

Farmville Girls and Bethel Boys Win Pitt County Basketball Tournament

Farmville High School girls won the annual Pitt County Basketball Tournament held in Farmville by defeating the strong Grimesland sextet by a score of 28 to 26.

The following girls composed the Grimesland team: Edward, Elks and Adams, forwards; Bailey, Dixon and Elks, guards. Mills and Daniels were also used in the Grimesland line-up.

Bethel boys eliminated the Grimesland boys in a one-sided game in the finals by a score of 32 to 12.

First Round, Monday night, Feb. 26.—Boys: Grimesland 31, Arthur 18; Stokes 72, Chico 8. Girls: Griffon 18, Chico 12; Arthur 5, Ayden 4.

Tuesday night, Feb. 27.—Boys: Farmville 40, Belvoir 18. Girls: Grimesland 56, Stokes 21; Belvoir 18, Arthur 13.

Wednesday night, Feb. 28.—Boys: Stokes 27, Griffon 23; Bethel 32, Winterville 20. Girls: Farmville 22, Bethel 20.

Thursday night, March 1.—Boys: Grimesland 34, Ayden 11. Girls: Farmville 26, Belvoir 18; Winterville 33, Griffon 31.

Friday, March 2.—Boys: Farmville 28, Grimesland 29; Bethel 31, Stokes 24. Girls: Grimesland 32, Winterville 31.

Saturday night, March 3.—Boys: Bethel 32, Grimesland 12. Girls: Farmville 28, Grimesland 26.

The All Tournament team was selected as follows: Girls: Forwards—Johnnie Moore, Farmville; Elks and Edwards of Grimesland; Guards—Jane Turnage, Farmville; Mazingo, Arthur; Bailey, Grimesland.

Boys: Forwards—Donald Walston, Farmville; Warren, Stokes; Center, Weeks, Bethel. Guards—Harold Rose, Farmville; Liverman, Winterville.

Local Rotary Boy Scout Troop 25 held its weekly meeting at the local park at 5:00 o'clock Friday afternoon, with twenty scouts and the three Scoutmasters in attendance.

Individual suppers, varying from soups and hot dogs to steaks, were cooked and proved most enjoyable.

The regular weekly personal inspection and drill were conducted by Assistant Scoutmaster, J. C. Brock, and Assistant Scoutmaster, Ed Nash Warren, conducted a short test passing period, concluding with a short talk urging all scouts to pass their respective tests by the next meeting.

The meeting was presided over by Acting Senior Patrol Leader, Frank Dupree, with Harry Albright leading in Scout yells and song.

The March 9th meeting is to be held at the Agriculture Building from 6 to 7 P. M., in order to allow members to attend the Rotary and Kiwanis basketball game.

The newly organized Green Bar Patrol which is composed of all troop officers and acting leaders met Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock, in the home of the Scoutmaster and discussed troop plans, making suggestions for program and initiation which is to be held soon; it was decided to launch a camping test among both new and old members.

Fuel Oil For Curing Tobacco Will Be Available

The Washington Office of Price Administration has notified the state office that a new ruling on oil-burning tobacco curers has been issued which establishes the eligibility of farmers for a fuel oil ration to be used for the purpose of curing tobacco even though he has, or has destroyed or disposed of wood-burning equipment.

All tobacco growers who have replaced or who may desire to replace their wood burning equipment with oil burners may secure fuel oil rations for the curing season.

The time and place for registration will be announced later. Watch this paper for further announcements.

C. H. Flanagan, Chmn. Fuel Oil Board, Farmville, Sponsoring

WAR IN BRIEF

Third Army tanks reach Rhine river near Coblenz, completing 66-mile dash from Bitburg in two days; First Army under security, news blackout since early Wednesday when German resistance crumbled south of Bonn.

German radio reports new Russian offensive on Oder Line, putting Soviets within 29 miles of Berlin; Stalin announces new Russian victories on approaches to Danzig and Stettin.

Marines gain 500 yards against fierce resistance on Iwo.

More than 1,100 planes blast benzol plants and oil refinery in Ruhr; Berlin reports strong bomber formation over Berlin Wednesday night.

