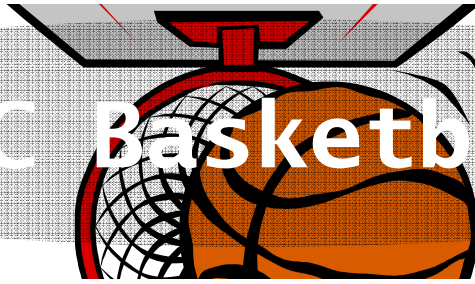


Wintersburg Presbyterian Church

WPC Basketball



Volume 3 Issue 2

Dec 2006

Inside this issue:

WPC Sports Ministry	1
It was really a great time	1
Meet the Yonsei 13 Players	2
Weekly Events	4
Calendar	4
Seyo Committee	4

WPC Sports Ministry

The 2006-2007 Winter/Jr. Season has officially begun! Practices have started, snack schedules have been set and the games will soon begin. The new year will be full of promises, challenges, and opportunities to share our love for Jesus Christ. I can't help but think how fortunate we are, as a Sports Ministry, to be able to provide a program that incorporates a sport with our desire to share and demonstrate our Faith in Jesus Christ.

Why do I have such a grateful heart? Now that my sons

are no longer playing in the Jr. season, all I can do is look back at those past years.....and see the impact and what this program has accomplished for them. They are both connected with the church thru their participation in the Youth and Children's Ministry. They now have friendships and relationships that will encourage them in their Christian walk. They contribute to the life of the church thru their willingness to serve and worship with the church family. But more importantly, I know they know Jesus Christ and are continuing to grow in their personal relationship

with our Lord and Savior. Yes, I am personally grateful to our Sports Ministry and to all who volunteer their time and themselves to our program. And as our program continues to grow, I am confident that we will continue to reach those who do not yet know of our Lord. May this year bring us opportunities to share Christ's Love with the families we serve!

Blessings,

Gordon Gee, Elder Sports Ministry

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Deadline for Next
Newsletter articles:
2/4/07

It was really a great time...

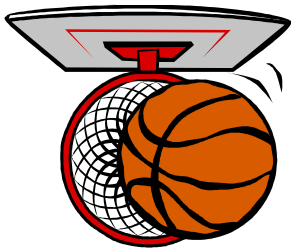
Events in life come and go. Some stay with us in the form of warm and wonderful memories. One such memory is my first season coaching a girl's basketball team from Wintersburg about 13 years ago. It was a team composed of mostly 8 and 9 year olds – girls who had very little experience playing any form of basketball. Practices leading up to the first game were quite interesting and full of surprises. The girls always had

questions. "When we're on offense, do we have the ball or do they have it?" I learned quickly that patience is truly a virtue.

As the season opener approached, I tried to prepare myself mentally. I wasn't going to get upset if we lost by a handful of points – as long as we were competitive, I wasn't going to get bothered whether or not we won or lost. I had seen our opponent play. They were

seasoned players who had lots of competitive basketball experience. Nevertheless, I felt relatively confident, knowing that our girls had diligently practiced. I felt good about the offensive and defensive schemes I had created and installed for our team.

Then the game started. Before I could utter the words, "call time out," we were behind 20 to 0. Our opponents wore red



WPC's Yonsei 13 players

Corrie Wong

My Yonsei Experience

Yonsei has been the best experience of my life. I have had the chance to meet 23 new friends that have become like brothers and sisters. We spent 8 months bonding through fundraisers, outings, and practice, practice, practice. My favorite part of Yonsei was definitely going to Japan and home staying with a Japanese family. The family was so nice to me. They took me sightseeing, shopping, and showed me how they live. I even got to dress up in a yukata. I taught them how

to play American card games. I can't wait until they come here in August so I can show them how we live.

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Karen Mizoguchi

From the beginning until the end of the trip, Yonsei has been the best experience of my life.

When people ask me how my trip was, I always enjoy telling them about this phenomenal journey. Yonsei is an organization where a selected amount of 12 girls and 12 boys go

to Japan and play basketball against a certain city's team. This year Yonsei 13 went to Tamana, Kumamoto and I was lucky enough to be selected out of the many talented girls who tried out. Yonsei isn't all about basketball though. The trip also includes sightseeing tours of the most popular cities in Japan. My favorite city was Hiroshima because I have never visited this city before.

