

By Alivia Dunaway

Identical twins or best friends? Seniors Ashton and Wyatt Vera are both.

These boys, who look almost exactly the same, have a best friend relationship that no one can understand.

"When I need him to be my best friend he's my best friend, but when I need him to be my brother, he is my brother," Wyatt said.

Ashton added, "We are together almost every second of every day."

Both of the twins play basketball and love it. Their roles on the team, however, differ.

Wyatt starts every basketball game, while Ashton doesn't play many minutes. Ashton is used as a positive attitude on the team rather than a key asset in games.

"I know I can help the team as much as possible even though I don't play," Ashton said.

The boys are coached by head coach PJ Quinn, and assistants Rod Henkel and Lucas Timm.

"Coach Quinn always tells me iron sharpens iron," Ashton said. "So, I help the team in ways other than playing and I'm extremely grateful for the time I do get on the court."

Coach Henkel has noticed that the boys seem a lot more like best friends than they do brothers.

"We (the coaches) tell the players to go shoot free throws or go do a drill, and they always go together, no matter what," Henkel said.

Both boys work hard in practice and bring a positive attitude to the team, which is essential for success, according to Henkel.

"I know I don't get a lot of minutes in games, but that doesn't change the way I practice and pushes me to work harder in practice," Ashton said.

Both Ashton and Wyatt have epilepsy; this doesn't ever stop them from doing what they love. They just have to take some precautions and know when they need to stop.

“We just have to be mindful and if we are feeling off we have to tell our coaches,” Wyatt said.

The boys option enrolled into Mead their eighth-grade year, so getting to practice used to be a challenge for the boys. And after being diagnosed with epilepsy, they couldn’t drive even after reaching an eligible age.

“When we weren’t cleared to drive, our mom had to take us to everything and it was hard to make it all work,” Ashton said. “But now that we are cleared to drive I will drive us to practice or school, and he will drive us home.”

The boys do everything the same and always have. Ashton wanted to jump out of that norm and try something Wyatt didn’t do. Ashton joined track his sophomore year and runs middle distance.

“I joined track simply because it is something Wyatt doesn’t do,” Ashton said. “I have found a lot of success through it and really enjoy it.”

The boys spend all of their time together, so this was a little of a curve for them.

“We are always together. Even at home, we just prefer to hang out together,” Wyatt said.

When the boys are seen together, some people might just see brothers. But these boys have a relationship that only they can see.

“They have that twin brother connection that other people just don’t understand,” Henkel said.

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