

# Travel vs. League Play: Which Reigns Supreme?

By Griffin Heideman

Which one is better for kids, travel or league basketball (being Bexley REC, JCC)? This is one of the biggest debates in the sports community. Some say travel basketball is too intense and too much of a commitment for kids. Others think that travel basketball is great because it prepares kids for the school teams more than rec by being faster paced and teaching the players a higher skill level.

What is the difference? Sure, everyone knows that travel basketball is a team put together that travels other places to play their games and they play teams from another town and occasionally, another state. What about skill? What is the difference between the two, skill-wise for kids?

“Travel basketball leagues cost a lot of money and takes up a lot of your free time and weekends, but this all pays off in the end because you learn new skills that a league would not, and it also develops a better understanding of the game. Both of which will have a major role in making the middle school team,” Sydnie Smith, a middle school AAU basketball and

volleyball player, expresses.

Max Myser agrees with Sydnie and states that travel basketball is more intense and needs more commitment, but you get more time and practice to work on skills.

Dominic Gutter, a middle school basketball and football player explains, “league basketball has less rules and is ‘freer’ than travel basketball which is strict and has lots of rules, but all those rules eventually make you a much better player than if you played in rec league, but it costs a lot of money.”

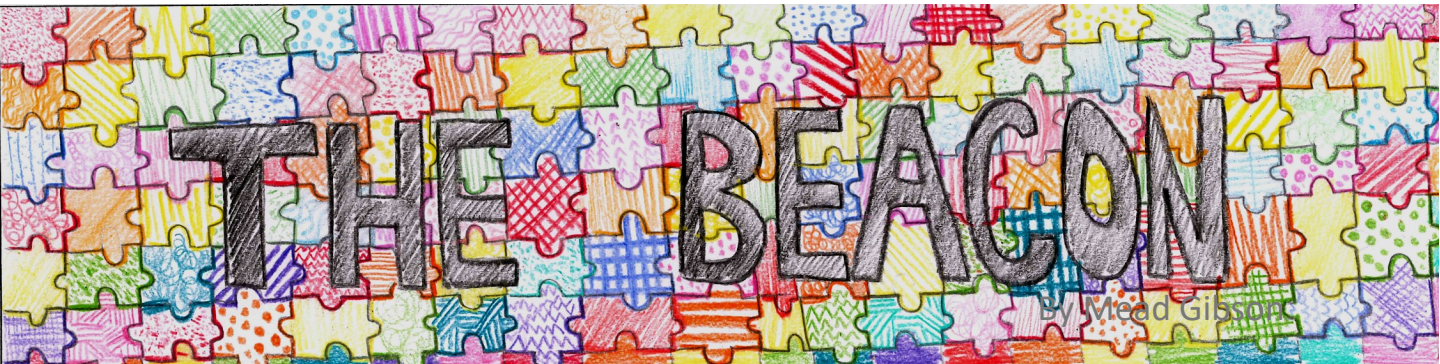
At this point, it becomes obvious that travel basketball costs more money, requires more commitment, but improves your skills more than leagues do, but what does travel basketball improve and how?

“Travel helps improve skills much more than league because the players and coaches have a better idea about the game which means the opponents are higher skilled and the coaches teach higher level moves and plays. Plus, the faster pace of the game also helps improve awareness of what's happening and faster reflexes in any sport.” Sydnie states.

## Eighth Grader Girls Basketball Continued...

8th graders, family played a big part in the players season. It determined their success level, which clearly, was never an issue for this team. When the girls were asked what it takes to be a champion, Molly Odell responded, “To me to be a champion you need to work hard all the time.... because if you want to succeed you have to earn it.” Sofie Sheridan said “There are three quotes I usually think about is “trust the process”, “have the eye of the tiger”, and “don’t let anyone work harder the you do”, This means a lot

to me because this is how my team and I win games. Maya Murry responded,” You need to find a balance between humble, confident, and bossy, so that you can prevail as a team...In the end, you just have to love the game and your team.” The 8th grade girls' basketball team isn’t a force to be reckoned with. With every win these girls abstain, the more these girls really work together. Many other and myself wish these girls victory in the future. And as always, LET’S GO LIONS!



# Eighth Grade Girls Basketball Continues On Success

By Syd Smith

It was almost impossible to repeat or copy what the 8th grade girls' basketball team did in their middle school seasons. No one believed it was true that a girls' basketball team went undefeated in their middle school league and were two-time league champions. For the girls starting this season, going undefeated and winning the Middle School league was going to be a challenge but not an impossible task. Trust me these girls are not used to losing, nor do they like to lose!

When coach Vincent, the



coach of the 8th grade team, was asked what he thought about the girls going into the season he replied, “I was super excited to be the coach of this team for so many reasons. Each year...you notice a huge difference in growth between seventh and eighth grade...people change, I had also watched the team gel last year which was fun to see!” When Ms.

