

# The Fifth Quarter

Sports by Mike Oths

With the month of March upon us, it's time to start taking a serious look at the basketball world. Most N.C.A.A. teams will wind up their regular seasons this weekend or next, and the N.C.A.A. tourney is fast approaching.

In the collegiate ranks, most teams considered to have a serious shot at top honors have already cinched their N.C.A.A. bids. Having said that, it should be remembered that last year's champ—North Carolina State—wasn't even considered to be a tournament entry, much less a title contender at this point last year.

Conceding that the eventual champion might be a Georgia Tech or an Auburn, there are four teams that the big money would back for the title—North Carolina, Georgetown, Kentucky and Houston. Here's a look at each:

North Carolina, currently ranked N. one, has a lot to brag about. Everybody's player of the year—Michael Jordan—leads a very talented crew. The Tarheels have played very consistently this year. An often overlooked statistic which recommends U.N.C. is their team free-throw percentage of 78 percent which is second in the country. The difficult factor in evaluating Carolina is the team's tournament history. Every time that it seems that Dean Smith's charges should be "the" favorite, they seem to trip up. Come tournament time, however, the Tarheels will be there. A key: see if they win the A.C.C. Tournament, which might determine whether they stay in the East for the regionals.

Georgetown has the big man, Patrick Ewing, which fact alone merits consideration for the Hoyas. John Thompson's teams are noted for being defense-oriented, a quality which could serve them well in the tourney. Although the Big East conference appears slightly down from last year, the G-Men have looked very impressive throughout the season. Their weakness may be their tendency to rely too much on Ewing.

The Kentucky Wildcats could better be called the "wildcards." Like the proverbial little girl, when they're good they're very, very good; when they're bad... When the 'Cats are on their game, their front line of Bowie, Turpin and Walker is without parallel. Inexplicably, U.K. has stumbled three times already in S.E.C. play. Kentucky is vulnerable at the guard spot, where Dickie Beal and Jim Master seem to have regressed in the presence of their more publicized colleagues. Joe. B. Hall's team has a recent history of tournament failure, but they are certainly capable of catching fire at tournament time. Kentucky's key seems to be getting past the first-round game.

Houston's Cougars, like always, are hard to evaluate. The Southwest Conference is weak (Houston has won their last 38 league games), although the Cougs have handled the S.W.C.'s other top team, Arkansas. The plus factors for Houston are its big man, Akeem Olajuwon, and the fact that the team has been to the Final Four the last two years. For all Blazer fans, Houston should be a favorite-son team. An N.C.A.A. title would probably send Akeem to the N.B.A. for certain, and very possibly to Portland.

Having discussed the popular favorites, there are several teams that bear watching, Oklahoma's Sooners, with all-world center Wayman Tisdale, can't be ignored. Maryland, Memphis State and Purdue are other longshots to watch. Want a popular longshot? Try Washington's Huskies. It would be fun to see a home team in the finals. Of course, a lot of unaligned fans will pull for Ray Meyer's last DePaul team, an emotional factor which has both plusses and minuses.

Oregon State? Who knows? As long as they can avoid the Lamars of this world, anything can happen. The Beavers handle the ball well, a plus at tournament time.

One thing's for sure, however. No matter which surprise teams make it, somebody you know will say: "You know, I always thought they had a chance."

## Yard of the Month winners honored

On Monday, Feb. 13, members of the Heppner Garden Club honored the Yard of the Month winners of the past three years at a turkey dinner at All Saint's Episcopal Church parish hall in Heppner. Tables and the hall were decorated with lace tablecloths, red paper hearts and flowers, carrying out a Valentine's Day motif. In October, the club had a lesson in bulb forcing and some of the

blooms added to the decor of the hall.

Following the dinner a program was given on things that can be done in the garden when weather permits. Dr. Wallace Wolf discussed the kinds of fruit trees that grow well in this area and listed pertinent facts about each kind.

Theta Lowe spoke on "Theme Gardens." A theme, she explained, can be carried out with a single color or a



Sparetimers  
February 21

	Won - Lost
Coast to Coast	27 - 9
Peterson's	23 - 13
M.C.G.G.	23 - 13
Les Schwab	18 - 18
Len's Processing	16 - 20
Gardner's	15 - 21
Sears	14 - 22
Central Market	10 - 26
Splits: Martha Doherty 3-7-10; Joyce Winters 4-7-10; Lucille Massey 4-7-10; Verna Brinda 5-6, 3-10; Katie McRoberts 3-10; Joan Tanory 6-10-7.	
High game: Chris Limanen - 233.	
High series: Chris Limanen - 569.	
High team game: Coast to Coast - 972.	
High team series: Coast to Coast - 2,784.	

