



From the Vault

Over the last 25 years, I have had the privilege to be a part of many memorable events within our schools. In “From the Vault,” I look to share some of those experiences that have been captured on film. As you watch each new video, I hope they provide fond memories and that you enjoy them as much as I have ~ Graham Peabody, Superintendent of Schools, Spotswood Public Schools

“From the Vault”: March 2019 - Season 1, Episode 1

Girls Varsity Basketball, Central Jersey Group I Sectional Final, March 9, 1999

20 years ago, a team of 12 young women from Spotswood High School captured the heart of our communities as they marched to a 20-7 record and a long coveted sectional title. Senior captain, Beth Cipot, nee Dickinson, remembers, “that championship had a great impact on our school and our communities. We won games because of our fans - the student body, friends, family, neighbors, teachers - they all came to support us. They came to every game, home and away, always chanting, cheering us on. They gave us energy, pride. It was great to play with that support.” The sectional title game, played at Delaware Valley Regional High School in Frenchtown, New Jersey, was no different, as fans young and old packed the gymnasium to support our team.

Playing a tough Montgomery team, the Chargers were always in the game even though they trailed for most of it. As the 3rd period came to a close, however, the Chargers rallied with a deep three from Dickinson that changed the momentum of the game for good.

While Beth is considered by many as the best basketball player in Spotswood history, compiling 2,100 points in her high school career, she remembers that “we won that game as a team. Everyone played a part rebounding, passing, making clutch shots. Everyone stepped up.” Jill Hetzler, nee Harkins, now one of our very own elementary physical education teachers, was one of those teammates. She recalls what a “great opportunity it was to play with a team that met with so much success. You never forget the feeling you get from being a part of group like that. We were always together as classmates and teammates. We were friends, we were family.”

Reinforcing these sentiments, William Visokay, the Head Coach of the team, remembers this team, one of many that he has coached, as “a group of young women who developed and fostered a very special bond. There was a clear comradery, chemistry and togetherness that showed on the court through their unselfish play.” He remembers that, as a group, they possessed an “unending work ethic, a desire to be a championship team.” 20 years ago this month, that desire payed off.

Click [HERE](#) to access additional information and resources regarding the team.

To view footage from the sectional final. click [HERE](#) for Video #1 and [HERE](#) for Video #2.

If you have video connected to a past district event or program that you wish to share, please send an email to fromthevault@spsd.us so that it may be considered for a future issue of “From the Vault.”

