

## Lady Tigers

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four times.

Up to the 43.3-second mark, Rodriguez was four of eight from the line, but the Lady Lions missed every shot attempt. Durham continued to jack three-point shots, making two. Her last three cut the Lower lead to 47-41. Staley was fouled and sank her shots, making it 49-41 with just 23 seconds left. Sacred Heart then missed two scoring opportunities before putting Miller on the line.

Douglas put all his seniors in the game for the final seconds and Miller hit the second of two free throws to make it 50-41. Durham, perhaps going for a three, hit a long two, giving her 14 of her team's 15 fourth quarter points. Miller got to the line once more and again missed the first, but sank the second free throw to make it 51-43 before the final buzzer.

With Miller's basket the Lady Tigers had outscored Sacred Heart 23-15 in the final quarter.

Miller, a senior, said after the game she didn't know who was doing the scoring on her team, it just seemed like a team effort.

"We just have a lot of chemistry right now," she said. "We wanted this game so bad it didn't feel like one person was doing it. Everyone just played their best game."

Matthews played her freshman year at Sacred Heart and played with the team for the summer before sophomore year, when she transferred to Lower Cape May Regional. She said she knows all the seniors and a number of the underclassmen from basketball camp. Asked how it was to play against and beat her former team, Matthews said it was "really competitive" on the court.

"There was a lot of stuff going on - a lot of pushing, shoving - it was really



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave  
Lindsay Bryan shoots against Sacred Heart in Lower's 51-43 win.

intense," she said.

At the same time, she said, it wasn't nasty.

"Ashley (Durham) hit me in the face with her elbow and she turned and said, 'Oh, my God, are you OK?'" Matthews said.

Matthews said it was fun beating Sacred Heart, as it was with the other two wins over talented teams. She said the wins just get the level of excitement up and they push themselves that much more. Matthews said the excitement level was already high being senior night

and playing their final home game.

"Not our final game, but our final home game," Matthews said.

Matthew said Douglass is not really excited about the state tournament.

Perhaps that's because early in the season there was a question of whether this team could play together and whether they had the heart to win. As far as Douglass is concerned, that issue has been settled.

"These girls have a lot of heart. Sometimes the heart takes over," he said.

He said in the beginning of the season things got confusing and the team was taking bad shots. However, he said in the second half of the season the girls started getting aggressive under the basket rather than stay outside and throw up three-pointers. He said early on the team was averaging seven three-point attempts per game. Now it's about three.

"Our team is still not an all around good shooting team, but when they're hot, they're hot," he said.

He said he still doesn't have an offensive standout, but someone always steps up each game and takes the scoring lead. Against Sacred Heart, Bryan started the scoring and led the team with 12. Rodriguez did not have a field goal, but was five for 10 from the line. Two other Lady Tigers, Purcell and Matthews, each had seven points, and Miller and Staley had nine points apiece, making the scoring a real team effort.

Miller said beating a CAL championship contender, and beating it as a team, brings the Lady Tigers that much closer to the Group III championship game, and with a lot more confidence.

"We know that much more we can beat them," Miller said.

Sacred Heart ..... 14 4 10 15 - 43  
Lower Cape May... 9 8 11 23 - 51

## Lower Cape May girls can't get their offense going against Deptford

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

DEPTFORD - The Lower Cape May varsity girls basketball team was eliminated from the state tournament with a first round, 45-32 loss to Deptford.

Thirteenth seed Lower Cape May took a 2-0 lead over the No. 4 seed Lady Spartans, which was erased by a Samantha Morris three-pointer, and the Lady Tigers never led again. Deptford went on an 11-0 run before the Lady Tigers scored again to cut the lead to 11-4. Deptford went up by as much as 11 in the second period and led by eight at the half.

Lower Cape May threatened in the third quarter starting with an Alex Matthews pass to running Elisa Miller, who handled the ball and put up a lay-up to make it 21-15. Miller then fouled Deptford's Morris who sunk her three-point attempt and picked up a free throw.

Janzell Rodriguez, Marissa Staley and Marissa McCorkel each scored two

points and Matthews added four including a basket with 20 seconds left in the third quarter to cut the Deptford lead to 27-25.

The fourth quarter was all about the foul line as the Lady Spartans shot 11 for 16. Rodriguez fouled out at 3:21 in the fourth quarter, called for charging. A stationary McCorkel was called for a foul when Morris backed up and tripped over McCorkel's foot. The Lady Tigers were then forced to foul to stop the clock as the Lady Spartans extended their lead.

