

2013 – 2014 WEST HARTFORD GIRLS BASKETBALL LEAGUE

****MARYLAND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****



VS.



1/5/14 – Maryland 44, North Carolina 14:

Maryland opened their season with a well-earned win against a tough North Carolina team. Maryland's offense revolved around two talented centers, Sophia Boudreaux and Savannah Peak. The two centers fed the ball to and set picks for their guards and forwards as they worked the ball in and out of North Carolina's fierce defense, all while pulling down rebounds on both ends of the court. The Maryland team found a great deal of support from forwards Carly Drusedum, Emma Main, and Savannah Paolitto as they fought North Carolina's baseline players for rebounds both offensively and defensively. The three forwards added quite a few points as well. If that wasn't enough, Maryland's guards Marisa Adams, Mia Olsen, Jess McNally and Nora Staunton ran a well precision offense that clicked like clockwork. The girls pushed and passed the ball deep into the paint, and up and into the bucket. The Maryland team would like to thank the entire North Carolina basketball squad for a terrific game.



VS.



1/12/14 – Maryland 25, Providence 10:

The second week of the season found two well-matched teams battling it out, as Maryland hosted a well-coached Providence team. This game was a showcase of steals and fast breaks for both sides. Maryland jumped out to an early lead with some smooth offensive plays lead by point guards, Nora Staunton, Mia Olsen, Jess McNally, and Marisa Adams. These finely tuned players dropped the ball in the nets by quickly feeding the ball to each other while reading and timing some well-placed picks, set by centers Savannah Peak and Sophia Boudreaux and the Maryland forwards. The two tall girls in the middle would also see that any missed offensive shots found their way back into the hoop and the defensive rebounds were pushed out and into the waiting hands of their guards. If the Maryland centers weren't available to rip down rebounds, they often found their teammates and forwards, Emma Main, Savannah Paolitto, Elizabeth LaMarco, Carly Drusedum, and Mia Jaworski there to fill in. Maryland's forwards were the engine that could. Flying tirelessly up and down the court defending and attacking the boards at almost inhuman pace, these girls simply amazed the fans that witnessed this game. Providence would prove to be a worthy adversary, but today belongs to the mighty Maryland team. The Maryland squad would like to thank Providence for a terrific game and wish them the best of luck with the rest of their season.



VS.



1/19/14 – Syracuse 26, Maryland 16:

The third week of the season found Maryland pitted against a talented Syracuse squad. Maryland showed up to the game missing 5 of their 11 players. There would be no rest for the weary as the Maryland girls fought tirelessly against Syracuse's 10-player squad. With only one substitute, the Maryland players had little time to rest and ultimately just did not have enough in the tank to grab the win. Savannah Paolitto, Marisa Adams, Emma Main, Savannah Peak, Mia Jaworski, and Elizabeth LaMarco should be commended on their efforts. Although faced with adversity, they played hard and left it all on the court. The Maryland team would like to thank Syracuse for a great game.



VS.



1/26/14 – Maryland 46, Tennessee 22:

On a very cold January afternoon, two very talented teams met on the hardwood floors. It took the Maryland squad a lot of determination and team work to overcome a mighty Tennessee team. The first quarter seemed to tell the tale of an easy win for Tennessee as they broke out to an early 12 - 2 lead. Maryland could not seem to rebound as their efforts to grab missed shots were stymied by the well-coached centers and forwards of the Tennessee squad. On the other end of the game, Maryland offense seemed to be misfiring as well. As the two teams took a break midway through the first quarter, the Maryland team took to the task of making some adjustments. Their defense repositioned themselves and the fuse was lit on their offense. Centers Mia Jaworski and Elizabeth LaMarco, with forwards Savannah Paolitto and Emma Main sealed the three second zone and forced Tennessee out from under the basket. Maryland guards Mia Olsen, Jessica McNally, and Marisa Adams, picked, passed, and wove their way through a very tough Tennessee defense and skillfully made some hard earned shots. Maryland tied the game and then pulled away to a comfortable lead. However, there would be little rest for the Maryland team as Tennessee never gave up. The Maryland squad was humbled by their victory and thanks the Tennessee team for a great game.



VS.

2/2/14 – Maryland 47, UConn 26:

As the season moved into week 5, Maryland met with a well-coached and talented Connecticut pack. The two teams battled it out as UConn dominated the 1st quarter and held fast to a four-point lead. Every time Maryland tried to close the gap, the ball just would not bounce their way, and their much needed shot would fall back into play. But this would not be the case for long. Midway through the second period the mighty Maryland team began to find their groove and made their presences known on the Chieftans hardwood floor. Maryland's passing game was the best we have seen all year. Guards Jessica McNally, Mia Olsen, Marisa Adams, and Nora Staunton fired pinpoint passes to the waiting hands of forwards Mia Jaworski, Elizabeth LaMarco, Savannah Paolitto, Carly Drusedum, and centers Savannah Peak and Sophia Boudreaux. Once Maryland had the ball down deep, they were able to push up and place in many quick backboard shots. Defensively, Maryland patiently waited atop and inside the key as UConn's offense tried to penetrate, but Maryland stood strong and held a tough UConn offense at bay. While holding their positions, Maryland was able to deny many of Connecticut's attempted shots. Today's win would go to Maryland, but not without a hard-fought effort against an extremely gifted group of UConn basketball players. Maryland tips its hat to UConn for a well-played game.



VS.



2/9/14 - Maryland 32, North Carolina 14:

North Carolina's MVPs for today's rematch were Emily P., who aggressively rebounded and shot for a score against a fierce opponent, and Gabby M., who played the point guard position well and was able to execute several assists for the team. North Carolina played hard throughout the game, modeled positive attitudes and great sportsmanship, and managed to hold a very talented but aggressive team down to an 18-point lead.



