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Napavine 2023-2024 Girls Varsity Basketball Roster



Team Captains

Keira O'Neill • Avery Schutz • Dakota Hamilton • Grace Gall

#	Name	Position	YR
2	Jessie McCoy	Guard	11
3	Hayden Kaut	Guard	11
4	Grace Gall	Guard	12
5	Dakota Hamilton	Post	12
10	Clara Fay	Guard	10
11	Ava Ondong	Post	8

#	Name	Position	YR
12	Avery Schutz	Guard	12
14	Grace Pancake	Post	11
20	Taylen Evander	Guard	10
22	Alexis Schutz	Guard	9
23	Keira O'Neill	Post	12
24	Hannah Fay	Guard	10

Head Coach
Shane Schutz

Assistant Coaches
Josh Fay • Kim Roberts

Other Players Pictured
Briley Fay • Ellie Gilbert • Jayla Engkraf • Aubrey Williams

Athletic Director
Josh Fay

Superintendent
Shane Schutz

Principal
Jason Prather

Napavine | Girls Basketball Seniors



Grace Gall

Hobbies:

Playing sports and hanging out with friends.

Favorite Athlete:

Paige Bueckers

Favorite Music or Artist:

Noah Kahan

Go to Drink/Snack Combo:

Taco Bell deluxe cravings box.

Most Memorable Moment as a Tiger:

Going to California every summer to play basketball with my best friends.

Biggest influence in my life:

My mom is my biggest influence.

Plans after high school:

Attend BYU-Idaho to major in Elementary Education.



Dakota Hamilton

Hobbies:

Basketball, volleyball, hanging out with my friends.

Favorite Athlete:

Caitlin Clark

Favorite Music or Artist:

SZA

Go to Drink/Snack Combo:

Sonic pretzel and Dutch Bros.

Most Memorable Moment as a Tiger:

Winning a state championship with all of my best friends.

Biggest influence in my life:

My sister for always pushing me to be better.

Plans after high school:

Go to esthetician school.



Keira O'Neill

Hobbies:

Basketball, volleyball, track, and ASB.

Favorite Athlete:

My favorite athlete is Dennis Rodman

Favorite Music or Artist:

My favorite artist is Rex Orange County

Go to Drink/Snack Combo:

Wendy's \$5 Biggie Bag and lotus from Avenue

Most Memorable Moment as a Tiger:

Splurging \$96 on dinner at P.F. Changs after winning the state championship.

Biggest influence in my life:

The biggest influence in my life would be all of my coaches, who coached me hard and always believed in our sports teams.

Plans after high school:

My plans after high school are to play basketball at Lower Columbia College and study to get my DTA (Direct Transfer Agreement)



Avery Schutz

Hobbies:

Volleyball, soccer, and fastpitch

Favorite Athlete:

Hailey Van Lith

Favorite Music or Artist:

SZA

Go to Drink/Snack Combo:

Drink: Mango, Guava and passionfruit pink lotus. Snack: Dill pickle chips

Most Memorable Moment as a Tiger:

Winning back-to-back district titles and the state title

Biggest influence in my life:

My basketball teammates

Plans after high school:

Attending Lower Columbia College to get my AA then transferring to a Four-year university.

Champion Napavine Girls Basketball Team Honored By City Council



Lewis County Commissioners Celebrate Napavine's Basketball State Title



BY THE CHRONICLE

After securing the first state title in program history, the Napavine girls basketball team was lauded by the Lewis County Board of Commissioners March 12 as “one of those classic examples of where teamwork makes the dream work.”

“Because none of you could get to this level without everyone else working together,” Commissioner Lindsey Pollock said as the team was formally recognized by the county commissioners at the Lewis County Courthouse.

“We are so appreciative, and thank you for bringing home a state championship to Lewis County,” Commissioner Scott Brummer said.

A game-winning 3-pointer by sophomore Hayden Kaut with 16.6 seconds on the clock lifted the Tigers over Okanogan for their first 2B State Championship in program history on Saturday, March 2, with the Tigers ending the game on a 5-0 run to clinch the trophy at the Spokane Arena.

“For us, it was a dream, I think, when the buzzer went off. When Hayden Kaut hit that 3, it became a hard reality,” Napavine coach Shane Schutz said Tuesday. “And a really good reality of what these kids accomplished.”

While the shot secured a championship trophy for Napavine, the commissioners further cemented Kaut's place in Napavine athletics history with a plaque.

“I’ve probably watched that shot 20 times, and it’s just amazing because it was a tough game. You were double-teamed almost the entire game,” Commissioner Sean Swope said. “But when it mattered most, you came through. You were clutch. That’s how legends are made.”

