

SPARKS IGNITE YOUR GAME TOURNAMENT APRIL 4/9-4/10

The 11th grade Lady Hawks competed in their first ever tournament this weekend at the Sparks Ignite Your Game Tournament hosted by the Sparks in West Chester, PA. In the opening game of the weekend, we played a grueling overtime game against a solid Lehigh Valley Outcasts team. Back and forth the entire game, the Hawks gutted it out and earned a 55-54 win. Lexie Stevens, from North East HS in Maryland, led a very balanced effort with 18 points and played all 37 minutes of the game, including overtime. Jocelyn Rodriguez from St. Elizabeth HS chipped in with 13 and Tori Pennington from Pencader Charter added 9. Mekayla McAdoo, from Concord HS, shut down Lehigh Valley's best guard and shooter, a huge key in winning the game. After a hard-fought overtime game, we had 30 minutes before our next game against the Lehigh Valley Outcasts "A" team. With 4 of their girls towering 6 foot tall or taller, we relied heavily on the defensive skills of our 6 footer, Natalie Bates, from Pencader Charter, to pester them on the block. Our post players did their best but were worn down from our prior game and were physically overmatched, losing 53-27.

After a late ending on Day 1 (around 8:30 PM), we were tested with an early 8:00 AM game on Day 2. With a tough Tri State Tarheels team as our opponent and with Mekayla unable to make our morning game, our offense struggled and we fell just short 33-24. Emily Hammer from North East HS had 7 and Lexie had 12, while Angela Harper from Appoquinimink HS, led the defensive effort by doing everything she could with her 5'7" frame to pester their best player who stood at 5'11". Destiny Mills, from Pencader Charter, did a great job waking everyone up and running the offense efficiently, which is especially difficult at that time of the morning. In the final game, we took on a very good NY Sizzlers team and jumped out to an early lead. Although we gave our all, we lost the game 42-30. Jocelyn took over in the final game by being aggressive, attacking the basket and pitching in with 9 points. Amy Welcher, from Kennett HS (PA), provided a spark defensively by diving after loose balls and other countless hustle plays.

For the weekend, we went 1-3 overall. With half of our team being 10th graders and this being our first tournament playing together, it was good for us to play against very good, older competition. Strides have definitely been made and will continue to be made as the season goes on and the girls become more familiar with one another. They will compete next weekend at the Mid-Atlantic Regionals in Willingboro, NJ.

Submitted by
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Coach
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Angela, Emily, and Tori, (left to right) show our “defense first” mentality with their hands up in the air and taking up space at all times.



Jocelyn looks to use her quickness to attack her defender and kick out. Not many of her opponents are able to keep up with her speed. Lexie sets herself in the corner for a 3 pointer.



Emily (left) looks to set a high ball screen for Tori from Pencader Charter. This is Tori's first year playing AAU but she looked like a natural in her first tournament.



Destiny, one of our 11th graders, looks to ball-fake and drive strong to the hoop. Even being our team's smallest player, she is never afraid to attack the rim.



A good snapshot of what we faced this weekend. Our 4 and 5 players, Emily and Ang respectively, set up for a jump ball against the Lehigh Valley Outcasts team. Although smaller in size, they had no fear!