

## JONES FENCES WELL IN JUNIOR OLYMPICS

By Rick Estes

### Wicked Cool Fencing Club

Tristan Kai Jones, son of Joyce and Everett Jones, recently returned from competing in the Junior Olympics of Fencing in Arlington, Texas. Tristan competed in all three weapons: foil, epee, and sabre. While most fencers specialize in one or possibly two weapons, Tristan is the only youth in the country to have fenced all three weapons at the Junior Olympics for the past three years.

This year's competition started with the sabre event. Tristan ran up against tough competitors in the preliminary pools and did not make the cut. Oh well, tomorrow is another day.

In the foil event, Tristan's favorite, he fenced very well in the pools, losing only one bout. Because of this, he had a high seeding for the direct eliminations.

Tristan started slicing and dicing his opponents all the way to the final medal round, where he met his match and was defeated by the eventual silver medalist. Tristan finished in eighth place in a field of 253 fencers and brought home a National Junior Olympic medal for his efforts. He also earned his B rating, becoming one of the highest rated fencers in the Northeast.

The final day of fencing was the epee competition. Tristan again fenced very well in the pools, losing only one bout. With a high seeding, he again started



Rick Estes and Tristan Jones of Andover's Wicked Cool Fencing Club. Photo by Joyce Jones

for the top. He made it into the round of 32 competitors before going down to defeat. He came in 29th of 223 fencers and reearned his D rating.

Tristan's results at Junior Olympics were good enough to earn him National Points and prequalify him to fence both foil and epee at the Summer National Championships in Sacramento in July. He will have to qualify for sabre at a separate regional competition.

Among Tristan's goals is to get a fencing club and possible competition team going at Proctor Academy, where he attends school.

Tristan fences for the Wicked Cool Fencing Club of Andover. He is coached by Shawn Brooks, Tracy Nabstedt, and Rick Estes, owner/head of the Wicked Cool Fencing Club.

## Exciting Finish For Andover Rec Committee Basketball Season

By Tom Frantz

### Andover Recreation Committee

The gyms may be quiet now, except for the sound of baseballs popping into leather mitts, but there was plenty of noise and excitement just a few weeks ago as the second season of basketball – the tournaments – added more fun for players, coaches, and fans of Andover Recreational Committee basketball.

### Regular Season Records

The five teams finished the regular season on February 19. The third and fourth grade girls, known as the A-1 team, finished with a 5-2 regular season record. The third and fourth grade boys, the A-2 team, finished the regular season at 4-2.

The only regular season loss for the fifth and sixth grade girls, the A-3 team, was a two-point loss in the final game to Sunapee's S-4 team at Sunapee. A-3 finished with a record of 5 wins and 1 loss.

The two fifth and sixth grade boys' teams, A-4 and A-5, finished the regular season with 0-6 and 4-2 records, respectively.

### 5th & 6th Grade Boys' Tournament

The fifth and sixth grade boys opened their tournament on Thursday evening, March 3, at Sunapee. The first round game of the double elimination tournament pitted Andover against Andover. Andover A-4 played well, but A-5 pulled away in the second half to win 36-15.

On Saturday morning, A-4 played its best game of the season against a team from Sunapee and pulled out an exciting, two-point victory – its first win of the year. In A-4's second game on Saturday, it played hard but lost to a strong Kearsarge team and was eliminated from the tournament.

The Andover A-5 team also played on Saturday morning. Its second game of the tournament was against K-6, a team it had beaten by one point during the regular season. The result was different this time as K-6 won easily.

A-5 needed a win in the afternoon game against S-6 to stay alive in the double-elimination tournament. They played well in the first half, but were behind at the break. In the second half, A-5 came back to take a small lead with a few minutes remaining. The final minutes were exciting as Andover attempted to match shots with Sunapee, but ended up losing by five points.

### 5th & 6th Grade Girls' Tournament

The fifth and sixth grade girls' tournament mirrored the regular season as the girls marched through the tournament beating teams from Kearsarge and a Sunapee team, S-5, until it met

S-4, the Sunapee that had beaten it in the final regular season game. S-4 prevailed again, this time by four points.

Andover girls then played in the semi-finals, needing a win to meet S-4 again, this time in the championship round. Andover won its semi-final game and played S-4 again. This time it was for the championship.

The result, unfortunately, was the same. In another close, hard-played game, S-4 came from behind and with a five-point victory ended the Andover fifth and sixth grade girls' attempt at three straight first-place tournament finishes.

### 3rd & 4th Grade Boys' Tournament

The third and fourth grade boys' A-2 team played well throughout the season, especially on defense, and that play carried over into the tournament where they won their first two games. Their second victory was a thriller as a stolen pass and drive to the basket and lay-up just beat the buzzer and gave Andover the win.

In the third game A-2 lost, but then went on to win its next game to stay alive in the tournament. One more victory in the semi-finals would have meant a berth in the championship, but Andover came up short by one basket, and its exciting season came to an end.

### 3rd & 4th Grade Girls' Tournament

AE/MS hosted the third and fourth grade girls' tournament, which had one team from Sunapee, two from Kearsarge, and one from Andover. The preliminary games were held on Sunday, March 11 and, due to the snowstorm, finished on Tuesday, March 13.

Andover's A-1 team opened the tournament with an 18-12 win over a team from Sunapee. The score was 6-6 at halftime, but a good second half effort put the game away for Andover.

The next game, against K-2, was much closer. It was tied 4-4 at halftime, and Andover was down by one at the end of the third quarter but came from behind to win by two, 17-15, in a thrilling game. The win put Andover in the championship round, where they met K-2 again.

The rematch was similar to the previous game, as Andover fell behind early and then made a strong second-half comeback to pull out a well-played, one-point victory, 17-16, and the championship!

It was a great season of basketball. Many thanks go to the people who helped to make it successful: the coaches, the referees, the scorekeepers and bookkeepers, and the people who ran the concession stand.



  
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