

FENCOR HOOP CHAT

SEPTEMBER

2004

ANOTHER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Fencor makes AAU history with a Second National Championship

By Stuart London

MONROE - There were eight other teams in Middle Atlantic history that had won Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) girls basketball national championships but no team had won more than once. That changed when Fencor won the AAU 14-and-under championship with a 71-61 win over the Kenner (La.) Angels at Fant-Ewing Coliseum on the campus of the University of Louisiana-Monroe. Fencor had previously won the 12-and-under national championship in 2002, becoming the first team even to win two national titles. This team almost made it three in a row as it finished second last year.

Fencor only had eight players available due to an injury suffered by starting guard Caroline Doty the week before they left for nationals. The players wore warmup shirts that said "Doty #5" on them in her honor.

Despite being shorthanded, Fencor went 10-0 under the new AAU single elimination format. Fencor held the lead at halftime in every game.

Fencor had finished second in last years tournament but they were by far seen as the team to watch at the tournament. Television cameras from local stations were at many of their games and the local newspaper columnist wrote two columns on the team.

At the championship game, two TV stations and three newspaper reporters were there to report on Fencors victory. An interesting sidelight was that several teams lost on purpose in pool play to avoid playing Fencor in an early round of the championship bracket.

The closest game Fencor had come in the semifinals against the Tulsa (Ok.) Swoosh. Tulsa held a two-point lead with time running out when Fencors Lindsay Kimmel made a shot with one second left to send the game into overtime. Fencor went on to post a 79-72 win. Elena scored 45 points in the game. The core of this team has finished 5th, 3rd, 1st, 2nd and now 1st again in their AAU National Championship appearances, a truly amazing record.

On the team were Michele Brokans (Lansdale Catholic), Christine Matera (Camden Catholic). Shannon Ferguson (Upper Dublin), Colleen Magarity (Germantown Academy), Caroline Doty (Germantown Academy), Rosie Tarnowski (Archbishop Wood), Erin Edwards (Ursuline Academy) and Elena Delledonne (Ursuline Academy)

The coaches were Veronica Algeo, Stuart London and Maggie deMarteleire.

THE 13'S REACH THE FINAL FOUR

Fencor 13's finish 4th in country

By Heather Weindorfer

The Fencor Girls 13A team went to the 13U National Championship tournament in Rochester, Minnesota July 9th - 17th. This was the fourth year in a row that the Fort Washington-based team was the Mid-Atlantic Region Champs and qualified for Nationals.

In pool play the girls went 3-0 to win their pool but on the first day of championship bracket play, the team lost in overtime by 1 point. This sent them to the losers' bracket, where one more loss ends the tournament play.

Going to the losers' bracket, Fencor started in 32nd place. They now had to play 2 games a day, as opposed to the winners' bracket where the teams only play once a day.

From Tuesday through Friday the Fencor team won 7 straight. Along the way they beat teams from Indiana (2), Minnesota, Maryland, South Carolina, Virginia and Missouri.

On Friday they had to play 3 games to get to the championship game. They won the morning game by double digits against the Virginia Boo Williams Red Tide giving the team their 7th win in 4 days and putting them in the Final Four of the tournament.

They came back 3 hours later to face East BayXplosion, a team from the San Francisco area. Although they Fencor came back to within one point, they ran out of gas at the end.

Although losing was a disappointment, the girls ended up in 4th place out of 94 teams. AAU officials could not remember a team ever coming back from going into the losers bracket on the first day of championship play to reach the Final Four in any age group.

This was this team's most successful national tournament as in their past 3 appearances, they had finished 9th, 13th and 9th. The team's head coach is Heather Weindorfer, the head girls' basketball coach at Lower Moreland High School. Assistant coaches are Eric Glemser, head girls' basketball coach at Hatboro Horsham and Jae Hwang, an assistant coach at Hatboro Horsham.

Among the players are Megan Rigous, Warrington; Katie Rutan, Ambler; Megan Bedard, Royersford; Caitlyn Vansickle, Wilmington, Del.; Alexa Buchanon, Lansdale; Casey Pritz, Roslyn; Renee Womack, Lansdale; Jesse Carey, Chalfont; Lexie Gerson, Fort Washington; Kristin Johnsen, Wayne; Jillian Martynec, Doylestown and Jenna Bless, St. Peter's.

Fencor 11's make it to the Elite 16

By Bill Johnson

The Fencor 11a team went to the 11u National Championships with one goal in mind, to play hard on the court and create memories off of the court by having fun. The championships were held in New Orleans and this was the 1st time at Nationals for 7 of the 11 players.

