

FENCOR HOOP CHAT

JANUARY

2005

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THE FENCOR PARENTS' SURVEY

Thanks to the more than 90 families that took the time to respond to our survey. That 33% response rate is admirable for anything like this. The respondents by daughter's age was what would be expected. The largest numbers were in the youngest ages and decreased as the player's age increased. Not surprisingly to those of us who talk to parents in different age groups, the response was overwhelmingly positive. Everyone expressed admiration for the efforts of the coaches whether or not they totally agreed with that coaching style or personality. The overall respect for the goals, organizational approach, and the way Fencor does things was almost unanimous.

People also took this opportunity to make mostly constructive suggestions. There were legitimate concerns raised as well about coaches, practices, and other matters. Anyone who requested a phone call and discussion got a hearing and, hopefully, felt as those concerns were being taken seriously. A coach was alerted to those comments that had to do with that particular coach.

The remarks on the surveys reflected many of the issues that Fencor and all AAU clubs deal with all the time. Playing time vs. winning, commitment vs. homework, individual improvement vs. team play, a coach who's too loud vs. a coach who's too laid back, too many tournaments and practices vs. too few. These differences were expressed honestly and with heartfelt emotions. They will probably never disappear completely but to be heard, to hear, to explain, and to adjust where we can is what the survey was about. There were a few anonymous responses which were also taken seriously except for two families, one who asked that Fencor lower the baskets and the other family who suggested Fencor become more like the _____ (Insert another AAU club's name in the blank). The former we can't do and the latter we don't want to do ☺

REGISTRATION FOR TRYOUTS

REDUCED FEE REGISTRATION DEADLINE

January 15th is coming and that is the deadline for taking advantage of the \$300 registration fee. This fee has been put in place so that returning Fencor families who receive notification in plenty of time can fully register by the 15th at a reduced cost. This option is also open to "new" families as well. Fully is the key word because that involves sending back your registration form WITH A CHECK made out to Fencor AAU for \$300 or registering thru our website and SENDING A CHECK made out to Fencor AAU for \$300 by January 15th. Our address is:

Fencor,
PO Box 490,
Warrington, PA 18976

After January 15th the full registration fee of \$350 is due for all registrants.



Elena Delle Donne, a freshman at Ursuline Academy, was named a preseason All-American and made the first team at the prestigious NIKE All-American Camp over the summer going against mostly current seniors. She has played for Fencor for five years and led those teams to 2 National Championships plus a 2nd, 3rd and 5th place finish.

FENCOR COACHES

The final list of coaches has NOT been finalized as of the 1/1/05 but we're getting close. The office receives a good number of phone calls inquiring about who is coaching which age group and level. The answer remains the same. "We're not sure yet!" We hate to say we think it's going to be Coach so-and-so and you plan accordingly and then it changes. We'll be disappointed if the slate of coaches is not complete by February 1st. But that can happen because even well-meaning volunteers can have setbacks at the last minute and we're often scrambling for a few "B" or "C" coaches at tryout time.

If you know someone who you think is qualified, please have them call us and we'll tell them what's involved. Thanks.

TRYOUT TIPS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Players: Take each drill or play during tryouts as it comes and work as hard as you can during that drill or play. Don't worry about the last one or the next one!

Parents: Get your daughter there early so she can get dressed, stretch, put on her number, and be ready.

Players: Don't pay attention to what any other player is doing. It's your tryout.

Parents: Those special hand signals, cheers, and/or yelled instructions are very unhelpful and are a distraction to your daughter despite your best intentions.

Players: Don't look over at your parents- see above.

Parents: Remember that your daughter will make mistakes, miss shots, and make turnovers. Be prepared.

Players: Coaches look to see how well you respond when you make a good play.....or a bad one!

Parents: You may have to show a little more support and empathy during tryouts to your daughter.

Players: You may have to show a little more support and empathy during tryouts to your parents

Parents: In 10 to 15 years you'll love your daughter just as much as you do today but WON'T remember whether she made an A, B, or C team!

