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Charlotte Athletes Return Victorious From the 14th Maccabiah Games

Experience of a Lifetime

By Gene Kavadlo

From the Charlotte departure on June 25 to the arrival back home on July 16, the 14th Maccabiah Games in Israel were the experience of a lifetime for Ilana Kavadlo and for us, her parents. It was our first trip to Israel, and it was rewarding both as Jews and as participants in the Maccabiah Games.

Ilana began her adventure at a pre-camp session, during which the athletes had an opportunity to tour some of Israel, and, of course, train for their competitions. She and the rest of her swim team were housed in the Goldar Hotel in Netanya, a seaside resort town just north of Tel Aviv. They had opportunities to visit Jerusalem, Masada, the Dead Sea, Caesara and several other places of interest. The organizers of the games wanted the athletes to appreciate the culture of Israel as well as compete in the sports.

Opening ceremonies on July 5 at Ramat Gan Stadium in Tel Aviv were nothing short of spectacular. The fireworks display was the most dramatic we had ever seen, more than making up for missing our own July 4 fireworks at home. The stadium security was very tight, as it was wherever we went in Israel. Soldiers carrying automatic weapons were in plain view everywhere.

At age 14, Ilana was the youngest member of the open swim team. Despite her youth, she fared very well, bringing home three medals: two silver medals in the 50 meter and 100 meter free style events, with the respective time of 27.93 and 1:00.54. She also swam on the 4 by 100 free relay team, which won the gold medal and set a new Maccabiah record. Additionally, she had an opportunity to form lasting friendships with Jewish athletes from all over the world.

Closing ceremonies took place on July 15 at Sultan's Pool in Jerusalem, adjacent to the old city of Jerusalem. Mixed emotions were the order of the evening, as athletes made their farewells and prepared for the trip home. Teddy Kolleck and Yitzchak Rabin made speeches to the athletes, stirring music accompanied singers and dancers, and, once again, dramatic fireworks filled the nighttime sky. The 14th Maccabiah games were officially over, but the memories remain. Ilana is now looking forward to the 15th Maccabiah in four years.

Ilana's competitive swim career began on the 'J' swim team. Hard work and dedication enabled her to compete in the Maccabiah games in Israel—an



Ilana Kavadlo



Reid Lerner

opportunity that is open to all Jewish athletes who dedicate themselves to their sport. Other Charlotte athletes who won medals in the games were golfer Arthur Lavitt, and tennis players Reid Lerner and Stacey Schefflin.

Maccabiah alumnus Stacey Schefflin brought home two medals—a gold and a bronze—to add to the two bronze she earned at the last Maccabiah Games in 1989. Schefflin and her partner Heidi Djanogly outplayed a pair from Israel for the top honors and together with Michael Zimmerman took the bronze in mixed doubles.

Arthur Lavitt won a gold medal as a member of the victorious U.S. men's golf team.

Reid Lerner, 16, a rising junior at Charlotte Latin, won the consolation round in the Junior tennis competition.

Many thanks to Harry Swimmer, who is very active in the U.S. Committee/Sports for Israel, and personally sponsored Ilana's participation.

A Participant's View

By Reid Lerner

I feel very fortunate to have been chosen as one of six junior tennis players from the United States to participate in the 14th Maccabiah Games. The Games began on July 5 with an extravagant opening that left all of us participants awestruck. After a roaring salute by some low flying Kafir jet fighters from the Israeli Air Force, the U.S. athletes marched into the stadium to what seemed like a standing ovation from the nearly 45,000 people. The President of Israel had some brief remarks, but it was the performers on the field, who entertained us for over an hour with singing and dancing, who gained our attention. To officially open the games, the torch was lit by Israel's first Olympic Medalist, and that was followed by an unparalleled display of fireworks.

All of the tennis matches were at the Ramat Hasharon Israeli Tennis Center. I lost only one of my seven singles matches, which put me in the consolation draw that I ultimately won. My mixed doubles partner, Jamie Tannenbaum, and I won three out of four matches to finish third among the juniors.

