



SPORTS

White Buffs clinch state title

*From the Unknown
to the Spotlight*



A VICTORIOUS Buff team poses for an after-tournament photo proudly displaying the huge plague of the tournament brackets awarded them. Kim Manion and Fran Moses are wearing the victory nets about their necks amid shouts of "we're number one!" Photo by Olney Patt Jr.

The Madras girls White Buffaloes went over the mountain with a lot of confidence and an abundance of talent. They put it all together with as large a measure of determination and came back to this side of the mountain with the State AA title, the trophy, and plenty of respect.

Their confidence was inspired by a 19-1 record, some exceptionally outstanding players — but there was another ingredient, too, the girls admitted.

"We knew we were going to win because we had our lucky bus driver Wes Pendergraft with us," agreed Kim Manion and Fran Moses. "The only game we lost was to the Cowgirls at Prineville, and that was the one time he wasn't our driver," they said.

Then, too, the Buffs all wore their "lucky socks", and according to Kim their manager Lisa Nelson gets a "certain feeling" when the Buffs are going to win, and she had that feeling throughout the tournament.

So with all these good feelings and lusty shouts of "ow-na!", the team exploded onto the playing floor to compete in each game as if it were the most important in the tournament.

"We played really hard from the opening moment of each game until the final buzzer sounded," said Fran. And it paid off.

The Buffs overcame a case of nerves to squeeze by Coquille 50 to 47 in the first game, then they stunned defending champions Yamhill-Carlton 43 to 35 in the semifinals. The only obstacle in the battle for the title was the undefeated Rogue

River team which witnessed the determined Buffs strip them of their winning streak and the championship with a 43 to 41 Buff victory.

"Rogue River is the toughest team we've faced," said Kim. "They play like us." She gave them a lot of credit as good ball handlers and said that the Chieftains "run and gun", fast breaking like the Buffs. Fran said, "We won that game on our defense."

Asked if there were any surprises in the state tourney, the girls said "no". They knew it would be hard but they also knew they could do it.

There was a surprise for Kim Manion and Fran Moses, though. They were both named all-tourney selections — Kim to the first team and Fran to the second. According to Geraldine Jim who attended the games, everybody in the crowd really showed their appreciation for the way those girls played. "We could hear comments all around us, especially about Fran's ability," she said.

Back in Spilyay's January 21st edition a headline on the sports page read, "Girls Basketball Team Rated Tops". Now, boasting a 22-1 record and the Oregon 1977 Class AA Girls Basketball Championship, the buffs are not just rated tops, they ARE tops.

BOX SCORES FOR EACH GAME

MADRAS	12	12	14	12	— 50
COQUILLE	14	8	15	10	— 47
MADRAS	8	9	14	12	— 43
Y-C	5	6	12	12	— 35
MADRAS	11	8	10	14	— 43
ROGUE R.	11	8	10	11	— 41



Teen ball update

The teen basketball clubs have not been flashy recently, but they've been quietly participating in a number of tournaments and performances in what Coach Rhoan has termed a "building season."

"I've seen some changes in their attitude and their outlook of themselves," commented

Rhoan.

Last weekend, March 11-13, the team traveled to White Swan and won sixth place in the 19 and under tournament. They earned the Sportsmanship trophy and Rod Mitchell was named an All Star.

The previous weekend found the ball players engaged

in a slightly different activity. Thirty-two kids, escorted by the Rhoans, went down to Hoopa to perform dancing and drumming during the adult All-Indian Tournament being held there. They put on four performances and toured the high school at Hoopa.

While there, they also matched basketball skills with the Hoopa High School teams. Both games were won by Hoopa.

On the way, the boys played a game in Chiloquin which they won 118-108. Rod Mitchell scored 56 points in this game.

Both the boys and girls played Chiloquin at home on March 8. The girls lost but the boys won a rather extended game. According to the coach, the boys couldn't get enough and played six quarters just for fun!

The next tournament is this weekend, March 18-20, in Laconner, Washington. Boys and girls 16 and under will be participating.

Boxing regionals here this weekend

Warm Springs, Oregon, will be the host of the 1977 Boxing Region I Championships. The tourney will be held March 18, 19 and 20, 1977. The winners of each of the eleven divisions will advance to the National Indian Finals in Stewart, Nevada, April 15 & 16, 1977.

Region I consists of Wash-

ington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Wyoming, British Columbia, and Western Alberta. Weigh-ins will be held from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. Friday, the 18th. Entries will close at 7 p.m. Friday. The Judges and Referees should be at the Communitie Center 7 p.m. Friday evening. Hope to see you there.



Barbara Earl goes up for the ball as other teammates move in to form a tight defense which may have won them the game.

Photo by Olney Patt Jr.