

FENCOR HOOP CHAT

DECEMBER

2004

FENCOR HAS MOVED

**New Address: Fencor,
PO Box 490, Warrington PA 18976
New Phone Number: 215.491.6987
New Fax Number: 215.491.6988
New Tournament Line: 215.491.6989**

THE LATEST CROP OF FENCOR "GRADS"

In no particular order here's where Fencor players who graduated from high school in June 2004 are now pursuing their academic and basketball careers this fall. Ashley Webster-Philadelphia University, Lindsay Formica- New Hampshire, Lindsay Krasna-Cornell, Margaret Elderton-Maine, Kieraah Marlow-Georgetown, Becca Buckler-Bates, Katie Kirlin-Washington College, Brit Izzi-Smith, Karen Berk-Swarthmore, Beccie Strohecker-Delaware Valley, Dominique Kidd-Widener, Jackie Negler-Philadelphia University, Marisa Healy-Scranton. Good Luck to all!

It's amazing how often people contact us about the ALUMNAE page on our website. To say thanks, to make a correction, or to make an addition. Anybody who knows that we forgot somebody or made a mistake, let us know at fencor@fencor.org.

FENCOR NEEDS YOU!!!...IF YOU CAN COACH!!

The club is always looking for qualified basketball coaches who like kids and want to help out. It takes a commitment that includes participating in tryouts in late February and early March, running 2 practices a week (1.5 hours each) from late March thru late June, guiding your team in 4 to 10 tournaments held on weekends- most in the tri-state area. There is a possibility that your team could qualify for a National AAU Tournament. If you were to coach an older (15,16,17 yrs. old) team it may be important to participate in some 'college exposure' tournaments. Both of these kinds of tournaments are held in late June or July.

The skill set needed includes coaching experience, knowledge of the game, preferably some playing experience, an organizational aptitude to run practices effectively, and a sense of how to manage a game. Although those things are important, Fencor needs their coaches to be able to keep winning in its proper perspective, handle different levels of parental interest, create a team atmosphere, and understand the impact a coach can have on young players.

Fencor does the best it can to make it so that the coach just has to coach. We supply equipment, practice times, help in choosing tournaments, uniforms, necessary paperwork, and anything else we can do to support you.

Each team has a volunteer parent who serves as a Team Manager and can relieve even more important non-coaching duties from your plate. The club has a Criminal Background Check and a Child Abuse Clearance History done on each potential coach and we help with expenses for overnight tournaments. For Nationals or 'college exposure' tournaments, that team's parents are required to pay the coaches' transportation, room and board. The club usually has 3 levels of teams in each age group from 10 thru 17 and a significant restriction on parents coaching their own child's team.

The 'pay' includes; an opportunity to be a part of a prestigious AAU program, relationships with kids that want to be coached, chances to make a difference by becoming another voice in the development of a young player, and memories that you can't buy anywhere else.

If you are reading this and would like to recommend a person, please call the office at 215-491-6987.

FENCOR HOLIDAY GIFT

Last year we started what we hope will be an ongoing tradition of having Fencor players and their parents attend a local college women's basketball game around this time of year and Fencor supplies the tickets as a holiday reminder of what Fencor's about- women's' basketball, fun, and community. We focused on just one game last season because we had a great venue- the Palestra, a special team - the Connecticut Huskies, and a gracious host- the St. Joe's Hawks.

This season we're trying to spread out the experience among the Big 5 schools plus other local teams. All the teams listed below have been great in helping make this possible. Because of the range of games and dates, we understand that there won't be a one game Fencor Group Day where close to a thousand people showed up. But we hope that even more people in total will go to a game or two with some friends and teammates because the dates, venues, and choices let that happen.

