



GEM STONES

The Official New Jersey Gems Newsletter

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A COPY

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"CATCH THE FEVER"

WELCOME ABOARD!

The New Jersey Gems would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to their newest venture-Gem Stones. Gem Stones is a publication that we hope will bring you great satisfaction. It will be published weekly during the season and monthly throughout the off-season. Regular feature articles will include: a profile on a member of the Gems' family, information on the Gems' latest on the court exploits, statistics, team and league news, a Gems' puzzle, and much more. A column entitled "Speak Out" will provide you with an opportunity to write to us voicing your opinions or asking your questions. Add to this occasional guest writers and we feel that we have the foundation for the most informative collection of news in the entire WBL. So, here it is! We hope that you will support it as much as you have supported your New Jersey Gems.

JERSEY JOTTINGS

The Gems have announced that Saturday evening, March 15th, will be Fan Appreciation Night at the Dunn Sports Center. All persons attending the game will receive a special gift, courtesy of the Gems for their loyal support of the team.

Debbie Comerie suffered a compound fracture of her wrist in the game against the Chicago Hustle on Feb. 9th. She will be lost to the club for the remainder of the season.

Congratulations to Montclair State College Women's Basketball Coach Maureen Wendelken on achieving her one-hundredth career coaching victory.

Be sure to watch Annie Meyers on one of the upcoming Women's Superstars Competitions on ABC-TV.

Another notable aspect of the season thus far have been the appearance of celebrities at Gems' home games. Those attending games so far have been Don Drysdale, Bob Uecker, and Rick Cerone of baseball fame and Althea Gibson, the former tennis superstar. Add to that some members of various WBL teams and it adds a lot of color to the hottest team in town, your New Jersey Gems.

As of Feb. 10th, the following Gems players are among the league leaders in the WBL: Ann Meyers-fifth in scoring (23.1), ninth in rebounding (9.9), sixth in assists (5.4), and first in steals (4.7)-Donna Geils-tenth in scoring (19.1), tenth in Free Throw % (.761), and fifth in steals (3.1)-Debbie Comerie-tenth in Field Goal % (.505), and seventh in rebounding (10.3).

PROFILE ON DONNA GEILS

Donna Geils grew up in Nassau County, Long Island and attended Ellmont High School where she played basketball for two years and graduated early at the age of sixteen. She went on to play two seasons with the AAU New York Chuckles and then went on to Queens College where she played four years as a starter. During her career at Queens, Donna was co-captain, Most Valuable Player, Best All Around Player, Best Defensive Player, Scholar Athlete, and was selected to the Eastern Regional Kodak All American Basketball Team in 1978. She finished her career as the third leading scorer in the college's history.

Her husband, Kenny, is a ninth and tenth grade Social Studies teacher and in charge of the district curriculum in the Sewanhaka District. He loves to play tennis and does a lot of running. According to Donna, he has been a tremendous inspiration to her during her entire career. This is something she is most appreciative of. Ken is always at the Gems' home games and is one of their most loyal fans.

Donna claims, "Life on the road is great fun, but tedious, and very tiring. It really takes a big toll on your energy level." Being the only married woman on the team, Donna says that it has been a big adjustment being on the road, since it keeps her away from her husband and family for extended periods of time.

As for the season so far, Donna says that "It has been a great growing experience for us as a team, and we are continuing to improve. We now enter every game confident, believing in our abilities. We really feel we're a definite contender for the playoffs.

With an average of over nineteen points per game, one would think that the role of Donna Geils on the Gems would be that of a scorer. This is not entirely true. When I'm on the floor, I always try to do what the team needs. If it needs someone to play a little tougher defense, then I'll do that. If it needs more scoring, then I'll try to do that. I've always thought of myself as a team oriented player, but I never could say that before because I've never had the confidence. I was brought on to the team as a shooting guard. I think I have a lot of strengths, but shooting is my greatest one."

NEXT WEEK--Donna's views on the team, management and her future.