U. S. troops score eight-mile breakthrough in Italy, seize six important heights and 10 towns.

Indian troops sweep to within four and one-half miles of Mandalay against decreasing opposition; Chinese First Army captures Lashio, Burma Road town.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO ROTARY CLUB HERE

Featuring the Rotary Club meeting with an excellent talk by John A. Holmes, of Edenton, Governor of 189th District, Rotary International, who made his official visit to Farmville, Tuesday evening.

Mr. Holmes spoke on our responsibility to youth and discussed the necessity of training our young men and women that they may be better prepared to take over and carry on in "The American Way of Life."

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Holmes met with the Club Assembly at which time, he led an inspiring discussion on the work of Rotary and commended the Farmville Club on its achievements.

The committee chairman gave reports on work being accomplished by the various committees.

Special guests were Rev. C. B. Mashburn, S. F. 1/c C. B. Mashburn, Jr., Ensign R. D. Rouse, Jr., Rotarian Ed Rasberry, of Snow Hill, and John B. Wright, Jr., of Raleigh.

Other visitors attending the meeting were Walter Martin and Jack Manning of Williamston and D. D. (Jake) Fields of Farmville.

The meeting was one of the best yet enjoyed by the Kiwanians, as members were better acquainted with duties they had to perform and things went off in a very snappy manner.

President Rod Williams started the meeting on the hour and it ended one hour later, as is the custom. Short talks were made by Frank Matuso of Kiwanis International and Sam Bundy, Kiwanis Governor in North Carolina. Two new members, Rex Hodges and R. E. Pickett were introduced by Frank Allen.

Lots of enthusiasm was shown regarding the coming basketball game with the Rotary Club, Friday night. Frank Allen, who has been chosen Coach and Captain, and all other members feel they have a fine chance of being victorious in this initial game.

Home demonstration specialist at State College calls special attention to the new OPA regulations with respect to canning sugar, which are necessary because of wartime conditions.

For canning fruits and fruit juices, the allowance will be one pound of sugar to each quart to be canned, not to exceed 20 pounds per person, and not more than 160 pounds for each family, regardless of the number of persons in the family.

Only five pounds of sugar per person is allowed for canning vegetables and for making jams, jellies, relishes, catsup and the like.

No ration stamps in War Ration Book 4 will be good for canning sugar this year. The housewife will make application to her local War Price and Rationing Board and the local board will issue the necessary home canning sugar coupons.

"With sugar supplies feeling the pinch of a long war, we cannot afford an over-luxuriance of home canning sugar such as occurred last year when we used 300,000 tons more than our allotment," said Administrator Chester Boyles of the OPA in explaining the tightening up of the program.

W. D. Morton, son of Mrs. J. M. Hogwood, has recently been promoted to Chief Petty Officer, Specialist (A), at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.

Russians Move On Nazi Capital

London, March 8.—The Russians hurled seven armies yesterday into an all-out frontal offensive towards Berlin from bridgeheads on the Oder River 30 to 40 miles to the east, the Germans announced.

Moscow was officially silent, as is customary at the start of a major operation, but unofficial dispatches from the Soviet capital hinted guardedly that the German accounts might be substantially correct.

German broadcasts said the attackers, Marshal K. K. Zhukov's First White Russian Army Group, jumped off after a gigantic 24-hour artillery barrage and punched into the outer defenses of Kuestrin, west-bank Oder River fortress which was under attack from the north, east and south. Two tank armies were among Zhukov's forces, these alarmed announcers said.

A dispatch late last night from Associated Press Correspondent Eddy Gilmore in Moscow said "many signs pointed tonight to early launching of the all-out offensive on Berlin," and continued, "the logical place for the first attack is Marshal Zhukov's Oder front."

"Large-scale scouting operations have been under way for several days out of Zhukov's bridgeheads."

"These operations, plus the magnificent victories in Pomerania, in which the Russians hurled the Nazis to the Baltic and dropped them off the Oder flank, indicated that Zhukov may be ready to commence activities."

The Germans said Zhukov's activities already had commenced with a roaring offensive that extended along about 100 miles of the Oder front but was concentrated mainly almost directly east of Berlin.

The Russians officially dealt with other sectors in their regular communique and in three orders of the day by Premier Stalin.

