

# WEEK OF 3/2/2014

## **JUNIOR DIVISION:**

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.

#### UConn 22, Providence 18:

Despite the final score, Providence finished the 2014 season on a high note! Congrats to Libby Schmerzler and Isabelle Rome for scoring their first buckets of the season! The coaches are all very proud that every player on Providence managed to score a basket this season. Ella Reilly played like a piano in the final game scoring a team high 8 points, while also making numerous steals on "D". We all missed our team scoring leader, Vanessa Xiques, who unfortunately suffered a broken foot earlier in the week. Vanessa demonstrated great team spirit still by attending Sunday's game to root for her teammates . Helen Garde, Emily Cubbage, and Hayden

Neubert also contributed on the offensive end. Congrats to Team UConn, for winning their first game of the season! On behalf on all the coaches, I would first like to thank all of the wonderful parents for their support this year. Lastly, thanks to the girls of Team Providence who all got along so well this season and made it such a pleasure to coach and assist in developing your basketball skills!

## **WEEK OF 2/23/2014**

### **SENIOR DIVISION:**

Sparks 44, Mystics 22:

The Sparks were sparked by a late-from-vacation entrance by Olivia Pascon and rode the momentum to a 44-22 victory over the much improved Mystics. Gabriella Urso played outstanding in the win and Courtney Schroeder led the defense with many key plays in the first half when the Sparks took the lead. Deanna Michaels also returned from vacation to provide big offensive scores down low. Colleen Aspell led many key fast breaks and Bryanna McKreith led the team in scoring. Iris Maloney and Courtney took turns at the point guard slot and did solid work leading the offense. The Sparks finished the regular season 6-2 and are looking forward to the playoffs and wish the Mystics good luck as well.

### **JUNIOR DIVISION:**

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, meet 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.

#### Providence 28, Tennessee 20:

Providence has paid the electricity bill, and the POWER IS ON! Vanessa Xiques was explosive yesterday with 14 Points, which sets the season scoring record for a single game! Emily Cubbage continues to steadily improve and impress! Emily "Cubs" Cubbage, is super quick on "D" and the "O" is coming along nicely as she finished with (6) points. The 5th Grade "Scoring Demons" Ella Reilly and Rebecca Markie continue to cause trouble for any team in the league with their super intense play! Samantha Giuliano had a great defensive effort yesterday and was a key factor in the victory for Providence. The "TASTY JUMPER AWARD" goes out to Hayden Neubert, for a sweet one, that rattled in hard off the backboard! The Final Shout-Out goes to Coach Rick and all of the players on

Tennessee, for playing hard right up to the buzzer and also making a great comeback!

## **WEEK OF 2/16/2014**

### **SENIOR DIVISION:**

Sparks 36, Shock 30:

The Sparks locked up 3rd place for the regular season with a hard fought win over the Shock. The Sparks had an all around team effort but were led in scoring by the Polk sisters, Avery and Grace. An aggressive defensive effort was sparked by Bryanna McKreith and Olivia Pascon, and Brae Sullivan had several key defensive rebounds and steals down the stretch. Colleen Aspell again provided important minutes at the point guard spot and played her usual outstanding man to man defense. Iris Maloney also had big rebounds at both ends of the floor. The Sparks close out the regular season vs. the Mystics next week.

### **JUNIOR DIVISION:**

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.

The girls on both teams certainly got a great workout in on Sunday! Despite the upcoming school vacation that severely depleted the number of players on both benches, a great game was played! Providence's Emily Cubbage had an outstanding game on both ends of the court, scoring her first three pointer of the season and playing great "D". Vanessa Xiques continues to impress everyone with her overall outstanding play and great attitude. Helen Garde contributed six points and played solid defense as well. A huge shout-out goes to Ella Reilly! Ella displayed great effort and extremely tough play that makes her so special game in and game out! A final shout-out to Coach Mike and all of the members of

Team Maryland for showing great sportsmanship in yesterday's game!

## **WEEK OF 2/9/2014**

### **JUNIOR DIVISION:**

Syracuse 30, Providence 10:

Providence had its work cut out against a very tough Syracuse squad! Today's game was all about having a positive attitude when being down by so many baskets. The good attitude award goes out to the entire team for not giving up and playing hard right up to the final whistle. Today's "Tasty Jumper Award" goes out to Helen Garde. Helen made that basket after being defended hard by 2 very good Syracuse players! Ava Forand, and Emily Cubbage played very solid "D" today. The girls are looking forward to practice this week after being snowed-out last week and will work hard to get all of the "rust off" before next week's game.

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.

