

The JCC MetroWest Maccabi Girls' Softball Team won the Bronze Medal at the 2014 JCC Maccabi Games held in Detroit, MI, from August 17-22.

Metrowest softball player, Jordan Pollak, was also awarded the prestigious Midot Medal by the games Softball Commissioner for exemplifying the values and spirit of the JCC Maccabi Games.

Team MetroWest, comprised of players from New Jersey as well as New York and Minnesota, included: Jordan Pollak (Marlboro, NJ), Danielle Rosenblum (Livingston, NJ), Genevieve Jacobson (Glen Ridge, NJ), Nicole Amalfitano (New York), Julia Beattie (New York), Amy Frenkel (New York), and Erica Kuretsky (Minnesota).

The groups of girls had never met or played together until the team's first game. They would spend the teams first pre-game warmup learning each others names and positions. This showed in the first game of the tournament against a very strong Detroit team.

After game one, the team had a chance to really come together, and they did. The girls watched other games together to scout their competition, had team lunch every day, hung out with each other during down time in between games, and spent the evenings unwinding with fun night activities.

Metrowest went on to play four more games in this tournament and each game saw the girls come together more and more as a team. Their second game would be against a mixed team from Detroit/Philadelphia. The team played great, winning the game by a score of 10-0. Metrowest had spectacular hitting, fielding and pitching. Danielle Rosenblum pitched the entire game not allowing a single run. Danielle would then pitch every inning for the remainder of the tournament. Jordan Pollak did an incredible job behind the plate catching for this game as well as the remainder of the tournament.

The girls came out strong on Tuesday winning their first game by a score of 14-0. Danielle Rosenblum pitched another great game, not giving up any runs and Jordan Pollak played catcher for the entire game. You could see that the girls were really coming together. They came out strong making great catches in the field, scoring runs and hitting the ball hard. Their second game would be against a strong Detroit team. They played hard but lost the game by a score of 9-7.

Wednesday, the team had a softball clinic with a local high school coach in the morning and then participated in JCC Cares, where they interacted and did sports activities with special needs children.

Their first game on Thursday was against Detroit/Philadelphia. The Detroit/Philadelphia had a new pitcher that our team hadn't seen yet in the tournament. It took the girls some time to get going but when they did they were on fire. They came up a run short and lost the game by a score of 7-6. The girls were sad to lose but were happy to win a bronze medal.

In all, it was a fun week for a team looking to build upon its youth and experience next year.

