



VS.



1/6/13 – Stags 32, Bantams 16:

In the season opener of the WHGBL Minor Division, the mighty Stags found themselves pitted against a very tough Bantam squad. Throughout most of the game the score remained very close. However, late in the fourth quarter the Stags lit up the score board and stepped up their defensive pressure to seal the win. The Stags offense was led by high scorers Jessica McNally, Chloe Scrimgemour, Jaqueine Bonee, Savannah Palitto, Carys Baker and Beatrice Sierra. The Stags win could not have been obtained without the assistance of the relentless defensive efforts of Mia Burns, Gabrielle Woidyl, Helena Burke, Sophie Garner MacKinnon, and Sophie Tulchinsky. The Stags would like to thank the Bantams for a fun and well-played game.



VS.



1/13/13 - Stags 24, Bobcats 18:

In the second week of the WHGBL, the mighty Stags found themselves short two key players and would lose yet another during the game. However, the Stags refused to be denied their second win as they battled a fierce and talented Bobcats team. Jackie Bonee, who due to illness left the game early, contributed to the team's win throughout the first half with some outstanding offensive play. Chloe Scrimgeour, Gabrielle Wojdyl, Helena Burke, and Mia Burns stepped up and filled in at point guard and wing to aid the Stags' victory. Savannah Paolitto's versatility was apparent as she excelled in several key positions. The boards were fiercely attacked and then guarded by Carys Baker, Sophie Garner MacKinnon, Elizabeth LaMarco, and Beatrice Sierra. Both teams fought tirelessly as the lead would switch back and forth throughout the entire game. Late in the fourth quarter, the Stags broke an 18 – 18 tie with 6 unanswered points and clinched their second win. The Stags were humbled by their victory and tip their hats to a great Bobcats team.



VS.



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

As the Stags marched into their third week of play, they would have to do so missing a few key players yet once again. Facing a well-drilled and finely coached Bluejay's team, the Stags knew they would have to step it up a notch. However, being no strangers to adversity, the Stags buckled down and demonstrated one of their best all-around performances so far. The Stags' wings Mia Burns, Gabrielle Wojdy, and Helena Burke assisted point guards Chloe Scrimgeour and Savannah Paolitto in gracefully moving the ball in and around the top of the key on offense. On defense, these five players also forced more turnovers than the statistician could keep track of. Additionally, a mirror effect was seen under the boards. Sophie Garner MacKinnon, Beatrice Sierra, Carys Baker, Jackie Bonee, and Elizabeth LaMarco stood tall and relentlessly defended their hoop while confusing the statistician with an overwhelming amount of turnovers as well. On offense these same forwards and centers forced the ball inside and pounded the boards for a great deal of the Stags points and many more rebounds. The Stags are grateful and honored to have played such a great Bluejays team.



VS.



1/27/13 – Stags 36, Cardinals 22:

On a bright and cold Sunday afternoon, the mighty Stags met with a most powerful and well-drilled Cardinals team. In this the fourth week of play in the WHGBL, the Stags would at last have their entire crew present and ready to play. In an effort to utilize the talents of all their players, the Stags game plan was to move the ball in and amongst all 5 players on the court, and that is just what they did. Point guards Jessica McNally, Chloe Scrimgemour, Savannah Paolitto, and wings Mia Burns, Helena Burke, and Gabrielle Woidyl lead a well-oiled offensive machine as the Stags picked, rolled, and passed until they found open shots. Deep in the paint and under the boards, Jackie Bonee, Carys Baker, Beatrice Sierra, Sophie Garner MacKinnon, Sophie Tulchinsky, and Elizabeth LaMarco provided those picks along with countless offensive rebounds. Though their offense ran smooth, alone it would not be enough to beat a very ferocious Cardinal club. In order to seal their victory, the Stags defense reared up and held fast as the Cardinal offense charged down the court and made the Stags work hard for their win. At the end of the game, both teams shook hands and nodded a smile of respect to each other, acknowledging the fine performance they all gave on the court that sunny afternoon.



VS.



2/3/13 – Stags 22, Bulldogs 12:

In a hard fought game, the Stags held strong and maneuvered their way past a tenacious Bulldogs team. In the first quarter, the Stags had a hard time adjusting to the intensity of the Bulldogs defense and fell behind 4 – 0. However, the mighty Stags persevered - finding inspiration in their centers Carys Baker and Elizabeth LaMarco, and their rebounding on both offense and defense. Gabrielle Woidyl and Beatrice Sierra were tireless in their game efforts, and motivated the team to help them pull to a third quarter lead. The lead could not have been obtained without the great ball handling skills of the Stags guards Mia Burns, Helena Burke, Chloe Scrimgemour, and Savannah Paolitto. Also critical to the winning effort were the Stags forwards Jackie Bonee, Sophie Garner MacKinnon, and Sophie Tulchinsky, whose defensive hard work to contain the Bulldogs offense contributed many second half Stag scores.