Ranft, the coach of the seventh-grade team was asked how she felt when the 8th grade girls won the championship she said, “I was not surprised because, as a whole, they are the most talented group that I have ever coached. I knew during tryouts that it was a special team, both on and off the court.” Both

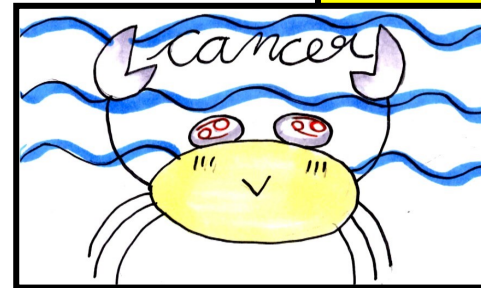
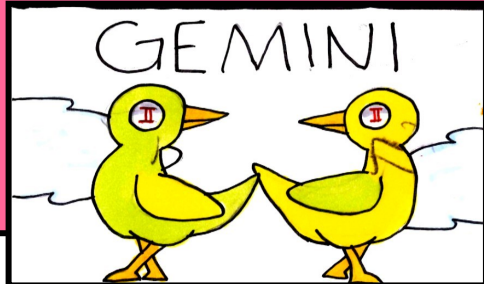
coaches agree that this team was special, and the team never gave up.

When Sofie Sheridan, a player on the 8th team, was asked what she thought about the season, she responded, “I really think that everyone became closer, and we were all together as a family!”. When Molly Odell, a player on the 8th grade team, was asked the same question, she responded, “I think this season was challenging for us this year. I loved our team so much and we all got closer this season.” For the-

Continued on page four.



Gemini (May 21-June 20): Today you should be honest and true to yourself. Spend time with someone you love and can relate to. This summer you will learn



Cancer (June 21-July 22): Today you let your instincts lead you to do what is right. Be sure to let yourself experience many emotions. This summer you will go on a new adventure in life.

## SUMMER HOROSCOPES

Leo (July 23-August 22): Take yourself on an adventure today no matter how big or small it is. Be full of energy. This summer you will meet people that make a big difference in your life.



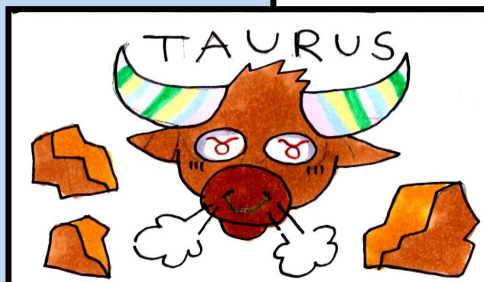
Virgo (August 23-September 22): Today you should push yourself



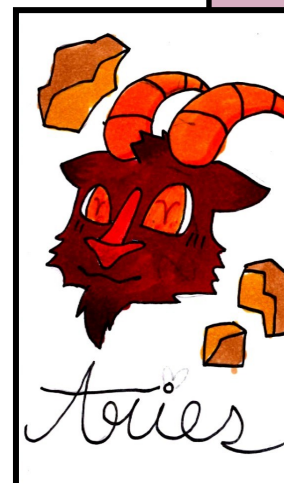
to be extra intelligent. Make sure you follow rules. This summer you will learn new things

that will help you become a better person.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Let someone else be loud and proud today as you take your turn being humble. Introduce a friend to something that you enjoy today. This summer you will get recognized for something important that



By Maia Nelson  
Art by Claire Dupler

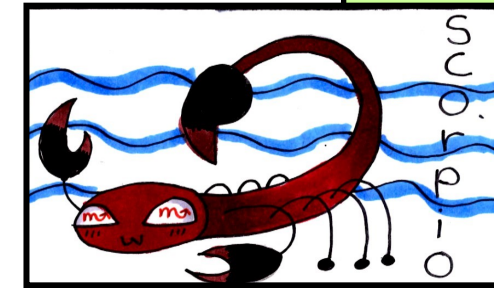


Aries (March 21-April 19): Try to do what is right to get your work done. Also, if you happen to get into any feuds, try talking it out. This summer you will get some things that you have been wanting for a while.

Libra (September 23-October 22): Today you should be kind. Be equal/fair to everyone and everything. This summer you will make new friends that will push you to be the best person you can be.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21): Be passionate about something today. You are someone that people often assume stuff about. Teach someone something about yourself that they don't know. This summer you will reach a goal that you have been working towards for a while now.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21): Be curious today, ask a lot of questions. You are someone that people see as a good friend. Make a new friend and get to know some older friends better. This summer you will get interested in something new and learn a lot about it.

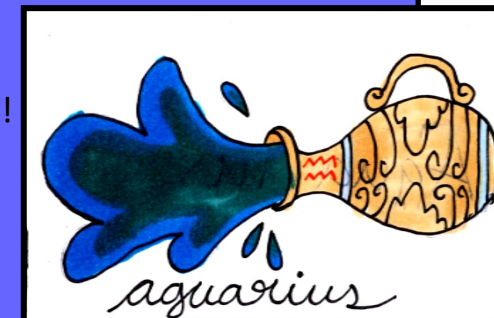


Capricorn (December 22-January 19): You should work hard today. Motivate yourself by thinking of the outcome of your work.



This summer you will achieve something that you have been dedicating a lot towards.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18): Show somebody the real you today. Don't hide back the person you are by masking yourself with a fake identity. Be you! This summer you will make a new friend and discover new



Pisces (February 19-March 20): Show somebody the real you today. Don't hide back the person you are by masking yourself with a fake identity. Be you! This summer you will make a new friend and discover new interests.