Standing in the commissioners’ chambers on March 12, Schutz noted a portrait of the late Lewis County Commissioner Gary Stamper, who led the Mossyrock Vikings girls basketball team to a state 2B Championship in 2007. Stamper died from COVID-19 while still in office in 2021.

“He and I coached against each other for several years and had great battles on the court,” Schutz said. “To be able to be the next Washington team to follow his success, it’s an honor.”

Coaching for more than two decades, Schutz said the team’s camaraderie and “family approach” stands out.

“I’m very proud of what they’ve accomplished, and I’m really happy to be able to accomplish this after everything they’ve gone through,” Schutz said.



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Kaut's Game-Winner Lifts Napavine To First State Championship



BY THE CHRONICLE

SPOKANE — Thirty seconds left in a two-point game. The Tigers needed a clutch shot. Everyone knew Hayden Kaut would come through.

“No doubt at all,” Dakota Hamilton said.

The C2BL first-teamer came through with the biggest shot in program history, a game-winning three-pointer with 16.6 seconds left. The shot propelled the Tigers to a 41-40 win over Okanogan, a victory that clinched their first 2B state title in school history.

“It felt unreal,” Kaut said. “It’s taken a lot of years for our team to get here.”

The Tigers had been to the state title game three times in school history prior to March 2, but lost each time. Napavine coach Shane Schutz was the head coach for two of those finals, back-to-back losses in 2008 and 2009.

“I’m in a fog,” Schutz said. “I’m just in awe right now. I’m on cloud nine.”

Kaut’s shot was the second-to-last sequence of a wild final few minutes, one where Napavine committed several turnovers and allowed a five-point lead to shift into a four-point deficit with 90 seconds remaining.

The only play that followed Kaut’s three was a final

Okanogan three-point attempt, one that sailed long before the final buzzer sounded.

“Just immediately happy tears,” Hamilton said. “It was the most amazing feeling ever.”

Kaut got the Tigers back within two with just over a minute remaining. After an Okanogan timeout, they got a defensive stop and executed a play that they’ve been working on for months. Kaut added that they even went over the play again earlier on Saturday for nearly 20 minutes.

The Bulldogs defended it well, as Okanogan’s Aleena Lafferty stuck by Kaut’s side as she streaked across the middle to the right wing. Lafferty even had a hand in Kaut’s face for a moment, but a pump fake bought Kaut the space she needed to pull the trigger.

“That kid can shoot threes,” Schutz said. “That’s a big shot for a sophomore.”

Prior to the final few minutes, it was Hamilton doing most of the damage for the Tigers. She scored 10 of Napavine’s 19 first-half points, and she added five more in the second half to finish with a team-high 15. She also grabbed seven rebounds and notched two assists.

Schutz noted that Hamilton has no fear and is not afraid to shoot, and her willingness to step up as a leader helped the Tigers get over the hump.

The win was extra sweet for Hamilton, who had to work back from an ACL injury that she suffered last season to take the court for her senior season.

"It's just so amazing," Hamilton said. "I missed out on last year, and I was struggling a little bit to find my groove. It's just so awesome to finally connect and be in this position right now."

It wasn't just Hamilton and Kaut, as Keira O'Neill scored 10 points and grabbed nine rebounds, while Taylen Evander added six points, three rebounds, three steals and two assists.

With the win, the Tigers became the first school from the west side to win the 2B girls title since Mossyrock did so in 2007.

Schutz recalled several battles against Mossyrock in that era, many of which came against former Mossyrock girls coach Gary Stamper.

"To be the next team on the west side to do it and follow him, it's a complete honor," Schutz said.

Hamilton and O'Neill were two of four Napavine seniors. Grace Gall was on the floor as the final buzzer celebrated, but Avery Schutz was watching from the bench. She tore her ACL in December, and has been supporting from the side ever since.

In the moments following the win, she was visibly emotional, and amidst the celebration, she and her father shared a long embrace.

Kaut's elation turned to sadness when she realized it was her last time sharing the floor with her senior teammates, a mix of emotions that made even the most thrilling of victories a bittersweet moment.

"We knew that this was their final time with us," Kaut said. "They've helped build our culture and our program throughout the years. It feels really good to win for them."

Schutz knows that as time goes on, the importance of the victory will sink in more and more.

And as the years go on, he and all of Napavine will remember this team as one of the best in the school's history.

"I'm really proud of them," Schutz said. "It's a special, special group ... I thought we were one of eight teams that had a chance to win it. You just don't believe it until you do it."



**Congratulations
Napavine Girls
on winning the
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Instant: Napavine Tops Okanogan to Win 2B State Title



BY THE CHRONICLE STAFF

In the biggest moment of perhaps the Napavine girls basketball team's history, Hayden Kaut delivered a game-winning 3-pointer to lift the Tigers to their first 2B state championship in program history on Saturday, March 2, over Okanogan. The Tigers scored the final five points of the game to win 41-40 and clinch the trophy.