## **WEEK OF 2/2/2014**

### **SENIOR DIVISION:**

### Sparks 44, Lynx 29:

The Sparks picked up a win against a strong Lynx team. The Sparks were led on offense by Deanna Michaels who netted 22 points, and by Grace Polk and Avery Polk, who ran the offense at the point. Colleen Aspell and Brae Sullivan received the hustle awards for the Sparks, overcoming injury and illness to contribute to the victory with multiple assists. Courtney Shroeder and Iris Maloney each scored key baskets for the Sparks down low. Bryanna McKreith and Olivia Pascon led the defensive effort with many rebounds each. Good luck to the Lynx the rest of the season.

### **JUNIOR DIVISION:**

#### North Carolina 24, Providence 22:

It truly was a hard fought battle at Conard High School today! The lead went back & forth for the entire game. Ella "Lightning" Reilly had another tremendous game, as did her fellow "5th Grade Scoring Demon" Rebecca Markie. Vanessa Xiques continues to develop as one of the finest players in the Junior Division and had 8 Points. Helen Garde played very solid on both ends of the court and finished the day with 6 points. Macy Hanzlik-Barend played some super feisty "D" today against North Carolina. This game was a "heartbreaker," but the girls gained some great experience today. Hats off to NC for playing a great game!

#### 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.

#### **MINOR DIVISION:**

Bobcats 16, Bulldogs 14:

## **WEEK OF 1/26/2014**

#### **JUNIOR DIVISION:**

Providence 31, UConn 18:

Providence had their "breakout game" of the season today! Scoring kudos go out to Vanessa Xiques and Helen Garde for combining for 20 points today! The offensive "Ice-Breaker Award" goes out to Macy Hanzlik-Barend for dropping her first bucket of the season! The 5th Grade scoring demons, Ella Reilly and Rebecca Markie, continue to electrify and amaze the crowd with their hard play at both ends of the court! Samantha Giuliano had 4 points and was in excellent rebounding position throughout the game. All the girls were so competitive today and are rooting each

other from the start of the game to the finish! One last shout-out to UConn for not quitting and playing a hard fought game today!

#### Syracuse 46, North Carolina 16:

North Carolina and Syracuse played today in a fast moving, high scoring game, 46-16, in which Syracuse achieved a victory. Highlights for North Carolina: Ellie Parker rebounded many balls and was able to land some points. Gabriella Mangini was a strong defender. MVPs for this game were Olivia Marcella and Teresa Maloney for speed, defense steals, and overall aggressiveness.

#### 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 pull 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.

**MINOR DIVISION:**

Bobcats 16, Bulldogs 14:

## **WEEK OF 1/19/2014**

**JUNIOR DIVISION:**

Tennessee 26, Providence 24:

WHAT A GAME! Providence's offense finally emerged from its deep winter hibernation! Ella Reilly was magnificent today! Ella became the first double-digit scorer for Providence with 10 Points! The other "5th Grade Scoring Demon" for Providence, Becca Markie, played her normal high-octane game with 2 buckets! Vanessa "Nessy-Bear" Xiques, had 6 points and gave Tennessee all they could handle as far as defense was concerned. Kudos go out to Ava Forand for her first points of the year! Samantha Giuliano despite being slightly "under the weather", poured in a bucket and played great "D". The first "TASTY JUMPER" of the year award goes out to Hayden Neubert for a thrilling shot off the backboard that almost took the rim off! The girls are so pumped about playing BBALL now, and that is what is all about!

North Carolina 32, UConn 18:

North Carolina and UConn played today in a fast moving, high scoring game for both teams. Highlights for the North Carolina: Emily Duzy 10 pts, Lily Perry 12 points, Gabby Mangini 6 pts. MVPs for this game are Kayla Yousman and Maggie Mieckowski for rebounds, steals and overall aggressiveness.

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.

### **MINOR DIVISION:**

Bulldogs 12, Camels 10:

## **WEEK OF 1/12/2014**

### **SENIOR DIVISION:**

Sparks 51, Storm 25:

The Sparks won their second game of the season over a young but talented Storm team. Grace Polk got the Sparks started early with several fast break assists to Bryanna McKreith, Avery Polk, and Deanna Michaels. The defense was led by Brae Sullivan who did an excellent job boxing out for several key rebounds, and Iris Maloney who also made key stops. Colleen Aspell and Gabriella Urso each played point guard for the first time in the Senior Division and both executed the offense well. Courtney Schroeder played well at both ends of the floor and scored her first points of the season. Good luck to the Storm the rest of the season.

### **JUNIOR DIVISION:**

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. Marylands 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.