VS.



2/10/13 - Storm Nemo 100, Stags 0: Storm Nemo came and cancelled all games this week!



VS.



2/17/13 – Stags 30, Hawks 16:

Storm Nemo gave the Mighty Stags a week off which seem to break their stride a bit. Shortly after the opening tip off, the Stags fell behind 4-0 as a well-drilled Hawks cast swooped in and put the Stags up on their heels. As the Stags struggled to get back in their groove, the Hawks matched them move for move. If it weren't for the Stag's relentless defense, the Hawks could have flown away to a certain victory. Late in the second quarter, as the Stags defense worked overtime to cage a talented Hawks offense, the Stags offense began to click and soon the pink machine was running on cylinders. The Stags wings and point guard Mia Burns, Helena Burke, Chloe Scrimgeour, Gabrielle Woidyl, Savannah Paolitto, and Jessica McNally generously fed the Stags tall girls Sophie Garner MacKinnon, Jackie Bonee, Beatrice Sierra, Carys Baker, and Elizabeth LaMarco the ball as they picked and pivoted their way toward some hard fought baseline shots. With the Hawks hot on their heels, the Stags held fast to their game plan and slowly pulled away with the win. It was one of the most exciting games played this year and the Stags were humbled and honored to share the court with such a fine group of talented athletes as the Hawks.



VS.



2/24/13 – Stags 28, Camels 12:

As the Stags and Camels met at Conard High School today, the audience capacity overflowed to standing room only while friends, family, many of the WHGBL players and sports fans alike came to witness a plethora of basketball talent as these two teams took to the court on this Sunday afternoon. The Camels came to this game leading the league in offensive points. In six games the Camels averaged 32.8 points per game. However, the Stags showed up with the league's best defensive stats, only allowing their competition an average of 15.2 points in their last six games. These stats seem to tell the tale of the first quarter as both teams took the bench at the end of the first period tied 4-4. Late in the second period the Stags made a few adjustments and kept the ball off the hardwood and away from the Camel's quick hands. Instead of dribbling, the Stags executed some precision passing as they moved the ball inside the paint and hit several low post shots. Helena Burke had one of her best games of the year as she set screens for her point guards and play a superb help defense. Point guard Jessica McNally lit up the boards with some outside jaw-dropping jump shots. Jessica played equally well at defense by hustling down court and defending many of the Camels fast breaks. Sophie Garner-MacKinnon slid up from her post position and planted some well-timed screen for her guards at the top of the key. Sophie also was in the double digits with steals and rebounds. Mia Burns quick ball-handling skills and well-executed passes were an integral part of the Stags offense. Mia's defensive pressure aided the win as she forced many turnovers. After grabbing a few defensive steals herself and with the Camels in hot pursuit, Chloe Scrimgeour sprinted down court on several successful fast breaks. Early in the third period, Beatrice Sierra suffered an eye injury but refused to leave the court and went onto rip down several offensive and defensive rebounds while putting up some well-placed shots. While the Stags' other forwards were setting screens, Sophie Tulchinsky kept careful watch over the lower blocks and baseline. Sophie aided the Stags win with many rebounds and steals along with a picture perfect set shot. Savannah Paolitto had quite a few steals herself as she picked the pocket of a few of the Camels point guards and wings. Whenever a teammate was trapped it always seems that Savannah was there to save the day by providing an outlet to pass to. Whether on offense or defense, Carys Baker refused to let any missed shot land in the opposition hands. Her offensive rebounds would find their way back up to the hoop and her defensive rebounds would be fed to the waiting hands of her point guards and wings. When Carys was getting some much needed rest on the bench, the Stags other center Elizabeth LaMarco stepped in and met the bar that was set high by her teammate Carys. Elizabeth floated toward the boards and tore down more rebounds than she ever has before. She led several fast breaks and even found the time to pop in a few quick shots herself. All of the girls who participated in this game should be proud of the abilities they demonstrated today. One thing is for sure, the fans got their money's worth today as these two extremely talented teams put on one heck of a show.



VS.