The journey began with a 30-28 win over the Central Illinois Stars and this set the tone as the team finished pool play 3-0 and advanced to the championship bracket. The first game of the winner's bracket was against the Sacramento Believers and Fencor won 48-32 against a very tough opponent. At this point Fencor had given up only 100 points in the 4 games played. A couple of opponents commented on how well and how hard the team played defense. The next game was against Greensboro Gators who finished tied for 7th last year. This was a close game throughout and Fencor won 34-32. They lost the next game 35-39 to South Carolina Shooting Stars and went to the loser's bracket. They faced a tough Louisville team not knowing that a win would put them into the Elite 16. After winning 30-27 they were informed that they had made the Elite 16 and the players celebrated with high fives.

Fencor lost its last game 38-42 but showed the toughness that they displayed during the tournament by coming back from a 0-10 deficit to start the game and closing to within 1 point late in the game but could not pull it out. They finished the tournament 6-2 with every game but one decided by 4 or less points and only gave up an average of 30 points a game for the 8 games.

This was a very successful season and National Championship performance by a team that was really in their first year of playing together, plus they went home with a boatload of positive memories.

The players on this team are Casey Bill (Bluebell), Jessica Boyle (Collegeville), Tiffany Johnson (Elkins Park), Emily Leer (Glenside), Dara Nelson (Lansdale), Melanie Ordway (Norristown), Lauren Ruhl (Lansdale), Kaycee Schaefer (Chalfont), Samantha Simononis (Perkasie), Tori Thierolf (Doylestown), and Gabrielle Vass (Warrington).

PARENTS SURVEY

Parents, the purpose of the enclosed survey is to give all of you a chance to communicate to us the 'good, bad and the ugly' about Fencor. We take a lot of pride in the way we operate the club but certainly understand that there is always room for improvement and the responses to this survey will be a good way to find out what needs improving. Improving is not only 'fixing' what doesn't work but also 'keeping' what does. So, if you can let us know both, the survey will accomplish an important goal. The survey is set up to gauge your satisfaction level in important

areas (with a heavy emphasis on your daughter's experience and the coaching piece because that's what Fencor is about). We also have left room for comments on other areas so that you can raise whatever issues are important to you and your daughter.

A couple of points:

1. Entering your name, etc. is optional but if you don't, at least, enter an age group and/or specific team, or we will be a little lost in focusing where any problem lies or good stuff goes on.

2. Please add your phone number if you wish to discuss any issue raised.

3. PLEASE RETURN THE FORM. If you perceive problems, this is a chance to be part of a solution!

FENCOR COACHES -2004 SEASON

- 10A Keith Webster, Missy Petina
- 10B Terry Rakowsky, Heidi Kaucher-Richards
- 10C Fran Young, Phil Kelly
- 11A Steve Chapman, Lynn Carroll, Beccie Strohecker
- 11B Bob Becker, Jeff Jackson
- 11C Mimi Taylor
- 12A Dave Bass, Jake Galante
- 12B Steve Finley, George Paull, Meg Finley
- 12C Melissa Martinez
- 12CC Tony Sherr, Fred Turco
- 13A Heather Weindorfer, Eric Glemser
- 13B Erin Jones
- 13C Mike Lynam, Matt Laffredo
- 14A Veronica Algeo, Stuart London, Jana Reideger
- 14B Jerry Meakim, Jim Meakim
- 14C Buddy Glemser, Jae Hwang
- 15A Tracy Harmon
- 15B Meg Thompson, Lisa Cornish
- 16A Brian Morris
- 17A Tina Nicholson
- 17B Kevin Collins
- 18A Andy Krasna, Brian Elderton

Somebody once said that you can tell what a person loves by where that person spends their free time. I'm not sure if that means the 40 or so coaches listed here LOVE any or all of the following: kids, basketball, Fencor, practicing, standing in hot gyms on spring and summer weekends, not getting the calls they want (need) from the refs, winning, losing, dealing with parents who all know how good their daughters really are, going away to tournaments, teaching skills, trying to cajole players with varying commitment levels, wearing snappy coaches' shirts. But they have spent a lot of their free time doing most or all of the above. Thank you to all the Fencor coaches for loving whatever you love and giving your time and effort to the Fencor players that you coached.