Senior Lindsay Bryan led the Lady Tiger scoring with 10 points, and Matthews had nine. Rodriguez and Staley finished the game with four points each and McCorkel had two. The Lady Tigers finished the 2008-09 season 15-11, and made the state tournament in head coach Scott Douglass' first year at the helm.

The No. 9 seed Caper Tigers boys varsity played in round one of the tournament against No. 8 Central Regional on Wednesday, too late for this edition.

## Birders and binoculars

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would be \$1,895.

Sale Price: \$1,300. There's 10 in stock. First come, first served.

And there will be lots of good, quality instruments in the \$100-200 range (and even birder worthy instruments with prices around \$50!)

Just right for a beginning birder, on a budget, who wants to cut cost, not performance.

But (you're thinking) I already have binoculars. They work okay. What I really want is a spotting scope. Something that will confer super-natural intimacy with distant hawks and shorebirds. Something

that will put the WOW in the cardinal at my feeder and make it possible to see things that have, until now, been beyond the grasp of mere mortals.

Honey bees pollinating flowers viewed with 2.5 inch intimacy. Looks at butterflies that are microscopic.

Yes. There will be spotting scopes at the sale, too. Straight, angled, and High Density glass models at prices several hundred dollars below CMBO's regular member price.

The lowest price the manufacturers allow dealers to advertise their product - some selling at the sale for less than \$500; even \$300!

That's less than the price of many

to most entry level birding binoculars.

Prices like this are going to make it tougher, not easier, to make your choice. So here are a couple of tips. Problem framing questions that will help you choose.

Are you having problems with your binoculars? Problems with their performance? Problems with their mechanical function? Problems finding and seeing birds?

If the answer is no, and you are happy with your binoculars, think about the spotting scope.

If the answer is yes, then consider buying up. The primary tool of birding is the binocular. Once you get the glass that works in concert with

you, then think about a scope.

Another Question. What kind of birding do you do most? If you spend a lot of time in woodlands, then binoculars are fine. If you spend a lot of time watching birds at great distances, or feed birds in your back yard and just want to get in-you-face views, this is the arena where spotting scopes excel.

If you are going to do lots of traveling, then binoculars are more portable.

If you want to take digital pictures of birds then a spotting scope is what you are after.

If you still can't make up your mind, it's possible you won't have to. The prices at the sale are so good

you might even be able to buy the binocular you want and the scope you covet.

YOU MUST BE A CMBO OR NJAS MEMBER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SALE PRICES. You can join the day of the sale or come in, test optical makes and models before the sale, and join now.

The sale is at the Center for Research and Education, 600 Rt. 47 North (1.7 miles north of Goshen). Doors open at 9:00 (and lines form by 8:00). Dates are Saturday and Sunday, March 14 and 15.

Of course you can come in and buy high quality binoculars and spotting scopes any time. But that defeats the purpose of a sale.

## Drum

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locals who could not make it out to fish until their daily work was done. Hence, they fished late afternoon until dark. Over time, the hours expanded and drum fishing soon projected itself into the night hours.

Old timers knew fish spoiled rapidly in the warm air once out of the water. This "trick" was offered by the old timers who had little in the way of modern conveniences on their row boats. They would cut the throat latch on the drum they caught to bleed the fish. Then the fish would be hung overboard on a rope through the gills and out the mouth to keep it cool.

Another way to keep fish from spoiling in the early days was to gut the catch and stuff the body cavity with ice.

Noise was another no-no when you fished with the old timers. They rowed out to the inshore edge of the inshore slough with padded oarlocks to cut down noise. Few, if any, had motors, so oars were the necessary means of propulsion.

A few padded the decks with carpet or burlap bags. One party boat skipper who converted his heads to electrically-operated flushing mechanisms, solved that problem by taking the fuses out of the electrical line to the heads and put out-of-order signs on the doors.

For those who have grown up with this modern generation of fancy reels, star drags that work, whisper thin line one could tow a Mack truck with and space-age materials that become fishing rods,

fishing for drum in the olden days had to be different.

Hand lines were the norm. A shot of tarred line was wrapped around a stick. A 9/0 hook was attached to a three foot wire leader. At the other end was a large swivel or a plain loop. A fish finder threaded on to the line which was attached to a leather thong that stopped the fish finder from going out to the hook.

