

Tigers 9U Wrap Up The Season in Wildwood

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The end-of-season Scoop Taylor Tournament is always a great experience for the players and their families. Where else can you play 4 games and spend the rest of your time on the boardwalk or in the swimming pool?

The Wilmington Tigers 9U team finished off their season June 19-20 by playing in the Scoop Taylor Invitational in Wildwood, NJ. The weekend began with our Tigers playing the New Hope Lady Lions. Unfortunately, a few minutes into the game, it was apparent that there was a problem with the playing surface. Several of our Tiger players slipped and fell. The tournament director admitted that they had some problems with the HVAC system which contributed to moisture on the floor. After a couple attempts to resume play, Coach Sterling elected to cancel the game for safety reasons since the officials didn't seem to care. This author stuck around to watch games continue to be played on that court, watching player after player be carted off with injuries. It was hard to believe that the tournament director allowed these games to continue, but he did! Our Tigers resumed play in the afternoon on a different floor against the Atlantic Cape Wildcats. The Tigers started the game with only one guard and four forwards, so Coach Sterling was limited in what he could do on the court. At the half, the Tigers were down 14-12. The second half began with more Tiger troops and a suffocating full-court press defense. Six of the eight Tiger players scored,

paced by third grader Olivia Tucker's 13. The Wildcats were forced into ten turnovers and scored only four points in the second half as the Tigers won this one 36-18.



Corrie Sterling lines up a free throw.

Sunday play began against a very good NJ Freedom team. One could tell some Tigers spent a little too much time on the boardwalk the night before, but hey, they enjoyed themselves. With the Tigers playing short-handed with tired players against a good team, there were no surprises in this 33-16 loss. The Tigers were awake in time for their afternoon game against the Great Valley Cyclones. The Tigers and Cyclones traded baskets for much of the first half with the Tigers up at the half 16-10. The second half began with the Tigers pressing the Cyclones into a number of turnovers in the backcourt which led to several easy Tiger lay-ups. Alexis Oakley and Corrie Sterling dominated the offensive and defensive glass. Paced by Allie Olmstead's 14 points, the Tigers pulled away for an easy 39-12 victory. Allie's last bucket pushed her over the century mark (101) to join Olivia Tucker (128) as the second 9U Tiger player to score 100 points this season. This is quite an accomplishment considering these Tigers played many 10U teams throughout the year.

All Tigers scored this weekend: Allie Olmstead – 30, Olivia Tucker – 23, Alexis Oakley – 9, Corrie Sterling – 7, Natalie DePaulo – 4, Julie Kulesza – 4, Shelby Bailey-Smiley – 4, Courtney Brown – 2



Julie Kulesza gets a steal.



Allie Olmstead at the free throw line.



Alexis Oakley #31 and Olivia Tucker #55 "D" up.



Dynamic Duo Allie Olmstead and Olivia Tucker take a break poolside.

Submitted by Bob Tucker