

Women's Basketball Road to Success



Photo Courtesy of Leesville Women's Basketball

Play Hard. Play Smart. Think TEAM.

The 2016-17, Leesville Women's Basketball team is coached by Benjamin Daniels, a social studies teacher at Leesville. In only his fourth year involved with Leesville academics and sports, Coach Daniels has clearly distilled one thing on his girls -- teamwork.

The women's team this year consists of 12 players, ranging from freshman to seniors. As typical high school interaction goes, creating a strong team bond can be difficult among 15 year olds and 18 year olds, but Daniels prides himself on the strong, unified team he has this year.

"This is a very special team because the girls genuinely like each other, and it's hard to find that in high school sports," said Daniels.

The 2016-17 girls basketball team runs off of 6 core values: unselfishness, appreciation, accountability, competitiveness, enthusiasm and class.

"These 6 values are the values that I think are important for young people to have regardless of gender or sport, especially when talking about a team environment. I feel that society is growing more and more independent, immersed in people helping themselves out and when you coach a team sport, the hardest thing to do is to get people to buy into the team aspect, therefore I developed the values as some of the ways to make our experience the best possible as a team," said Daniels.

The team bases their success of how well these 6 values can be executed.

"What I think is most important for all of these kids to understand is the unselfishness and appreciation because you can't be a team if you're selfish. Not everyone will get what they want in order for the team to win. We do a survey in the beginning of the year, and when I ask the players what they want for the season then I compile [their responses] all together and read it to them. And if everyone got what they wanted, we would have 12 girls starting every game and we'd score 100 points a game, so I'm big into unselfishness."

Unselfishness

"Our team this year really values teamwork, even though not everything is going to go our way, we still come together after those faults and that is what makes us special," said Ashley Gill, senior.

Accountability

"We are a family, so if one person is down we will always help each other and give good advice, and always help each other get better. Even during the games, some people may not play as much but we still join the team together and make handshakes...just making it more exciting and adding energy," said Larissa Colon, junior.

Enthusiasm

"We have a very diverse team in age and in skill and just personality wise, and in a way I think that's helped us come together and work together. It's strange that it all works out, but our team gets along really well and having a young team and having those girls who will be here for the next few years will make the team very strong," said Lauren McNamara-Clement, senior.

Competitiveness

"I really feel like the future is bright. I've tried to get across since I've come here is changing the culture of Leesville basketball. There was a lot of years in a row where Leesville wasn't competitive and didn't win a lot of games and that's been something we have been trying to turn around," said Daniels.

Class

"Class means sportsmanship -- when you are on the court you don't give attitude or sass. Maintaining class by being respectful to your coach, your teammates and the crowd is important to the team," said Lucy Leen, freshman.

Appreciation

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