

HOW ABOUT THOSE GREEN DEVILS?

Certainly, almost all of my articles are usually of some nature relative to students/learning, curriculum/assessment, Ohio Improvement Process, school finance, and so forth. This week is going to be a little bit different. It isn't going to be quite so serious. I think that the title says it all.

The North Adams High School Green Devils have managed to put together another remarkable run on their own version of the "Road to the Final Four." They succeeded in completing their regular season schedule with a perfect 20-0 mark. They were presented with another "gold ball" recently for finishing the league schedule undefeated and Champions of Division I of the Southern Hills League. They have played hard all throughout the post-season tournament, surviving two overtime games. The Green Devils of Coach David Young are the 2009 Sectional Champions and the 2009 District Champions. However, their dream season came to an end at the hands of Piketon, 74-72, in the Regional Semi-Finals. Is it just me, or does this seem like déjà vu to you, too? Most of us will remember the North Adams Green Devils Team from 1995-96. That team made it all the way to the "Final Four" in Division III schools, held at the Ohio State University before losing a heartbreaker to a team from Miami East. I remember that the night before that game, we had 2-4 inches of snow that forced us to cancel school that day. I guess that the weather is all a part of what we call "March Madness." At any rate, fast forward to 2009. The faces and the names have changed, but not much else. It begs the question, what is it that makes the NA program so successful?

I don't know that I have all of the answers to this question. But, as an observer over many years, I believe that a large part of their success is due to focus. Their collective eyes are always on the big prize. It is the "all for one, and one for all" mentality that is a part of the fabric of the program from the players to the parents to the coaches to the administration to the student body to the community as a whole. And, of course, there always seems to be a nearly endless pool of talent that doesn't hurt the cause either!

So, let me go back to my comments on déjà vu and the team from Miami East. I was all excited looking forward to a possibility of these two teams, NA and Miami East, making it to the State Tournament once again, even though they would not have played each other this time around. So, the morning after the North Adams loss, I became very anxious to learn how the Miami East team had fared against their opponent the same night. Honest to goodness, this is the truth. North Adams lost their game to Piketon by two points. Miami East won their regional semi-final tournament game against Anna by (you guessed it) two points 46-44. However, Miami East didn't make it to the Final Four either, as they lost their Regional Championship Game. Isn't it funny how things seem to work out sometimes? Congratulations to the players and coaching staff on the 2008-2009 Varsity Green Devils Team. You did a great job!

ALL-COUNTY ARTS FESTIVAL

It is that time of year again when many of us look forward to the Annual All-County Arts Festival. This year's edition of this event will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at West Union High School. The Open house for the Art Show will be held in the

gymnasium from 6:00-7:00 p.m. “Lounge Readings” by some of our language arts students will be presented in the gymnasium during the art show. The vocal and instrumental program will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the cafetorium. During the evening, the Tim Lewis Fine Arts Scholarship winner will be announced, as will the winners of the Joan Wittenmyer McCoy Art Scholarships.

The Annual Adams County Arts Festival showcases the talents of the students and teachers from all four of the county’s high schools. It is open to the public, and admission is free. We hope that you will come out and enjoy this event.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this article, please feel free to contact me at 544-5586. Thank you.

Charles P. Kimble

Superintendent