



Mike Loveless

Italy High School

Athletic Director / Head Football

Athletic Board Report

January 2025

Boys Basketball

High School We have 24 boys in the high school program. The JV boys are 10-5 so far this year. They were runner up in the Italy JV tournament losing only to 4A Robinson. There are multiple teams in the district without JV teams and as a coaching staff we have done a great job of finding them games to play. They beat 3A Maypearl and will take on Grandview Friday as Hubbard does not have a JV team. The Varsity is 17-9 overall and has gotten TOUGHER the last couple weeks. We had a key injury a couple weeks ago and have played with G.U.T.S. since. We won a huge road district game last night over Wortham 76-39. During tournament play we played for hardware in Hico, our tournament, and got 2nd in the Hamilton Christmas Classic. We received many compliments during the Italy Varsity and JV Tournament, and hosted 3 overnight out of town schools, including one 4A, 4 3As, and one team currently ranked in the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Top 25. We have also started our teacher appreciation/teacher of the week with our Varsity guys. They pick a teacher they have had K-12 and present them with a certificate with a hand written note on the back thanking them for everything they have done for them. This works with our program mission of “Best Is the Standard” and being YOUR best in the community, classroom, and the court.

Junior High We have 33 total boys playing basketball this year and have 3 teams. This Saturday we are hosting our JH Boys basketball tournament in Italy. This is a great opportunity for our JH kids to get games in and play against teams outside of their district. We have been working on TOUGHNESS with these groups, controlling what we can control (attitude, effort, energy), and getting better each time we get on the floor for practice or a game. All 3 groups continue to improve on the court and in the weight room.

Girls Basketball

Our High School Womens Basketball Program has a total of 24 young women. (8 more than the previous year) 12 varsity players consisting of 3 seniors, 6 juniors, and 3 sophomores. Our JV consists of 12 players. 10 freshmen, and 2 sophomores. As of January 22, 2025, The Lady Gladiators overall record is 16-9. (At this time last year, we were 9-13) We are currently 6-3 in district and are in second place. We will host Hubbard this Friday January 25 for our second head-to-head matchup. Currently the district standings are 1 st place, Frost, 2 nd place, Italy, 3 rd place, Kerens and 4 th place, Mildred.

Our second round of district began Tuesday January 14 with us beating Dawson the second time in Dawson. This year we played in the Celeste Invitational Basketball Tournament and The Valor Preparatory Tournament. Our Captains for the year are Seniors: Landry Janek, Hannah Scott, and Alyssa Copeland.

“Protect Our Legacy”

How Will You be Remembered?

Italy Winning Tradition

JV's overall record for the year is 6-3 and undefeated in district play. Unfortunately the tournament that was scheduled for the JV was cancelled earlier in the season, we were unable to find another.

Junior High Basketball has 18 young ladies in the program. Both 7th grade and 8th gradeteams record is 4-1. We are currently trying to fill 3 teams for our JH tournament that we will be hosting on January 25. We had 3 teams dropout at the last minute.

Other Highlights:

We were able to have a media day this year with Professional photographer Jerry Hughes. Mr. Hughes posted moments of the media day on his Instagram account and the ladies have gotten over 37 thousand views.

Sophomore Tatum Box was named the week 10 Miss Texas Basketball Player of the Week by Dave Campbell sponsored by Chicken Express for her outstanding performance against Mildred.

Senior Landry Janek was selected to play in the FCA Victory Bowl All-Star Game. Seniors Alyssa Copeland and Hannah Scott both had action photos featured in the Texas Girls Coaches Association Magazine.

The varsity scored the second most points in a game in 8 years with 76 points.

Leading scorer this year is Tatum Box with 319 points

Game high for points this year is Tatum Box with 24 points.

Leading rebounder - Hannah Scott

Assists leader - Landry Janek

Steals Leader – Alyssa Copeland

Shot Block Leader – Hannah Scott

I have attached photos from the TGCA Magazine, Media Day Team Picture, yearbook team pictures, and a team pic from the Celeste Invitational Tournament.

Power-Lifting – Competed last week in Venus with about 8 boys and one girl competing. With more to possibly enter when basketball ends

Softball – Started practicing last week(without the girls in basketball) and boast some impressive participation numbers from grades 7-12.

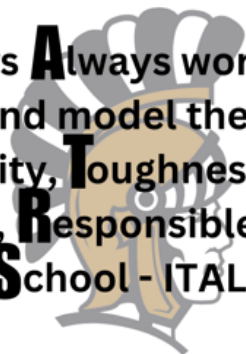
Baseball – Started last week as well with some “chilly” practices and the coaches are preparing some of our non-basketball players ready for competition.

Off-Season – Both boys and girls programs are improving with the boys emphasis on being getting tougher, work ethic, and being better leaders.(Leadership Council).

Finally we have started the boys Leadership Council with the intention to “iron out” the details of program, present it to teams and add our girls to the Council around April. Kids now a days have so much harder time in getting out of their comfort zone and being able to develop themselves as leaders and also influence and model the proper way.

“Protect Our Legacy”
How Will You be Remembered?

Great **L**eaders **A**lways work to **D**evelop, **I**nfluence, and model the standards of **A**ccountability, **T**oughness, **O**ptimistic confidence, **R**esponsible preparation, and love of **S**chool - ITALY High School.



ITALY GLADIATORS

Moving in the "PrIde" Direction



Basic outline of Program

UPHILL HOPES REQUIRE UPHILL HABITS

What you DO is so LOUD I cannot HEAR what you SAY!!

DOWNHILL HABITS

ARROGANCE IMMATURITY LEAFING-NO SCHOOL PRIDE FRONT-RUNNING BAD DECISIONS EXCUSES JEALOUSY-ENVY ENTITLEMENT DRAMA ANY COMMENT OR ACTION THAT CAUSES THE BREAK DOWN OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN COACHES, PLAYERS, TEAMMATES, OR SCHOOL.

BE BETTER-BE HUMBLE-BE A LEADER-BE SELF DISCIPLINED-BE PRIDEFUL-BE SELFLESS-BE TOUGH

