

Bloomington Jefferson Girls Basketball State of the Program 2020-21

In the unimaginable year that we have all lived through, the ability to escape to the joy of playing basketball was more important than ever. While there were limitations, the girls at all levels appreciated being able to be together as part of a team. It was not easy, all teams had disruptions and changes to protocols (who would have thought the girls would have to play in masks), but the resilience shown is something everyone should be proud of. We did lose some momentum in the efforts to bring the entire program (including alumni) together but am hopeful that we continue on that path in 2021. I would like to thank everyone involved for helping us make it through this season and I am certain we will never again take youth sports for granted.

High School Program: We had 24 players in the high school program, making up three teams. For the 3rd year in a row, the B-squad had a winning season including some buzzer beaters, last second clutch free throws and a few impressive individual scoring performances. While the core JV players were forced to rely on help from the levels above and below, they had great attitudes and their improvement as individuals and as a team was impressive. The varsity team had a record of 3-14, but the progress shown at the end of the year gives us all hope that next year we will be a much more competitive team. We only had a total of four upperclasswomen, including our two-time senior captains **Hannah Peters** and **Rachel Hall**. We have a large number of Sophomores in the program and a handful of them have now had two years of varsity experience. This year saw meaningful contributions from more players (as shown in statistical leaders below) which is another hopeful sign for the future. You will all be happy that despite some rough losses, we were able to keep our winning streak against Kennedy alive. Other highlights were scoring 93 points in a game against South St. Paul and upsetting 11-3 Orono near the end of the season. The coaching staff is very proud of all the girls in the high school program for the commitment they have shown during this trying year. This includes early morning practices during the summer and on Saturday mornings as well as ball-handling, conditioning, and film study all via Zoom.

Traveling Basketball: For the second year in a row, we have added teams to the program. This year adding two teams (for a total of six), so we had a team competing at each level in the 4-8th grades and two teams at the 6th grade level. Not only are the numbers increasing, but the talent and skill levels are improving. There were a few tournament championships including exciting wins at the Jefferson Classic. The 6th grade team played some tournaments at the A level and the 5th grade team ended the season by winning the State Championship for their level. Of course this was a challenging year from a scheduling and disruption point of view, but every time I was able to see the traveling girls practice or play they were competing hard and having fun.

Alumni Basketball Update: **Rachel Evavold** completed her basketball career at Dordt University in the 19/20 season earning all-conference status and leading the team to back-to-back NAIA national championship berths. **Ellie Gess** completed her first season at Northern State University (her 3rd year of eligibility) as the 7th leading scorer on the team, while averaging 46% from behind the 3 point line. **Caroline Anderson** played her second season for the University of St. Thomas, their last season before heading to division 1. The Jefferson high school program had an alumni, **Courtney Pawek**, come back and help as a volunteer assistant coach this year. Another alumni, **Maren Walseth**, was a highlight of our virtual practices when she came on as a guest speaker.

Thanks to everyone reading this for your interest and support of Jefferson Girls basketball. We are all working hard to build the program in terms of participation and competitiveness. I look forward to seeing all of the players at one of the many summer hoops opportunities available and everyone else next season when hopefully fans are allowed at games.

Season Records	Won	Lost	Tie
Varsity vs. Conference	1	9	
Varsity vs. All	3	14	
Junior Varsity vs. All	3	11	
B Squad vs. All	9	7	
Captains			
2020/21: Hannah Peters, Rachel Hall and Emily Roach			
2021/22: Emily Roach, Simone Clay, and Caroline Hemann			
Awards & Recognition			
All-Conference	None		
All-Conference Honorable mention	Hannah Peters, Caroline Hemann, Emily Roach		
All-Conference Academic	Hannah Peters and Rachel Hall		
	Varsity	JV	B-squad
Team MVP	Caroline Hemann and Hannah Peters	Hannah Bock	Maddie Richard
Jaguar Award	Rachel Hall	Janie Andersen	Sophie Rouland and Lucy Raleigh
Defensive Player of Year	Emma Felt	Courtney Anderson and Melina Peters	Lexie Evans
Most Improved	Angelina Chapple	Hannah Bock	Sydney Huffer McCoy
Statistical Leaders - Varsity			
Points	Caroline Hemann		
Rebounds	Caroline Hemann		
Steals	Hannah Peters		
Free Throws Made	Emily Roach		
2 pointers Made	Hannah Peters		
3 pointers Made	Emily Roach		
Assists	Caroline Hemann		
Blocks	Angelina Chapple		