

# THE PROWL

USA Tour 2024 Special Edition



# USATour 24/25

December 17th 2024 marked the beginning of an extraordinary adventure as 39 talented athletes and 4 dedicated coaches set off on a 19-day tour across the USA. Their journey took them to iconic cities such as Dallas, New York, Washington, Charleston, Charlotte, and Los Angeles, blending sportsmanship with unforgettable cultural experiences.

Representing the community with pride, three boys' teams and one girls' team competed against American high schools, including participation in the prestigious Carolina Invitational tournament. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity showcased their skills on an international stage and created memories to last a lifetime.

Adding a meaningful and creative flair to the tour, the athletes donned striking uniforms designed by renowned local Indigenous artist Stephanie Thompson, celebrating both culture and community spirit.

The Freshman Boys and Varsity Girls demonstrated remarkable determination, competing fiercely against older and more experienced teams.

The Varsity Boys and Junior Varsity Boys delivered outstanding performances, going undefeated at the prestigious Carolina Invitational Tournament, cementing their place as top competitors on the international stage.

Congratulations to the teams—your hard work, determination, and exemplary sportsmanship have made us immensely proud!

A heartfelt thank you to the coaches and parents whose dedication and support made this tour a reality.

This incredible journey was made possible thanks to the generous support of sponsors who contributed to the fundraising efforts: Atlas Broker, JnJ Pools, and Safe Laces.

Their contributions turned a dream into reality and paved the way for these young athletes to shine.



# USATour Results

## **Varsity Boys - Coached by Dean Gluyas**

**Dallas:**  
Rock Hill High School 55-70 L  
Episcopal High School 58-60 L  
BTPA 60-43 W

**Texas:**  
Quinlan High School 57-45 W

**Charleston:**  
Wilmington HS 53-50 W  
Northwood HS 68-38 W  
Stratford HS 64-55 W

## **Jnr Varsity Boys - Coached by Nic Nolan**

**Dallas:**  
Episcopal High School 60-33 W  
BTSA Rockwall School 65-51 W

**Charleston:**  
North Brunswick HS 61-23 W  
First Baptist HS 57-6 W  
Rowan High School HS 56-18 W

## **Freshman Boys - Coached by Dan Dowisha**

**Dallas:**  
Episcopal High School 107-46 W  
TACA 48-55 L

**Charleston:**  
Cane Bay HS 29-46 L  
James Island High School 38-37 W  
Pisgah High School 35-41 L

## **Varsity Girls - Coached by Tom O'Connor**

**Texas:**  
North Lamar High School 28-66 L  
University High School 54-55 L  
Stony Point High School 33-65 L

**Charleston:**  
TL Hanna 36-50 L  
Patrick Henry 76-29 W  
Savannah High School 80 - 40 W

# wildcatNEWS

## *Marli Brenner - JV Girls*

I have been to the US a number of times now, and I can confidently say that this basketball trip was one of my favourite times over there.

We were given such a great experience and the memories I have made will last forever. From the moment we landed in Dallas, the support from everyone over there was amazing and we were very well looked after.

Our team didn't win as many games as we thought we would, but that did not matter. The experience we gained from being over there, playing the high schools was one never to forget.

The difference in the rules and the style of play was a huge eye opener into what high school and college basketball is like.

I also loved all the activities we did - it kept us busy, not leaving us with much time to miss our families.

Overall, this trip was amazing and one I was very grateful to be apart of.



## ***Nic Nolan - JV Coach***

I hope I can speak for others in saying how unforgettable and enjoyable it was to be a part of the Wildcats USA Tour.

For just shy of three weeks our wildcats group travelled, lived, shared laughs, meals and experiences with each other.

Not until being in this environment, so far from home do you realise how tight our basketball community is and how fortunate we are to be surrounded by so many people who love basketball.

The uniqueness of this trip is something that is worth highlighting. Being able to coach and watch our athletes showcase an Eltham style of basketball on the other side of the world is not something you can get up and do at anytime. Despite many of us struggling to adapt to different rules and formats at times, these games will be a special memory for all involved.

Beyond the games, it was amazing to explore new cities, have interactions with locals, see culture differences and partake in activities as a large group. We even had a white Christmas! Whether it was just waltzing through Walmart, playing pick-up at Venice beach, waiting for a plane, or watching LeBron James do his thing on the basketball court, all parts of the trip made it what it was.

From a personal standpoint, I want to thank Matt Evans for the work behind the scenes for this trip and the Eltham Wildcats for allowing me to be involved in this experience.

This trip has also made me realise just how truly grateful I am to all the people that I see, coach and share basketball memories with around our club. Without those connections, I'm sure many of us wouldn't do what we do and trips like these wouldn't be nearly as great as it was!

## ***Josh McCann - Varsity Boys***

A great trip with mates that I will remember forever.

Loved playing basketball against the high school varsity teams, especially the extra physicality as the US refs don't call much.

With college visits, NBA games, shopping and a white Christmas, it was a pretty full itinerary.

My favourite part outside of playing basketball was definitely either the rides at Disneyland or the atmosphere at Madison Square Garden.

Thanks Eltham for organising!

# wildcatNEWS

## *Cathal Finn – Freshman Boys*

This year, I had the incredible opportunity to join the Eltham Wildcats USA tour.

Over two unforgettable weeks, we travelled America, had fun with mates, and played basketball, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Highlights included sitting courtside for two NBA game warm-ups and meeting Josh Green after a game.

The tour not only offered unforgettable experiences but also brought new friendships and a deeper love for the game.

Thanks to Matt Evans and the Eltham Wildcats crew for creating an unforgettable experience.





### ***Ben Maywald - Junior Varsity boys***

My time in the US was nothing short of amazing, from the beginning in Texas playing basketball at a local rec center, to the bright lights of New York City and its larger than life personality, especially getting to visit madison square garden, this trip was most definitely something for us to remember for a lifetime.

I much enjoyed the visit to the varsity boys game where it went down to the wire, and Josh McCann hit a Hail Mary shot to win the game. I will most definitely be talking about this trip in years to come and so will my fellow travellers, as this was one of the greatest times of our lives with some of our best friends.

Thank you to all of the organisers, sponsors, coaches, team managers and everyone in between, this was awesome.

# USATour SPONSORS

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible sponsors—Atlas Broker, JnJ Pools, Hoop City, and Safe Lace—for their generous support of the USA Tour.

We also want to express our gratitude to Indigenous artist Stephanie Thompson for creating our stunning uniform designs. Your contributions have made this journey truly unforgettable!



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**GO  
WILDCATS!!**