TEAM MANAGERS

Every team has a chemistry that is a part of that team's legacy and success. The players and coaches obviously play the most crucial roles in that chemistry. But when you hear of a really 'happy' team that has jelled and is working well together on and off the court you can bet that the team has a great Team Manager. That job has two main functions- first-allow the coach to coach, and second- get everything else done. At Fencor we do everything we can to get good coaches and one of the things promised is that he or she can coach and the "other stuff" is someone else's worry. That head worrier is the Team Manager. From uniforms to paperwork, from scheduling to fund raisers, from directions to reservations, Fencor Team Managers get it done themselves or coordinate all the willing parents energies and talents. Thanks for all your time and don't ever underestimate your importance to Fencor!!!!!!

Beyond Wins and Losses

Elsewhere in this newsletter are articles about the significant achievements of so many Fencor teams that won this or finished in this place, even to the apex of winning a National Championship.... Again. Sports rightly celebrates and recognizes these achievements. After all, they do keep score so the results must matter.

But Fencor as an organization doesn't- and shouldn't forget- those successful 'results' that can't be found on any scoreboard. There are no league standings for the confidence gained by a young player who will apply that self-confidence to other aspects of her life and not even be aware of the change. There are no tournaments that measure how a coach positively impacted a player by making her feel valuable and important to the team no matter her talent level. There are no regionals that demonstrate the lessons learned because of the self discipline shown by a player through the commitment she brought to her teammates. There is no Championship Sunday to showcase the cherished relationships found and formed over this past AAU season. There are no Nationals to celebrate the worth that a player feels when she sees the caring and support shown again over the last few months by her parents. The trophies, plaques, and awards for these 'results' never tarnish or are forgotten, they last forever.

FACTOIDS ABOUT FENCOR'S NATIONALS RESULTS

Fencor qualified for AAU D-1 nationals in 7 of the 8 age groups it competed in.

The Middle Atlantic had only 2 teams earn extra qualifying bids for next year's Nationals by finishing in the top 4 this year. The Fencor 13's and 14's.

2004 Middle Atlantic Sweet Sixteen Finishers:

- 11's Fencor and Mid-Penn
- 13's Fencor
- 14's Fencor
- 15's Belles and DBL

The 17 A's won their pool in D-1 nationals in Orlando.

The 10 A's and 12 A's made respectable showings in Orlando and Kingsport respectively. The 12 A's finished 3rd in the shootout.

The 11B's won the Shootout Championship at the D-2 nationals at Knoxville! Congrats to the team and Coaches Bob Becker and Jeff Jackson on that accomplishment.

The 13 B's won their pool at the D-2 Nationals in Orlando

CLINICS

Where: Germantown Academy Big Gym

When: Sundays- September 19th thru December 12th

Time: Noon to 1:30 for 4th and 5th graders

1:30 to 3:00 for 6th thru 8th graders

Who: Rotating Fencor Coaches including Dave Bass, Terry Rakowsky, Melissa Martinez, Brian Morris, Lynn Carroll, Steve Chapman plus more.

What: Drills, Skills, and Constructive Competition

Cost: Either \$75 for all 13 Sundays or \$10 per Sunday

All checks made out to Fencor AAU

Registration: No need to call -Just show up and sign up!

Questions: please call the office at 215-942-8677



FENCOR 13'S



FENCOR 14'S

FENCOR FALL LEAGUE

Who: For All Female basketball players (Fencor and non-Fencor)

Where: Germantown Academy Big Gym

When: Sunday Afternoons - From Sept. 19 thru Dec. 12 (H.S. teams will play shortened schedule)
Games will be held between 3 & 8 pm. Possibly play 2 games a day with a break.

Team Make Up: Either "drafted" from those that sign up individually and/or teams come as a group.

Note: High School, CYO, & Travel teams encouraged to participate.

*every effort will be made to make teams equally competitive.

Divisions: Youth Division - Grades 3 thru 5
Junior Division- Grades 6 thru 8
Senior Division- Grades 9 thru 12

Coaches: will be provide where needed. Older Fencor players and Fencor coaches.

Also: Refs assigned, T-shirts for each team, Scoreclocks will be used.

Sign up Options: 1. By e-mail at fencor@fencor.org
2. By phone at 215-942-8677
3. In person at GA on September 12 from 2 pm 'til 3 pm.

By either of these methods please indicate the following information-

Player's name, Position, Present age and grade, school, playing experience (if not Fencor player),
phone numbers for day and evening. Special request for teammates for rides, etc.

Cost- \$75 per player or 500.00 per tem - 9 games guaranteed