Turnovers far outnumbered the points early in the first quarter, as both teams turned it over a combined seven times before any tallies hit the scoreboard. Dakota Hamilton finally gave Napavine its first bucket with a jumper 3 minutes and 26 seconds in.

The lids were eventually lifted from both baskets, as the Tigers converted on multiple trips, including a Hamilton triple. After leading 12-6 through the first quarter, the Bulldogs raced in front with 10 unanswered points, including two 3-pointers from Jacey Boesel. Hamilton drilled her second 3-pointer just before the halftime buzzer to push the Tigers back into the lead, 19-18, at the break. She led all scorers with 10 points in the first half.

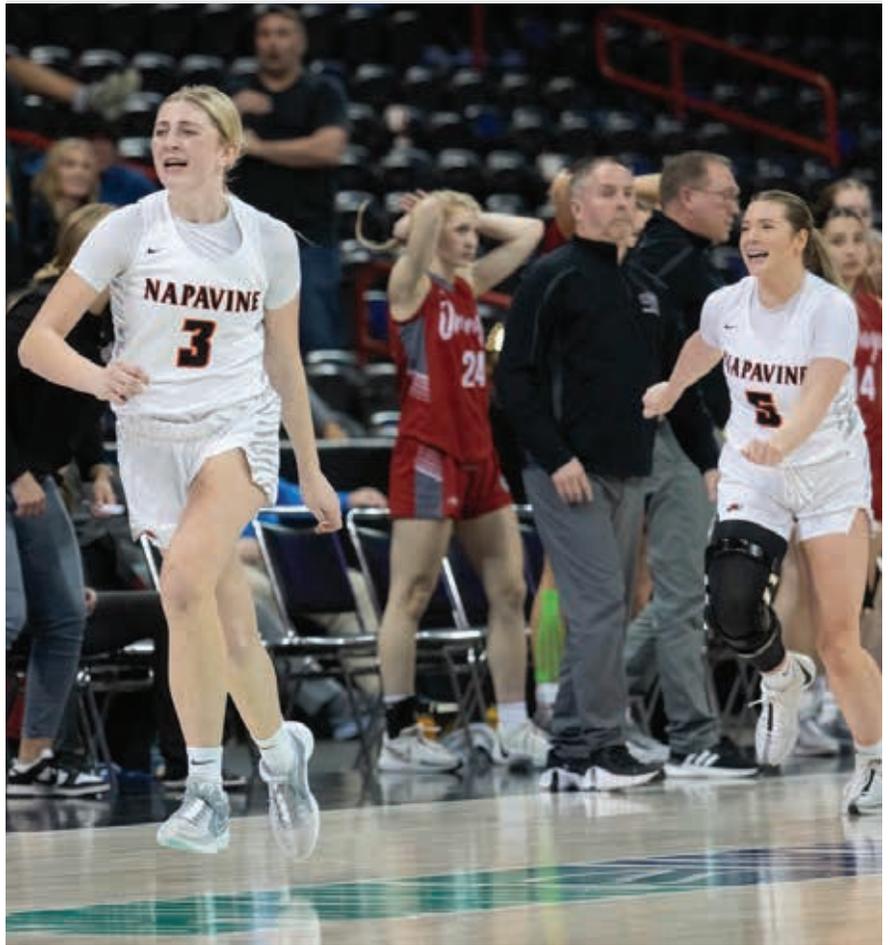
Okanogan retook the lead early in the third before Napavine closed the third quarter with a 13-2 run. The Tigers took their biggest lead of the night thanks to a triple from Jessie McCoy and a layup from Keira O'Neill, giving them a 34-26 lead entering the fourth quarter. Napavine's defense forced 15 Okanogan turnovers through the first three quarters.

The feisty Bulldogs made it interesting early in the fourth, blitzing the Tigers with five forced turnovers and a 9-1 run to draw within a point. Camryn Ashworth lit up the Okanogan crowd with a putback layup to give the Bulldogs a 37-36 lead. Addison Brown's triple after yet another Napavine turnover pushed the lead to four with 81 seconds left.

Kaut banked in a layup to make it 40-38 with just over a minute remaining, and the Tigers' defense forced a shot clock violation with 30 seconds left. She then delivered a cold-blooded 3-pointer with 13.5 seconds left to put Napavine back in front, 41-40. Kaut had only scored three points before the two late field goals.

Charlee Buchert's desperation heave fell short for Okanogan, and the Tigers rushed the floor as they celebrated their first state championship in program history. Napavine finished its banner season with a 25-3 record and hoisted the first-place trophy in its 17th appearance in the state tournament.