Providence didn't quit against a great offensive effort by Maryland! Emily Cubbage was on fire, playing with extreme tenacity! It seemed like there were two Emily's out on the court last Sunday! Hayden Neubert continues to impress with her defense! You can count on Hayden always being in the pile, trying to rip the ball out of the hands of the opposing team! The offense for Providence is still a "work in progress", but the girls are working hard in practice to turn it around. As always, Providence displays a great attitude and looks forward to the next contest to show what they can do!

North Carolina 18, Tennessee 12:

North Carolina had their second game against Tennessee. In a very tight race to the finish, North Carolina was able to eventually take the match by three baskets. Highlighted skills during this game for NC: Ariana Gutierrez lead scorer and several assists, Ashley Gelber strong defense, Kayla Yousman great ball handling, Emily Duzy great rebounding and shooting. Game MVPs: Ashley Gelber and Ariana Gutierrez.

### **MINOR DIVISION:**

Bantams 14, Bulldogs 12:

## **WEEK OF 1/5/2014**

### **SENIOR DIVISION:**

Sparks 26, Dream 23:

The Sparks won their opening game of the year in a very exciting and close game vs. a tough Dream team. The Dream opened a double-digit lead at the end of the first half with aggressive defense and good shooting. The Sparks fought back in the second half though. The comeback was led by Grace Polk, Deanna Michaels, and Bryanna McKreith, who each had key buckets. Brae Sullivan made a key basket and was fouled in the process, which helped "spark the Sparks" intensity. Olivia Pascon was the leader on defense with several important rebounds. Avery Polk was instrumental in breaking the Dream's excellent full-court press which helped lead the fast break. Best of luck to the Dream the rest of the season.

### **JUNIOR DIVISION:**

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.

North Carolina had their season opening game against Maryland. Maryland won the match in a landslide victory, allowing NC to practice their skills against a fierce competitor. Highlighted skills during this game for NC: Lily Perry lead scorer, Jessica Berman great point guard performance, Olivia Marcella great ball handling and speed, Ellie Parker great rebounding. Game MVPS: Lily Perry and Jessica Berman.

#### Syracuse 26, Providence 14:

Team Providence shook off the opening game jitters and played hard in the first game of the season. Rebecca Markie was the leading scorer for Providence with six points and broke the ice with the first bucket of the season. Vanessa Xiques must have had a can of Red Bull right before the game because her energy was all high level. Helen Garde warmed-up the offensive machine late in the game and contributed four points. Samantha Giuliano played excellent

defense and was in perfect rebounding position to score her first two points. Libby Schmerzler played with great enthusiasm for the entire game as did all of her teammates. The girls are so excited for the rest of the season to unfold. Bring on game 2!

#### Tennessee 38, UConn 20:

Tennessee faced UConn in its season opener for the 2013-2014 season. The game got off to a slow start through the first quarter. Tennessee then began to gain momentum through hard defense and good transition basketball. Katherine George, Maleea Griffin-Prado, Emma Pinckney, and Talia Greenspoon each had a few steals which contributed to creating a marginal lead. Amina Shakeel was dominant on the boards with 9 rebounds, and finished the game with 12 points through hard work in the paint. Emma Pinckney provided much help on the boards and scored 4 points and tallied 5 rebounds through hard-fought rebounds and intense play. Katherine George was also active on boards and in transition finishing the game with 10 points and 5 rebounds. Tennessee continued to grow the lead with strong guard play from Maleea Griffin-Prado and Talia Greenspoon. Maleea and Talia each scored 6 points and picked up several assists. Tennessee kept the game tempo up and aggressive defense continued which made it difficult for UConn to eat away at the lead. Grace Araya, Madison Chase, Helena Burke, Weronika Milewicz, Lucy Buccilli, and Cailsta Carlson all put in extreme effort and maintained the aggressive tempo, ensuring Tennessee's 1st win of the season. Calista Carlson shot a jumpshot in the 4th quarter to seal the deal. Overall a great showing from the tough Tennessee team.

Hannah Mack, Reana Mucka, and Ava Greene led the scoring effort for UCONN with six points each. Strong defensive efforts were turned in by Kelly Sanichara and Hallie Shea.



## **MINOR DIVISION:**

### Cardinals 24, Bulldogs 16:

The Cardinals opened the season with a victory over the Bulldogs, erasing an early 10-2 deficit with some strong defense and outside shooting in the second half. The Cardinals had a balanced attack with seven girls scoring, led by 8 points from Liliana Birrell. They also hit several outside shots including buckets by Coco Mozingo, Tiagan DiPippo, and Shannon Fitzsimmons and several excellent passes from Carly Rabonovich, Maeve Moylan, and Natalia Altimari. The Bulldogs had taken a 10-2 lead after the first quarter, and the game was tied at 12 at halftime before the Cardinals forged ahead.