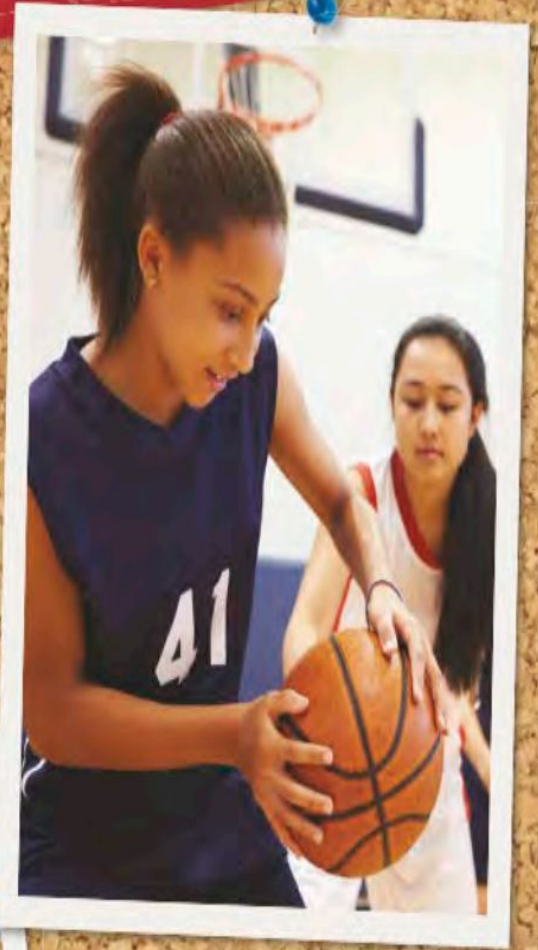
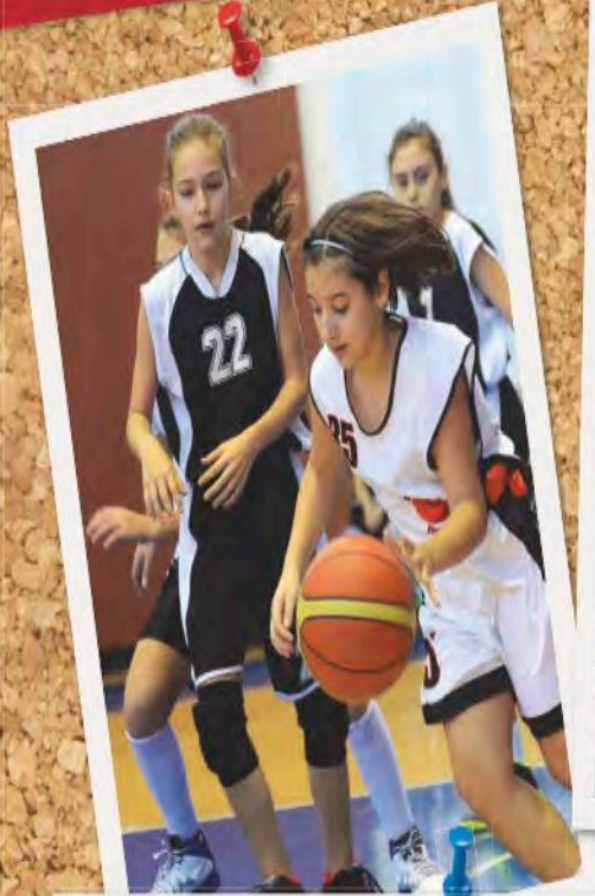


Short
Read

TEAMWORK=VICTORY!





- 1 **E**veryone knows teamwork is important in basketball, yet fans often focus on only the star players. Stars are the ones who score all the points. Many fans stand and cheer for only their favorite players. But every player's success depends on the **collaboration** of the whole team.
- 2 Those fans might have been surprised last night. The Thompson High School girls basketball team won the state championship, beating Marshland High 65–47. The Thompson Owls don't have any big stars. The Marshland Ravens do. So how did the Owls win? Working together was the key.
- 3 Sheila Ramirez scored 30 points, making her the Owls' high scorer last night. But Ramirez isn't known for being a high-scoring player. She tends to pass the ball as often as she shoots it. Kate Na of the Owls stole the ball from the Ravens ten times, passing it to Ramirez or to Haley Sears to score. They had an unstoppable **symbiosis**. Each player helped the others to be their best.
- 4 No one expected the Owls to outshine their opponents. The Ravens' Yasmin Vergera was the league's highest-scoring player all season. She rarely missed an opportunity to take a shot. Cheyenne Jamison is an ace defensive player. She set the record for stealing the ball this season. She's known for trying to shoot from the far end of the court instead of passing the ball. When she succeeds, fans go wild.
- 5 But last night wasn't about big stars and flashy moves. "It was all about **unity**," said the Owls' coach, Malia Stephens. "Playing as a team, not as individuals, got us the win. Well, **determination** helped, too. Our players never quit!"
- 6 The Owls fell behind early. Still, they refused to give up. They figured out how to stop Yasmin Vergera from scoring. Their defense was on fire! They also found a way to get around the Ravens' defense with a strong passing game. Look at the Owls' statistics, and you'll see the story.

Player	Points	Rebounds	Steals
Sheila Ramirez	30	6	2
Haley Sears	15	3	0
Kate Na	8	4	10
Lin Littleton	6	1	3
Luisa Okeha	6	2	0
Rachel Healey	3	1	1
Shyla Burdock	2	1	2
Teanna O'Connor	2	1	0