

# The Tradition Begins With Me

## 1991 - 1992

Harrison High School opened in 1991 and began the journey of becoming a school renowned for academic and athletic excellence in Cobb County. This \$10.6 million facility covered 66 acres and followed the design of Pope High School. Most of the students who attended Harrison High School in its first year originally came from North Cobb and McEachern High Schools. With no senior class or varsity sports teams, Harrison's first year revolved around "breaking down the barriers." The school's slogan in its early years was "The tradition begins with me." This tradition, along with others implemented by Harrison's first students, continues on to this day.

This new Cobb County school expressed its individuality by choosing a unique mascot known as the Hoya. The mascot's origins derive from Georgetown University students who chanted the Latin word "hoia" and the Greek word "saxa" at school football games. These words translate to "what rocks," but Georgetown's opponents thought that the students were chanting "Hoyas," and the name stuck.

A Georgetown student's bulldog attended all of the football and basketball games, and the dog soon became a symbol of the school and the perfect mascot to represent the Hoyas. Harrison High School followed this tradition by introducing its first ever school mascot: Hoya I.

Because of its status as a new school in Cobb County, Harrison spent its days focused on "breaking down the barriers." The desire to accomplish this feat was clearly seen through its athletics programs. The JV football team, coached by Bruce Cobleigh, won its first football game 28-6 against South Cobb and went on to finish the season with a 7-1 record. The womens' tennis and basketball teams also exhibited athletic excellence during the 1991-1992 school year. In 1992, the Lady Hoyas tennis team became region champions after finishing the season with an 8-1 record. Although the freshman womens' basketball team only consisted of six members, the team finished the season with a perfect 16-0 record and captured Harrison's first championship trophy.

Success in the classroom could be seen in addition to success in athletics during the 1991-1992 school year. Twenty-five clubs such as Model United Nations, Beta Club, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes were initiated during Harrison's first year. With a strong level of participation in extracurricular activities and athletics, Harrison could truly "break down the barriers."

*Story by Grant Wills, Class of 2011*