

By Katherine Kelley

It was an honor to be apart in the Be A Sports Journalist program for the OHSAA Boys Basketball State Championship. As I walked into the Fred Taylor Room in the Jerome Schottenstein Center, I'll admit I was quite nervous and being the only girl did not help. The five other students participating were all older, either a junior or a senior, while I was the only freshman. Everyone seemed to have writing or journalism as one of their passions, while I am still not sure if writing is for me. I had no idea what was in store for me, but as I was waiting for all the other students to arrive, my nerves began to fade away. As soon as everyone was there we all went down to the arena to sit at press row and watch the first game of the day: Boys Division II, Dayton Thurgood Marshall vs. Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary.

In the first minute of the game, the Thurgood Marshall Cougars were in the lead, but that did not get the Fighting Irish down. St. Vincent-St. Mary fans were all cheering on their team with chants along with a pep band present. At the end of the first quarter all six of us were recognized for being apart of this program at half court. After we got off the court, the intense game continued. As half-time crept up on us, there was an announcement for a \$500 half court shot and a \$100 lay up shot. A student was given 30 seconds to make a lay up, along with a half court shot. As he was struggling with getting the ball to go into the hoop at half court, the crowd instantly went wild as the ball swiftly swished through the net.

We were in and out the rest of the game as we were given the opportunity to talk to different people who have a profession in sports journalism, but we did get to see the rest of the game with a score of 57-7, Fighting Irish.

At the end of the game we went into a small room for the St. Vincent-St. Mary press conference. Since I was new to sports journalism, I had no questions to ask and I just listened. The press conference seemed to go on forever and I just wanted to get through the next game.

Although I am still not sure if journalism is something I want to keep doing, the Be A Sports Journalist was a great opportunity for me to learn and grow as a student, and I thank the people who set this whole thing up for high school students like me.