



TEXAS TOURNAMENT

SENIOR NIGHT

Hoops Classic 2024

ANDREA BALDWIN

The 28th annual SWAU Hoops Classic 2024 was a big success this year. For the people who don't know what that is, it's a basketball tournament for any Adventist high school that would like to take part in the tournament. There are three different divisions: big school, middle school, and small school. Each school is allowed to pick which league they want to be in. They play about 6 games in 4 days in multiple locations that consist of the main campus gym, a high school, and another school's gym. Everyone plays one game on Wednesday, 2 games on Thursday, 2 games on Friday, and 1 game on Saturday after sundown.

Our girls and boys varsity left Wednesday, January 24, in the afternoon to head over to Southwestern Adventist University for their first games. This is the third time our school has traveled down there for this tournament. Last year our boys and girls teams both came back with first-place trophies. And the year before the boys came back with 4th place and the girls came back with 2nd place. The first day was a little rough for our teams. They were all exhausted and hungry but they still fought hard. The guy's team won their first game against Houston with a score

of 52-39 and the girls team lost against Sandia View Academy. The next day, Thursday, January 25, both teams had 2 games. The guys won both games against Spencerville and South Texas with a score of 57-3 and 64-39. The girls won both their games against Burton Adventist Academy and South Houston Academy. Friday, January 26, was a long day. The girls won both games against Chilom Trail and Macedonia and the guys won one of their games. It was against Chisolm with a score of 48-17 and their second game against North Tampa got paused and pushed to Saturday with 4 minutes left due to a tragic accident. Damon unfortunately was sent to the hospital that night and was there for a couple of hours. Thankfully Damon was ok and everyone was waiting back at the hotel for him, happy he was ok. We all ate pizza together and played games since we weren't able to go to vespers and then ended the day with a little worship from Mrs. Allain.

Saturday, February 27, was the day of the championship. That night the boys varsity played first because they had to finish the last 4 minutes of the game from the night before. They unfortunately lost against North Tampa with a score of 62-56 and were then put into the 3rd and 4th

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bracket for the tournament. Both varsity teams ended up playing at the same time on side-to-side courts. They played aggressively and their best and both teams ended up winning. The girls won first place in the tournament against Houston. The boys team won third place against South Texas. Karleigh Collins and Will Fernandez both won MVP for our teams!

How to be A Better Athlete

ANYA NEIDIGH

A trait all successful people share in common is the desire to be better and athletes are no exception. All of the famous athletes that people look up to work extremely hard to reach the level they have achieved. However, practicing your sport often isn't the only thing you can do to be better. Here are some tips:

1. **Hydration.** It is well known that drinking an appropriate amount of water is very important for your health. The exact amount of water athletes should drink isn't known but Adult Women should drink 11 cups per day and Men drink 15 cups. Since athletes sweat more they should drink even more than this.
2. **Proper Sleep.** Sleep provides time for your cells and tissues to restore themselves as well as time for your heart to rest.
3. **Mental Health.** A bad mental health can cause lack of focus and energy plus it can affect your sleep which we know is important. To help look after your mental you can come up with healthy coping mechanisms and get external help if necessary.



Taylor Swift's Many Boyfriends Part Two

MAYA THOMAS

In my last article, I went on a bit of a rant. For those of you who haven't read it, I wrote a timeline of Taylor Swift's many exes, and wow, it was a job and a half. I knew Taylor's life had been full of flings, but the sheer amount of men she's dumped (and been dumped by) was a shock, even to me. Since Taylor has had so many failures in her love life, I had no choice but to split this article into two parts. So, without further ado, let's hop back into this tangled mess.