Tigers Rout Chinooks On Senior Night



BY THE CHRONICLE STAFF

The Napavine girls basketball team never let Kalama get off the ground Thursday, January 25, rolling to a 63-20 win in their final home game of the regular season.

"This was a special night for our seniors and I thought all the girls played hard in order to send them out (with) a victory tonight," Napavine coach Shane Schutz said.

Senior Keira O'Neill finished with 14 points, six rebounds, three assists and three blocks, while Dakota Hamilton had 10 points and a team-high seven boards and Grace Gall led the hosts with nine steals.

Napavine even got Avery Schutz — who suffered a season-ending injury earlier this winter — in for a few seconds of gametime on her senior night.

Hayden Kaut led the Tigers (17-1, 10-1 C2BL) with 18 points and also had six rebounds.

The Napavine defense held Kalama to five points or fewer in each of the first three quarters. The Tigers forced 35 turnovers and turned those into 40 points, and also scored 12 second-chance points off of 17 offensive rebounds.



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Tigers Shut Down Mountaineers To Win Second-Straight District Title



BY THE CHRONICLE STAFF

All season long, Napavine, Rainier, and Adna jostled for position atop the C2BL standings. While the Pirates came away with the league title, it was the Tigers and Mountaineers left standing in the 2B District 4 Tournament.

Both defenses excelled throughout in the district title game on Saturday, February 17, but it was Napavine that found enough answers to come away with a 46-39 win to win their second-straight district title.

"I told them I thought we were the best team in the county," Napavine coach Shane Schutz said.

"I thought we were the best team on the west side. I just told them that and they kept grinding all season. We were successful tonight."

It wasn't often pretty, as the Tigers had to slug through a poor first half in which they scored just 16 points. Defensively, Napavine (21-2) did just as well as Rainier (22-3), however, limiting the Mountaineers to just 18.

Hayden Kaut took over immediately to start the third, as she scored nine points in a Napavine 10-0 run that gave the Tigers an eight-point lead. Kaut went on to finish with a game-high 19 points while shooting 8 for 12 from the field.

"That's what makes her one of the top elite players in the league," Schutz said. "She's a gamer. She puts a lot of time in, and we needed her to do that tonight. The kids fed off that, it gave them some confidence."

In the second half, as a team, the Tigers shot 65 percent from the floor, more than doubling their mark from the first half. It was enough to hold off a Rainier squad that got as close as five points in the fourth quarter, but didn't have enough to complete the comeback.

Keira O'Neill finished with 11 points, seven rebounds and two blocks, while Dakota Hamilton added six points and six assists and Taylen Evander scored eight points and tallied three assists.

"You're not gonna shoot good every night, but you're gonna have to defend," Schutz said. "We hit some shots tonight, but that's what we hang our hat on. I thought the kids did a great job tonight."

Shots just weren't falling for the Mountaineers on their end, as they shot just 33 percent from the floor, including an 8 for 26 mark in the second half.

While they finished one win shy of their first district championship in over a decade, Rainier coach Brandon Eygabroad said that there's a lot to be proud of heading into the state tournament.

"We came out and competed every night, and went through some good teams to get here," Eygabroad said. "They're definitely feeling it, but we've got to bounce back

... There's no time to feel sorry for ourselves."

Angelica Askey scored 14 points to lead the Mountaineers, and Brooklynn Swenson was close behind with 13. Askey also led the team with six rebounds, and Bryn Beckman added three points and three steals.

At 21-2, the Tigers became one of the top seeds in the upcoming state tournament. While Schutz acknowledged that starting February 18, everyone is zero and zero again, he'll be sure to celebrate while he has the chance.

"We live for these moments," Schutz said. "It's hard to win back-to-back. We take this with real sincerity. This is awesome, and we're gonna enjoy it tonight."



