

SPORTS & RECREATION

MARCH 18, 2010

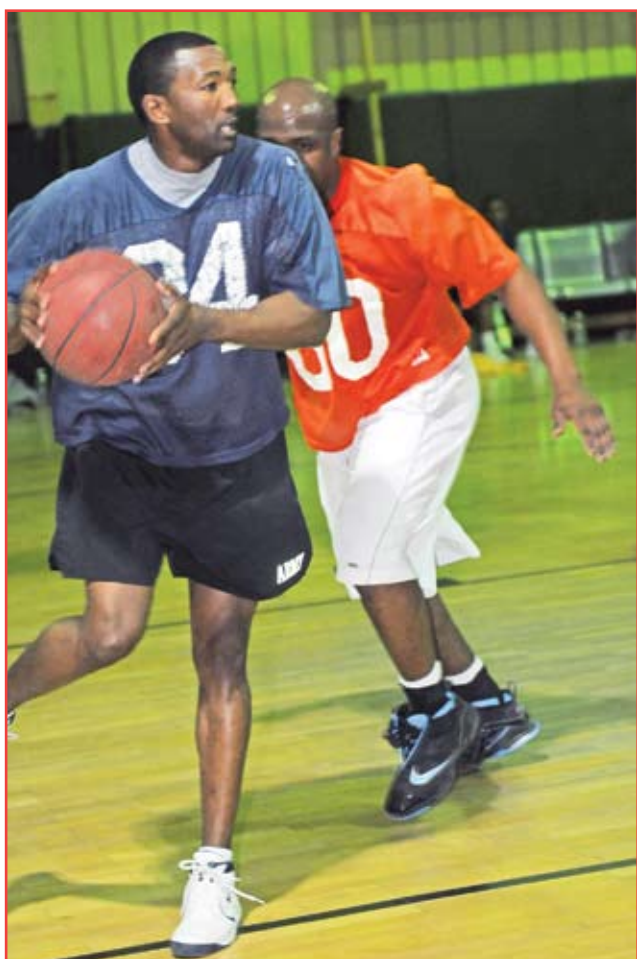
COB Speicher hosts basketball tournament

Spc. Jessica Zullig
135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 3rd
Infantry Division PAO

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – Soldiers age 35 and older had an opportunity to compete against their peers in a basketball tournament at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, March 6.

The tournament, sponsored by the Moral, Welfare and Recreation organization, was a “slam dunk” for Task Force Marne Soldiers.

“I decided to compete to show that this old man still has moves,” said Master Sgt. Raney



Master Sergeant Raney Young, DSTB, 3rd ID Legends, prepares to pass the ball to a teammate during the 35 and over basketball tournament at COB Speicher, Iraq, March 6. The Legends defeated Fear Not of the 21st Casualty Sustainment Hospital in the championship game, 24-16.

Young from the Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, and team member of the Legends. “I think the point of the tournament was to have fun, but it also gave the younger Soldiers an opportunity to see the senior guys in a different atmosphere; show them that we can have fun.”

Six teams, two female and four male, laced their sneakers and donned jerseys for the games with the bleachers full of supportive co-workers.

“I had a person in my office compete in the tournament, and I attended to show support and help raise unit morale,” said Master Sgt. Edward Wright from DSTB, 3rd ID.

“The whole group was supportive, players and fans. We all showed camaraderie tonight,” said Chap. (Lt. Col.) Bryan Walker, chaplain for TF Marne and team member of the Legends.

Three of the four games ended in overtime. As the final seconds slipped away, the crowd cheered on their favorite teams.

Hell-On-Wheels from the 2025th Transportation Company rolled over Fear Not from the 21st Combat Support Hospital with a score of 26-14.

An overtime victory sent the Ballers from DSTB, 3rd ID, to the bench and the Legends, also from DSTB, 3rd ID, to the finals with a score of 28-26.

