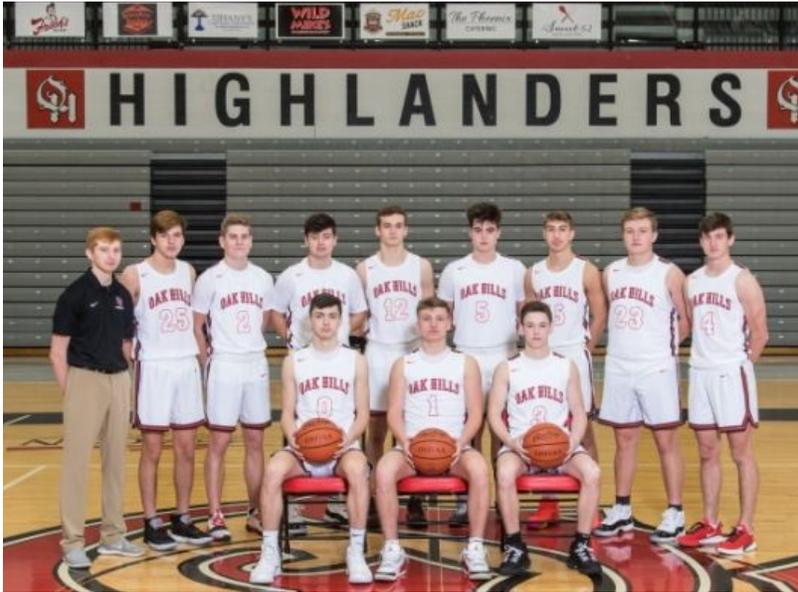


A Game to Remember

By: Gabbi Byrd

As the game was about to begin, both teams were warming up; the players were uplifting



each other and preparing for a competitive game, that could either improve their record or ultimately change it. Even those injured, including Ryan Dew (#5), Jacob Ramstetter (#12), Jameson Richmond (#23), and Damon Stock (#24) were cheering on their fellow teammates.

As the game began, our amazing starters including Kelen Dietrich (#0), Cam Brandt (#1), Tanner Murphy (#3), Adonis Caneris (#15), and Austin Dennis (#25), made their way onto the court. The first quarter consisted of great defense from both teams, with Lakota East doing aggressive man to man and Oak Hills starting with a tight zone. Kelen Dietrich scored 5 points in the first quarter with a three-pointer. The Oak Hills Highlanders were up against very talented players, including #34 Nate Johnson, who was a great shooter and offensive presence, #11, Alex Mangold, who stands at an astounding 6'7", and #24, Kobe Peck, who was also a great shooter. The quarter ended 7-11, Lakota East.

The second quarter demonstrated the strength and perseverance of the Highlander boys. Lakota East showed their true competitiveness with its aggressive and strong defense. Austin Dennis had a strong 2nd quarter scoring 8 points and had an outstanding steal, which lead him to

the foul line where he, of course, made both shots. A significant highlight of this quarter is when Cam Brandt had a backdoor pass to Dennis, he proceeded to fake a shot causing his opponent to attempt to block. He showcased quick thinking when he took advantage of his opponent's misjudgment and went up for a layup, in which he made. Despite Oak Hills' great offense, they found themselves facing strong shooters outside of the paint. In fact, in the first half of the second quarter, Lakota East made 3 three-pointers. However, the varsity boys kept their heads up and continued to work hard ending the first half at 21-26, Lakota East.

“2020 provides us with a very competitive and challenging schedule. Our team is looking forward to this opportunity.” - Coach Price

The beginning of the second half consisted of frustrating moments and a showdown of true athleticism. The team faced a multitude of questionable calls by refs that led to many of the players having an increase of their fouls. In spite of the setbacks, the Highlanders kept their spirits high and kept their momentum. Kelen Dietrich had an amazing play when he made an unexpected cut to the ball past the defense and scored. The play that really hyped up the crowd, however, is when RJ Linenkugel (#4) made a half-court shot after the buzzer... but it's the thought that counts. The quarter ended with a score of 29-34, Lakota East, once more.

The final quarter is where the action really got exciting and tense. Both teams were in the bonus early in the quarter and this worked to Oak Hills' advantage. The team drew 7 fouls where they received 12 points; Dietrich made 7/12 of those foul points while Dennis made the rest. Both teams had well-thought-out plays that demonstrated their skill and talent on the court. With an assist by Dennis, Adonis Caneris was able to tie up the game 44-44. Toward the end of the game, tension rose to new heights especially when the Highlanders began to press the Thunderhawks.

The Lakota East team ultimately increased the pressure but Oak Hills was able to keep their cool and draw many fouls. Even at stressful moments, the team was able to continue smart plays and work together as one. The undefeated team, Lakota East, no longer holds this title with the game ending with the score 53-46, Oak Hills victorious. Congrats Highlanders!