

**COMEBACK** Senior Austin Hwang brings the ball down the court as a point guard after the opposing team, Lynbrook High School scored yet another three pointer. Though they lost their senior game with a score of 52-37, they did not let this loss affect them and the teams perseverance stayed with them for the rest of the season and the playoffs. *Photo by Krish Dev*

# HEAD IN THE GAME

Out of breath, senior Austin Hwang looks at the final score of their second playoff game against Gunn High School. 64-54 shines bright from the wall scoreboard and slowly fades away as his teammates swarm him cheering their victory.

"We were the underdogs going into the game, and no one expected us to win," Hwang said. "However, we came together as a team and ultimately pulled off the upset victory. I led the team in scoring and played a critical role in securing the win."

Hwang started playing basketball from the third grade, but his passion for the sport has continued as he gained many skills and memories.

"Basketball has given me so much joy and has taught me important life skills like discipline, teamwork, and perseverance," Hwang said. "Playing the sport is a way for me to challenge myself physically and mentally while also having fun with a group of like-minded individuals."

However, while Hwang has

faced difficulties while playing basketball, he has not quit the sport completely. Instead, these setbacks have taught him the importance of perseverance.

"I worked with my doctors and trainers to come up with a plan that would allow me to continue playing safely," Hwang said. "This often meant taking extra precautions and modifying my playing style, but I never let these setbacks keep me from achieving my goals."

Even off the court, Hwang continues to carry his love of basketball through his interests in music and fashion, highlighting how "hoop culture" makes his favorite sport stand out even more.

"In addition, the street ball culture and the "playground" style of basketball have created a certain level of creativity and improvisation that is unique to the sport," Hwang said. "Players are encouraged to develop their own personal style and flair, which allows for a level of individual expression that is not always present in other team sports."



# INSIGHTS

What was your biggest challenge this year?

"Towards the preseason, we lost the first five games and although we played a somewhat decent competition, I felt that gave us a lack of motivation and the team had to gather together and find that stretch where everyone was on the same page. I felt that also there were supposed to be more players that were supposed to return but they didn't due to other reasons. Also, a lot of people were also moving up from JV, too, so we didn't have a lot of experience. All of that was pretty much definitely the biggest challenge, especially for our coach."

**MATTHEW LAU (11)**

## KICKIN' IT

Two members of varsity basketball talk about their dream shoe and the sentimental value behind it



### KOBE 5 GRINCHES

"I think that they are really good looking shoes. There is a notion that if you wear them, you're good at basketball or a Hooper. Obviously Kobe is one of my favorite players so to be able to wear one of these shoes would be really great."

**ITAI LAVI (12)**



### BIG BALLER BRAND Z02

"I grew up watching Lonzo Ball's high school highlights growing up, and he has been my favorite player ever since. He got a shoe as a rookie, and that is something that has never been done before."

**SHREYAS INAMPUDI (12)**



[A]



[B]

## LIVE BY THE COURT

Stanley Du (10) recounts the best parts of the season

### WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE SEASON?

I think playing against a team that was so much better than us was the highlight of the season. Since we were a much smaller team, taking a lot of charges and doing the small things really helped us win the game. It felt like a huge step forward at the time and it gave us a lot of confidence.

### HOW IS THE TEAM DYNAMIC DIFFERENT FROM TEAMS?

I think our team dynamic is strong and it helps us stay solid because we aren't necessarily as talented as other teams. We still stick to the small things with all of our effort so it helps us better our skills both as a team and individually.



[C]



[D]



[E]

**[A] GROUP HUG** Both varsity and junior varsity teams crowds around sophomore Stanley Du, hyping him up after his twenty point game led the team to qualify for CCS, Central Coast Sections. The made it through two qualifying games, ultimately losing to Saint Francis, 55-78. *Photo by Jeevith Chanveer*

**[B] A MAN ON A MISSION** Junior Matthew Lau moves past his defender swiftly passing the ball to Sophomore Stanley Du who carries out the rest of the play. During the season they learned how communicate more effectively as a team, and the scores followed suit as their communication grew better. *Photo by Krish Dev*

**[C] REACH FOR THE STARS** Sophomore Ninad Suresh starts off the game with Milpitas High School with the tip off. Though the opposing member got the most height to tip the ball to their side, Suresh ends up reaching the ball first giving Monta Vista the starting play. *Photo by Arti Gnanasekar*

**[D] NOTHING HOLDING ME BACK** Junior Matthew Lau goes for a layup in the third quarter of the varsity game between Milpitas High School. Monta Vista's offense quickly picked up in the second half of this tight game and his layup ended up securing a good lead for the rest of the game. *Photo by Arti Gnanasekar*

**[E] EYE ON THE PRIZE** Junior Jacob Nakamura protects the ball from the opposing team. After seeing an open teammate, Nakamura fakes a shot, and then passes the ball, carrying the play closer to the opposing team's basket. *Photo by Krish Dev*

**our WINS**  
mvhs vs. opp.

**lynbrook**  
jv: 37-40  
v: 53-63

**wilcox**  
jv: 90-87  
v: 53-79

**santa clara**  
jv: 69-48  
v: 52-59

**homestead**  
jv: 40-64  
v: 58-48

**milpitas**  
jv: 42-74  
v: 51-58

**fremont**  
jv: 56-40  
v: 42-40

**wilcox**  
jv: 55-61  
v: 51-72

**kathleen macdonald**  
jv: 49-22

**santa clara**  
jv: 64-49  
v: 76-52

**fremont**  
jv: 69-64  
v: 69-64

**homestead**  
jv: 49-46  
v: 62-56

**milpitas**  
jv: 44-65  
v: 46-66

**lynbrook**  
jv: 50-54  
v: 37-52