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The JCC of Central New Jersey Places in the Junior Maccabi Games

The JCC Maccabi Games celebrate sportsmanship, athletic competition and community service in the largest gathering of Jewish teens in North America.

The Junior Maccabi Games provide pre-teens with a similar, smaller scale opportunity, and on Sunday, May 17, the Jewish Community Center in Scotch Plains participated in the 2009 Junior Maccabi Games which were sponsored by and held in the Jewish Community Center of Greater Harrisburg, PA. Competing were Jewish athletes ages 10-12 from 12 delegations in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland.

Six swimmers from the JCC's Barracuda's swim team participated in 17 races and brought home 12 medals. Ben Meltzer took first place in the 50 yard breast stroke, Zachary Campbell won the 100 yard free style, 50 yard fly and 100 yard individual medley. Alison Zimmerman and Mariel Sass both took second in the 100 yard individual medley in their respective age groups and the Medley Relay team, Mariel Sass, Alison Zimmerman, Zachary Campbell and Ben Meltzer, also took second place. Jenna Maizes, Mariel Sass and Alison Zimmerman also all walked away with third place titles.

The Scotch Plains JCC also competed in basketball at the Junior Maccabi Games. Members of the team included: Matthew Schkolnick, Ross Baron, Cobi Silverstein, Adam Hartstein, Derek Offitzer, Sam Salberg, Danny Mitchell, James Goldberger, Matty White, Joshua Widman, Eli Wirtshafter, and Coach Gary Schaefer.

After some hard-fought games, the basketball team finished with a 1-3 record, and in over 90% of their races, the swimmers swam their best times. But most importantly, the athletes all proudly represented their JCC with excellent sportsmanship, made new friends and had a fabulous time.

For additional information about the Maccabi Games, contact Gary Schaefer at 908-889-8800 ext. 281 or gschaefer@jccnj.org.

The JCC of Central New Jersey is located at 1391 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains. The JCC of Central New Jersey is a constituent agency of the United Way and the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey. Financial assistance is available for membership and various programs.

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