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photo by EMILY JACKSON

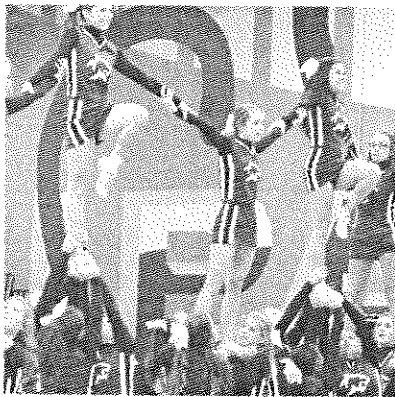


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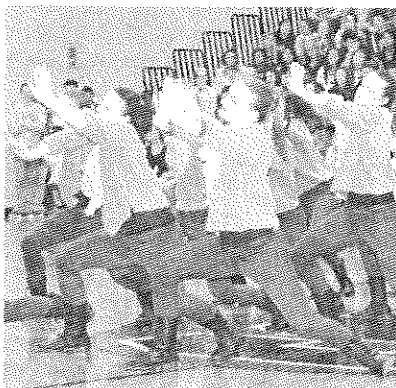


photo by SHILBY COOPER

## As winter winds down, some senior Panthers made their last debut

by JAKE PAROLIN

**T**he memories made during the four years you spend at South are some of the best moments of your life, especially for those who have partaken in a certain activity where they have made bonds with some people they will never forget.

Nobody likes it when a good thing is over, but for some South seniors, the end is not necessarily the end. As the snow days become less and less possible and winter changes into spring, some seniors end their careers here at south.

It is hard to go from participating in something all your life, then that final game or event comes and you must finally bid ado to a special part of your life. There are those who are lucky enough to continue their careers post high school.

Anthony Woods, senior, is ready to start the next chapter of his life. Woods, a "youngin' getting buckets," has been playing basketball since the age of four.

He has been part of the varsity squad since the beginning of his journey here at South. His career has been successful and he got to be a part of the team that went to state his freshman year. Leaving South will not be easy for Woods.

"I will miss my team," said Woods. "Rob, a kid in a grown man's body," talking about Robert Lane, junior, "Payton Meek, a funny, laid back, dude, the Welty brothers and of course big Allen Hyatt"

Woods will not forget his team, nor the four seasons he took part in during his time here at South.

Courtney Claassen, like Woods, has been playing basketball at South for all four years. Though it is not her main sport, she still puts forth her best effort and contributes to the mass amount of talent the Lady Panthers had this year.

"It is sad that I will not play basketball competitively again, but I am looking forward to the potential this team has for the postseason," said Claassen.

Claassen will remember her final year due to all the achievements that the Lady Panthers have accomplished. They ended 21-5, won the Oak Park Tournament and

received the first seed in districts. After high school, Claassen will not be playing basketball, but will be taking her soccer talents to the University of Nebraska.

"I will really miss all the girls I became close with over the years, and I wish the best of luck to them in their future seasons," said Claassen.

Another senior who has been at all the basketball games, not playing, but cheering is Jessica Pettey. Pettey has been a cheerleader at South for three years. As the end draws near, she describes the feeling as bittersweet.

"I am sad that it has to end, but I am happy at the same time," said Pettey

After South, Pettey has plans to go to Maple Woods for two years then

transferring to UCM where she will try out for the Mule's cheer team. The hardest part about leaving South will be leaving the friends she has made through the cheer team.

"I will miss all my teammates and all of our coaches," said Pettey.

From cheer to dance, senior Elaina Fopeano is no stranger to performing in front of crowds. Fopeano has been a South Side Girl since her sophomore year, but dance has always been a part of her life for as long as she can remember. For Fopeano, the road does not end here.

"I'll miss performing in high school, but I'm ready to move on to college dance," said Fopeano. "I will miss all the football games, assemblies and winning all first at Springfield for the Sugar Bears Dance Invitational."

Fopeano plans on going to Missouri State where she plans on continuing her dancing career.

Though a part of their lives is over, these seniors will never forget the coaches who bettered them over the years and the teammates they created bonds with. As one door closes, another opens and the careers that these seniors had at South now become part of the legacy they are leaving behind. The new part of their lives will be exciting, but they will never forget their roots.

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