The most anticipated event of the night was the female teams’ all-or-nothing face-off where the crowd exploded with excitement and support. The Marne-izers and Bulldogs, both from DSTB, 3rd ID, hit overtime with the score tied at 11. The Bulldogs chewed through the Marne-izers’ defense making the final score 13-11, and the Bulldogs the women’s bracket champions.

“I competed in the tournament because the Marne-izers needed another person,” said Capt. Casandra Ades, Chemical, Biological, Radiation, and Nuclear operations officer for DSTB, 3rd ID. “It’s always good to be competitive, but it was more of a learning experience for me; I don’t know how to play. The tournament was meant to bring the base together with a showcase of friendly competition.”

The males’ bracket ended with the championship game between the Legends and Fear Not. The game went into overtime with the score tied at 16. The Legends sunk a few more baskets winning the tournament with a score of 24-16 and clenching the championship.

Chaplain Walker commented that he’s a big fan



Photos by Spc. Jessica Zullig

Major Katrisa Norwood, Bulldogs team member from Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, goes for a layup during the championship game against the Marne-izers of DSTB, 3rd ID, at COB Speicher, Iraq, March 6. The Bulldogs came out on top with a final score of 13-11.

of age-specific, sporting events by saying, “It makes for a better game.”

All the teams expressed their appreciation for the people who made the tournament possible.

“It’s good to have age-specific, sporting events,” said Maj. Katrisa Norwood, the lead scorer for Bulldogs. “When you get those younger Soldiers out here, it’s hard to keep up.”

Master Sergeant Wright agreed with Maj. Norwood by stating the base should have more sporting events categorized by age like softball, flag football and horseshoes.

Soldier leads Olympic bobsledders to gold medal

Tim Higgs
FMWRC Public Affairs

WHISTLER, British Columbia – U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program bobsled coach Sgt. Bill Tavares was the man behind Team USA’s athletes as they blasted off the starting block throughout the 2010 Olympic Winter Games at Whistler Sliding Centre.

Sergeant Tavares, 46, a five-time Olympian from Lake Placid, N.Y., considers manning the sleds a labor of love that keeps him young because the Olympic experience never grows old. There’s a lot of testosterone in the air – a whole bunch of high-fiving, fist-banging, hooting and hollering – as the athletes psych themselves for the fastest possible 30-meter push of a sled.

Whether it was two-man, women’s or four-man competition, Sgt. Tavares was the man wrapped in a red, white and blue, star-studded coat standing behind Team USA’s bobsledders atop the mountain in Whistler.

“It feels great,” said Sgt. Tavares, who assisted U.S. bobsled head coach Brian Shimer, who awaited sleds at the finish line. “It’s pretty cool being at the top. We know right away if we’re standing good, or it’s going to be work for the driver to make it down.”

Sergeant Tavares and Team USA were ultimately rewarded Feb. 27 when former WCAP Soldier Steven Holcomb drove the “Night Train” team of Justin Olsen, Steve Mesler and Curt Tomasevicz to Olympic gold in the four-man event.

“Each team has their own little ritu-

al,” Sgt. Tavares said. “The women are a little calmer, a little quieter. Holcomb’s team, those guys are probably one of the most intense groups around. They are push-happy. When they’re going to go, you know you can be witness to greatness.”

Team Holcomb’s victory ended a 62-year Olympic men’s gold medal bobsled drought for Team USA, but Sgt. Tavares frequently led American women to the podium during that stretch.

In 1998, Sgt. Tavares was named head coach of the U.S. women’s bobsled team. Four years later, he led WCAP Spc. Jill Bakken and Vonetta Flowers to the first gold medal in women’s Olympic bobsled history at the 2002 Winter Games in Park City, Utah, where the event debuted for women. That was

another monumental victory because it marked Team USA’s first Olympic bobsled medal of any color in 46 years, and Flowers became the first African-American to medal in the Olympic Winter Games.