It was really a great time...

uniforms. During those opening minutes, I mostly saw a blur of red streaking down court with our girls in purple uniforms lumbering, trying hard to stay within 20 feet of their backs. Our opponents needn't have practiced their outside shooting – they scored lay up after lay up. As the game wore on, the opposing coach had mercy on us, and let up. The final score was something like 38 to 4.

The rest of the season pretty much went like the first game. Throughout the season, I determined to encourage and build up my girls. I rarely engaged in yelling or scolding my girls. Instead I cheered for them constantly, for the smallest positives. Maybe it was my way of coping. Regardless, I was pleasantly surprised one game when the league commissioner stopped by and told me in a very sincere manner, "Coach, you do such a terrific job with your girls, it's great how you encourage them so much!" Encouraging my girls was what I felt God expected of

me, as their coach. This was my way of honoring my Lord Jesus Christ. I didn't want my coaching to be primarily driven by whether or not my girls won or lost.

Then it happened. It was near the end of the season and we were playing the best team in our division. There were about 2 minutes left in the game and WE WERE AHEAD! Suddenly, a surge of energy went through my body. It was a combination of anticipation and pent up frustration finding release. I turned to my girls who were sitting on the bench, and with a big smile uttered, "I think we're going to really win a game!" I felt like a little boy waiting to open a present I had wanted so much.

We finished the season with that one win. As wins and losses go, we did nothing to set us apart. But, I will never, ever forget the girls' joy as they savored their first win. I felt so blessed by God that He had given me the op-

portunity to coach these wonderful girls. We played and prayed together at each game, win or lose. Yes, **it was really a great time...**

In Christ,
Pastor Fred

Yonsei 13 . . .

Our team had visited the Hiroshima Peace Park and attended a Hiroshima Carp baseball game. It was so much fun to see what a baseball game was like in another country! I don't think I would ever forget this trip because I had the best time and also made some lifelong friends. If any boy or girl asked me about Yonsei, I would recommend it because of the many memories he/she would keep for the rest of their lives. I would like to thank my parents most of all for their hard work and

hear them argue or complain to the referees. While in Japan, we were fortunate enough to experience a Japanese baseball game. In the stadium, it's loud, lots of cheering all around, and very exciting. The whole experience of being able to go out freely and pick up our dinner at a "Lawsons" is something you can't do here in America. Over here you can't go out at night and have the feeling of walking around safely, but in Japan you can go out at night and walk around with no worries. Mentioned above were just some of my fondest memories I have, but there were many more fun and unforgettable events that I keep with me. For any of you parents who are deciding whether to have your child sign up for Yonsei, I strongly recommend you do. Yes, it may seem like a lot of commitment and driving around, but it is all worth it. Just seeing everyone's faces when the Japanese culture finally hits them, is nothing you can replace. This is one experience I shall treasure all throughout my life. Sayonara.

support because if it weren't for them this wonderful trip would never have happened. I would also like to thank Mr. Uchizono and Mr. Nakakihara for their generous donations and for the help they have given to not only me, but to my family as well. Also, I would like to thank Wintersburg for supporting me, Reyn Araki, Willis Ota, and Corrie Wong. Thank you,

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Reyn Araki

Konichiwa, Boku no namae wa Reyn Araki des. In English this means Hi, my

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Willis Ota

Ever since my sister made Yonsei 11 about two years ago, I've always wanted to be part of the Yonsei Basketball Association. Therefore, I tried out for the Yonsei 13 team, did my best in the try-outs, worked diligently on the written essay, answered my questions during the interview, and wished my parents luck on their interview. A few days later I received a call from Coach Ed Kamiyama informing my family and me that I had made the team. This was just the beginning of my unforgettable Yonsei Experience.