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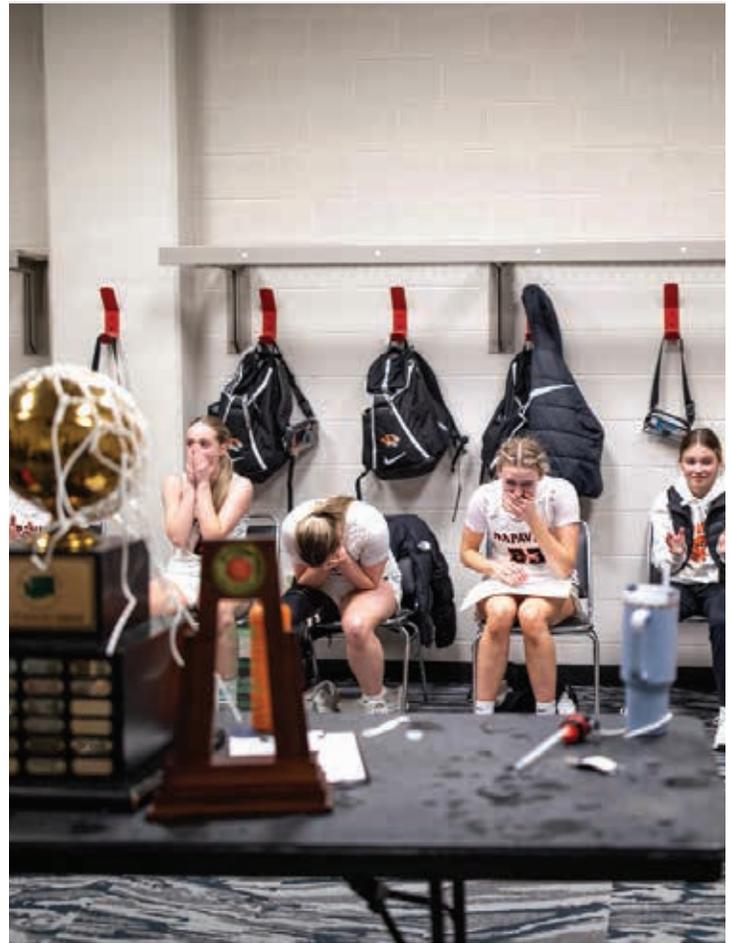
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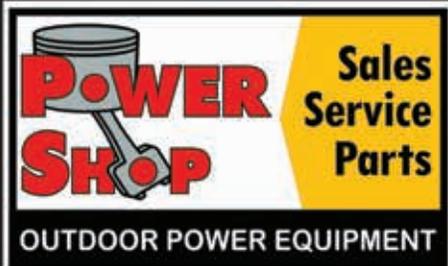
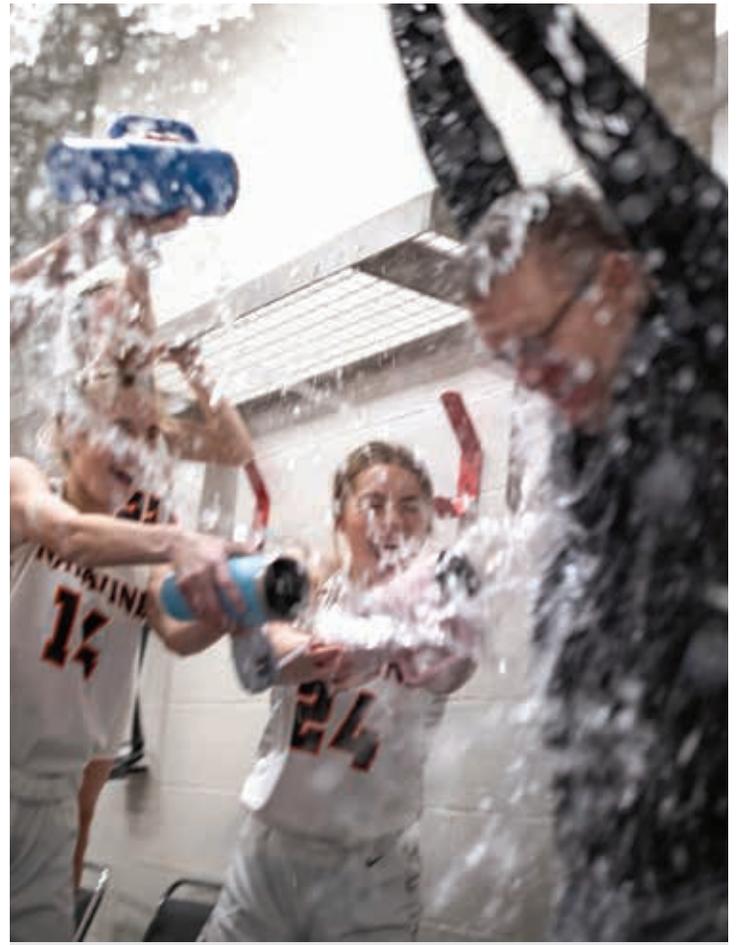