“I’ve been lucky to be part of two gold-medal appearances at the Olympics,” Sgt. Tavares said. “I was the head coach for the inaugural women’s bobsled team in 2002 when they won the gold medal, and now this one is the icing on the cake.”

Sergeant Tavares completed basic training in 1982 and has spent 27 years as a Soldier in the Army and National Guard. He competed at the 1992 Winter Olympics in Albertville, France, where he teamed with Wendel Suckow to finish ninth in luge doubles.

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SOAR Soldiers run for spiritual fitness

Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) take part in the battalion’s Religious Support Team’s spiritual fitness run at Hunter Army Airfield, March 12. The RST focuses its attention on the daily stresses its Soldiers face.

“The intent of the event was to allow the Night Stalkers to participate in an activity that would challenge them mentally, physically and spiritually,” said Chap. (Capt.) Cary Snelling, the battalion chaplain.

More than 120 Night Stalkers participated in the event that also included a prayer breakfast focusing on the importance of Soldiers turning to a higher power when confronting the challenges of their lives.

“We need to look to God for strength,” said Chap. Snelling. “We don’t have to go through life alone.”



Ricky Potts, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment

SPORTS & RECREATION BRIEFS

The CYSS Central Registration, building 443, Gulick Avenue is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., for sign-up. For additional information, call the Youth Sports Office at Jordan Youth Gym at 767-4371.

Register for Stewart Baseball, T-Ball

Registration for Fort Stewart Youth baseball and T-Ball will continue until April 30, or when slots are no longer available.

T-ball is open to all CYSS members, boys & girls (ages 4-6), as of May 1, 2010.

Baseball is open to all CYSS members, boys & girls (ages 7-14), as of August 1, 2010 (6 year-olds MUST turn 7 as of May 1).

Age groups will be 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, & 13-14.

Register at Stewart CYSS Central Registration, building 443 on Gulick Ave.

(Hours of operation: Mon., Tue., Thur., Fri., from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Wed. from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.)

For more information on registration procedures, please call CYSS

Central Registration at 767-2312. For more information on sports available, please call Jordan Youth Gym Sports Office at 767-4371 or 767-9270.

NOTE: Current sports physical is required when registering for CYSS programs, and must not expire before the program ends.

GC Golf Scramble scheduled at Stewart

Registration will close March 25 for the first Garrison Commander's Golf Scramble of 2010 at Taylors Creek Golf Course.

The four-person scramble play will begin with a shotgun start at 1 p.m., March 26.

The cost is \$35 for active duty, military retirees, Army Civilians and golf club members. It is \$45 for civilian guests. Sign up early to be one of the 25 four-person teams.

For details, call 767-2370.

Ladies Day slated at Skeet, Trap Ranges

March 23 is Ladies Day at the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Skeet and Trap Ranges. At Stewart, the range is located at building 8332; at Hunter, it is at building 8250.

The Ladies Day schedule is as follows:

10 a.m. to noon — Instructional classes to learn basics of shooting skeet and trap. The \$10 per person fee includes instruction, shotgun use and shells.

Noon — Fun Shoot to see who hits the target closest to center of the X. Winner receives a \$15 gift card. A minimum of five shooters is needed per round. Cost for Fun Shoot is \$5 per shot.

For details, call Stewart Skeet Range at 435-8219 or Equipment Checkout Center at 435-8205. For the Hunter Skeet Range, call 315-9250.

Skeet, Trap Shooting lessons offered

Skeet and trap shooting lessons for single Soldiers at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield will be offered 5-7 p.m., March 30. At Stewart, the range is located at building 8332; at Hunter, it is at building 8250.

Classes give Single Soldiers an opportunity to learn the basics of shooting skeet and trap. The \$10 per person cost includes instruction, shotgun use and shells.

For details, call 435-8219/435-8205 (Stewart) or 315-9250 (Hunter).

