

## BMM Girls Basketball report

The tournament started disappointingly for the girls as, after an all too brief warm-up, we played our first game against the team from the large school in Schiers. Despite having the majority of possession and creating some golden shooting chances, the ball seemed destined to roll around the rim rather than dropping through the hoop. We went on to lose the game 24-14 and we all agreed afterwards that psychologically we were “still on the train!”

Thankfully we had a 30 minute break before our next game to warm-up properly and review tactics. Senior player Andrea Semmelmann and centre Franziska Kuenberg agreed with the coach that we were too weak under the basket so we switched to a 4-woman zone defence with 1 player pressuring the ball. Our next game was against the hot favourites and frequent previous BMM winners Chur. We all knew that, having lost our first game, this was make-or-break time! The change of tactics worked perfectly with first Helene and then Benita forcing the Chur ball carriers into mistake after mistake, sometimes even in their own half! And this time the ball was kind and dropped into the basket more often than rimming-out. The result was a resounding and confidence boosting 24-8 victory.

The two hour lunch break allowed the girls to refresh and regain their composure ready for the afternoon session of games. The next opponents were local rivals the Academia from Samedan. The girls were full of confidence having already played and beaten the Academia team in a friendly match two weeks earlier. However, with just 2 games left before the play-offs, there was no room for complacency – we had a job to do! The girls put in a professional performance and got the job done, winning 29-12. Georgia starred with some impressive defensive and offensive rebounds and Valerie mesmerised the opposition with some skilful dribbling.

Now the pressure was really on, we had to win our last game against Surselvia to be sure of reaching the play-off final. The girls made a great start racing to an 8 point lead, thanks to some great stealing from Anina and accurate shooting from the ever competitive Saskia. The girls were now starting to play like a real team and were anticipating each-other’s moves. The result was never in doubt and we won the game 22-2.

It was no surprise that in the final we were to meet Schiers again – they were unbeaten and had beaten us in the first round. However, after winning our last three games in a row, we knew we were a team with momentum and we were sure we had improved since that first game. So we started the final confidently and thanks to the huge support from our athletics team on the balcony and Dr. Schmitt’s boys’ basketball team court-side, we quickly established a 6 point cushion. By the second half we had stretched our lead to 8 and could relax by playing keep-ball for the last few minutes. We won the final 16-8 to huge cheers and group hugs all-round. A thoroughly deserved victory and a perfect end to my first BMM tournament!

Mr. Jones, Coach