Thursday Nite Ladies  
February 23

	Won - Lost
Cole's	18 - 10
B & C Repair	18 - 10
M & R	17 - 11
Ray Boyce Ins.	15 - 13
B.P.O.E. No. 358	13 - 15
C.B.E.C.	12 - 16
Kinzua Corp.	11 - 17
Bucknum's	8 - 20
Splits: LoRayne Bowman 4-5-7; and Marie Rudisill 3-10.	
High game: Bonnie Palma-teer - 189.	
High series: Harriet Evans - 491.	
High team game: Kinzua Corp. - 907.	
High team series: B & C Repair - 2,642.	

## What's Your Opinion?



Question: "How important do you think the New Hampshire primary is to presidential candidates?"

"I don't know why they think it's so important... All the primaries are important." said Lorraine Ball, Ione.

## JV Fillies finish season with close one



Cindy Stroeber (12) shoots over Rocket player

photo by Jon Mitchell

By DANA REID

The Heppner JV Fillies met the Pilot Rock Rockets Friday, Feb. 17, at Heppner to play their last game of the season.

The first quarter started as the tip off went to the Pilot Rock Rockets. The Rockets took the ball down court and went all the way in for two points. The Fillies took the ball out and started down court as the Rockets began using a full court press. Heppner had some trouble getting through the press but managed to do so and took the ball in for two points. Back on defense Heppner also started with a full court press and played very good defense. The Rockets were ahead at the end of the first quarter with a score of 6-14.

The Rockets received the tip off to start the second quarter and took the ball down court. Heppner played tough defense and forced the Rockets to turn the ball over. The Fillies took the ball down court and good position from Heppner forced the Rockets to foul which put the Fillies up to the free throw line. Heppner was having a little trouble rebounding but were gaining on the Rockets as they were only seven points

behind at the end of the second quarter. The score was 14-21.

The third quarter started with the tip off going to Pilot Rock. The Fillies played good defense and stole the ball. They took it down court and set it up to win through their plays. The Fillies were playing tough defense but had too many turnovers as the Rockets remained on top at the end of the third quarter 24-33.

The fourth quarter started with the tip off going to the Fillies. They took the ball down court and in for two points Heppner continued to use a full court press and played great defense. The Fillies were a little slow getting to the rebounds but they hustled back on defense. Towards the end of the fourth quarter the Fillies started to get into foul trouble but they were making a comeback but by the time the buzzer sounded the Pilot Rock Rockets were in the lead. The final score was 36-40.

Missy Eubanks was top scorer for the Fillies with 13 points. She was also top rebounder with six, had the most steals with 10 and shot 87.5 percent from the line. Cindy Stroeber had the most assists with two.

"We played a very good

"Our number of steals was up to 35 and our freethrow percentage was 53. We didn't rebound nearly as well as the last few games. We had a team total of 22 rebounds. We had 47 turnovers, but our number of travels was down considerably. Our lack of rebounds and assists and our high number of turnovers were due to lack of practice. "I was very pleased that we

improved every quarter of the game. Our trend has been to play well in the first or second quarter and the fourth. We played very well in the third quarter for the first time. We had more turnovers in the fourth quarter, but we also had more steals.

"Overall, I thought it was a good game to finish the season on," commented Heppner JV Coach Karen Howe.

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## Teens of the Month

### Jeff Ball Ione

Jeff Ball, son of Marie and Jim Boor, has been chosen Ione High School student of the month for December and January 1983, 84.

Jeff is a junior, with a GPA of 3.13. After graduation from high school next year, he plans to attend college (probably BMCC) and major in computer science.

Motor cycling and hunting are his hobbies. He loves all sports: football, basketball, and tennis.

### Eric Thompson Heppner

Eric Thompson is a senior at Heppner High School. Eric has been thoroughly involved in school activities throughout his four years of attendance at Heppner High. He has served as associated student body vice president, outdoor club president and National Honor Society vice president. He has been an outstanding member and leader of the basketball and baseball teams.

Eric has been equally successful in the classroom, maintaining a 3.82 G.P.A.

Eric plans to attend Oregon State University following his graduation.

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