



Above: "Okay," Coach Johnson says. "Everybody concentrate real hard on beating them and Brandy will give 'em the evil eye."
Right: Deana Benner reaches for the ball.



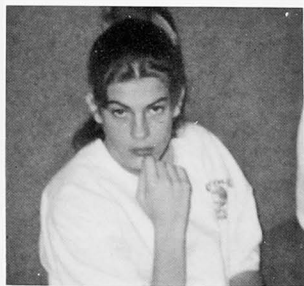
This year proved to be a rebuilding one for the Lady Baron's basketball team as they posted a 3-11 record. Only eight of last year's 22 players returned for '96-'97. The Lady Barons were not left empty-handed, though.

There were many additions to the team through tryouts. Even though many of them had little or no experience, they developed and improved their skills, which will hopefully help the Lady Barons next year.

The Lady Barons had the talent but somehow just couldn't quite get it together in time to be a dominating team in the region.

"We knew this season would be more challenging and competitive than previous ones, and it was. But through it all we kept our humor and had fun," said Bethany Hilgers, co-captain.

Although the season did not go as well as previous ones, it did have a good outcome for two players. Senior Captain Megan Blackham, who was unable to play last year because of an injury, earned all-conference honors. Teammate Ryan Hilgers received honorable mention all-conference.



Top: Oops! It looks as though a dazed Ryan Hilgers somehow intercepted that evil eye stare.

Top Right: "Sometimes I have to look at this team from a different angle to understand what they're up to," smiles Coach Johnson.

Above: Czarina McLaughlin (20) looks on in amazement as teammate Janine Barnett apparently transforms into a basketball head.



Junior Varsity Team. (Standing, L-R): Janine Barnett, Czarina McLaughlin, Coach Johnson, Jennifer Kelso, Nashan Jalivay, Deana Benner, Lilia Barrera; Mrs. Hilton, assistant; Callie Thornton, Maela Ramos.

(Kneeling): Cori Rucker, Patrice Turner, Julia Markowski, Kathleen Holas, Brandy Nix, Sutton Fielder.