Wellness Fair scheduled at Newman

Newman Fitness Center will be the site for a free, two-hour fitness event titled "Wellness Fair: Mind and Body." The event will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m., April 12.

The fair will include information stations on nutrition, wellness and total fitness. Health and wellness exhibitors from on and off-post will be onsite to complement the event, such as Winn

Army Community Hospital nutrition department, a health coach, Farmers Natural Food Store, massage therapists, cooking demonstrations and more.

For more information, call 767-9336.

Take part in Girlfriend Day Outing

The March 26 outing for Girlfriend Day from 6 to 10 p.m. includes some outdoor entertainment at Cypress Creek Adventure Golf, building 448, weather permitting. The cost is just \$1 per game per person for all ladies.

Call 767-4273 for more information.

Enjoy Moonlite Bowling at Stewart Lanes

Come out and enjoy late-night bowling at Stewart Lanes Bowling Center, building 450, when we are open until 2 a.m. The cost is just \$2.50 per game per person. Or, pay a flat fee of \$25 per person for unlimited bowling from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. The shoe rental fee is \$1.75.

Call 767-4273 for more information.

Stewart-Hunter hosting bass tournament

Pre-registration will continue until April 7 for the catch and release Stewart-Hunter 2010 Bass Tournament, scheduled from 6-10 a.m., April 10, at Stewart's Pond 1 (Pineview Lake).

Participants may register up to one hour before event, if slots remain available. Early registration is encouraged because space is limited.

Contestants can fish from the bank or launch their bass boat. They must have valid Georgia and Stewart-Hunter fishing permits. Prizes will be awarded in youth and adult categories, and an Overall Sportsman prize will be awarded to the active-duty winner.

Pre-registration fees are \$10 for ages 15 and under, \$20 for ages 16 and older. Day of Event fees are \$15 and \$30, respectively.

For details, call Stewart Pass & Permit Office, 435-8061.

Girlfriend Day Outing

Adventure Golf

March 26, 6-10 p.m. • Cypress Creek Adventure Golf
\$1 per game per person for all ladies.

Call 767-4273 for more information



Team Stewart

For more information, visit the Frontline online at www.stewart.army.mil

Share your comments at www.twitter.com/3rdIDMediaTeam

TIME OUT! March Madness explained (sort of)

Commentary by Jennifer Hartwig
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

It's that time of year again — time to fill out your NCAA bracket and watch as it goes to bits.

I don't want to brag, but the last six years I've won my bracket three times. You must be asking yourself, how does she make her amazing picks? Make sure you're alone when you read this so no one else gets it. Here it is: I base it on research, gut and a lot of guessing.

There you have it folks, the key to success! Sorry I can't be of more help, but I'll do what I can.

Beware of the 5-12 games. A No. 12 always upsets a No. 5. My pick this year — Utah State over Texas A&M. But you can take the trendy choice and go with Cornell over Temple. If you'd told me a week ago Cornell would be a 12-seed, I would have said to take them. But they got the worst possible matchup - Temple's coach Fran Dunphy knows the Big Red as well as anyone from his days as head coach of Penn with Cornell

coach Steve Donahue as his assistant. Temple is also riding high entering the tournament, having won the Atlantic 10 tournament title Sunday over Richmond. So I'm going with Temple.

Watch out for No. 3 Georgetown in the Midwest. The Hoyas are coming off defeating No. 1 Duke at home, and getting to the Big East tournament title game. Unfortunately, they are in the same region as Kansas, who despite a lousy draw is easily the best team in the tournament.

Speaking of Duke, I'm not a lover of the Blue Devils, but they've looked pretty good the last few weeks, and got the best draw in the tournament.

However, a team to watch is No. 3 Baylor in the South. The Bears have the ability to get to the Final Four, with the scoring duo of Lace Darius Dunn and Tweety Carter. Plus, if they make it to the Sweet 16, they play in Houston. I'm betting on them to come out of their region (sorry Dukies).

