

2013/ 2014 GHS Boys Varsity Basketball Team

By Coach Jaworski Rankin
GHS Basketball Coach

The goal of our team is to win a State Championship and, last season, the team was only one game short of reaching the "Big-House" (State Tournament in Jackson, Mississippi). We know that competing and winning a state championship is one of the highest accomplishments a team can achieve and we know that they don't come easy. It's going to start and end with faith, unity, and hard work.

Last summer the program embarked on a mission to improve as a team as we participated in several summer team camps. The summer is always productive because it allows our players an opportunity to grow as a basketball player and a better teammate. The summer also provides our students with an invaluable developmental asset, exposure.

Players visit college campuses and facilities and evaluate their skill level compared to other players. For me as a coach, most importantly, the summer allows me an opportunity strengthen positive relationships with the kids, learn from other coaches directly and indirectly, and access players' skill set within an organized system.

We intentionally want to give our players experience in game situations in an effort to gain team chemistry. It's a learning process, even for me. As a wise coach instructed me, the summer isn't about winning, but learning how to win. It's the little things the staff pays close attention to, such as attitude, effort, contesting every shot, blocking out, making the extra pass, cheering, and supporting their teammates. If we do those little things consistently, the winning will take care of itself.

We played against great programs at several team camps and summer league games. We traveled to LSU (Baton Rouge), Coffeeville, University of Memphis, Pontotoc, Itawamba Community College, Delta State, Starkville, West Point, Calhoun City, and Walnut Grove.

This season, we play a tougher schedule. The team's division is always difficult as teams press their way to



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(back row, l to r) Stephano Coffey, Lacurtis Allen, Tyrin Jones, Joniah White, Davion Bradley, Trey Spencer, Tyrus Black, (front row, l to r) Davarious Wilburn, Jay Martin, Jay Dorsey, Tyler Doris, Jacobe Lawrence, and Kelvin Collins Jr.

get in the playoffs. Our team was invited to attend a national tournament in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. The teams also travel to Memphis, Tennessee, and play Lausanne Collegiate in non-conference play. The team was also invited to play in the "Hotbed Classic" in New Albany, Mississippi, and is scheduled to play Gadsden High School, Gadsden City, Alabama. Another big game for the team is on January 20, 2014, as we host the number one junior player in the nation, Malik Newman, playing for the Callaway Chargers.

It is our intention the games will help us prepare for the division and give us the game experience we need to improve. We want our players to believe that they are just as good as any team in or out of state.

The Grenada community and School District has a group of young men to be proud of. We have four seniors who bring leadership, toughness, humility, and perseverance to the team. They are the core of this team. The team has four juniors who will carry the banner next year and who consistently bring out the laughter and fun of our team. We have six sophomores that have the tools and skills to continue to build and strengthen this program for the future. If they continue to believe and trust each other whole-heartedly this group has a chance to put together a very special season.



Photo Courtesy of GHS Annual Staff

Joniah White scores on a turnaround hook shot.



Photo Courtesy of GHS Annual Staff

Samuel James outlets the pass to Tyler Doris and trails the fast break.



Photo Courtesy of GHS Annual Staff

Tyrin Jones slashing to the goal.

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