



Tourney a Success

Sports Corner By Alvin Muckley

This year's first two-on-two basketball tournament proved to be a major success as twelve teams went out to match their speed, coordination and shooting ability against their opponents. Despite the lack of good referees and accurate boundary measurements, all the teams played well. The players as well as the fans had a very enjoyable time. Winners talked about what strategy they would employ on their next victims, while losers trudged away muttering under their breath how many fouls the referee missed. The teams were matched up and the results were as follows:

Cook, Gardener 40, Clarke, Skyler 34.

Tom Skyler and Josh Clarke put the pressure on early with Skyler's outside shooting and Clarke's short hooks building up leads of 16-8 and 22-14. After a time-out the momentum changed quickly as Cook hit from the side with short jumpers and caught Gardener with some beautiful assists to tie the score at twenty-eight apiece. Clarke, Skyler called a time-out but to no avail. Gardener's tough man-to-man defense forced Clarke into taking some erratic shots which did not hit the rim. Cook easily layed the ball up for two points. Skyler continued to swish from the outside and the score was knotted once more at 34-all. Cook's deadly drive provided the next six points., highest score of any player.
Butner, Anderson 34, Hubbard, Eslick 32, Overtime.

Mike Burtner lobbed the ball up with 46 seconds left in the overtime to give the Burtner, Anderson duo a hard fought victory over John Hubbard and Kurt Eslick. Labeling themselves Fool No. 1 and Fool No. 2, Hubbard and Eslick played a good game. Hubbard's deadly hook from the right corner provided the Fools with the scoring punch they needed to keep the game close. Eslick was left in the clear, and though he missed most of his shots he made eight crucial points.

Burton and Anderson concentrated on driving for the layup and succeeded in finding the hoop almost every time. Hubbard and Eslick had a chance of putting the game away as they held the biggest lead of the game at 26-22 with one minute left, but Anderson made a quick steal, Eslick missed the short jumper, and the game finished at 28-all. The teams traded baskets in overtime and with 15 seconds left it was 32-all. Again the Fools had the chance of pulling it out, but Eslick's shot bounced off the rim. Burton snagged the rebound and proceeded to sink the winning basket, capping an excellent performance consisting of 18 points, eight rebounds, and five assists. Hubbard finished with 24 points to top all scorers.
Parks, Schrawder, 40, Stevenson, Stuart 22.

Ernest Stuart got the tip-off and hit the first layup of the game, but that was the only time his team would enjoy the lead. The Parks-Schrawder combination caught fire and, taking advantage of their height and good ball handling, reeled off 16 straight points. Parks hit consistently from outside the free throw line, and Schrawder amazed the crowd with fade-away jumpers and dazzling left-hand hooks which drifted through the hoop.

Stevenson made good moves to the basket, but the ball played tricks around the rim and refused to fall. Stuart made a few nice outside shots, but the team's lack of height was a handicap, as Mel and Vince brought down rebound after rebound. Ernest and Dave had one spurt which got them within eight points at 22-14, but a well-executed screen play, and two quick assists from Parks to Schrawder, put the contest beyond reach. Mel had 18, Vince 22 for the winners, while Stevenson ended with 14 and Stuart eight for the losers.

Muckley, McClellan 40, Shearin Co. 26.

Good penetration and some great rebounding on the defensive boards kept John Frakes and Richard Hobson in close contest with Alvin Muckley and Richard

McClellan. Though Alvin and Rich had an eight-point lead most of the game, Shearin's Co. cut that to four points, at 18-14, and 26-22. Frakes and Hobson hit a cold spell and made only four more points the rest of the game, as Muckley and McClellan coasted to the lopsided 14-point victory. The game wound up being the most physical, with a record 11 fouls called.

Williams, Hartig 40, Cook, Medas 28.

Tom Williams was the deciding factor in the Hartig-Williams upset over Ron Cook and Glenn Medas as he hit on 12 of 21 field goal attempts, and hauled down 13 rebounds. Hartig chipped in with 16 points and some fancy assists as they rolled to their 12-point win. For Cook and Medas, who were heavily favored to reach the finals, it was a frustrating loss. Ron rushed his short shots and his usual deadly precision was gone for the day. Medas played a good game, and had 16 points.