One order announced that Zhukov's right wing, which only Tuesday had thrust to the Oder's Baltic Sea outlet, had captured Stepenitz, Gollnow and Masow, 15 and 20 miles northeast and east of Stettin. The communique listed other towns captured in that zone along the Oder's east bank and the Stettiner Haff (lagoon) from 13 miles northeast of Stettin northward to the sea, a distance of 35 miles.

Stettin, Berlin's outlet to the Baltic, thus was placed in increasingly grave danger and had lost much of its importance as an outer citadel for the capital.

Another Stalin order announced that the Second White Russian Army had captured Starogard, 25 miles south of Danzig, and Mewa, 35 miles southeast, while the communique added a list of 200 communities taken by that army in five to six-mile advances along a front stretching from the Vistula River to the Baltic near Reuganwalde.

All local women are urged to consider this opportunity for service. If you wish additional information concerning same, please advise Mrs. Frank Allen, President of the local Junior Woman's Club, and contact will be made for you with our nearest recruiting station.

These women must be between 20 and 50 years of age. They must have a minimum of two years of high school education. They must have no dependents under the age of 14, and above all, they must be of excellent character, and possess the sincere desire to serve. No previous hospital experience is necessary. The Army feels the need for Wacs so urgently that they offer to the untrained woman a full schooling for service as a Medical or Surgical Technician.

Interest on a state level alone, however, cannot insure the success of the mission. We must have activity in every city, town and village in the State to reach the women who are eligible for this vital service. For that reason, we are calling on the Women's Clubs to procure 10 women from the State of North Carolina to serve in hospital units by March 20th.

With the remnants of the original Nippon Luzon army hopelessly split up in the island's mountainous areas and in the northeast Cagayan Valley, Yanks of 10 divisions are being prepared for what Gen. Douglas MacArthur calls the "final phase" of Luzon's total liberation.

The Americans will be aided by strong Filipino guerrilla armies, one of which has already cleared the strategic northwest coast on the China Sea.

Service Men's Center

Service Men visiting the local Center the past week were: Farmville—C. B. Mashburn, Jr., S. F. 1/c, who has spent two years in the South Pacific; William A. Carr, V-12 student, Columbia University, New York; Pvt. Victor L. Cates, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Cates, who has been in India for nineteen months.

Pfc. Syjvan H. Sahn, Mannheim, Pa., and Greenville Air Base.

Donations for the week end were: Deviled eggs and oranges, Mrs. George Thomas; salted peanuts and nuts, Mrs. K. Cannon; one dollar, Mrs. H. N. Batten; milk and flowers, Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Norman; milk, Mr. and Mrs. Bernice Wooten. Mrs. Louise Harris prepared salted peanuts, tomatoes, lettuce, potato salad, doughnuts and cake were also donated.

Gpl. Harry Bloomer writes from India that he took a long walk and returned with a bunch of bananas which grow wild there. He saw many tropical birds of all colors and hues. India is still interesting and different to him and says he does not regret having gone there; but when he gets back he will confine his traveling to within the boundaries of the continental limits of the United States.

Pfc. Carlos Patterson, transferred from Cherry Point to Congress Field, Columbia, S. C., writes that he appreciates all that was done for him on his visit here—that the Center is a nice place and well operated.

Sgt. Marshall McIntyre, in a letter from the Pacific, says he will have to get civilized all over again when he comes back because his car will probably jump out of his first car ride or will jump out of his shoes if a horn blows or a street car passes. He has not talked to a girl in the last 10 months and, "that's rough, really rough," he states. He also says that the days are hot and the evenings rainy but he is getting on fine even when sitting out in the rain watching the good old standby for entertainment—the movie.

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Clubwomen Asked To Secure Recruits

Federated Clubwomen are being called on for another definite piece of work—securing volunteers to serve in a WAG General Hospital Company.

In an open letter to Club presidents, Mrs. J. Henry, Highsmith, President of the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs, says, "There can be no job to which you could more valuably put your time than that of interesting women from our State in serving North Carolina's wounded."

"Every month 30,000 wounded men are returned to this country—1,000 men a day who are wounded seriously enough that adequate care cannot be given them overseas and sent back to spend an average of five months each in an Army General Hospital. Their battle back to healthy, normal, happy lives is the common responsibility of every American, particularly women. In sixty General Hospitals in this country, members of the Women's Army Corps are working in laboratories, in surgical wards, in medical wards . . . in almost every part of a hospital. Beside our doctors and nurses, they give their time and attention to the rehabilitation of the men who have given most in this war."

