Boys Varsity Basketball Regular Season Ends, Finishing Fourth in Division

By Justin Feliz & Christie Lai
Survey Staff Writers

The Boys Varsity Basketball regular season is coming to an end. The team’s current record is ten wins and eight losses, placing them in a fourth place standing in the Brooklyn A East district. The team sits behind the powerhouse teams of Brooklyn Collegiate and Bedford Academy High School. The two schools are considered to be the two best teams in the city and are favorites for the City Championship this year.

Even though the Engineers haven’t had a season on par with that of Brooklyn Collegiate and Bedford, the team has exceeded expectations.

Captain Matthew Orio ’12 explains, “Last year we had a really disappointing season and only won two games. We have already won eight games this year are a better team overall compared to last year.”

Orio also shot down circulating rumors regarding chemistry issues with the new players this year. He said, “We are all very good friends on the team and have a strong bond. Many of us have been playing together since freshman year. We all click on the court.”

The core players on the team are all graduating seniors. The five starters include forward Joaquin Ogando ’12, point guard Sebastian Munn ’12, shooting guard Matthew Orio ’12, center Alexander Wieckowski ’12, and power forward Michael Olutalabi ’12.

The Engineers have been handed some tough losses at the hands of Collegiate and Bedford, but have consistently beaten division rivals such as Prospect Heights Campus and Erasmus Hall. Despite the eight total losses, the team is confident that they will continue improving next season.

Sajid Kamal ’13 is determined to put in hard work over the summer with his fellow teammates. “The seniors brought both talent and leadership. Losing them is going to hurt us but we can still be a good team if us juniors work hard over the summer.”

The 411 on Cheerleading

By Edgar Yu
Survey Staff Writer

There is much controversy and confusion regarding what cheerleading is in terms of athletics and whether or not cheerleading is a “sport”.

Some people do not think so, like Mohammed Kareem ’13, who says, “Cheerleading is not a real sport … How can it be? There’s no athletic motion!”

Matthew Torres, a physical education teacher at Brooklyn Tech, disagrees. He said, “Of course it’s a sport! … It’s a competitive sport.”

The truth is that there are two kinds of cheerleading. There is sideline cheerleading and then there is competitive cheerleading. Competitive cheer consists of tumbling, stunting, dancing, and jumping. Competitive cheerleading teams do not cheer for other athletic teams, but rather compete with other cheerleading teams in the art of cheerleading.

Sideline cheer is different competitive cheering, mainly because sideline cheerleaders do not compete with other teams. Sideline cheerleading also requires a certain discipline but is certainly not as strenuous as competitive cheer ing. According to a recent study led by Hermann Engels of Wayne State University, competitive cheerleaders are in the same league physically as Olympic soccer and gymnastic contenders. The same study states that sideline cheerleaders were shown to have the same level of fitness as that of an average untrained girl.

In Brooklyn Tech, cheerleaders participate in both competitive and sideline cheering, though the majority of it is competitive. This intensity is displayed first during the rigorous tryouts that take place over a three day period. Even after tryouts are finished, there is a two week “probation” period where the coach observes the recruits and decides whether or not they will be a good addition to the team.

Even though cheerleaders are at a slight risk of injury, the newcomer freshmen seem to enjoy cheer leading. The students also have to balance their training with academics. Diane Mon ’15, a member of the cheerleading team, aspires to be in the medical field. Even though she “gets home late,” and “studies hard to achieve her goals,” she still “enjoys cheerleading.” Mon recalls that during the tryouts, the cheerleaders were “really energetic and helpful.”

We hope to become better players and leaders by training hard,” says Kamal. This will be a difficult task considering that all five starters are seniors.

Orio feels bad that he has to leave the team behind in June. He also added, “James Gales, a phenomenal football player, and Nile Ellis, a current sophomore on the JV basketball team, both show great potential. This year, Ellis has shown that he has the required skill and talent to play on and excel on the varsity team.” Ellis is currently averaging 19 points per game on a promising JV squad that is currently 7-4 and third in their division.