

Friends *from the field*

Students share how athletics help build new friendships

By Nick Mathias and Justin Noble

Working toward a common goal brings people together. In sports, teammates spend hours working together. That often leads to forming bonds that last long after the season concludes.

Junior Clayton Norrod knows about this first hand. He transferred to Maize in eighth grade. He said without sports like football, making friends wouldn't have come as easily.

"[Sports are] pretty much how I got to meet all of my [friends]," Norrod said. "I mean, I'm new to Maize still. I may have got here in eighth grade, but I'm meeting new people through sports."

Two of the friends he's had the longest - juniors Chase and Chandler Goff - he met playing t-ball when they were little.

"That's pretty much the only reason we're friends," Chase Goff said.

Junior Andrew Johnson and sophomore Corey Wilson understand the bonding that occurs between teammates. They met each other through baseball last year.

"I met a whole bunch of the upperclassmen and got to know them," Wilson said.

The friendly environment and competition of sports often leads to the creation of many friendships. Many people on sports teams become close during the season and maintain those relationships during the offseason.

Chandler Goff said that spending so much time with teammates during the season leads to many formed bonds

between most, if not all, of the teammates.

Johnson also believes this. "You're around the people on your team a lot, so it's going to make you automatically friends."

Freshmen Aubrey Cole and Madison and Marissa Wright met during basketball season in seventh grade.

"They're basically the only people I hang out with," Cole said.

"You hang out with your teammates a lot, like the whole time," Madison said. "They're your friends during the season of the sport you play, and you just get to know them so well you stay friends after that."

Like any friendship, problems can arise. Between teammates, however, it is hard to get away from the tension.

"Sometimes it makes people get mad at their friends, because if they play more or moved up to a different team, then people get jealous," Cole said.

Though sports can be competitive, students still have a good time with their teammates.

"Being competitive with your friends is just something that comes with sports," Norrod said. "It just happens because you're all playing the same sport and you all want to make each other better."

Wilson agrees. "Around here it's a lot of friendly competition," he said. "You want to beat out your friend, but you want to have fun doing it." ■



PHOTOS BY RACHEL REKO



Freshman Aubrey Cole got to know Madison and Marissa Wright during seventh grade basketball season.

Though they are in different grades, junior Andrew Johnson and sophomore Corey Wilson became friends through baseball.



Juniors Chase and Chandler Goff met junior Clayton Norrod while playing t-ball and now they play football.



JORDAN WATKINS

Chris Davis speaks to the crowd at a basketball scrimmage Nov. 17.

Davis becomes head coach

By Rachel Reko

Chris Davis, the new boys basketball coach, tries to make a difference every day in the lives of his players and students.

A special education teacher at Maize for almost two years, Davis enjoys teaching and working with the kids. He likes not knowing what to expect each day.

“It’s different every day,” Davis said. “There’s never a dull moment.”

Davis said he wanted to work with special needs students to make a difference in their lives.

“There’s a need for quality teachers to help,” he said. “Anytime you can help and be proactive, it’s good. If we don’t stand up for them, who will?”

Davis said that growing up in a sports family encouraged his love of sports. His father, who worked for the National Baseball Congress for many years, rubbed off on him.

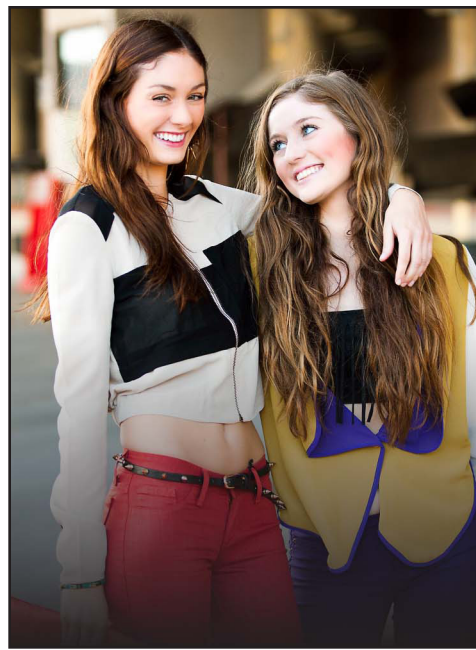
After being a basketball coach for more than 19 years at Kapaun Mount Carmel, Wichita South and Liberal, Davis brings his expertise to Maize. He was an assistant coach for Mike Darrah on the team last year.

Davis’ hopes for the year include improving as a team.

“I want to get better every day,” he said. “I want them to understand what a team is all about and learn life lessons. If we can do that, we’ll be successful.”

Davis believes the best thing about coaching is the challenge to get better.

“When you get a group of individuals together as a team and improve, there’s no better feeling.” ■



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 A black and white photograph of Aaron Hight, a man wearing a hard hat and a polo shirt with 'CROSSLAND CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INC.' and 'PITT STATE' logos. He is holding a rolled-up blueprint over his shoulder.

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