All tryouts are at Germantown Academy and if GA is closed or dismissed early then there is no tryout. That school snow number is #353. We will also post a message on the website on the Tryout link asap and the phone message when you call 215-491-6987 will indicate the status of the tryout as well. Just show up at the next scheduled tryout and we will have re-scheduled a make-up tryout by then.

FENCOR'S NEW TRAVEL PARTNER!!!

As most of you know many Fencor teams travel to tournaments in the Northeast corridor and qualify for National AAU tournaments and the tournaments that Fencor hosts are prestigious enough to attract many teams from out of town. Because of these facts we have moved to make it easier for all the teams involved by bringing Imagine Travel into the Fencor family.

The staff at Imagine Travel has over 25 years experience in the travel business and has dealt with the specifics of AAU and Fencor teams for almost 15 years. They have put in a dedicated line for Fencor & AAU teams (215-886-0752) and a specific e-mail address- imaginehoops@comcast.net- just for Fencor & AAU teams to use. We are in the process of putting the how-to's on our website for the convenience of all involved. This information may be online by the time this newsletter is published.

The advantages to teams coming to our tournaments is obvious since they will have a choice of hotels near where they are playing. It's a jaunt from the Hill School to the Northeast or from Aston to Willow Grove and Imagine Travel will do the best it can to coordinate their playing venues with hotel choices. This kind of help, in addition to excellent pricing will make outside teams have even a better tournament experience.

More importantly, we hope it can be a help to our own teams. Team managers and coaches can now have one phone call to make that will remove a major headache. Imagine Travel is even going to try to help with the Wildwood tournament in June.

No Fencor team or visiting team IS REQUIRED to use Imagine Travel! This is not motivated by profit for Fencor but more as a help to all the teams that want a job done well by experienced people.

**CHECK OUR
OUR WEBSITE
WWW.FENCOR.ORG
FOR INFO ABOUT
THE SPECIALIZED
FENCOR CLINICS
TO BE HELD AT
GERMANTOWN ACADEMY,
STARTING JANUARY 9, 2005
Clinics are open to all!
Fencor and Non Fencor players**

FENCOR TRYOUT SCHEDULE 2005

AGE	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	14's	3/6 GAB	3/8 FH	3/15 GAB	3/16 GAB
9/10's	2/13 GAB Noon-2pm	2/20 GAB 6-8pm	2/27 GAB 4-6pm	3/6 GAB 6:30-8pm		3-5pm	7-8:30pm	Noon-2pm	7-8:30pm
11's	2/13 GAB 2-4pm	2/20 GAB 4-6pm	2/27 GAB Noon -2pm	3/6 GAB 1:30-3pm	15's	3/6 GAB 5-6:30pm	3/8 FH 8:30-10pm	3/13 GAB 2-3:30pm	3/17 GAB 8:30-10pm
12's	2/13 GAB 6-8pm	2/20 GAB Noon-2pm	2/27 GAB 2-4pm	3/3 GAB 7-8:30pm	16/17's	3/7 FH 7:30-9:30pm	3/10 FH 7:30-9:30pm	3/14 FH 7:30-9:30pm	3/17 FH 7:30-9:30pm
13's	2/13 GAB 4-6pm	2/20 GAB 2-4pm	2/27 GAB 6-8pm	3/3 GAB 8:30-10pm	18's	3/16 GAB 8:30-10pm	TO	BE	ANNOUNCED

A PLAYER MUST TRYOUT FOR THE AGE GROUP DETERMINED BY HER AGE AS OF 12/31/04- NOT HER AGE AS OF THE TRYOUTS IF IT IS DIFFERENT!!!!

Each player must have a tryout number. These tryout numbers will be given out at the first tryout the player attends once the registration fee is paid. Come early to her first tryout to receive the tryout numbers. Those numbers are to be handed into the coach at the end of each tryout.

The coaches will announce when and how the selections to teams will be do done.