A few "sports" had bamboo or wooden rods with which they fished for drum in conjunction with the old knuckle-buster reels that had no anti-reverse or star drag. If the fish started to run, the handle spun backwards. Knuckles got "busted" if they got in the way.

There were drags of sorts. One was a cloth finger stall that slipped over the thumb. Some stalls had soft leather on the one side and a crocheted bag to keep it on the thumb. If no leather was available, the ladies would crochet the entire bag with fishing line. Trying to slung down a fish without a thumb stall resulted in a blister not unlike the one would get if they touched a hot stove.

Some knuckle-buster reels had a piece of leather that was attached to one of the bars across the rear of the reel. To apply "drag" the angler would press down on the leather with his thumb.

If you were among the few who had a rod and reel combo back in the pre-war '30s, you fished with linen line. While it was the best available at the time, it was an abomination. Linen line had to be washed and dried after each use or it

would rot and lose all of its strength.

Line test was determined by how many individual strands were incorporated into the twisted line. For example, 36 lb. test line was made by twisting three strands of line made from 12 strands each of thinner line.

Another tale that was banded about in my early drum fishing days was the story that at times drum were so thick and that they were doing so much damage to the bay's oyster beds that dynamite was used to reduce their numbers to save the shellfish. The story has never been documented, to my knowledge, but it persisted even though shellfish industry spokesmen refute the tale.

That drum were more plentiful was documented in fact and in cracker barrel sessions in the old time Delaware Bay boat liveries like Dorothea Bleidorn's (later Abinanti's Pier); Walt Soboleski's, Bob Neeley's or Al DePinto's. Sam Dickinson had a boat rental facility at Reed's Beach. These and other boat liveries dotted the bayside from North Cape May to Reed's Beach.

At times boats fished as close to 150 yards from the beach and few ever went past the inshore edge of the inshore slough. That's all the further one had to go back then. The Green Shanty grounds off the Villas would see as many as 300 boats catching drum on a given night in season.

It wasn't until bigger boats came into use and drum numbers declined that boats ventured as far as Brandywine

and 14 Ft. Light and in later years, Slaughter beach on the Delaware side.

Fishing techniques and tackle have changed. But one thing remains constant. Drum are a

credible opponent, and it is a given that only the big ones seem to get away.

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Linwood and Northfield, and the  
Cape May Star & Wave

## Fishing report

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fish/sea bass combo trips will sail Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, leaving by midnight or earlier. Seating will be limited to 35 anglers. Call for information and reservations.

At Ocean City, the North Star Express is catching sea bass on offshore trips sailing Wednesdays and Fridays through Sundays. A 12 hr. blackfish trip will sail at 4 a.m. March 9. Sea bass and tilefish were caught this week. Limit catches of sea bass went to Mike Siume, Ocean City, (to 5.5 lbs.); Charlie Rakovic, Wayne, N.J., (to 5.8 lbs.); Mike Hawthorne, Wayne, (to 6 lbs. 3 oz.); Mike Worrell, Wayne, (to 5.75 lbs.) and Matt, Jim and Shawn

Moran, Glenside, (t 5 lbs.). George Wilson, Linwood, N.J., caught a pool-winning 7 lb. sea bass.

TILEFISH: Tilefish are an excellent food fish that are only caught on boats making trips well offshore. Tilefish tend to stay in deep water out of range of most party and charter boats. The first commercial catches of tilefish were recorded in 1879 in waters around the Nantucket Shoals Lightship. In 1882, according to McClane's Standard Fishing Encyclopedia, there was a massive kill of tilefish. Floating dead tilefish covered over 4250 square miles of the Atlantic Ocean.

The kill was attributed to a flood of cold water, which moved through a warm zone,

virtually eliminating all tilefish. None were caught for five years and gradually, they began to show up again. By 1965, the annual commercial catch was estimated at 10 million pounds. Because they range mostly in deeper water, they are not usually a targeted species for the recreational fishing fleet.

Tilefish range from Massachusetts to Maryland and are usually found on the bottom in water 50 to 150 fathoms deep. They are caught as deep as 1000 feet. Tilefish can weigh as much as 50 lbs. A 30 to 32 in. tilefish will weigh between 17 and 18 lbs.

On the table, tilefish can be steamed, baked or made into fish chowders.