While winning was uppermost in my mind, it was important to me to try to meet as many athletes from other countries as I could. Since all of the junior members at the Maccabiah were housed at Wingate Institute and College for Athletics and Sports, it was easy for the teams from the many participating countries to socialize and get to know one another.

I was lucky to have had an older sister tell me about her unforgettable experiences at the 13th Maccabiah, so I knew that I was going to make a real effort to be there for the 14th. Hopefully, I can once again earn a spot on the 15th Maccabiah team. I would encourage anyone who has an interest in competing against some of the finest Jewish athletes to try out for the next Maccabiah.

"CJN" Honored by CJF in Public Relations Competition

The Charlotte Jewish News was recognized in the 1993 Council of Jewish Federations Public Relations Awards competition with a bronze award in the category of "best newspaper with ads." Presentation will be at the 62nd General Assembly of the CJF, Nov. 16-21 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. All award-winning materials will be on display at the Assembly.

Congratulations go to all the other winners in this category: Clifton-Passaic, NJ, North Jersey, Ottawa which won the gold; Chicago, Richmond, Seattle, silver; Austin, Nashville & Middle Tennessee, Palm Springs, Stamford, Tidewater (Va),

bronze; Kansas City, Las Vegas, Louisville, Madison, Reading, Sacramento, Sarasota-Manatee, honorable mention.

Judging is done by a panel of experts in the field of journalism and only one edition of the paper printed in the past year may be submitted. The winning entry was the March 1993 edition. This is the 10th CJF Award that the paper has received in 14 years.

The CJN was critiqued as having the following "strengths: Good photos and layout. Type is clean with solid ink cover. Paper is very interesting, inviting. Strong local interest to wide variety of ages, interests.

Prager is Scholar-in-Residence For "Book & Author" Weekend

By Stacy Miller Gorelick

The Gorelick Family Foundations, the Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, and the Speizman Jewish Library are pleased to announce a Scholar-in-Residence Weekend with Dennis Prager. Mark your calendars for Nov. 5-7 when Mr. Prager will be addressing several groups in the Jewish community and will be guest speaker at the annual Book & Author evening.

Mr. Prager is a writer, lecturer and talk radio host in Los Angeles. He has been called "probably the most perceptive Jewish thinker in America today" by the *Boston Herald*. While frequently choosing such topics as religion, international relations and morality to discuss on his show, his range of specialties also include music, human relations, child rearing and sex differences. In addition to writing and publishing a quarterly journal "Ultimate Issues," he has written two books with friend and colleague Rabbi Joseph Telushkin: *The Nine Questions People Ask about Judaism* and *Why the Jews? The Reasons for Antisemitism*. He is completing a third book, *Happiness is a Serious Problem*.

B'nai B'rith has called him "the most eloquent speaker of this generation." In addition to delivering a logical and easily followed case for his ideas, his lecture style is genuinely entertaining. He has lectured widely throughout the U.S., Canada, Israel, England, Australia and Korea. In 1990, he gave a series of lectures in Russian in Moscow. To quote the *Los Angeles Times*, he lectures "to get people obsessed with what's right and wrong."

Mr. Prager will offer a full weekend of programs covering a wide range of topics. On Friday evening, Nov. 5, he will speak at Temple Israel. His topic



Dennis Prager

will be "Goodness and God's Existence." He will speak again at Temple Israel on Saturday

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Kronovet Joins Federation Staff



Kronovet

Daniel Lepow, executive director of the Federation, is happy to announce the addition of Alan Kronovet to his staff. Alan

has accepted the position of Interim Campaign Associate for the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. A long time campaign volunteer, Alan has agreed to help in a professional capacity, lending his in-depth knowledge of the community and years of campaign experience. For the next year, Alan's responsibilities will be to plan, coordinate and implement the '94 Federation Annual Campaign.

The 1993 Campaign ended at a record high topping \$1.4 million. With the Major Gift Division leading the way, the campaign moved forward. However, there is still much potential that Alan hopes to reach.

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