3/3/13 – Stags 40, Bantams 35:

The last game of the WHGBL 2012-2013 season was certainly an exciting, nail-biting experience for all who witnessed it. The first half was not at all indicative of how this game would be described when it was over. Right from the opening tip-off until the two teams broke for halftime, the Stags seem to be in control of the game and ready to walk off with the win. The Stags guards pushed their offense and scored 8 unanswered points in the first quarter. Mia Burns, Gabrielle Wojdyl, and Chloe Scrimgeour led the Stags offense as point guards and the three of them relied heavily on their wings, Savannah Paolitto, Beatrice Sierra, Helena Burke as they moved the rock in and around the Bantams defense. Deep in the post positions, Sophie Garner-MacKinnon, Carys Baker, Jacqueline Bonee, Sophie Tulchinsky, and Elizabeth LaMarco stood strong and tall as they defended their hoops and fed many fast breaks. The Stags had a comfortable 12-point lead as the second half began. However, an extremely determined Bantam pack would not leave the court without leaving their mark on this game. As the crowd roared, the Bantams fought tirelessly and soon found themselves up by two points and in the zone with their eye on the win. A shocked Stags team took the court in the fourth period and went back to work. With the Bantams in hot pursuit the Stags had all they could handle to recapture and hold onto the lead. As the final buzzer sounded, the crowd jumped to their feet and cheered endlessly for these gifted athletes that played such an exciting game.

AND NOW, A NOTE FROM YOUR COACHES...

Dear Stags 2012-2013 West Hartford Girls Basketball Team,

We have had a wonderful and exciting basketball season. You worked hard, learned some new things about basketball and had a lot of fun along the way. We hope all of you will always remember and cherish this season. Please do not forget, an undefeated season does not come easy nor does it come often. What you accomplished this year is something that is rare and very special. Having accomplished this feat comes the realization that, from now on whenever things get tough or are not going well, you must remember how you obtain perfection. You never gave up and you never settled for second best. Never again can you or anyone else tell you that there is anything that you cannot do. Each of you contributed something to the success of our season. Without that special something that you brought to the game, our season would not have been the success it was. All of your coaches got together and highlighted that unique talent that each of you brought to this year's championship team. The following is their thoughts on each player:

Our returning players:

- Gabriella – Was very instrumental in some of tougher games. She has a very quick first step and positioned herself in way that allowed her to make many steals. Every team has a player we call a secret agent and Gabby fits that bill.
- Sophie G. – No other player grasped the concept of setting screens and picks more than Sophie. She hid under the low post and snuck up on unknowing guards and wings and allowed our ball handlers to drive the lane. She was no stranger to steals and rebounds.
- Mia – Was a member of an elite group of ball handlers. She often found the open player and passed with a great deal of accuracy. Her help defense was text book which made her a true team player. Doesn't want to be called the point guard but sure as heck can play like one when we needed her.
- Bea – When we talk about what it is to be versatile we are talking about Bea. No matter where we placed her, she stepped up and filled the shoes of guard, wing, forward and yes, even center on occasion. She has the heart and drive of a champion and we could count on her for a few baskets as well.
- Carys – More than a great center, Carys could catch any ball thrown to her. Not many teams can boast that their center can dribble the length of the court on a fast break. But besides all that we could always count on Cary's being under the boards ripping down rebounds and putting them back up for points or pushing them down court on offense.

Our Seniors:

- Helena – One of the most improved players on our squad. Helena went from a player who shied away from the ball to grabbing outside rebounds and being very aggressive on defense. When she was open in the paint you could guarantee she would make the shot.
- Jackie – Her best shot was on the right side of the baseline. Her shot was high arched and hit nothing but net. She played great defense and was always around to help out on offense. Great rebounder and hustled well when the pace of the game quickened.
- Sophie T. – Watch the baseline and low post like she owned it. Whenever our defense moved up we would always see Sophie T. in the paint waiting to pick up anyone who might have slipped by our guards. And that is what our help defense is all about. Sophie was also always good for a couple of baskets every game. Quiet off the court but did her talking under the boards. Definitely altered the other team's shots when she played inside.
- Savannah – Don't let the fashion style fool ya – she's as tough as anyone. A perfect complement to our guards and a defensive specialist used when there was a particular offensive threat on the other team at the wing. Whenever we need someone to slow down a hot player on the other team, Savannah was our girl. I felt bad for anyone that had to play against her. The greatest pick pocket to play the game.
- Chloe – Every offense needs a leader and that's what Chloe was. She is simply a great point guard. She can dribble right and left, drive, distribute, and loves to call

“Motion” with a twirl of her index finger. Always looking for to pass inside but can take it to the hoop too.

- Jessica – One the most fierce competitors I have seen on the court. Jess has a great deal of focus and often sets the tone on the court. Her dribbling flows into her shots and passes as though they were well rehearsed. She is an extremely talented athlete and some of her outside shots surprise the heck out of all of us.
- Elizabeth - Our other “big player” who moves so well with and without the ball. Can handle the ball like a guard and is always there for a rebound and a put back. Clutch player and also a team leader. So cool under pressure.

Congratulations on your success this year and we wish you all the best in years to come.

Love,

Coach Maura Rodgers, Coach Elizabeth Garner and Coach Michael LaMarco