls & Boys Basketball Rule the Court



An undefeated season ends as our seventh grade girls take home the championship.



"A nice bonus to working the scorer's table is that I got to watch our great girl's basketball teams this year! Last week, I watched the 7th grade team win three games in three days to continue a perfect season. Deb and Betty always do such great work with our girls."

-Matt Whiteman

# Final Game of a Perfect Season

By Matt Whiteman

"Looks like it's going to be a barn burner," remarked Coach Deborah Glass prior to the 7th grade basketball game between the undefeated Hobart Brickies and the Willowcreek Braves.

Her prediction was accurate as Hobart edged Willowcreek 29-25 to win their third game in as many nights while remaining undefeated for the season.

The pace of the game was fast, but that's nothing new for this Hobart team. Hobart's adversaries have struggled to defend against a transition game that goes base line to base line in seconds. Many times, going the length of the court only requires a dribble or two. The rest is accomplished with crisp passing.

"As coaches, we recognized early on that our players could be very effective running transition. We have emphasized that good defense creates our transition game," remarked Betty Funkhouser, one of two Hobart coaches.

"They will all tell you passing moves the ball quicker than dribbling down court."

Hobart players are given high expectations by coaches, parents, and each other. Practices are difficult, and playing time is not guaranteed. Kora Neace, a starter for the Brickies, recognizes the clear reasons for the team's success.

"I think it's when the coaches tell us we have to work for our playing time and our position. Both Coach Funkhouser and Coach Glass push us at practice because they want us to get better," said Neace.

The Hobart girls' basketball program has had perennial success, but this year seems to showcase a special group of players. Expectations for the future are high, and those hopes aren't limited to the "A" team. Hobart's "B" team is also undefeated, demonstrating the same tenacity.

"This is one of our most unselfish and team oriented groups we have ever had at HMS. We emphasize that our team is only as good as our weakest player. Our team rallies to help our B team improve their skills, learn the plays, and supports them at our games," said Coach Funkhouser.



## 7th Grade Boys Take It All



The seventh grade boys win conference and end the season with five wins, one loss, and to ties.



## Reaching Out to an Outstanding Team

This letter was a wonderful surprise which illustrates the positive impact our coaches, staff and students beyond the boundaries of Hobart.

*Dear Hobart Middle School,*

*My name is Larry Grom and I am from the Chicago NW suburbs. I have been meaning to send this note for some time but with Christmas right around the corner I decided now is just as good of a time to send this.*

*Last month I saw the WGN feature story about Alyssa Candiano/Hayley Collins and your track team. Needless to say, what a great story about two wonderful and strong young ladies. I tune into WGN about every night but this story stuck with me and just about brought tears to my eyes. I was so impressed with Alyssa and even how well she handled the interview questions. You could tell that she never gives up and will continue to do to great at the things she loves and in her life.*

*As for me, I have a sister that ran track for many years and I have a fiancé with some tough vision challenges as well so I know the strength and the willpower of people who face some of these things every day. I had never before heard of Hobart Middle School but I have now. I'm glad WGN ran this story so I could see outstanding people like Alyssa, Hayley, and the Hobart staff.*

*With all of this said, I would like to make a small donation to your girls Track Team for 2015. My hope would be that the money could be used for uniforms, transportation, food/drinks for the girls after one of the meets, or whatever the coaches think is best. If this is possible I would like someone to contact me so I know who to make the check out to and the correct address to send to. I know your team will continue to do well and encourage all of the kids through athletics.*

*Thank you and best wishes to the Hobart Community,  
Larry Grom*



## *Christmas Check Coaches and the Team*



*The check arrived almost immediately after the coaches contacted Mr. Grom.*