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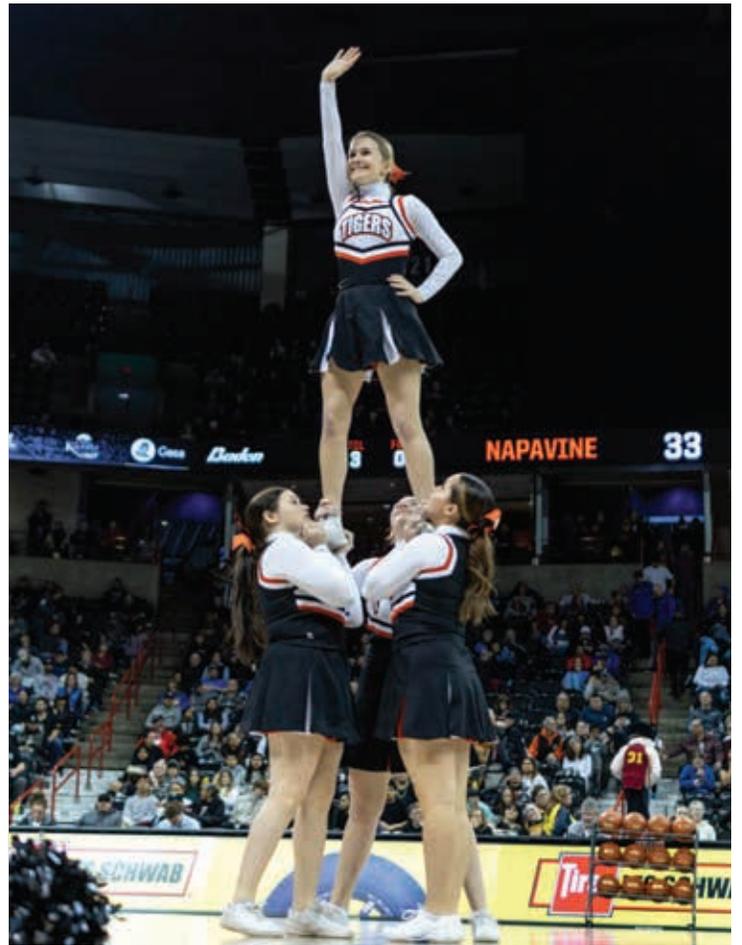
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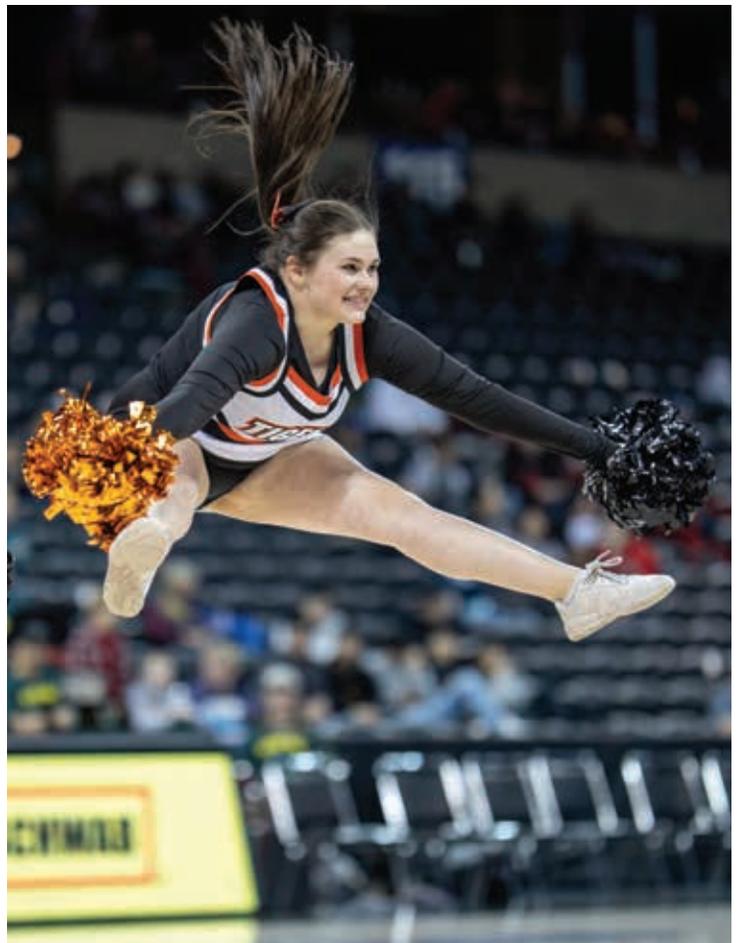