Here's how it works. There are 4 games listed on page 2, that we are recommending and/or have made tickets available where necessary. Please e-mail us at fencor@fencor.org to let us know which game(s) and how many tickets you need at least one week prior to the game. There will be a limit of four tickets per family. For those four schools where we did NOT name a particular game, you may contact the phone number listed and tell them that you are from Fencor and they will provide free tickets during the whole season. Take advantage of what, to some, may be less well-known schools. They play great basketball, have quality coaches, and have or have had Fencor players play at each school.

(continued on page 2)

Georgetown at LaSalle Dec. 28th

7:00 pm- need to e-mail us for tickets by the 21st

Temple at Villanova Dec.21st

7:30 pm - need to e-mail us for tickets by the 14th

Kansas State at St Joe's Dec. 30th

7:00 pm- need to e-mail us for tickets by Dec. 23rd

Drexel at Penn Dec. 21st

1:00 pm No need to e-mail, Free Admissions for all games

For tickets to any scheduled game for the schools below,
call the coaches and mention Fencor.

Philadelphia University Coach Tom Shirley @ 215-951-2720

Gwynedd Mercy College Coach Keith Mondillo @ 215-641-5574

Cabrini College Coach Bobbi Morgan @ 610-902-8387

Delaware Valley College Coach Laura Hogan @ 215-489-2381

ENJOY THE GAMES & THE HOLIDAYS

THE AGE ISSUE

Fencor, like every other established AAU club, has a rule that each player must play within her age group. This rule is strictly enforced for what we think are good reasons for the club and the individual player. As with any rule there are situations that call for general exceptions and the club's two areas of exception in past have been that 9 year olds could play with the 10U teams- because there was no other place to play, and the 16 and 17 year old teams have been mixed at times for the benefit of our 'recruitable' athletes-high school juniors and seniors.

Invariably the request to play 'up' is made for one of three reasons;

1. In the eyes of that player's parents the player's talents and abilities will be better tested and improved by playing against older players. Our response to that is that for one or two years that may be true, but in most cases it is better for that player to compete against her peers because even if she is a dominant player she has to learn how to play a team game in that role. From a club perspective we are competing in a world of age groups, and would want our strongest team in each age group. The other potential teammates in that younger age group would also suffer if that 'dominant' player was not on the team. Also, Fencor presently has and has had All-American, All State, All District, All League, and All Star players and they seem to develop quite well playing in their age group.

2. The parents want that player to play 'up' because the parent sees that the player has a positive relationship with Coach XYZ or perceives that Coach XYZ will be better for their daughter's basketball development. Our response is that each player can and should learn to 'develop' under different coaches just like she would develop under different Math or English teachers. Fencor is proud of all its coaches even though we acknowledge that different players respond differently to different coaches.

The value of a coach-player relationship is not always immediately measurable- nor should it be. In addition having age pure teams keeps the 'politics' that can creep in, to a minimum. What would happen if a younger player tried out for an older age group and this volunteer coach suddenly had to stop coaching- does the player then go 'back'?

3. The player wants to stay with a team that is older because she has friends on that team is the third reason given. Although there may be some initial period of getting used to new teammates, she's already proven she can handle that task. We're sure that for all the reasons listed above and the normalcy of this kind of growth, that reason doesn't warrant going against the age rule.

*Any parent that wishes to discuss this issue further,
please call the office at 215-491-6987.*

AAU UPDATES

A few changes on the National AAU scene that will impact Fencor to varying degrees.

1. 17 year old juniors in high school will be allowed to play with 16 year old teams in a one year experiment. These players will need documentation from their school to verify their class. The presumption is that the rule change makes college recruiting easier.

2. A 9 year old division will be added for 2005 on a trial basis. We have some misgivings about this and will respond as follows. All 9 and 10 year olds will try out at the same time. The best 12 players will make the 9/10 "A" team. There will also be a 10 "B" team (only 10 year olds and a 9 "B" team (only 9 year olds). The result is that there will be 3 teams for 10 and under players. The reason for this approach is that we're not sure if there will be ANY 9 year old teams in the region but we can't hold up tryouts and team selection to see. In the past our 10 "C" team was primarily 9 year olds. So we think that this approach gives us the best mix for a developing situation. This may change if no other local AAU clubs start 9 year old teams. Stay tuned!