Yonsei has allowed me to meet 23 new friends and we soon became like a family. Throughout the summer, the team hung out every week and we became close to one another. I thought just hanging out with the team was fun, but Japan had yet to come. The trip to Japan was the most unforgettable experience that I have ever had. Staying with a family in Japan seemed like it would be kind of scary and awkward, but it was a blast and they

name is Reyn Araki. This summer I was selected to be part of the Yonsei 13 team and travel to Tamana. This is an unforgettable trip I went on. Before, I wasn't really sure if I wanted to even try out for the team. However, I am glad that my mom "forced" me to try-out, and among the 20+ people, I was selected to be part of the team. This whole experience I've made 23 new friends that I now consider my family, and learned much about the Japanese culture. I am sad that this trip is over because I had such a great time. The whole experience of playing basketball in a different environment, I will never forget. The players are much more disciplined and respectful than the players here in American. You never

fed me good food like oyako donburi, sushi, tonkatsu, and even raw horse meat, which was surprisingly delicious. The games against the Tamana teams were hard and grueling, but we lost only one game to a highly nationally ranked team. The games were tough, but bowing before entering and leaving the court, cheering by all the parents and siblings, and getting fanned during time-outs made the games very fun. Later on during the trip, we were able to visit temples, shop at the huge electronic stores, go to McDonald's to pick up a few teriyaki burgers, and go to Miyajima Island where we saw Dirk Nowitski of the Dallas Mavericks! Japan was amazing.

So for all this, I have to thank Mr. Uchizono, Mr. Nakakihara, and all the other Wintersburg families that have supported me with their generous donations.

I would strongly encourage anyone who's interested or has given a thought about trying out for the team, to GO for it. You've got nothing to lose except the chance to experience the greatest

Weekly Events at Wintersburg

Sunday School

Sun 9 to 10AM All age groups

Special K (Jr. High)

Fri 7:30—9:30 PM Age appropriate fellowship for 6-8th grade students

Ike Pono (High School Group)

Fri 7:30 to 9:30 PM Age appropriate fellowship for 9-12th grade students

Questions? Contact :

Ryan "T" Teramoto
 Director of Youth Ministries
 (714)740-9403
 rteramoto@wintersburg.org



Calendar Events

- 1/8/07 Coaches Meeting 7:30pm
- 2/12/07 Coaches Meeting 7:30pm
- 2/18/07 Final Junior Season Games
- 3/3/07 Seyo Awards Night
- 3/25/07 Concert Dean-O at Wintersburg
- 4/8/07 Easter Sunday
- 4/20-22/07 West LA/ Tournament
<http://www.wlayc.org/>
- 4/23/07 SEYO Golf Tournament

Questions? Contact Sue Masamitsu,
 Director of Children's Ministries
 714.980-1890 or smasam@aol.com

Wintersburg SEYO Committee

SEYO Elder (present)	Gordon Gee	Treasurer	Dennis Lee
SEYO Rep	Craig Uchizono	Registration	Sue Masamitsu
SEYO Rep/Gyms	Mark Nakakihara	Head Team Mom	Jeri Lee
SEYO Rep	Mike Suwa	Uniforms	Lori Hirano
SEYO Web	Tom Masamitsu	Golf	Don Wong
SEYO Web	Dave Takigawa	SEYO Elder (past)	Jim Tanizaki
Secretary	Roberta Quon	Church phone	(714) 740-9400

Summit your article or photos to
wpcseyonews@yahoo.com



Yonsei 13 at Kyoto Temple



Reyn Araki, Karen Mizoguchi, Willis Ota, and Corrie Wong

MISSION STATEMENT

The Wintersburg Sports Ministry is an outreach program of the Wintersburg Presbyterian Church and is established to serve as an opportunity to share and demonstrate the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is an opportunity for families to participate in a program that will encourage spiritual, social and physical development.

We, the Wintersburg Presbyterian Church, believe that the successful participation in our program is defined by the building of character and self-confidence through encouragement of our young players in the Christian manner. Success is the understanding and appreciation of good teamwork and sportsmanship. Striving to do our best is always encouraged through fairness and concern for the welfare of each player.

The many teams, which are formed each year, represent our church and should, therefore, conduct themselves in a way that is reflective of our Christian values.