Williams and Hartig, playing smooth and confident ball, ran off to a 20-8 lead and then put on a sticky man-to-man defense, smothering the chances of a comeback for the top-ranked Cook, Medas duo.

Cook, Gardener 40, Parks, Schrawder 34.

Mel and Vince, moving the ball well, finding the open man and swishing the outside shots, seemed as if they would repeat their 40-22 blowout of the preceding day as they ran up a 26-16 lead at the half on Dave and John. The pace of the game turned the opposite direction, though, and Cook and Gardener uncorked a series of plays and awesome shooting which supplied them with a 12-point surge, while Mel and Vince went scoreless. Schrawder broke the drought with an outside bomb and the score was 28-all.

Concentrating on double-teaming Cook, John Gardener provided the spark that won the game as he was open for nifty assists and short outside shots. Dave had 26 points and John had 14, all in the second half, to give them their second straight comeback victory and eliminate Parks and Cook from the playoffs.

Williams, Hartig 40, Balski, Reinhard 28.

Tommy Williams and Bryan Hartig continued their rampage as they both hit 70 per cent of their shots and took a 20-8 lead in the opening minutes of the game. Balski and Reinhard fought back, but the game was obviously out of reach at 28-14 as everything Williams threw up found its way to the hoop, perforating the rim for two pointers. Balski's superb outside touch nevertheless gave him 16 points, while Williams hit for 22 to take scoring honors. Hartig had 18, and Reinhard had 12 for the losers.

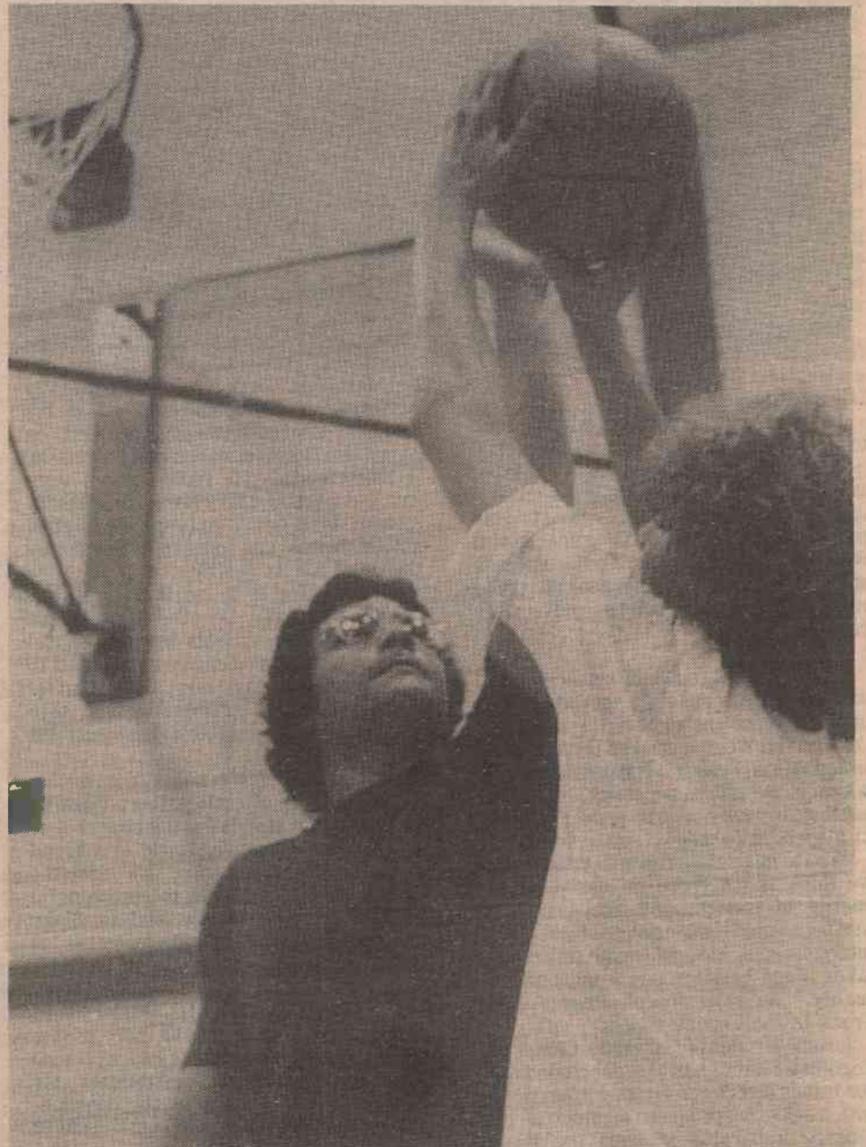
Muckley, McClellan 40, Burtner, Anderson 24.