This year's most over-rated team has got to be Notre Dame at No. 6 in the

South. For weeks they were a bubble team, then suddenly a No. 6? I don't get it, but they will get theirs with a loss to #11 Old Dominion in the first round.

A headscratcher is No. 2 Villanova. They have the talent of a No. 2 seed, but they lost 5 of their last 7 games. If the Villanova from the beginning and middle of the season shows up, I expect them to make a nice run. But if the Villanova of the past few weeks shows up, they could be the first big seed to fall.

The west top seed, Syracuse, is in some trouble. If Arinze Onuaku's quad injury only keeps him out of the first round game against Vermont, they should be fine. But if he doesn't play in their second game against Gonzaga or Florida State, the Orangemen could be in some trouble. Even if he's back he won't be 100 percent, so I'm going to bet on Syracuse being the first No. 1 to exit the tournament.

The 8 versus 9 games are always the hardest to call, and this year is no different, with No. 8 Texas vs. No. 9 Wake

Forest and No. 8 California vs. No. 9 Louisville both being head-scratchers. I'm going with Texas, who has the talent to beat Kentucky in the second round and Louisville.

Never underestimate the mid-majors; don't overestimate them, either. They can make Cinderella runs, but only twice has a team ranked outside of the top 16 ever won the tournament. The champion will be a top team, a Kansas, Duke or Kentucky. A team of that caliber — with history, money and big recruits — always wins.

A 16 seed has never beaten a top seed in the first round. It won't happen this year either.

Here's my Final Four: Kansas, Kentucky (I won't be fooled by West Virginia), Baylor and Kansas State. My winner? Kansas for the second time in three years.

So those are my pointers, thoughts and predictions for the tournament. Go get your erasers and start changing those picks ... not that I condone gambling, of course.

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Sergeant Tavares was named 1999 Developmental Coach of the Year by the United States Olympic Committee, signaling the continuation of another phase of his athletic life — all while serving in the Army.

Sergeant Tavares coached WCAP bobsled pilot Sgt. Shauna Rohbock and Valerie Fleming to a silver medal at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Cesana Pariol, Italy, where they claimed the lone bobsled medal for Team USA. He also backed Erin Pac and Elana Meyers, who teamed to win the women's bronze at Whistler aboard Team USA II.

"The women have medaled in every Olympic event since I've been coaching with them," Sgt. Tavares said. "And now the men have finally won their gold medal. It's just great to be a part of that. What makes it amazing is that gold medal was won

on foreign soil. It's always good to win the World Championships and Olympic gold on foreign soil."

All told, Sgt. Tavares had a coaching hand in Team USA winning two Olympic gold and one silver medals, one gold, two silver and three bronze medals at the World Championships, and another 70 medals on the World Cup circuit.

"So I've had a good turn," said Sgt. Tavares, who intends to continue coaching. "And now we've won a World Championship and an Olympic gold medal with Steve Holcomb, and he's one of our own."

Team USA attended an awards party at the USA House after the four-man bobsled medal ceremony was completed at Whistler Medals Plaza.

"Each of the four gold medalists got up and said something about the coaches and staff that helped them get there," Sgt. Tavares said. "It wasn't 'I did

this, I did that, and this is why I won the gold medal.' It was 'because of all these other people that helped me, this is why we won the gold medal.' I'll tell you, these boys have class."

Sergeant Tavares thinks Soldier-athletes have an advantage over their civilian peers.

"I think WCAP athletes from any sport have the biggest upper hand on any other athlete because this is sport, it's not the end of the world," he said. "And WCAP athletes have a better understanding of that than any other athlete that I know."

"We can be deployed at any time. Let's get some things under perspective here: we know what our jobs are. We might be athletes and coaches now, but we're Soldiers. This is sport. We're doing our job that we're tasked to do now, but at any time, we could be with the unit and shipped over."