Keys to Tryout Schedule- GAB- Big gym at Germantown Academy,

FH- Fieldhouse at GA(both courts are dedicated for tryouts)

PAPERWORK PRACTICE SCHEDULE . ALL WILL BE HELD AT LAKESIDE (LS)

Listed below is a 'practice' time per team during which time all necessary paperwork has to be completed. Coaches would like to have a full practice with as little disruption as possible. The quicker the paperwork can be done, the better the practice can be. But for this one practice, the paperwork and uniform stuff comes first. Someone from Fencor will be there with all the forms.

- 1. PARENTS-** At least one parent **MUST** attend this practice so that forms can be filled out and signed. **PARENTAL SIGNATURES ARE NEEDED ON ALL FORMS!** This is also a good time to select the Team Manager and have the first organizational team meeting. Please bring a check if you have to purchase a full or partial uniform. This meeting is especially important for parents new to Fencor.
- 2. Birth Certificates-** Please bring a **COPY** (Originals are not accepted) of your daughter's Birth Certificate. If your daughter played on ANY Fencor team last year, we should have a copy on file.
- 3. FORMS-** There are necessary forms to fill out for **ALL** (new and old) parents for the National AAU and the Mid-Atlantic AAU. These forms are required for participation and to produce an AAU card for each player. Since Fencor is by far the largest club, we are under duress to send in our forms before tournaments start.
- 4. Uniforms-** Orders for Uniforms will be taken at this practice for new or replacement uniforms. New players to that team must take a different number from any player previously on that team. The cost is \$84 for a full set of 2 uniforms- green and white. Individual shorts or shirts are available at \$22 per shirt and \$20 per pair of shorts. Make all checks out to Fencor AAU.

TEAM	GYM	DATE	TIME	TEAM	GYM	DATE	TIME
9/10 A	LS	3/10	6:30-8pm	14 A	LS	3/17	6:30-8pm
9/10 B	LS	3/11	6:30-8pm	14 B	LS	3/18	6:30-8pm
9/10 C	LS	3/12	10:30-Noon	14 C	LS	3/19	10:30-Noon
11 A	LS	3/10	8-9:30pm	15 A	LS	3/17	8-9:30pm
11 B	LS	3/11	8-9:30pm	15 B	LS	3/18	6:30-8pm
11 C	LS	3/12	Noon-1:30	15 C	LS	3/19	Noon-1:30
12 A	GAB	3/6	Noon-1:30	16/17?	LS	3/19	3-4:30 pm
12B	LS	3/7	6:30-8pm	16/17 ?	LS	3/19	1:30-3pm
12C	LS	3/8	6:30-8pm	16/17 ?	LS	3/19	4:30-6pm
13 A	LS	3/7	8-9:30pm	?'s 16/17's teams make up TBD			
13 B	LS	3/8	8-9:30pm	18's TBA			
13 C	LS	3/9	8-9:30pm				

UNSUNG HEROES NEEDED A.K.A. TEAM MANAGERS

The 2nd most important group-after the coaches-that makes Fencor work is that parent that you see sneaking around during tryouts and practices. This parent is searching out birth certificates or uniform numbers, handing out practice schedules, collecting phone numbers for a phone chain, setting up a work schedule for parents at a tournament, reminding parents of a meeting with the coach, asking which parent knows how to keep the book, cajoling a reluctant dad to go pick up ice, or trying to make a team out of the parents of a team. That blurb **MUST** sound so attractive that it's almost unnecessary to ask for volunteers to be Team Managers for your daughter's team. Seriously, Team Managers are crucial to relieve the coaches of these non-coaching duties, and get important things done so the club, AAU and each team functions as smoothly as possible. Please call the office at 215-491-6987 to find out more about this important position.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

This recent quote is worth sharing from long time Fencor coach, Steve Finley who's been with Fencor for over 10 years, has coached at all levels, been to Nationals many times, had more than his share of players who went on to play in college, "Fencor is probably the only program in the country that seriously can compete for National Championships and also has such a focus on providing opportunities to play for as many girls as possible."

Coach Finley is right! It would be hard to find an AAU program anywhere that annually has 22 teams and competes at the Nationals in so many age groups.

Thanks to all who contribute to making that quote accurate.