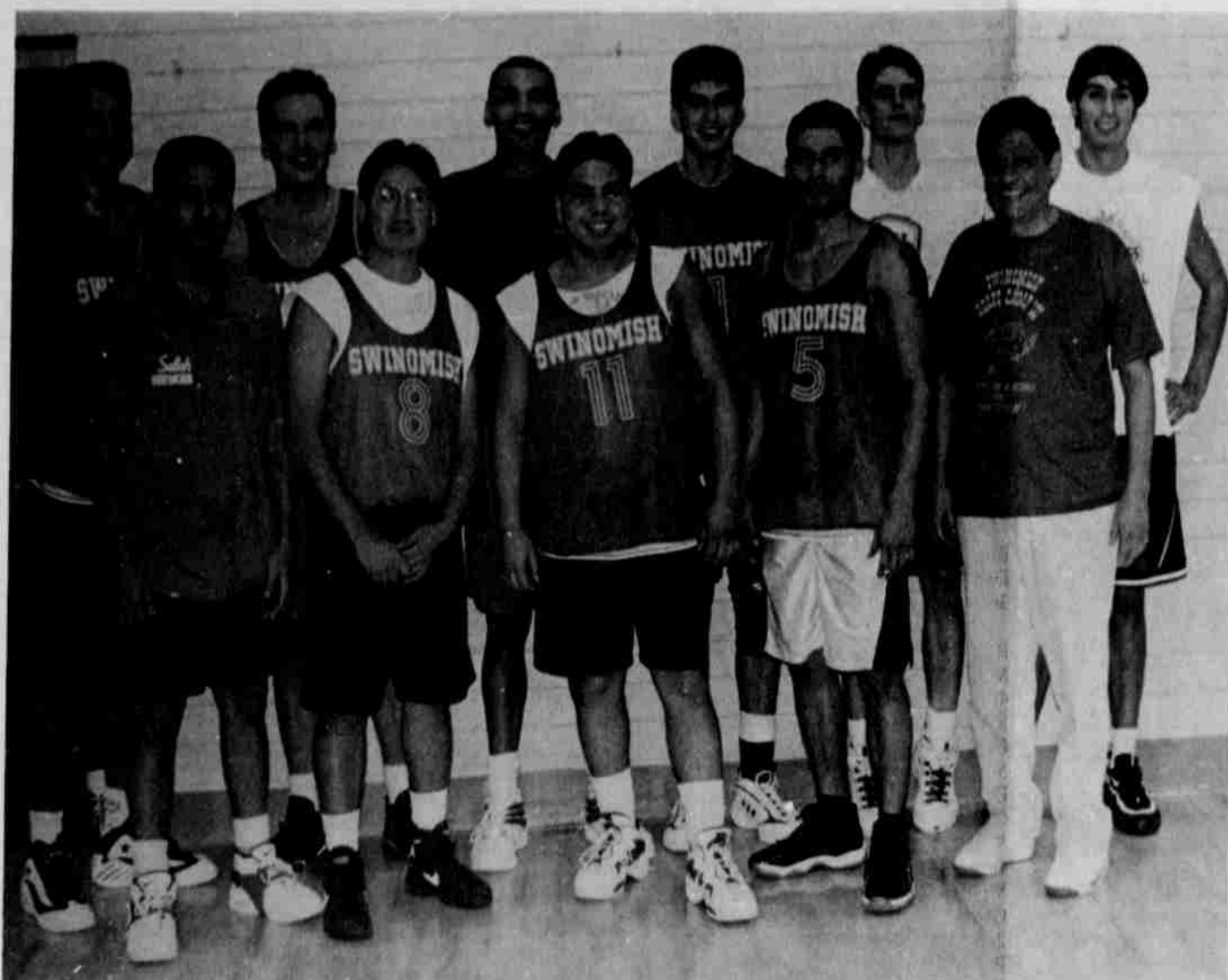


Swinomish team takes home championship title



Swinomish team members, Champions of the 38th Annual Holiday Mens Basketball Tournament.

