

G-Men clinch state after tournament playoff

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by Bruce Fishback

Returning to the state tournament after a four year wait, the varsity cagers pulled off two tight wins while rolling to the school's first state basketball championship.

The Generals started off tournament play when they met North Eugene in a game which showed a lead change several times, but with the G-Men coming out on top in the last seconds 41-39. This win gave the cagers the right to meet Klamath Falls in the quarter finals of the tourney.

The K-Falls game proved to be the highlight of the tournament. The Generals led for most of the game but the Pelicans stayed within one to five points throughout the first three quarters. The fourth quarter highlighted the game as the K-Falls cagers pulled ahead and led the Generals by three points until Don Lincoln was fouled while making a shot with 40 seconds left in the game. Lincoln put both shots in which left the G-Men trailing by one.

Employing a full court press, the Generals managed to get the ball on a turnover when it was knocked out of bounds. The G-Men raced down court and fed the ball to Bill Flowers who shot but was fouled with 12 seconds left on the clock. Flowers missed both shots but the ball was knocked out of bounds by Klamath's B. G. Brosterhaus.

The ball was tossed out and fed to Flowers who put the shot up and in with eight seconds left. The Pelicans tried to come back but the buzzer rang, leaving the Generals to face the defending champions McNary in the semi-finals.

"Being behind Klamath Falls with 40 seconds to go had to be the most tense part of the tournament," stated Coach Ed Rooney.

The McNary game proved exciting during the first half as the G-Men and the Celtics stayed close together and at the half the score was knotted at 29-29. The third quarter was the turning point as the Generals poured in 20 points to McNary's 10. The game ended with the Generals headed for a third meeting with Madison in the finals.

The Generals were the first to score but the Senators quickly rebounded and captured the lead. Both teams gained the lead during the first quarter but as it ended Madison held a four point edge. The second quarter was not good for the Generals either, as the Senators picked up two more points and at the half led by a score of 27-21.

The second half started off poorly for the G-Men as the Madison cagers picked up four more points and held a ten point lead. Midway through the third period Ed Geist made a three point play and when the quarter ended the Generals had cut the deficit to three points.

The fourth quarter almost turned into a K-Falls game, but Flowers sank a basket and he and Don Lincoln dropped in four freethrows to put the game on ice.

"The boys decided that they weren't going to quit when they were down by ten," stated Coach Rooney. "In fact, the deficit actually worked to their advantage. The turning point came when Ed got those three points. From there it was all downhill. The boys really started moving then," he added.

Besides capturing the state crown the Generals also managed to place two players on the All-Tournament teams. Mike Naylor gained a spot on the first team while Don Lincoln captured a spot on the second team.

"I could not pick out one boy that did a great job during the tournament, but I would have to say all five did a great job. We don't have one or two good players like the other teams, we have five," concluded Mr. Rooney.



GRINS ON EVERY FACE, the basketball team proves that "We ARE number one" after Saturday night's victory against the Madison Senators and the first state championship after seven trips to the state tournament.

TEAM MEMBERS ARE: Steve Crane, Artie Wilson, Mike Harris and Mike Naylor. In the middle are: Robin Sinclair, Dan Perich, and Ed Geist. On top: Gary Johnson, Bill Flowers, June Jones, and Tim Meyers. Don Lincoln is missing.

Coaches sip champagne

Bubbles, basketballs mix at victory celebration

Tiny bubbles and basketballs finally got to know each other last Saturday night at the varsity basketball team's victory celebration party. The tiny bubbles which popped in coke for the players and champagne for the coaches exploded from 11:30 p.m. until 3:00 a.m. at varsity coach Rooney's home.

There were about 20 to 30 people at the party," commented Mr. Rooney after a moment's tabulation.

Members of the Rally, JV and Varsity basketball teams, coaches, ex-coaches, ex-basketball players and even a few strangers were in attendance at the gala event.

Among the graduate guests were Mark Leap, who graduated in '62 and played with the team when it went to state twice during his years at Grant, and Sid Cooper, who is a junior Chamber of Commerce repre-

sentative. He also went to Grant. Both Sid and Mark furnished the coaches with champagne.

Even though there was no live orchestra or floor show, the players had an enjoyable evening discussing and comparing experiences of the tournament.

In between discussions party members kept busy munching various crackers and pizzas.

As far as after party damage reports go, Mr. Rooney smiled,

"We have nine kids and after the party everything just looked normal."

Mr. Rooney previously planned to take the players to breakfast Sunday morning but due to some confusion the breakfast was cancelled.

A banquet is now in the process of being planned to honor the "state winning team."