



UPDATE

The Newspaper of the Westchester 2009 JCC Maccabi Games

THURSDAY

Shira Shows Up

By Jacob Koffler
One week before the Games, 14-year-old Shira Becker, a tennis player from Greater Washington, had an accident that led to a hairline fracture of her femur. One week later, she still is unable to walk. Now, you would think this would end her desire to come to the Games; to the contrary, she wanted to come more than ever.

Shira, whose twin sister also plays tennis, came from Washington to cheer her sibling and teammates on. Greater Washington Delegation Head Caroline Cardullo said Shira is “doing everything an athlete would except for playing the sport.” She added Shira was loving her first time in the Games. Now that’s team spirit!

Dancing With The Stars

By Becca Leibowitz

On Monday and Tuesday, the dancers competing in the JCC Maccabi Games demonstrated their athleticism with ballet, modern, lyrical, tap, jazz, Israeli, and hip-hop. The crowd ooh’ed and ahh’ed as the dancers leaped and twirled on the stage.

The costumes impressed the crowd almost as much as the dancing. Some dancers wore dramatic hats, some wore sparkly dresses, and some chose to stay casual in jeans. They performed solo, with one or two others, and/or in larger groups. Some of the most creative dances were choreographed by the dancers themselves.

Jamie Gildenberg and Allison Swimmer of Detroit both started dancing at age three! Jamie loves “meeting new people from different delegations,” and Allison enjoys “seeing the different styles of dance” that are brought to the dance floor. The medal Winners will be performing today at 12:00 – prepare to be amazed!



Jamie Gildenberg
and Allison Swimmer

Giving Back at DOCAS

By Jacob Koffler and Dorin Azerad

Throughout the week, athletes and coaches of the JCC Maccabi Games took part in DOCAS, the Day of Sharing and Caring. While one half of the athletes heard the stories of an Ethiopian Jew and professional tennis player, Julia Glushko, the other half went to a question-and-answer session with two officers from the Israeli Defense Forces. The athletes also took part in a stimulating Krav Maga workshop, an Israeli form of martial arts. The Israeli army uses Krav Maga in hand-to-hand combat during warfare. These activities allowed athletes to give back to the community and get informed about Israel.

The Hockey Blast

By Robin Klein

“The point is to have a clean competition and to have fun playing the greatest sport,” says Daniel Liebersohn, commissioner of hockey for the Games. Even if the team loses, team members say that they tried their hardest.

Andrew Montag, a 16 year old hockey player from the Westchester delegation, says, “The point of the game is to have fun; winning is just a bonus.” The teams play their hardest and have fun while doing it.

Why volunteer? “We take such pride in Westchester and we want to provide a wonderful experience for all 1,300 kids who are here this week.”

*- Dorothy Matza
Co-chair, food committee*