

Deja Vu Times 2

Boys Basketball

2018-19 ended much the same way as 2017-18. An outstanding year with a great record, but a loss in the last game leaving us holding a 2nd place trophy.

We went undefeated in league and won the District Championship again. We handled our Regional opponent and battled tough teams to reach the championship game. While there were definitely some similarities between our teams from the last two seasons, this team was built differently. This was the best offensive team Saint George's has seen and against the toughest non-league schedule we have ever played.

All five starters had at least one game where they scored over 20 points this season. We averaged almost 5 points per game more than any team in the last twenty years at 71.3 ppg. It wasn't just that we were able to put so many points up per game, it was how we did it. A full 64% of our buckets came off assists from teammates. An incredible number when you factor in how many times we had a player steal the ball and just go lay it in. They were truly a joy to watch in action and a great brand of basketball. When the ball was clicking around, we set each other up for easy buckets and wide open shots. The coaches would just look at each other in amazement at times.

We had several 30-point quarters over the course of the year. Two of them came back to back at Davenport in a 61 point half. One 32-point quarter came against the #7 ranked team in the state in the Regional Playoff Game. When we got it rolling, there wasn't much teams could do to stop us.

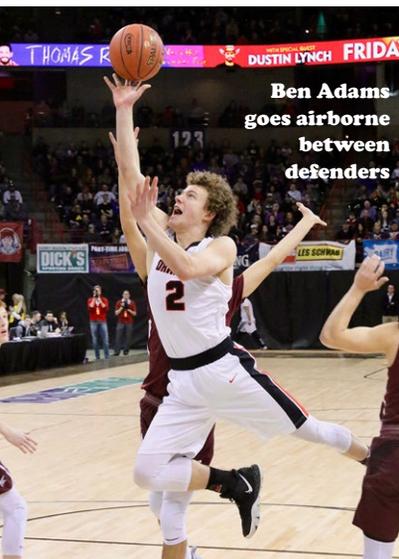
With our fast paced offensive style this year, it was more important than ever to settle in defensively. Helped by a couple of set-backs in late December, we renewed our efforts to be tougher on defense and on the boards. Once we got back to basics on defense and rebounding, we made a run through the second half of our season. We won sixteen straight games to get to the State Championship Game.



Erik Farias drives past Kittitas guard Brock Ravet



Dan Rigsby grabs the ball



Ben Adams goes airborne between defenders



Cheering on the Dragons



Xander Werkman rises to the occasion at the 2B State Tournament

Beyond all of the X's and O's, the stats and the games, what I will remember most about this team is how much fun they had together. There were a lot of smiles in practice, joking around with each other, and endless dunking and dunk attempts at the end of every day. The team brought so much energy. Even tough days where guys may have felt like they didn't want to work, within five minutes they were flying around and having fun.

The loss in the State Championship, again to Kittitas, does not diminish what these guys accomplished this season. Everything is earned, and this team did the work both during the season and in the off-season. I haven't been up early so many times to open the gym in the fall since I first started at SGS (and was much younger). The guys put it in the work and continued the Dragon basketball legacy built by the players who came before them. I couldn't be prouder of a group of guys.

I am excited for our seniors. Erik Farias was recognized by coaches in our league as the Northeast 2B Most Valuable Player and has been voted to the All-League Team all four years. Erik wrapped up his career as the 3rd all-time leading scorer in school history, logging 1627 points, and the all-time leader in assists with 505. Xander Werkman was voted to 1st Team All-League for the second year in a row. Xander averaged a double-double this season with 16 points and 10 rebounds

per game. Ben Adams finished his career with 1378 points, with 756 coming at Saint George's. Ben was our go to, lockdown, on ball defender for the last two seasons. Ethan Johnson is a competitor who loves to be in the mix. He put out full effort in every practice and every minute he played. Hunter Johnson earned his way to a varsity spot after starting the sport much later than his peers. All of them will continue to work and strive to be great in everything they do.

I am also excited to work with the guys who are returning. They have been able to see the road map to success from our seniors. We have some great players coming back and a ton of potential to make another run. Go Dragons!

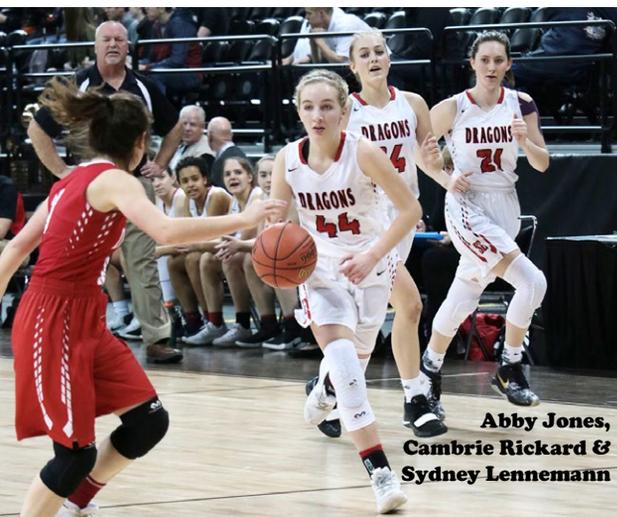
– Ryan Peplinski, Boys' Basketball Coach

Girls Basketball

With an all-new coaching staff and plenty of turnover on the roster, the season outlook for the girls' basketball team was a mystery. Once we met and discussed what our goals would be, to a person we all had one goal and that was to make it to State.

The team was a work in progress all year, finally hitting our stride late in the season. We went into Districts as the #3 seed and big underdogs to advance. We won the first game easily and then had to face Davenport who had beaten us twice. With a strong effort from Lydia Bergquist (19 pts, 23 boards and 10 blocks) and Cambrie Rickard hitting two really big shots in OT, the girls pulled off the upset.

In the District title game against Liberty, Abby Jones stepped up with 23 points in the first half to help us build a big lead and Grace Harrill played another huge role defensively.



Abby Jones, Cambrie Rickard & Sydney Lennemann



Grace Harrill threads the Ilwaco defense

We were able to hold them off and win the District Championship. It was even more special as the boys also won, marking the first time both teams had won the championship in the same year.

This win earned us a local game for our Regional round against a very tall Ocosta team. Once again, we were down at the half, but we came out with a slight defensive shift and Cambrie Rickard sparked a decisive 3rd quarter run to help push us to victory.

This led us to State and the Spokane Arena. Our first round game against Ilwaco featured strong efforts from our three leaders. Cambrie kept us in the game the first quarter and Lydia and Abby really helped coming on late for the win. The next day we lost our quarterfinal game to La Conner, then won against Brewster in the consolation bracket and ended up 6th place overall after losing our final match up with Davenport.

This team had some very proud accomplishments. Lydia and Abby made 1st team All-League and Cambrie made 2nd team. All three of them were named to the All-Tournament team at State. Lydia Bergquist earned 2nd team All-State and Abby Jones was 1st team All-State and played in the All State game as well.

This was truly a team accomplishment, and we would not have had the success we did without all 10 players buying in and working hard.

– Cliff Berdar, Girls' Basketball Coach



Coach Cliff eyes the competition



Dragons wearing Burger King crowns



The bench cheers a basket



Lydia Bergquist focuses

On the Web
See more photos & videos from State at www.sgs.org/magazine