Gems Plan To Open Summer Camp

The New Jersey Gems are proud to announce the opening of their first All Star summer basketball camp for girls between the ages of 11-18. All Star Donna Geils is the camp's director and is very enthused about the whole idea. When asked about the camp, Donna said, "We are really looking forward to camp this summer, for we know that the New Jersey Gems camp is going to be a quality experience for many young basketball players. They'll be taught by some of the finest pro players and clinicians in the area, and will certainly leave not only as better basketball players, but they'll have had a great time".

Although the sites and dates have not yet been determined, the Gems and Donna are sure that the girls will have the best facilities possible at the most reasonable rates.

More information about the camp will appear in future issues of Gem Stones. You can also contact the Gems' office at 635-1003 for more information. Ask for Ed or Ernie.

Gems To Appear in Elizabeth

The New Jersey Gems are proud to announce that in honor of Washington's Birthday, Monday, Feb. 18, the team and staff will be making a host of public appearances in Elizabeth's shopping district. The agenda for the day includes appearances at:

Hudson Furniture from 9:30-10:15, Solomons Sport Shop from 10:15-10:30, Carstans from 10:30-12:00. In the afternoon the Gems will appear at the Foodtown parking lot between 1:00-2:00, for an exhibition of basketball skills. The next appearance will be at the Tony Dennis Jeans Store from 2:00-2:30, and at Vogel's Records from 2:30-3:00. The last stop will be at Manning's Army-Navy from 3:00-4:00.

Why not come out and meet the Gems close up and personal Monday, Feb. 18. Take some pictures, get some autographs, and have a great day!

GEMS JUMBLE

Unscramble the following five words and use the circled letters to form a phrase associated with the New Jersey Gems. All of the words in the puzzle are related to the Gems and the WBL.

- 1) C C L N T H I E A O _ _ _ _ _ _
- 2) N L V O I T A O I _ _ O _ _ _ O O _
- 3) H L B E A E I Z T _ _ _ _ _ _ _ O
- 4) I S E N P O E R O _ _ _ _ _ _
- 5) U R J P M E _ O _ O _ _

Clue to the final answer: WBL Motto

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (Answers to appear next week)

GEMS IN THICK OF PLAYOFF RACE

With eleven games remaining, the New Jersey Gems are in a fight to the finish for a playoff spot in the Eastern Division of the WBL. The Gems have recently exploded into the playoff picture by winning seven of their last eight home games. Recent wins over Iowa, New York, Dallas and Chicago have vaulted the Gems into contention. Here is the way the remainder of the season shapes up:

PLAYOFF COUNTDOWN

Eastern Division

N.Y. Stars	20	2	.769	--
New Orleans	16	10	.600	4
St. Louis	14	10	.583	5
N.J. Gems	13	12	.520	6½

Gems remaining games

Home - Dunns Sports Center

Iowa	2/24
St. Louis	3/ 1
Dallas	3/ 2
New York	3/15

Away

New York	2/15
New York	2/23
Houston	2/26
St. Louis	2/28
New York	3/13
Minnesota	3/14

GEMS STATS AS OF FEB 9th.

NAME	G	FGM	FCA	FTM	FTA	Tot. REB	AST	ST	AVG.
Meyers	22	182	477	145	191	218	108	104	23.1
Geils	23	175	418	89	117	110	101	72	19.1
Szeremeta	24	134	335	99	131	159	68	42	15.3
Harris	3	27	46	6	9	28	2	2	20.0
Comerie	24	111	220	81	130	248	44	31	12.6
Browning	23	60	195	68	99	159	38	31	8.2
Burdick	24	64	165	47	61	110	28	22	7.6
Simms	18	38	73	27	41	71	8	7	5.7
Hastings	16	13	32	6	13	15	4	5	2.0
Arturi	8	8	14	4	6	12	2	3	2.5
Greer	4	0	3	1	3	0	1	2	0.25

?? ASK THE COACH ??

Question: What is the rule concerning timeouts in the WBL?

Answer: Each team is entitled to 7 timeouts per game, but no more than 4 in one half. Two timeouts are permitted in each overtime period.