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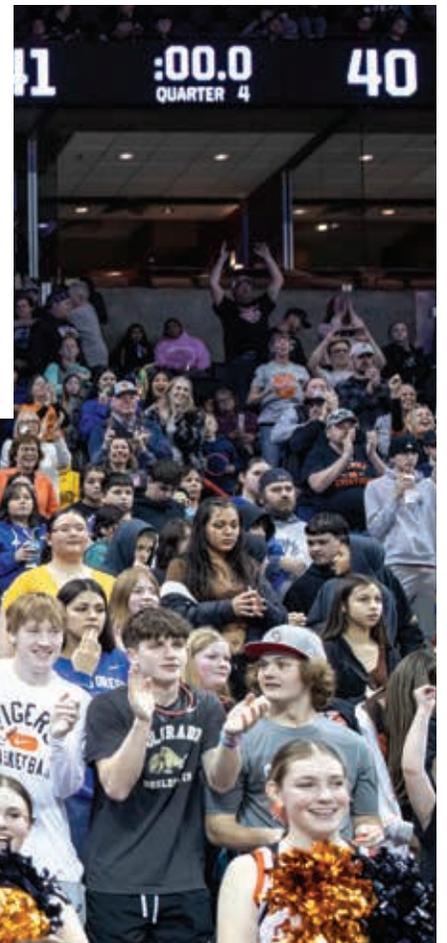
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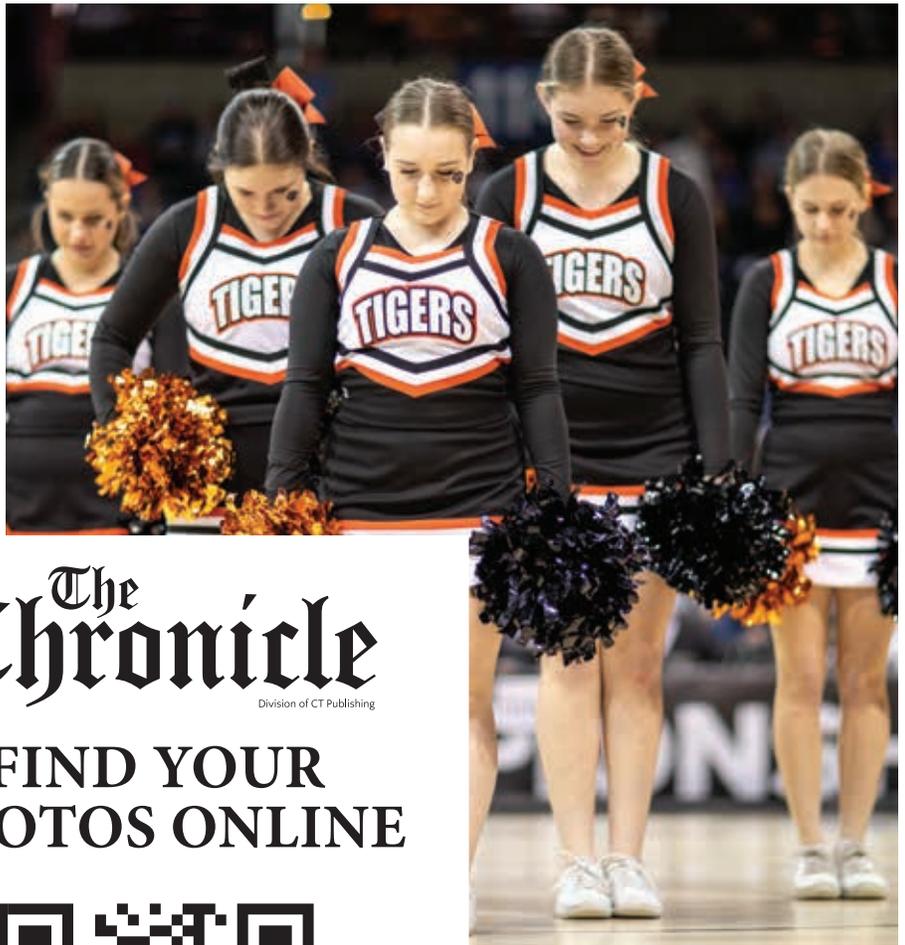
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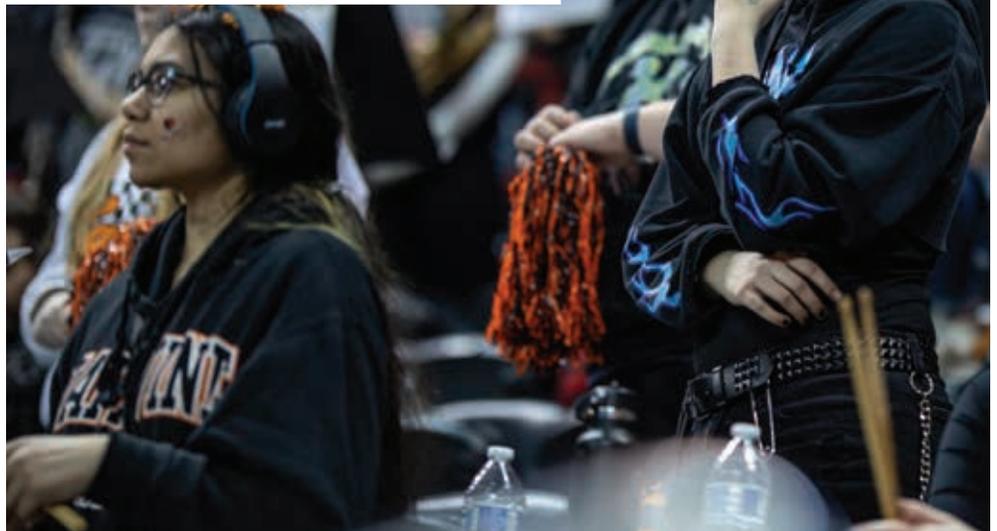
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As I sit down to express my overwhelming gratitude, it is with immense joy and pride that I extend my deepest thanks to each and every one of you who played a crucial role in the remarkable success of the Napavine Girls Basketball team in winning the 2024 2B State Championship.

