



1 gave up on the dream of a championship; and

2 WHEREAS, members of that Bidy Ball team who filled the ranks of the Walker  
3 High School squad this year included: Josh and Jalen Cook, Darius Hampton, Dalton Moore,  
4 Trent Montgomery, Jalen Perkins, Quaeshon Clark, Calvin Watson, and Le Davis, a group  
5 who, by their own admission trust each other implicitly, know each other's tendencies, and  
6 what each other likes to do, as well as how to get everyone involved in the game; none of  
7 which is a small component when building a championship team at any level; and

8 WHEREAS, six Wildcat seniors suited up for the state high school class 5A  
9 championship game, who were all veterans of that Bidy Ball game in which they came so  
10 close, but fell short by a single point; and

11 WHEREAS, since the Bidy Ball team members all live in Walker, where most lived  
12 near each other, and led by their parents and coaches, Louis Moore, father of player Dalton  
13 Moore, and Eric Cook, father of current senior Josh and sophomore, Jalen, continued to  
14 enjoy the tutelage of their fathers and all the benefits of playing with a core group of boys  
15 who were teammates, but became, also, best friends and are often known as simply "The  
16 Walker boys"; and

17 WHEREAS, Walker Wildcats basketball coach, Anthony Schiro, felt fortunate to  
18 welcome these players who were not only good basketball players and athletic young men,  
19 but he credits their ironclad bonds of friendship among both the children and their parents  
20 with building a trust that continues to serve these players on the basketball court and beyond;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Coach Schiro continued, saying that the reputation of the Walker boys,  
23 who were dedicated cadre of both well-coached, hard working, and physically gifted  
24 basketball players, preceded them as they dominated at every level and he looked forward  
25 to the challenge of integrating them into his Wildcat program; and

26 WHEREAS, additionally, the city of Walker as a whole watched and waited for this  
27 exceptional group of young men to emerge on the high school basketball scene and make  
28 their mark in Wildcat boys basketball history; and

29 WHEREAS, with the pressure to achieve from outside the school confines which was  
30 considerable, that anticipation of others was secondary to what the Walker boys expected

1 of themselves; a championship at the state level was the only acceptable outcome; and

2 WHEREAS, the guidance of Coach Schiro, his assistants Eric Cook and Connor  
3 Locke, all three Walker natives and alumni of the high school, and assistant coach Donnie  
4 Goodson, who has worked for Schiro his entire tenure at Walker High School, merged this  
5 core of players with other talented role players to form a cohesive and, eventually, very  
6 successful team; and

7 WHEREAS, Jalen Cook, though younger than some of the Bidy Ball team, was the  
8 hub of that team, and this year at Walker High School he, and other Bidy Ball participants,  
9 joined Jacobi Scott, Jordan Hoggatt, Graham Smith, Brian Thomas Jr., and Keondre Brown  
10 rounding out this championship squad; and

11 WHEREAS, the result of so much time spent playing basketball together and  
12 becoming best friends in the process, it could be said, was the creation of a team with players  
13 who could regularly finish each other's sentences off the court and who possessed an innate  
14 understanding of each other and a familiarity when they stepped on the basketball court; and

15 WHEREAS, in the 2016-2017 season the Wildcats won a playoff game for the first  
16 time since 2000, and while they advanced no further that year, the stage was set for a  
17 monumental senior push toward that ultimate goal of a state championship for Walker High  
18 School; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2017-2018 Walker earned their berth in the championship game with  
20 a dominant state semifinal victory over Natchitoches Central by an overwhelming score of  
21 eighty-nine to sixty-three, setting the stage for what turned out to be a dramatic  
22 championship performance; and

23 WHEREAS, the bittersweet aspect of playing their last game together after more than  
24 nine years as teammates, was washed away with a come-from-behind overtime victory, the  
25 most exciting way to win any basketball game; and

26 WHEREAS, in the season that brought all dreams to fruition, individual  
27 achievements were reached: Dalton Moore was the first of four Wildcats to score more than  
28 one thousand points in his high school career and Darius Hampton also reached the one  
29 thousand point threshold in the semifinal game against Natchitoches Central, by scoring a  
30 season high twenty-one points; and