Where I left off in the summer of 2012, Taylor had ended things with Connor Kennedy (yes, he is related to *that* Kennedy). However, there's no better way to get over a broken heart than a rebound fling. In November 2012, Taylor started dating Harry Styles, and they became a public couple the following month. The public found out about this when they were seen happily strolling through Central Park Zoo. However, after a few months of dating (and some awkward pics of Taylor sitting by herself on a boat) it became apparent that things were over for the couple. Not sure what happened there, but Taylor was mad enough to mock his accent during a

2013 Grammys performance. It was very kind of her to take the mature route.

In February 2015, Taylor met Calvin Harris at the *Elle* Style Awards. Not sure who let him in, but I digress. Things were going pretty well for a while. They wore matching outfits at Whole Foods the following month and celebrated their first anniversary. As cute as that is, by 2016, Calvin had had enough of her. They broke up in May of that year. He also wrote some lyrics that accused her of cheating on him with Loki. Um, I mean Tom Hiddleston.

Taylor and Hiddleston reportedly met at the beginning of May and were seen dancing at the Met Gala a day later. Odd, but she and Calvin were still together at the time, so not a big deal, right? Well fast forward to June, and pictures were released by the Sun magazine of Taylor and Tom sharing a kiss. Their relationship seemed to be a happy one, and Tom even met Tay's parents. Hiddleston even wore an "I HEART T.S" tank top on one occasion. People made fun of him for sporting a shirt with his girlfriend's initials, but (Cont. pg. 4)

Part One: Radiating Like the Sun

H.S. CYRUS

Dreams. What are they? Are they our imagination, our subconscious thoughts, or are they something more? Why do nightmares give us a sense of unease and fear, and good dreams a sense of peace and joy? I am Kairoth, and I am here to answer those questions; to guide you through the story of Nightmare and Somnara. Our story starts in the small town of Frosthaven where a girl named Araceli has been having constant, strange, euphoric dreams.

Araceli couldn't understand what her dreams meant. Every night, she would have strange dreams about a heavenly looking place that had a sinister feel to it. Even though Araceli felt afraid of the strange world, she felt attracted to it. Araceli's thoughts were interrupted as she bumped into a fellow student, knocking their books onto the ground.

"Sorry about that!"

Araceli said as she leaned down to help them pick up their books. Looking up she saw that it was her friend, Elysia. Elysia met Araceli's gaze and laughed a silent laugh. She then mouthed something and walked away. Araceli looked on, baffled by what had just happened. She considered the fact that maybe Elysia was playing a prank on her since Elysia was the only one who knew about her strange dreams, but then realized that the entire school was void of sound. As Araceli thought this, Elysia turned back to look at her, and her face had a strange black mask covering her mouth. On the mask was the drawing of a face, which smiled ominously at her. Araceli ran, and as she ran, a bright light seemed to envelop her. Blinded, she covered her eyes.

Araceli only stopped running when she tripped. She opened her eyes and saw that she was now in a forest. (Cont. pg. 4)

My Texas Experience

MAYSON BLAKE

This year was my first year in Texas and it was a fun experience. The first flight felt extremely long and treacherous. It was even longer when we actually got to the Dallas airport because we had to wait for a while for the shuttle to arrive and take us to the rental place. From the rental place we went to SWAU to watch part of the girl's games and had to leave early because we had a game against Houston at Chisholm Trail Academy.

We brought a ps5 so we could play video games and after our game on Wednesday we

showered and set it up. We had 2k tournaments a couple of nights during the tournament. Will was definitely the worst 2k player in the tournament, and the best was either Justin or me because we always played against each other in the finals for each tournament we had.

The last night of the basketball tournament was the best day. The gym was packed and the games being played were exciting to watch and competitive. We had to play the last four minutes of our Friday game on Saturday night because of an (Cont. pg. 4)



Part One: Radiating Like the Sun Continued

Looking around, she saw a root sticking out of the ground, which was slowly enveloping itself back under the ground. Araceli stood up and started to walk forward. The trees around her seemed to move apart, making a path for her to walk on. Araceli thought nothing of this as she had had stranger dreams already that week, however, at the end of the path, she could see a clearing with a figure sitting on what looked like a throne. As Araceli entered the clearing, she saw that the figure on the throne was a woman with eyes like prisms, changing color with the light, and her hair was long blonde with blue highlights. She wore a golden crown adorned with rubies and sapphires. A casual white sweatshirt and pants provided a stark contrast to her regal headpiece. Her throne was made of white marble with a golden yellow half circle at the top radiating like the sun and a rainbow arch

shining over the top of the throne. "Hello, Araceli Ramirez." The woman said, bringing Araceli back to the reality of the dream. "I see that life has not been treating you well. Would you not like to escape those tough times, and enjoy a life of peace and joy? Would you not love a day of easy school work and forgiving teachers?" Araceli bowed to the woman as a sign of respect. "Yes, Your Majesty, I would love to have an easy day at school." "Oh, forget the respect. I am the goddess of good dreams, Somnara." Araceli raised her head, "Why am I here?" "Araceli, dear, you are here because I would like to ask to be your patron goddess."

