

Roaring crowds, roaring talent!

Senior Kenna Hughes discusses her experience participating in basketball

By: Samantha Fehrer

As the crowd cheers and the pressure rises, one particular basketball player rises to the occasion, Senior Kenna Hughes. From dribbling on the court to helping out her teammates, she has become a role model for all. As she enters her last year of basketball, Hughes is determined to leave her mark.

Kenna's origin in basketball started as early as elementary school. She talked about how the 4th grade science teacher, Mike Waak, reached out to her in 4th grade to join the sport.

"He knew my older brothers, and he figured I would have the same athletic ability and talent like they had," Hughes mentioned.

She also joined because all of her friends were joining. After she joined, she realized how much she enjoyed it and looked forward to every practice. Even as a kid, basketball was always an interesting sport for her, which is why she continued throughout all 4 years in high school.

What stands out about basketball for Kenna are the practices. The environment and energy makes these practices enjoyable for her. It turns the fast-paced sport into a space without stress.

"Everyday at practice is a fun, new drill. The energy in the gym is unreal, and it is just a great environment to be in," Hughes says.

She also discussed since Jordan Miller is the new coach, she never knows what to expect. Kenna looks forward to getting into the gym everyday and improving each day.

"My main goal going into my senior year is to have a winning record," Hughes stated.

Even though the girls basketball team lost 5 seniors last year, the team is willing to step up to the plate. Kenna talked about how this year will be a surprise to everyone and how she hopes to impress people. Kenna's last goal is to make it to state this year.

"My favorite part of being a role model upperclassmen is the fact that the underclassmen look up to me and ask me for advice," Hughes says.

She talks about how being involved in basketball is a huge change in high school, she tries her best to help in any way she can. Kenna makes sure that the underclassmen are comfortable and include them in drills, group hangouts, and even conversations.

"I love helping others and being put into this position most certainly fuels my passion," Hughes mentioned.

However, there are always worries for an athlete. Kenna's major worry is not having a winning record and losing a bunch of games. Kenna states how those losing games will haunt her mind a few days after.

"Other than that worry, I believe we will cause some unexpected havoc," Hughes said.

When Kenna looks towards the future, she does not want to pursue basketball or any sport in college. However, she would love to participate in intramural sports if her future college offers it.

As Kenna steps into her final season, she carries with her not only the skills she has sharpened over the years, but also the pride. Her dedication on the court makes her a standout athlete and a strong role model. When that final buzzer sounds, her legacy leaves a mark.