

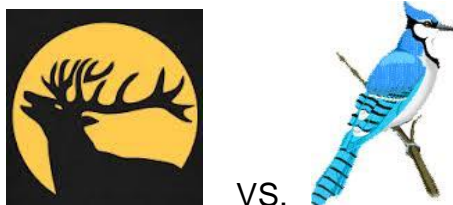
2012 – 2013 WEST HARTFORD GIRLS BASKETBALL LEAGUE

****BLUEJAYS TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****



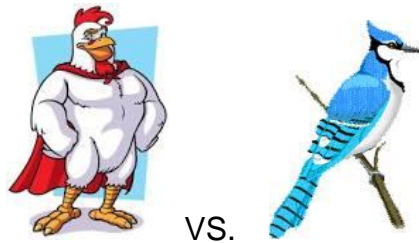
1/6/13 – Bobcats 35, Bluejays 18:

The Bluejays played with great effort and enthusiasm in our first game versus the talented and well-coached Bobcats. Bluejay pride was alive as Emma Kellar got us off to a great start at point, organizing the offense and showing strong ball handling. Brooke Martindale worked really hard, particularly defensively, moving her feet and using good positioning. Ella O'Connor was incredibly versatile, playing almost every position with effort and intensity. Libby Schmerzler played very aggressive defense, hustled and made a couple baskets. In transition defensively, Greta Magendantz, Cindy Schumey, and Emma Kellar were all standouts, running back to deny coast-to-coast baskets. In the end, the Bobcats outlasted us but it was a great day to be a Bluejay!!!



1/20/13 - Stags 28, Bluejays 8:

The Bluejays had another strong effort against a talented, competitive and well-coached Stags team. We had our best defensive performance of the year with excellent individual efforts by Zoe Morrow, Brook Martindale, Greta Magendantz, and Caragh Maloney. Cindy Schumey came back from her short illness to have a strong performance, providing court leadership, good ball-handling and strong point guard play. Libby Schmerzler helped push the ball down court with high energy and made a couple baskets! With a handful of our players missing with illnesses, all seven players needed to dig down and find some extra energy. They all delivered, with special kudos to Issy Rome for great effort and sportsmanship towards the Stags. Additionally, we started to really rebound the ball with a purpose, particularly Greta Magendantz and Cindy Shumey. Brook Martindale showed continued improvement in her ball-handling and passing, particularly late in the game at the point position. The Bluejays took another step forward in our journey and it was wonderful to see!



2/24/13 - Bantams 27, Bluejays 11:

The Bluejays played hard and had some strong moments against a talented and aggressive Bantams team. The Bantams played really strong defense, creating lots of opportunities for them on the offensive end. The Jays continue to improve on defense, learning how to use their feet and bodies to defend rather than reaching with their arms and hands. Defensive standouts today were Gigi LaForte, Carmen True, and Brooke Martindale (again). Against the Bantams' strong defense, the Bluejays' passing improved as the game progressed, using fakes and looking for the easy pass. Emma Kellar, Libby Schmerzler, Cindy Schumey, and Caragh Maloney did particularly well here. The Bluejays made some strides scoring as well and had some big baskets from Zoe Morrow, Issy Rome, and Gigi LaForte. We also had a first today with a made free throw (Emma Kellar). The coaching staff continues to notice terrific effort and focus. Of special note today was Ruth Dunlop, who arrived right before the game but was focused, ready to go and "dialed in" as usual. As we role towards our last game next week, we continue to appreciate the attention and commitment the girls bring to the Bluejays week after week. We are proud to be their coaches!



3/4/13 - Bobcats 26, Bluejays 16:

The Bluejays played their best game of the season today in a hard fought game with the tenacious Bobcats, who outlasted us in the fourth quarter. Cindy Schumey saved her best scoring day of the year for today, with 10 points and played aggressive, smart defense as well. The team made lots of progress in our passing with good ball fakes and more crisp passes that were easy to handle. Ruth Dunlop, Emma Kellar, Cindy Schumey and Zoe Morrow were standouts, but everyone had multiple passes that were smart, sharp and on the money. Defensively, Emma Kellar, Cindy Schumey, and Ella O'Connor continued to excel and Gigi LaForte, Carmen True, and Caragh Maloney played well also! We have begun to understand that we play defense by moving our body/feet and not reaching. They were all fun to watch! In the open floor, Libby Schmerzler continued to push the ball aggressively and this helped spark momentum while Ruth, Ella, and Emma sprinted back on defense consistently to stop lay-ups by the 'Cats. The Bluejays has lots of energy and camaraderie today. With injured players Issy Rome and Greta Magendantz leading the active, super-supportive bench, it was a great day to be a Bluejay.

AND NOW, A NOTE FROM YOUR COACHES...

A sincere thanks to all twelve members of the Bluejays for all of their contribution to our 2012-2013 season in the Minor Division.

Thanks to:

- Ruth Dunlop for her focus, her willingness to be coached, and her consistent effort.
- Emma Kellar for her determination, competitive intensity, and physical versatility.
- Gigi LaForte for her smile, her positive attitude, and for always working to do what was asked by the coaches.
- Greta Magendantz for her attention to detail, her physical effort, and her willingness to help her teammates (and coaches) wherever possible.
- Caragh Maloney for her consistent, focused energy and coachability.
- Brooke Martindale for her high level of energy, as well as for her defensive intensity and ability.
- Zoe Morrow for her sincere love of the game, her positive outlook, and her commitment to executing any of the coach's instructions.
- Ella O'Connor for her quiet leadership, physical versatility, attention to instruction, and a winning smile.
- Issy Rome for her pink shoelaces, her smooth shooting touch, and her commitment to her teammates and coaches.
- Libby Schmerzler for her energy, versatility, as well as her ability to push the ball down the open floor.
- Cindy Schumey for her unrelenting physical effort, her focused effort to execute properly, and her vastly improved physical skills.
- Carmen True for her contagious smile, her endless energy, and her commitment to her teammates and friends.

This group of kids overcame adversity and made tremendous strides both individually and collectively over the course of the season. Through that process, they showed each other (and the coaches) the true meaning of sportsmanship.

Coaches Dan, Dave, and Chris are all thankful to have gotten the chance to work with this group of Bluejays!