The Burtner-Anderson twosome gave Muckley and McClellan a tougher first half than they had bargained for as they kept the score deadlocked with no more than four points separating the teams. Muckley and McClellan played a bit too relaxed and confident, blowing layups, throwing away good passes, and shooting a miserable 40 per cent from the field, while Anderson and Burtner poured in 10 points apiece to end the half down by only four, 24-20. The tables turned drastically the last fifteen minutes of the match, as Muckley sizzled the net with outside buckets and McClellan took advantage of Burtner's lack of speed to drive in for twisting layups. Mike and Robert's offense collapsed as each sunk only one field goal the entire last half.

SEMI-FINALS

Muckley, McClellan 40, Cook, Gardner 34.

After winning two straight comeback victories, it looked as if the Cook-Gardener duo might pull out another.



Essay Photo by Bryant Arrington

Rick McClellan defending against Tommy Williams in warm-up to the final game.

Down 24-16 at the half, Dave Cook caught fire and hit the next 10 straight points while feeding John Gardener with two assists for quick baskets. The score was evened at 32. Muckley and McClellan, who had been playing below par, got things rolling and hit two baskets, but Cook came back with his deadly head fake to score his 28th point of the game. Muckley came back despite being hampered by John Gardner's pesky defense and fired the next four points from outside. That ended hopes of reaching the finals. Dave Cook finished the tournament with 88 points, averaging a clean 29.1 a game, while hauling down an average 11 rebounds and five assists.

FINALS

Muckley, McClellan 40, Williams, Hartig 36.

Alvin Muckley got loose for a split second from Tommy Williams' constant defense and pumped in the winning baskets as Muckley-McClellan took a 1-0 lead in the best-of-three finals. The game, which was one of the most physical, exhausting and evenly matched, proved to be a real thriller as both teams traded baskets with Muckley-McClellan leading by a mere two points throughout. Tommy Williams continued to sizzle with beautiful fadebacks, short hooks, and layups, while nailing Hartig with assists for easy points under the basket. Williams finished the night with 22 markers, hitting 50 per cent of his shots. For the winners, it was Muckley connecting from 20 feet, and McClellan playing despite an extremely swollen thumb and driving on Hartig for the layup that made the difference.

Bryan Hartig swooped up an incredible hookshot from the baseline to tie the game at 36, but Muckley ended the

tension by dropping in the next four points. Muckley tied Williams for high scorer with 22 points, while McClellan added 18 and Hartig 14 for the losers.

Muckley, McClellan 40, Williams, Hartig, 34.

Muckley and McClellan put on the pressure in the final minutes and broke loose from a 30-30 tie to outscore the Hartig-Williams duo and wrap up the title and \$10 in prize money.

Hartig and Williams were well on their way to evening the series at one apiece as they burst to 12-6 and 18-12 leads, but Muckley made two quick steals, McClellan hit a jumper over Hartig, and it was 18-all. Alvin and Rich took a 30-24 lead with 4:20 left, but the determined 6'1" Williams and 5'10" Hartig refused to give. Tommy blocked a Muckley jump shot, fed Hartig the assist, forced McClellan to take an uncomfortable shot, and Hartig drove in one-on-one on Muckley to tie the score for the fourth time.

Muckley and McClellan answered with two fast breaks, and a Muckley bomb from 20 feet put the game out of reach. Good officiating and a sharp whistle by Glenn Medas kept the game under control.

Muckley sunk 22 points and Rich contributed 18 markers to the winning cause. Hartig had his best offensive night with 22, while Williams, hampered by McClellan's defense, had a tournament low of 12 points. The losers wound up with \$5 in prize money.

The teams' most sincere thanks are extended to Mrs. Juanita Palmer, Mr. Dave Belnap, and all the eager referees who officiated. Thanks also to the few screaming fans that showed up to make the tournament a success.