3. 10 year old teams that don't win their Regional Championship but do qualify for Nationals by placing high enough at Regionals can choose to play in either the D-I or D-II Nationals. Both are held at the same time and place (see above).

4. At Nationals there will be a " Mercy Rule " when the other team has a 30 point lead and with the OK of the losing team's coach. The Mercy Rule lets the clock continue to run for the rest of the game.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE REGIONALS AND NATIONALS

AGE	REGIONALS HOST	DATES	D-I CITY & DATE	D-II CITY & DATE
9/10	Wildcats	4/29-5/1	Disney 6/26	Disney 6/26
11	Rockers	5/6-5/8	Springfield, MO 6/24	Nashville 7/15
12	Fencor	5/6-5/8	Amarillo TX 7/1	Nashville 7/15
13	Tarheels	4/29-5/1	Dayton OH 7/18	Overland Park KS 7/8
14	Renegades	5/13-5/15	Roanoke VA 7/22	Disney 7/12
15	Comets	5/6-5/8	Clarksville TN 7/21	Disney 7/12
16*	NEPA-Scranton	4/29-5/1	Disney 7/9	Disney 7/12
17/18	NEPA-Scranton	5/7-5/8	Disney 7/15	Disney 7/12

CHAMPIONSHIP SUNDAY MAY 22nd, Host TBD

COACH'S CORNER BE A HIGH LEVEL 90 PER CENTER!!!

What's a "90 per center"? It's the kind of player who plays well without the ball in her hands or in her team's possession. Your team only has the ball for 50% of the game and the other 50% of the time you're on defense. And even if time of possession is spread evenly among 5 players that would mean you'd only have the ball in your hands 10% of the game. So a HIGH LEVEL 90 per center is a player who plays really well when she doesn't possess the ball.

It's kind of like being a great player when no one is watching (but your coach). Coaches are not fond of players who are bystanders on offense and just keep raising their arms and saying "I'm open" verbally or non-verbally. They want to see players that look for opportunities to pick and screen, who get out of the way of a teammate making a move, work on the offensive boards, and celebrate when the team scores. If you are not active on offense without the ball then your defender isn't very busy either and can help out, get a steal, or be in a passing lane that disrupts the offense while you wait for the ball.

On the defensive end of the court, coaches love players that don't see that end as a time to rest, fix your hair, or pout about a missed shot. A really good 90 per center sees defense as a place to shine, an opportunity to be a complete player, and a chance to impact the team and the outcome of the game. The hustle plays, like rebounding, boxing out, deflections, defensive faking, help out defense, and the like will only be done by players that WANT to play without the ball.

Unfortunately boxscores primarily report on the other 10%. Too bad when the question "How'd you play?" translates into "How many did you have?". You may not average 10 shots a game and you probably will miss at least half of those but "90 per centers" play the real game all 100 % of the time.

*GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE PLAYERS
IN THEIR SCHOOL BASKETBALL SEASON*

FENCOR 11'S



Finished 13th at Nationals
in Kenner, LA

FENCOR BASKETBALL CLINICS FOR 2005

Each Sunday from January 9th thru February 6th there will be a clinic with special concentration on a particular area of basketball skills.

*Come to one - Come to all
No Signup-Just Show up*

*90 minutes per session concentrating on that
area of your game that needs work*

*\$10 per sessions- Get better during you season
- Get ready for AAU tryouts*

Get better during the season!

January 9th
Ball Handling & Agility-Dribbling, Passing, and Drills

January 16th
Defense & Rebounding

January 23rd
Shooting & Driving to the Basket

January 30th
Man to Man Offensive Skills

February 6th
Zone Principles & Skills

Each Sunday will include individual,
2 on 2, 3 on 3, and 5 on 5 work

Noon to 1:30 for 4th & 5th graders

1:30 to 3pm for 6th, 7th, & 8th graders

Registration Fees: \$350.00

(300.00 if paid by January 15, 2005)**

**** Refunds will be given to those who do not make a team minus a \$50.00 administration cost**

***** Refunds *****

Players who make a team will only be given refunds for a medical reason.

