

Seahawks Basketball: Champions of Character and Community

PORT ARTHUR, TX – When Lance Madison took over as the Head Coach of the Lamar State College – Port Arthur Basketball program he laid out a plan for success. Most coaches list winning championships and building a winning tradition. Madison detailed a slightly different plan for success. In his initial press conference he detailed primary objectives that included academic success, community outreach, and building positive character traits, through a successful and winning basketball program at Lamar State College.



Madison and the Seahawks coaching staff used their program objectives to build a blueprint for success at the junior college. The basketball team enjoyed success on the court by winning 21 games, setting multiple school records, earning national rankings, and off the court through various programs. “I am proud of our team’s academic success,” stated Madison. “We had half of the team make a 3.0 GPA or higher during the first semester.”

The Seahawks did plenty of community outreach so far this season. The team partnered with the YMCA of Port Arthur to host a multi-night free youth basketball clinic for around 200 participants. “It was great to have the support of the Lamar State basketball staff and players in our community. These guys are great mentors to local youth and are great ambassadors for the college,” stated Peter Hicks of the YMCA. The Seahawks didn’t stop there as they visited various football and basketball games at several local high schools as a team, participated in the Memorial High School Homecoming parade, visited various church functions, made an appearance at a Rotary Club meeting, and ran in a benefit 5K as a team one day before practice.



“We take pride in our character-building initiatives and giving back to the community,” explained Madison. The basketball program sponsored a sportsmanship initiative with Dairy Queen at a home game “Milkshakes for Handshakes,” they participated in the NABC National “Coaches vs. Cancer” campaign, started a “Dollar Off for Donation” program to collect canned goods for a local food bank during the holidays, and collected gifts for needy children at Christmas.



The Seahawks didn’t win a National Championship this season. But, the program is winning the Championship on community support in Port Arthur. The basketball team has players from various states and different countries and cultures. But, Madison’s blueprint has led to a “Family Atmosphere” at the school and in the local community. The team went into the stands and shook hands of their fans, invited their favorite teacher to events, and participated in numerous campus and community events. All of the team is participating in the college’s “Seahawks Soar” reading program designed to improve literacy. After the final home game of the season Coach Madison thanked the fans and invited them to a prayer circle at half court, a post-game tradition the team started this season. The stands emptied and the circle encompassed the entire gym in a surreal moment that was an instant YouTube hit and made national headlines.