VS.



2/16/14 – Maryland 38, Providence 24:

Providence met Maryland for the second time this season. In this well-balanced matchup, both teams would have to dig deep and muster up all the strength they could. For a multitude of reasons, Maryland and Providence would both enter Conard gym with skeleton squads. Maryland took to their bench missing 5 of their original 11 team members, and Providence was only able to suite-up a mere 7 players for the game. There would be little substitutions for both teams and the girls who met on the court this Sunday had their abilities, character, and endurance tested to the limit. The game pace was quick and the two teams challenged each other to see who could last the longest. But neither team would give and the crowd saw a game of super human fortitude as there was no rest for the weary in this hard fought and well-played game. Maryland's Savannah Paolitto played her best offensive game of the year as she led her team in scoring. Marisa Adams contributed to Maryland's win with a few of her own well-placed shots and well-timed picks. Emma Main skillfully and successfully drove the lanes countless times on offense and forced many turnovers when she was on defense. Savannah Peak pulled double-duty as Maryland's only center. Peak ripped down many offensive and defensive rebounds, and defended Maryland's paint like it was a lost puppy. Elizabeth LaMarco filled in as Maryland's point guard for the first time in her career. She captained Maryland's offense, by directing her team from the top of the key like a seasoned veteran. There was no place that Mia Jaworski wasn't. She tirelessly hustled throughout the entire game. Jaworski fed and led several of Maryland's fast breaks. She led the team in steals and rebounds, and like her teammates, left it all on the floor. When the dust settled it would be Maryland's victory, but the win was a hard-fought one against a very talented and well coached Providence team. Maryland would like to thank Providence for a well-played game.



VS.



2/23/14 – Maryland 32, Syracuse 16:

In this seventh week of the season, Conard High School gymnasium was filled to capacity as fans from all over came to see two very tough and talented teams, Maryland and Syracuse, met for the second time this season. Unlike their first meeting, this time Maryland came to play with a full bench. The mighty Maryland players hit the floor running and never turned back. Led by guards Nora Staunton and Mia Olsen, and supported by center Mia Jaworski and forwards Savannah Paolitto and Elizabeth LaMarco, Maryland jumped out to an early lead. Mid-way through the first quarter, a fresh squad of Maryland players relieved their exhausted teammates. Jess McNally and Marisa Adams took over as guards and ran a precision offense with the help of center Sophia Boudreaux and forwards Emma Main and Savannah Peak. The Maryland team would not allow Syracuse the lead at any point in the

game. However, a good offense would not be enough to grab the win from the very fast and talented Syracuse team. The game plan for Maryland was to step it up on defense and keep Syracuse's scoring to a minimum, and that's just what they did. On defense, Maryland kept Syracuse out of the paint and forced many turnovers. As Syracuse tried to gain an advantage with quickly-fed fast breaks, the Maryland players were one step ahead of them and quickly stopped the ball from finding its way to the hoop. At the end of the game, both teams had little left in their tanks, but found enough just enough strength to meet at half court and congratulate each other on a well-played game.



3/2/14 – Maryland 24, Tennessee 8:

In the final game of the West Hartford Girls Basketball League season, Maryland was challenged by a very tall and talented Tennessee team. Going into this game Maryland knew they would have to keep the ball out of the hands of Tennessee's towering centers and forwards. By implementing a very fast moving and well-timed help defense, the Maryland squad held Tennessee at bay. Sophia Boudreaux, Mia Jaworski, and Carly Drusedum faced the daunting task of competing for rebounds against Tennessee's able forwards and centers. Boudreaux jumped with what seemed to be super human strength and blocked shots while grabbing rebound after rebound. Jaworski boxed out the Tennessee players for her many rebounds and sent the ball to the waiting hands of her guards. Drusedum maneuvered a couple missed shots back up into the hoop, and stood tall and tough down on the defensive end of the court. On offense the girls in red would have to look to their outside shooters as Tennessee owned the base line and most of the paint. Elizabeth LaMarco fired the first shot when she hit a beautiful outside jump shot that nearly tore the net. Jess McNally would follow suit with a few outside shots herself and a half dozen points scoring fast breaks. Savannah Paolitto added to her team's victory with some quick jump shots, countless steals and a relentless defense. Maryland's Marisa Adams led her team in traps on defense which stymied Tennessee's offense and forced some key turnovers for Maryland. Emma Main hustled up and down the court as she stopped Tennessee 's offense from pushing the ball down court too quickly. Main then changed gears and led Maryland's offense down court ahead of Tennessee. If you ever get a chance to see Maryland's Mia Olsen play the game, you'll never say good things don't come in small packages. Mia Olsen weaved her way through to the hoop against defenders twice her size. Her quick and agile ball handling skill was not all she brought to the game. Olsen defended her team's hoop by picking the pocket of Tennessee's guards time and time again. A bruised and battered Nora Staunton ignored her coach 's request for her to come off the court and tend to her injuries. It seemed that the bumps and bruises she collected during the game only fired her up and intensified her game. Staunton showed some of the best dribbling and ball control the league has seen this year. With incredible patience and confidence, Staunton fed her teammates with a plethora of well-timed precision passes. When she wasn't passing the ball, she took advantage of some well-placed picks, drove the lane and scored effortlessly. As the West Hartford Girls Youth Basketball League's season came to a close today, The Maryland team would leave its mark as a team which played team ball and never gave up, even when the odds seemed against it. The Maryland coaches couldn't be prouder. Maryland wishes to thank Tennessee and all the teams in the league for some well-played games and a great season.