

Caitlin Wilson, a member 1992 girls ODP team was selected to the regional pool at the region one camp in July. The camp is held each summer in Rhode Island and is attended by players from 14 states. She was the only West Virginia player to make the pool this year.

As part of the regional pool Caitlin is attending two region one training sessions. The first was held the day after Christmas for four days. The training was held in an impressive indoor facility just outside of Hershey, PA. Fifty-six field players attended the session along with 12 goalkeepers. At the first session, the players were told that there were 3,000 girls that tried out for ODP in region one's 92 age group and that they should be proud of themselves for making it into the pool. However, the pool would be cut in half in the next year so the girls are being evaluated constantly. The pool training was a not only a training session but a tryout.

The second session will be held in April during Spring Break in New Jersey. It will consist of a round robin tournament against various State ODP teams.

Below are Caitlin's impressions of the first region one pool training session:

The trip up to Harrisburg took about 4 hours. We stayed in a Holiday Inn. It was the day after Christmas so it was hard leaving so soon after the holidays. On the first night I was so nervous I felt sick. I barley knew anyone there and I was worried about staying by myself without anyone I new. But the longer I was there the more relaxed I got and the more girls I got to know. I really liked the coaches there and I met a lot of girls from different states. They were mostly from PA West, New York, Virginia and New Jersey. My two roommates were nice. Chloe was from PA West and the other girl named Angela, was a goalie from New York West. I got along best with Angela. Haha Chloe wasn't the nicest girl there. We got lucky because there was only 3 of us in our room everyone else had 4 to a room, but the problem was that there were two beds and three girls. Well the beds were queens so they had plenty of room in them, but of course Chloe had to have her own bed because she refused to share a bed. So she volunteered Angela to sleep on the floor. So for the rest of the week I let Angela share with me because I didn't want her to sleep on the floor like Chloe wanted. Angela and I got along really well. After the shower and before we went to bed Angela and I would watch a movie and Chloe would listen to her ipod, but some nights the three of us would just talk.

In the morning we would have training sessions and then afterwards we would go to lunch. For lunch we went to places like Wendy's. Then we went back to the fields or hotel after we finished. After the afternoon session we would go eat at a church that made us dinner. The food kind of made me sick. The food was ok I guess but it wasn't the kind of food you would eat right before the night session. The night sessions were usually 6v6 or 11v11 tournaments. They were really fun. I got along with most of the girls but there was one girl there that really scared me. She was like a foot taller than me and could probably pass for a 35 year old

women. SHE WAS A BEAST!!!! She was an awesome striker but NEVER passed the ball!!!!!! She was really rough too. She like grabbed a defender's throat trying to get the ball away from her. I was like "AHH!" So she had to be the girl I feared the whole time.

In the middle of the week we had an afternoon activity. The whole regional pool went to Hershey Park. We ate at the Kit-Kat café and then went downstairs to get souvenirs and candy. Afterward we took the candy factory tour. We soon went back to the hotel to rest for an hour. After our break we went back to the field to play more soccer. That day was probably my favorite day because they gave us some time to relax, get away from all the stress, and got to chill with our new friends.

Some people thought I was from western Virginia not the state West Virginia. I thought that was pretty weird. Some people didn't think we were even in region one since they haven't seen very many of us come every year. One guy came up to me and told me that it was great that I was there to support my state.

Each day seemed to get longer and longer because you started to get really tired the more the week went on. At the end of the very long and tiring week I was beat. I was tired, my knees where burnt from the turf we played on, and I was so sore! The drive home seemed really short because I slept almost all the way. There were a lot of "wicked sick" players that had made the pool. (Haha "wicked sick" was what all the girls from Massachusetts said.) It was an awesome experience to play with them. I had a great time. I hope I can make the team next year.