The 38th Annual Warm Springs Indian Holiday Basketball Tournament, held January 1 to 4, 1997, at the Warm Springs Community Center was won by Swinomish, LaConner, Washington.

The tourney didn't have all twelve teams due to the bad weather in Washington and Oregon. Three Washington teams and one Oregon team could not make the tourney.

In the first game Warm Springs Renegades, a fill-in team for Chiloquin, played Swinomish. The game was close going into the second quarter of play with Swinomish leading 26-19. In the second Swinomish started to use their size advantage and out scored the Renegades 27-6 in the period. The final score was 122-60. Joe Prue lead a balance attack for Swinomish with 34 points. Tray Leonard was high man for the Renegades with 13.

The next game was a scrimmage game because White Swan was unable to come. The Simnasho Running Rebels received a bye.

Warm Springs Wild Cards played Nez Perce Nation in the first quarter-final game. Nez Perce jumped out to a 32-19 lead in the first period and had a 64-40 halftime lead. Nez Perce coasted to a 135-87. Greg Jose scored 33 and Mike Leslie had 28 to lead Nez Perce. Michael Hellon had 21 for the Wild Cards. The win advanced Nez Perce to the semis.

The next game was Warm Springs Magpies vs Swinomish, with Swinomish prevailing 116-83. Swinomish had seven players in double figures in scoring, lead by Joe Prue with 16 points. Jerome Davis score 26 points for the Magpies.

The Simnasho Running Rebels played the Oregon Athletics. The Athletics won by the score of 104-76. Merle Smith scored 22 and Louis Baquera had 24 to lead the Oregon Athletics. James Scott had 21 points for the Rebels.

Santa Clara came up against Salem Indian Pride in the final game on Thursday night. Salem Indian Pride played right with the bigger Santa Clara team and was only down 35-37 at halftime. Santa Clara pulled away from the Pride in the third with Waunblee LaDesma scoring 11 of his 27 points in the third. Santa Clara was lead in scoring by Joe Hutt who had 32. Dave Smith had 27 and Nick Mathison pitched in 21 for Santa Clara. The Pride were lead by Richard Foote, Jr. with 45 points and Jim Watah who scored 28. The final was 124-106 Santa Clara.

Dave Smith lead Santa Clara with 44 points for a win over Oregon Athletics in the first semi final game. Santa Clara had to come from behind for the win, the Athletics were ahead 25-23 in the first. At halftime, the Athletics had a 60-43 lead. Dave Smith got hot in the third to score 17 of his points in the period. Santa Clara and the Athletics played even basketball the rest of the way. The lead changed several times in the fourth quarter. Santa Clara won a close game by the score of 107-105.

The other semi-final game had Nez Perce vs Swinomish. Swinomish won a hard fought contest by the score of 117-111. Mike Wilbur had 36 points. Wilbur made eight three pointers and made twelve free throws. Nez Perce had a halftime lead of 56-48. Wilbur scored 17 points in the third to help Swinomish take a 82-79 going into the fourth quarter. Swinomish out-scored Nez Perce 35-32 in the fourth quarter for the win. Joe Prue scored 20 points while Monty Larson added 16 for Swinomish. Greg Jose had 39 and Mike Leslie scored 19 for Nez Perce.

In the losers' bracket, the Warm Springs Renegades played the Salem Indian Pride with the Renegades winning 94-72. Gary Sampson lead all scores with 28 points. In winning, the Renegades had to play the Magpies in Saturday's first game. The Magpies won in overtime 82-78. The Renegades had a 30-27 halftime lead before the Magpies came back. Jerome Davis and Shawn Harry lead the Magpies in scoring with 26 and 21 points. Tray Leonard and Tom Adams each scored 23 apiece to lead the Renegades.