HOW TO REGISTER

By Mail: Send the attached form with a check to:

***Fencor AAU
P.O. Box 490
Warrington, PA 18976***

**By E-Mail: www.fencor@fencor.org (use the form on the website)
*Registration is not finalized until a check has been sent to the above address***

E CUT ALONG LINE AND RETURN WITH CHECK

FENCOR A.A.U./ REGISTRATION FORM

(GIRLS AGES 9 TO 18 WELCOME)

Name: _____ Did you play for Fencor last year? Yes No
Street Address: _____ Which Team? _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone No. _____ Parent Cell/Work No. _____ E-Mail _____
Parent/Guardians names: _____

List any medical conditions we should be aware of: _____

Uniform Size (ADULT) Shirt _____ Short _____ (S, M, L, XL, XXL)

School Attending: _____ Birth Date: _____ Grade: _____

*Registration fee \$350.00 (\$300. if received by 1/15/05) Make checks payable to Fencor AAU

Mail to : Fencor AAU, P.O. Box 490, Warrington, PA 18976

The 4 most often asked questions about finances are;

- 1. How are the registrations fees used? About 80% goes to tournament fees and gym rentals for practices and the remaining goes to insurance, coach's expenses, tryout costs and equipment. A more specific breakdown follows below.**
- 2. Why don't I get a full refund if my daughter does not make a team? The \$50 that is not returned is used to help defray tryout costs. It would be unfair for just those families who make a team to pay for all those that tryout since some families 'shop' at various AAU clubs tryouts to determine which is best for their child and do have a responsibility to share in those costs. The financial commitment tends to make the tryout more important.**
- 3. Why don't I get ANY refund if I don't like the team my daughter makes. Here's a scenario that explains this policy. If the parents were displeased with the situation on a "B" team, for instance, a week into practices and withdrew their daughter, then that team is disrupted. Also there is a discouraging and unfair ripple effect, a player that would have made the "B" is now on the "C" team, because the unhappy family's player took her spot, even worse a player who was cut from "C" team and isn't playing, could have been on a Fencor team. We want to discourage this from happening because of these unhappy results**
- 4. What other costs are a part of playing for Fencor. If you are a new player then there is a uniform cost of \$84.00. Plus any shared cost among your team for any tournaments past the first 3 full tournaments and the Regionals paid for by your registration fees. If your team travels to non-local tournaments or qualifies for Nationals then there is significant additional costs including travel, room and board, etc.**

Average use of Registration fees for a team of 12 players and 2 coaches;

Tournaments- \$1,600 average tournament cost is \$400 and fees pay for the first 3 tournaments and the Regionals.

Practices- \$1,680 average rental per hour is \$40 times 3 hours per week of practice for 14 weeks (mid March thru last week-end of June).

Practices for teams for Nationals and College Exposure tournaments in late June and July are an added expense borne by the club.

AAU Insurance- \$172 (2 coaches @ \$14 & 12 players @ \$12 per)

Coach's costs- \$585 (Shirts, background checks, and some financial help in covering costs for overnight tournaments including Wildwood.)

Tryouts- \$300 (Total is \$6,000 divided by 20 teams)

Equipment- \$60 (basketballs and pinnies)

TOTAL EXPENSES PER TEAM- \$4,397 divided by 12 players ='s \$366.40 per player.

Any difference between the registration fees and team expenses plus other club expenses like; administrative costs, telephone, fax, copier, newsletters, data entry, postage, web site, AAU fees, insurance, advertising, etc. are paid out of the other sources of club income. They are; clinics, tryout fees, profit from Fencor tournaments which is primarily admissions.