This was the first part of a new fictional story that will be told through in updates so stay tuned!

My Texas Experience Continued

unfortunate tragic accident that transpired so we were tired before our game against South Texas but we still won. After our game against South Texas which won us third place, we got to sit back and watch a lot of exciting games. The best games to watch were the North Tampa vs Chisholm Trail girls' game that came down to the wire. Chisholm Trail Academy is right near the SWAU gym so practically their whole school was there, so it felt like the whole gym was against North Tampa. Even against the odds they put up a good fight and the game was close but Chisholm Trail went on a 15-0 run to get back in the game and won at the end. The other most exciting game was the SGA vs Tacoma game. There were a lot of dunks and it was fun to watch. The trip back felt short and it was extremely cold. We were really tired when we got back from Texas and we played badly during our first game back but we did end up winning the game.



Taylor Swift's Many Boyfriends Continued

the man was in love, and he couldn't have cared less. Unfortunately, the pair split in September of 2016. On the bright side, Tom had a perfect excuse to burn that hideous shirt.

Taylor's next relationship was her longest one, and it began in May 2017. They ran into each other at the Met Gala, and sparks flew. That's what her song "Dress" implies, at least. They dated for six years, finally splitting in 2023. I honestly thought this Joe guy was going to be the one to get her to stay in one place. Then again, Ariana almost married Pete Davidson, so maybe I shouldn't have been so hopeful.

In May 2023, Taylor began dating a guy named Matty Healy, her former friend and the leader of a band that nobody has ever heard of. They called it quits in June after he made some rude comments about Taylor's friend, Ice Spice. Yes, you read that right.

My fingers are sore from typing, so let's cut to the chase. Taylor is currently dating Travis Kelce, an NFL player for the Kansas City Chiefs. They met in July 2023, and have been together ever since. I doubt Taylor will marry him (or anyone, really) but for both their sakes, I hope I'm wrong.

Senior Night

ANDREA BALDWIN

Our varsity basketball teams had their senior night on Saturday, February 3. The girls team played first against the Bethany Christian Academy varsity girls. The starters that night were Elianah, Karleigh, Lili, Sophia, and Andrea. The girls team has one senior and that is Elianah Weaver. She has been on the team for three years and wanted to leave her teammates with this message, "Thank you all for the support you have shown me throughout the years. I thank God for the blessing of being on a team with each one of you. Keep shining bright. Remember that you represent Christ. I wish you all the best." The girls won with a score of 41-23.

In between the two games



they did a nice tribute and announcement of the seniors which was very nice. There are also really cool posters of the seniors in the gym thanks to Mrs. Prather. After the seniors tribute, the guys also played against Bethany Christian Academy. The starters were Will, Lucas, Elon, Connor, and Damon. The seniors on the boys team are Jacob, Will, Lucas, Elon, Connor, Damon, and Julian. I asked Damon what his last words to the team would be and he said, "It's been a great year. We have done really well. Just keep going and you guys keep working and you should have a good season next year, you guys got this". The boys won with a score of 58-43. We asked Justin what senior he will miss the most and why and he said "I



CONNOR ALLAIN MAKING A SHOT

will miss Jacob, I will miss him because he's just my favorite person and he's always chill to me and I like his energy".

Both teams played very well especially the seniors and it's always extra exciting to win on your senior night. Chris the Crusader also made an appearance along with our student body that were all dressed in black for "black out" for senior night. We would all like to say thank you to the seniors and we wish you the best. Thank you for such a great season and making this year so great. And thank you coaches!