To the Former Players:

Your dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment to excellence have laid the foundation for this incredible achievement. Your legacy lives on through the passion and determination you instilled in the current team. This championship is not only a testament to the current team's efforts but also a reflection of the lessons learned and the indelible mark you left during your time with the Napavine Girls Basketball team. Your support and encouragement were invaluable, and your presence in the journey to the championship was felt every step of the way. This victory is as much yours as it is theirs, a culmination of the skills, resilience, and camaraderie forged through your experiences and journey. The messages and support from many of you reaching out have truly touched my heart. Your continued connection to the team and the joy expressed in our shared success add an extra layer of significance to this championship.

To the Youth Coaches:

A heartfelt thank you extends to all our dedicated youth coaches who played an integral role in shaping the futures of our athletes. Your commitment to taking our young talents to tournaments and providing them with memorable experiences laid the groundwork for the ultimate triumph of winning the 2024 2B State Championship. Your sacrifices, tireless dedication, and the time invested in nurturing these aspiring players did not go unnoticed. It truly takes a village to run a successful program, and your contributions were pivotal in cultivating the skills and resilience that led us to this remarkable achievement. I am profoundly grateful for the foundation you helped build.

To the Parents:

Behind every successful team, there is a network of supportive and caring parents. Your endless encouragement, sacrifices, and enthusiasm did not go unnoticed. Your unwavering support, whether cheering from the stands or providing a comforting presence, played a vital role in the team's success. Your financial commitment and sacrifice to send kids to camp and tournaments was crucial in our improvement as program. Your commitment to the well-being of our athletes has been instrumental, and we are grateful for the strong foundation you have helped create here at Napavine.

To the Band:

The electrifying energy and spirit you brought to the games were the heartbeat of our success. Your musical talents and infectious enthusiasm elevated the atmosphere, creating an unforgettable experience for both players and fans alike. The synergy between the team and the band showcased the true essence of community collaboration, and we appreciate the harmony you added to our journey.

To the Cheerleaders:

Your tireless efforts to boost morale and ignite the crowd fueled the team's determination to excel. Your vibrant performances, infectious cheers, and unwavering support were instrumental in creating a positive and uplifting environment. Your dedication to motivating the team did not go unnoticed, and we are grateful for the spirit and energy you brought to each game.

To the Booster Club:

A heartfelt thank you to the Booster Club for their unwavering support, both financially and personally, in making the dreams of our student-athletes come true. Your dedication and tireless efforts have created an incredible experience for our team, elevating our sporting events to new heights. The countless hours you've invested, and the steadfast commitment you've shown over the years, has been pivotal. Your support has not only contributed to the success of our athletes but has also fostered a sense of community and pride. Your generosity and hard work have played a crucial role in our athletic achievement at Napavine and we are profoundly grateful for the lasting impact you've made on all of our athletic programs.

To the Community:

The outpouring of support from our community has been nothing short of extraordinary. Your presence at games, encouraging messages, and collective pride in the Napavine Girls Basketball team have been a driving force. The sense of unity and community spirit propelled us forward, and we are honored to have represented such a supportive and tight-knit community on the state stage.

In closing, our triumph in the 2024 2B State Championship is a testament to the strength of our collective efforts and the unwavering support from each one of you. Thank you for being an integral part of this journey and for helping us achieve this remarkable milestone. Winning the 2024 2B Girls Basketball State Championship is not just a victory for our team; it is a shared triumph for everyone who has been a part of this incredible journey. As we celebrate this achievement, let us also reflect on the bonds we have forged, the lessons we have learned, and the memories we have created together. Once again, thank you for being the driving force behind the Napavine Girls Basketball team's success. Your support, past and present, has made a lasting impact, and we look forward to continuing to make our community proud in the years to come.

With heartfelt gratitude,



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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE

NAPAVINE TIGERS

ON WINNING THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP!



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