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The St. Mary's Tar-Heels, bottom row: Jarred Williams, Kevin Young, Scott Herdemian, Ryan Young and Max Trunz. Standing: Coach Spencer Young, Mike Napolitano, Michael Brennan, Danny Mullin, Brian Giesecke and Peter Kratsios. Not pictured: Jamie Melvin.

Tar-Heels Wrap Up Tremendous Season

The fourth-grade St. Mary's Tar-Heels Boys Basketball Team finished its 1998-99 season with an impressive 21-6 record. They were the CYO Mineola Gold Division Champions with a perfect 10-0 record and they made it to the "Final Four" of the Fourth-Grade Super League, comprised of all-star teams throughout Long Island and New York City.

Although the Tar-Heels were demonstrably shorter than their opponents, they employed a "run-and-gun" offense and a tenacious pressing defense that enabled them to, on average, more than double their opponent's score. They also possessed a team "chemistry" and genuine support for each other that is rare to find.

Also contributing to the Tar-Heel's success was deep athletic ability throughout the roster. While opponents generally had two or three strong players who would play in an individualistic manner, the Tar-Heel squad played cohesively and players seemed to take turns at stepping up their game to dominate play. Many opposing coaches would say after a game that they had never seen such balanced athleticism across all players, making it extremely difficult to defend against.

Because of their unparalleled teamwork, watching a Tar-heel game was most entertaining and it should be fascinating to see this squad develop in years to come.