

7 tribal players on girls varsity



Top: (from left) Jaycelene Frank, Jacoba Smith, Yolanda Yallup, Briana Stacona
Bottom: Sharice Johnson, Whitley Ruiz, Shirelle Adams, Kristi Olney

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Tribal member students hold the majority on the girls' varsity basketball team at Madras High School this year.

Seven players from Warm Springs play on the varsity team: Jacoba Smith, Shirelle Adams, Sharice Johnson, Jaycelene Frank, Yolanda Yallup, Briana Stacona and Whitley Ruiz.

In their league, Stacona said, "We're the Indian team."

The players said no other team features such a large amount of tribal players.

All of the girls enjoy playing basketball at Madras High School, they said, and have also competed together in outside tournaments.

As for the high school team, Johnson said, "It's more organized than playing Rez Ball."

"It's basically the same team as last year," Stacona said. "We have two new players."

The girls agreed that all of the players bring something to the team.

"Everyone has their strengths and weaknesses," Smith said.

According to Stacona, "We're trying to focus on bringing it all together and being just one team."

As with every sport, basketball does have certain challenges.

For this team, Ruiz said, the challenges are within themselves—"In a good way," she added.

All of the players said that more of the community support is key to their success.

"Come support us," Stacona said. "It's early in the season but it would feel good to have the support."

So far this season the girls' team has won two games and lost one.

Kristi Olney, Destry Begay

and Marissa Ahern play for the junior varsity, while Jillisa Suppah, Karlen Yallup Katherine Quaid, Dena Thomas, Roschena Sargeant and Angela Bellanger play for the freshman team.

The girls' basketball teams are facing new challenges this year after changing leagues and divisions.

The team will compete this year in the 5A league in the Intermountain Conference Division.

During prior seasons the team competed at the 3A level.

Boys squad enjoys community support



Basketball players Logan Kneeland, Derrick Metcalf, Robert Main, Albert Adams and Jansen Harrington (from left).

The boys' varsity basketball players at Madras High School couldn't put their fingers on why they enjoy basketball so much.

"Because it's fun," was the general consensus.

Albert Adams, Robert Main, Derrick Metcalf, Jansen Harrington and Logan Kneeland all play for the boys' varsity basketball team.

The boys emphasized the need for continuing community support.

"There's a lot of people that come out," Adams said. "It's like half the gym."

The players said that because of the number of tribal members on the junior varsity and freshman teams, they often see a large amount of tribal members at the games.

"It helps," Adams added. "We want to get more 'skins' to come to the games," Kneeland said.

So far this season the boys' varsity team has won three games and lost one.

"We've been doing pretty good," Adams said. "We had one bad game."

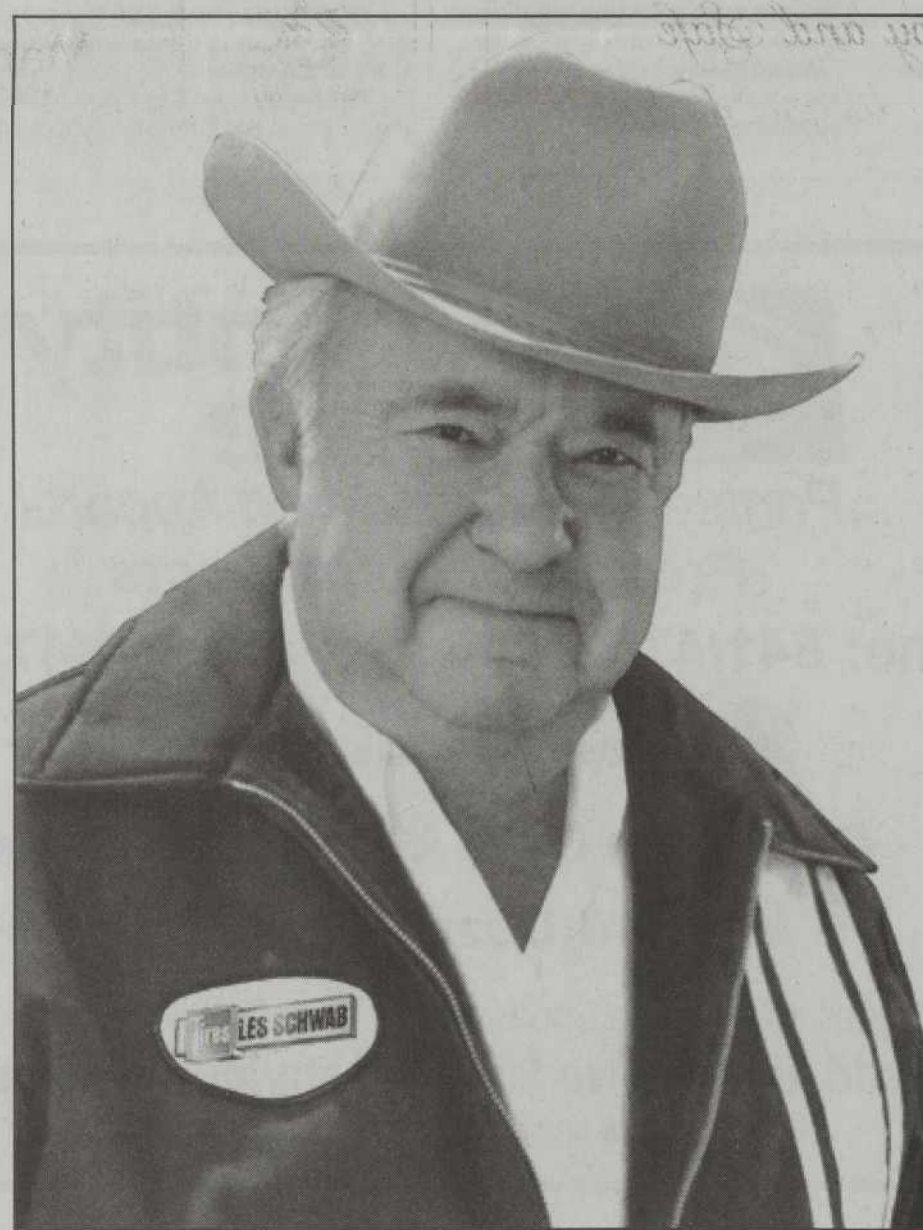
Playing for the junior varsity team are Albert Kalama, Freddy Hernandez, Terence Wolfe,

Sean Sohapp, Richard Harrington and LaRon Katchia.

The freshman team players from Warm Springs are Redsky Suppah, Martin Smith-Meannealy, Spencer Ellsbury, Jason Smartlowit, Damian Reynoso and Tyrell Smith.

The boys' basketball team changed from the 3A league to the 5A league in the Intermountain Conference League for the 2006-07 season.

— by Leslie Mitts



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