"Our Surgeon General, in whose hands lies the final responsibility of their care, has said that unless more women volunteer to serve in WAG General Hospital Companies, our men will not continue to get the care and attention they deserve. General Marshall has asked the Governor of each state for help. Governor Cherry, through the Office of Civilian Defense, is giving to this campaign his interested cooperation and active support."

Interest on a state level alone, however, cannot insure the success of the mission. We must have activity in every city, town and village in the State to reach the women who are eligible for this vital service. For that reason, we are calling on the Women's Clubs to procure 10 women from the State of North Carolina to serve in hospital units by March 20th.

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Marines Advance In Iwo Struggle

Fifth Division Gains 500 Yards; Japs Show No Signs of Cracking

U. S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Guam, March 8.—In hand-to-hand combat, United States Marines drove two 500-yard salients Wednesday into the rocky, intricately-fortified north end of Iwo but the Japanese still showed no signs of cracking on the 17th day of the invasion.

All three Marine divisions, on the second day of a renewed offensive to end the bloody operation, registered gains but they were spotty and officers were not inclined to regard them as significant.

Enemy resistance continued heavy. Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced the progress in a communique today.

The Nipponese resistance was with "small arms and machine-gun fire." There was no reference to mortar and artillery opposition.

The big gain Wednesday was registered on the west side by Maj. Gen. Keller E. Rockey's Fifth Marine Division.

Maj. Gen. Graves B. Erskine's Third Marine Division also punched ahead in the center where the Leathernecks are getting into position to cut the Nipponese garrison in two.

Maj. Gen. Clifton B. Cates' Fourth Marine Division scored gains up to 200 yards.

Reports received at headquarters were vague as to the specific locations of the new gains.

The progress was stepped up over that of Tuesday when the all-out offensive to crush the last Japanese organized resistance was opened. Tuesday's gains were measured in meager yards.

Carrier planes continued to neutralize Japanese bases in the Bonins north of Iwo, hitting Chichi and Haha with rockets and bombs.

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AMERICANS ARE NOW ON THE RHINE NEAR COBLENZ

OVERJOYED

Cologne, Germany, March 7.—German looted German in ruined Cologne today as the iron discipline of 12 years of Nazi rule crumbled under an exuberance that accompanied American occupation of the Reich's fourth largest metropolis.

Food dumps, liquor warehouses, and clothing floors of the city's remaining department stores were raided by wine-happy citizens rioting in bomb-destroyed "Alstadt"—or the old city section of ancient Cologne.

Combat troops, completing final mopping up stages of their occupation of the city were too busy with their own problems to do more than hold in check this demonstration of spontaneous looting by the city's poor.

"The celebration is on," said Lt. Walter H. Stevens of Salt Lake City after a tour of the waterfront area. "It's like Saturday night back home when the carnival's in town."

"They are milling around so much in some places that you can't get a peep through the streets. They are going crazy. They are carrying big boxes of cheese, cases of liquor and all the clothes they can lug with them."

The German collapse on the Third Army front, started by the Fourth Armored Division's breakthrough at Bitburg three days ago, soon developed into a rout with other units of the Third Army plunging eastward and the First Army swinging southward after the capture of Cologne.

No Nazi Front

It was the Ardennes breakthrough in reverse. The Germans obviously had nothing with which to prevent the American sweep from enveloping Coblenz and Bonn.

Dispatches said there actually was no semblance of a front in the Third Army sector.

Virtually all resistance had been overwhelmed and the German troops appeared concerned only with retreating to safety or surrendering as quickly as possible. Masses of Nazi equipment were destroyed and supply dumps were captured so rapidly that the loot had not been evacuated.

The Fourth Armored Division reached the river just northwest of Coblenz in a drive which carried 29 miles in 12 hours. In its greatest surge since Normandy, the Third Army covered 65 miles in 68 hours, making the western Allies' deepest penetration of the Reich.

The enemy fell back in hectic retreat and offered but little resistance as Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's men rolled through town after town and streaked past thousands of prisoners, captured in such numbers they could not all be chaperoned to the rear.

Thoroughly Whipped