

# Basketball team takes down Andrew 58-39

*Vikings come out strong in last home game of season*

JOANNA DAU  
STAFF WRITER

In their final home game of the year, the Varsity Boys' Basketball team blew the roof off Andrew with a score of 58-39 on Friday night.

Friday night was Senior Night and a few minutes were taken after the game to recognize the team's six Seniors; Andre Walker, Carl Hayes, Bailey Johnson, Deon Posely, David Gray and Robert Burton.

The game started out Andrew's way but that is not by any means how it stayed. The first two points for the Vikings were scored by Sophomore Suppo Sanni after he was sent to the free throw line, where he went two for two. Walker added on right after him with a free throw of his own, but the boys were down six to three.

The Vikings got right back on track and tied it up at six with a three-pointer from Sophomore Kevin Dillard.

Their next two points came just seconds later and the game was tied back up at eight. Dillard regained possession of the ball after sneaking up on his opponent and turning the ball over to H-F. Andrew ran down the clock for the last 15 seconds of the quarter and it ended with the Vikings trailing 10-11.

Posely came in to relieve Burton midway through the second quarter, just moments before the game's most thrilling

play. With an assist from Dillard, Walker slammed down a dunk and put the Vikings up 27-11.

Andrew stayed silent until the last two minutes of the quarter when they scored a three-pointer but the Vikings only added more and more on to their lead.

The clock ran down and the first half ended with the Vikings up 32-17.

The boys came out strong in the second half and scored another eight points, keeping Andrew down to just seven. "I think we really picked it up in the second half, and that was the turning point in the game," said Walker.

The fourth quarter went all H-F's way and the Vikings were able to add another 18 points. Dillard kicked off the scoring with two points in the just the first 20 seconds. Posely shined throughout the quarter and sunk two three-pointers.

Burton kept up his domination and continuously put more points on the board. He scored the last two points for the Vikings with under a minute left and the Vikings went on to win 58-39.

"The boys played well, especially because it was Senior Night, and the last game on our home floor. We really started to pick it up in the second half and kept Andrew's scoring down," said Head Coach Jim McLaughlin.

The Vikings will play another play-off game tomorrow night, their opponent depending the winner of the Rich Central, Rich South game.

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-Jim McLaughlin  
Head Coach



Game on Senior Carl Hayes goes up against an Andrew opponent for Friday Night's tip-off. The boys have ended their regular season of play and look on to playoffs.

## Major League Baseball features first ever World Baseball Classic

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STAFF WRITER

As the weather slowly becomes warmer and spring training takes its full swing, that can only mean one thing: baseball season is just around the corner. However, this pre-season will take a spin and move towards an Olympic approach, as Major League Baseball (MLB) holds its first ever World Baseball Classic.

Hundreds of players are currently taking time off from their regular team's spring training to prepare for the event. The players will have a chance to compete for their home countries and territories for the first time in history. Up until now, international baseball tournaments have primarily consisted of minor-leaguers because of scheduling conflicts in the major leagues. The International Olympic Committee made the decision that baseball will no longer be a part of the Olympic games after Beijing, 2008. Major League Baseball has therefore spent many years preparing for this event, and hopes for it to be a success.

The World Baseball Classic will be a four-round tournament and feature 16 teams from different countries which will be divided into four pools. The competing countries will be China, Chinese Taipei, Japan, and Korea in pool A, Canada, Mexico, South Africa, and the United States in pool B, Cuba, Netherlands, Panama, and Puerto Rico in pool C, and Australia, Italy, Dominican Republic, and Venezuela in pool D. These countries were selected

because they are the 16 best baseball-playing countries in the world.

"This gathering of baseball's brightest stars will be an outstanding platform to grow the game internationally," said MLB Commissioner, Bud Selig, according to [www.espn.go.com](http://www.espn.go.com).

Provisional rosters consisting of about 60 players for each team were sent in on January 17. From these rosters, a maximum of 30 players were selected for the final roster. Each team hand-selected who they wished to have coach and manage them for the tournament. The umpires were selected by the World Baseball Classic Inc.

Although there are many players declining to play because of spring training, there are tons of others who are excited to participate.

Players that have agreed to represent the United States are Roger Clemens of the Houston Astros, Jason Varitek of the Boston Red Sox, Gary Sheffield of the New York Yankees, Derek Lee of the Chicago Cubs, and many more.

Unfortunately for the United States, viewing some of the games might require pulling a few all nighters, as the scheduled times are in convenience with the country that is hosting the game. The games will kick off tomorrow in Tokyo at 10 pm, when South Korea faces Taiwan. The first United States game will be Tuesday, March 7 against Mexico at 4 pm. The games will continue on for 18 days and the Championship will take place on Monday, March 20 at 9 pm.



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