



JAN. 15 - 19

MONDAY JAN 15

Menu: Lunch today is shrimp poppers, winter mix and fruit.

National Days: Today is National Bagel Day, National Hat Day and National Strawberry Ice Cream Day.

TUESDAY JAN 16

Menu: Lunch today is salisbury steak, mashed potatoes & gravy, dinner roll and fruit.

National Days: Today is National Book Publisher Day, National Good Teen Day and National Nothing Day.

WEDNESDAY JAN 17

Menu: Lunch today is BBQ chicken sandwich, onion rings and fruit.

National Days: Today is National Betty White Day, National Kid Inventors and National Popeye Day.

THURSDAY JAN 18

Menu: Lunch today is cheesy chicken tortilla soup, Fritos, fresh veggies and fruit.

National Days: Today is National Museum Selfie Day, National Thesaurus Day and National Winnie The Pooh Day.

FRIDAY JAN 19

Menu: Lunch today is McRib, baked beans, corn muffin and fruit.

National Days: Today is National Good Memory Day, National Brew A Potion Day and National Popcorn Day.

Last Week: Ms. Parr's 3rd grade class got a visit from 2 special guests today: Monona County DNR Tyler and Fred the corn snake.

Warrior Basketball: The boys basketball team is still the talk of the town! If you didn't get to see the inspiring interview, you can read it [here](#). Thanks for the loyalty guys! Way to go Warriors!

Interview: Cole Bethune could have followed other Whiting athletes, choosing to transfer to another school with more successful sports teams that give them a chance at winning more games. And who could blame him? After all, the Whiting boys basketball team hadn't won a game since he was in elementary school. But leaving didn't sit right with Bethune. Even as the losses continued to mount, he felt a loyalty to his school and teammates who continued

to absorb one loss after another, many by lopsided scores. "I've thought about changing schools," the junior captain said. "But I thought I'm not going to do Whiting like that." That loyalty and persistence paid off. On Jan. 4, Whiting snapped a 114-game losing streak emphatically, beating Storm Lake St. Mary's 52-25, the first time the Warriors had scored more than 35 points all season. Their last win had been a 38-37 decision over Cornerstone Christian of Bellevue, Nebraska, on Feb. 2, 2018. In between wins were five winless seasons. Rather than continue to lose, some boys chose to go to another school to play. Others quit or didn't go out, leaving just seven boys on this year's roster. "We don't give up. It's just the love for the game. We keep going out there for each other and our school," said Bethune, the team's leading scorer. Basketball is Bethune's favorite sport. Not all his teammates share the same level of passion, he said, but they're there to support each other. That friendship has helped them get through the tough times and made the win feel that much better. "Brotherhood. The group we have out there, we all grew up together," Bethune said.

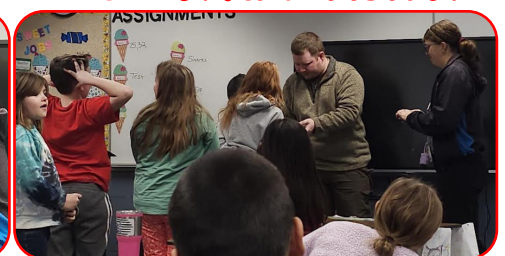
Heath Vanden Bosch, a Whiting body shop owner who coaches both the boys and girls teams because the school struggled to find a boys coach two years ago, said he never brought up the streak, though he was well aware of it. His son Brody was a freshman on the team that had last won in 2018. He watched as a parent, now as a coach, as Whiting competed against teams that at times purposely tried to score 100 points on them. "It's a hard pill to swallow. You've gotta have a thick skin to go out there and play through all that," Vanden Bosch said. It hasn't always been easy, he said, but the boys' attitudes make up for the lack of wins. After each loss, instead of dwelling on it, they'd show up for practice the next day, work hard and have fun while running drills. "Whiting does have a sense of pride, and we have kids that want to play," Vanden Bosch said. "They really don't get discouraged. They keep their heads up and think the next game is going to be it."

Going into the streak-breaking win, there was a subconscious feeling that this was going to be it. Bethune said the boys were uncharacteristically quiet and focused in the locker room before the game. When they scored a layup off the opening tip, just as they had practiced, the game plan fell into place. As they pulled away in the fourth quarter, everyone could feel victory was at hand, and once the clock hit zero, students and parents ran onto the court to celebrate with the players. Vanden Bosch gathered the team at mid court and told them they did a good job and he was proud of them. "We didn't know how to win, how it feels to win. Now we do," Bethune said. That feeling has given them a confidence boost. Whether it leads to more wins this season remains to be seen. Regardless of what happens next, the perseverance shown by Whiting's players and the coaches and parents who have supported them through the long losing streak is one of many examples that high school sports can have an impact far beyond wins and losses. Yes, the Whiting players would probably tell you they'd rather be 9-1 right now than 1-9. But by going back out on the court after every loss, no matter how bad, they've learned how to push through difficult circumstances and keep working.

"Mistakes happen and things happen. We just need to keep our heads up," Bethune said. "All the bad things happen for a reason. Any cards you're dealt, just be thankful for them." He's thankful for the opportunity he and his teammates have to play basketball, that Vanden Bosch stepped up to coach them when no one else would and for the support parents, classmates and community members continue to show by coming to their games. In recent years, the scoreboard almost always says the boys have lost. Good thing that's not the only way to determine if someone's a winner.



BOYS BASKETBALL WIN INTERVIEW



3RD GRADE VISITOR