

Basketball Wales Under 12 Boy's Report 2018/19

After a successful trial back in September, the squad comprised of 23 boys. This squad stayed with us for the entire year which was great as we could clearly see an improvement from players as the year went on.

Unlike last year where we split the squad into a national and development squad, this year we were asked to have 2 mixed squads so that both teams could evenly compete in the same tournaments. Our training sessions continued to focus on the fundamentals of basketball however we also spent a lot of time looking at transition which challenged players to make decisions at game-like speed and put the ball in the basket. Tom and I put a lot of emphasis on this and it showed in our games as we were able to beat teams down the floor using the principles we had worked on.

Throughout the year we attended a number of tournaments, the first was a visit to Gloucester where both teams finished undefeated. This visit has always been a staple for me as it is always wonderfully run and all players enjoy the experience. Our second visit was to Plymouth, this was a much tougher test for us and we only came away with 1 win. That said the teams we faced were a year older and all the games were very close. It was a great experience for the boys and they all rose to the challenge and did a great job representing Wales. Finally, we finished the year off with the annual trip to Surrey, we unfortunately did not do as well as we would have liked finishing 5th and 6th with no wins. Despite the long journey, all that took part had a good time. What was great to see was all the areas Tom and I had worked on throughout the year such as correct footwork, passing and transition had clearly improved from the start of the year.

After taking time to review the season gone, I feel it has been an OK year. I had a fantastic team manager in Jani Longhurst and for the second year now, Tom Hole a greatly reliable Assistant Coach. The group of players we've had this year have been wonderful, they've come to each session ready to listen and a desire to learn more which has been refreshing to see. However, with us having mixed squads, we were not able to visit Belfast like we did last year as the teams simply would not have been able to compete.

Overall my objective was simply, to make sure the training sessions were fun, educational, and for players to have a positive experience within the Welsh squads. It was clear to see from the sessions and the tournament that all players enjoyed competing in the Welsh jersey and had enjoyed the overall experience.

Rod Godber
U12 Boys Head Coach