Saturday's next game was Wild Cards vs the Running Rebels.

The Rebels won by the score of 77-66. The Rebels were lead by James Scott's 31 points. Scott made seven three pointers for the game. Remo Smith added 14 points. Larry Scott scored 13 to lead the Wild Cards. Richard Brisbois and Michael Hellon each had 12 for the Wild Cards.

The third game of the day pitted the Magpies against the Oregon Athletics. The Athletics rode the hot shooting of Seymour Rueben who had ten three pointers enroute to 40 points. The Athletics had a 67-38 halftime lead and never looked back, winning by the final score of 125-67. Jerome Davis scored 30 for the Magpies.

The other consolation game had Nez Perce vs the Running Rebels with the Nez Perce team coming out on top by the score of 95-84. The Rebels were down 14-19 in the first quarter and at the half they were down 37-43. Nez Perce used an inside-outside attack with Greg Jose doing the damage from the perimeter and Mike Leslie doing the job on the inside. They scored 23 and 24 respectively. The Rebels were lead by Remo Smith's 27 points.

The third and fourth place game had Nez Perce going against Oregon Athletics. Oregon lead this very hardfought game. The game was 21-18 at the end of the first quarter. The halftime score was 49-47 with the Athletics ahead. The third quarter Louis Baquera helped the Athletics keep the lead by scoring 12 of his game high 29 points. But in the fourth the Nez Perce team took their first lead of the game. John Takes Enemy had 12 of his 22 points in the final frame to lead his team to victory by the score of 96-88. Buck Jones had 20 and Ryan Samms scored 24. Mike Leslie had 24 for Nez Perce. The win gave third place to the Nez Perce team and Oregon Athletics went home with fourth place.

The Championship game had Swinomish and Santa Clara playing for the Jackets. Swinomish had a 19 to 17 lead after one quarter of play with Mike Wilbur scoring nine points in the quarter. Joe Hutt kept Santa Clara close by scoring eight points. In the second quarter, MVP Tandy Wilbur scored nine of his 22 points and shut down Santa Clara's 6'10" center Jeff Bray. The halftime score was 51-45. In third quarter Nick Mathison and Dave Smith tried to give Santa Clara the lead, but Swinomish's Greg Foster scored 12 points to help keep the lead. The fourth quarter started with Swinomish leading 78-73. Swinomish got great play from its bench to preserve the win. Santa Clara was lead in scoring by Joe Hutt with 32 and got 27 and 21 points from Dave Smith and Nick Mathison respectively. Swinomish had five players in double figures leading the way was Tandy Wilbur's 22 to go along with a gamehigh 14 rebounds. Mike Wilbur 20 points and Greg Foster scored 21 points. The final score was Swinomish 105 to 97 for Santa Clara.

The Champions were Swinomish. Second place went to Santa Clara. Third place went to Nez Perce Nation. Oregon Athletics took home Fourth place. Fifth place went to The Running Rebels. Warm Springs Magpies placed Sixth place.

Tandy Wilbur, Swinomish earned the MVP award. Mister Hustle went to Greg Factor, Swinomish. High Scorer was Dave Smith, Santa Clara with a 30.7 point game average.

The All-Stars were:

Shane Rivera	Running Rebels
Shawn Harry	Magpies
Seymour Rueben	Oregon Athletics
Louis Baquera	Oregon Athletics
Mike Leslie	Nez Perce
Greg Jose	Nez Perce
Dave Smith	Santa Clara
Joe Hutt	Santa Clara
Nick Mathison	Santa Clara
Monte Larson	Swinomish
Joe Prue	Swinomish
Mike Wilbur	Swinomish



Joe Hutt, Santa Clara, goes for two during championship game.



Action between Nez Perce and Oregon Athletics.



Referees Jamie Henry and Charlie Gonzales breakup players during championship game.



Tandy Wilbur, MVP, scores two points against Santa Clara.