Basketball

... the slap of a ball on the shiny gym floor ... SPF starting this year with peak optimism ... opening with two victories ... "Jump, jump, get the ball!" ... first Westfield game ... an unbelievably close struggle ... pass ... sink it ... cheers and cries resounding, shaking the gym ... racing against time ... "Basket, basket, basket, boys!" ... game slips out of Raiders' grasp by one basket in the last few seconds ... tasting the bitterness of a close loss

. . . surrendering to Hillside . . . learning to take defeat gracefully . . . down-trodden spirits rising out of the slumps into a new winning streak . . . close team work conducive to victories . . . sharing aspirations, tumbling into downfalls, jumping back together . . . the hush of the crowd before a foul shot . . . the vibrating screams of victory . . . the vigor and thrill of a single game magnified many times over in the excitement of a single season. . . .

