

THE WINTER SEASON

Varsity Boys

The Varsity Knights are struggling through a really tough schedule, playing top teams from the Ivy League such as Collegiate, Horace Mann, Dalton, Hackley, Trinity, and from the ACIS, Friends Seminary and Berkeley Carroll. "It's a big challenge, but despite the early losses, hopefully playing such strong opponents will help us in league play," stated Coach Agnostakis.

Christmas Break was a key moment in the team's season. The Knights hosted the 18th-Annual Loyola Christmas Festival. The Knights lost their opening round game to Collegiate, the defending New York State Champions, and dropped a close game to Seminaire St. Francois of Quebec.

On their trip to Florida, the Knights took 3rd in the St. Andrew's Holiday Classic. Despite a first-round loss to tournament host St. Andrew's, the Knights bounced back with a victory over Trinity Christian of Coral Cables. Alex Fieldcamp and Ted Conrad were named to the All Tournament Team in both holiday tournaments.

On Sports Night the seniors both players and managers were honored for their loyal dedication and service to their teams. Coach A presented a ball to Alex Fieldcamp for scoring 1000 points in his career.

Varsity Girls

The Lady Knights have made great strides this season. Despite some key injuries, some very challenging opponents, and adjusting to a new coach, the Lady Knights are playing their best basketball in four years, and are serious contenders for the GISAL championship. The team has become known for its stingy, hardworking defense, holding its opponents to just over 35 points a game on what is a schedule full of high-powered opponents. Coach Palladino said, "This team has shown such great effort all season. And all of that work has been paying off. The girls have had some of their strongest performances against the best teams on the schedule, showing that they are capable of competing with any team in the private schools."

The team is not without its share of accolades. The Lady Knights took home 2nd place in the Martin Luther Lady Cougar Invitational, after a nail-biting, last-second loss to host Martin Luther in the final. At the Horace Mann Peg Dugan Invitational, the Lady Knights dominated fellow GISAL rival Columbia Prep to earn 3rd place. Rachel Gregory earned All-Tournament honors for both tournaments, and Kelsey Barclay was also named as an All-Tournament selection at the Martin Luther Tournament.

Coach Agnostakis said, "I see a new spirit in the team this year. The Lady Knights are learning a new offense, coupled with a demanding defense."

Coach Palladino added, "We honored six senior players and two senior managers at Sports Night, and I know that they would all like to cap their Loyola careers with a run deep into the league playoffs to take home the GISAL championship, and hopefully playing well enough to earn a place in the state playoffs."

JV Boys

The 2008-09 JV Knights have shown much improvement since last season. Composed of 3 sophomores and 9 freshmen, the young Knights are trying to overcome their inexperience with hard work. The JV Knights have been very competitive this season, playing for .500 and losing close games by an average of 5.6 points per game. They lost nail-biters against very good teams like Dalton, Friends Seminary and Cathedral Prep. The overall improvement of the players is well received by Coach Joseph and Coach A, who is looking at the future of Loyola basketball in this young team.

JV Girls

Under the guidance of first-year coaches Mr. Bludgus and Mr. Richroath, the JV Lady Knights have continued their dominance, starting the 2008-09 season with a 10-0 record for the second year in a row. Although the Lady Knights boast an impressive offense, the team's most potent weapon continues to be a

suffocating, fullcourt man-to-man defense. Coach Palladino says, “The guiding presence of the returning sophomores, coupled with a very skilled and talented group of newcomers has proved to be a winning combination this season. I’m very pleased with the team’s work ethic, and I think we will see some good things from this group of players as they move up to the Varsity in the next couple of years.”