

Year in Review

Crusaders tame Panthers, 67-57

Marne Madness declares 703rd BSB second to none

MARCH 2007



Spc. Marques Hunt

Errol Porter, Panthers' guard, makes a lay-up and gets the opportunity for a three-point-play as Dontae Walker fouls him.

Sgt. Tanya Polk
Editor

The Crusaders slowed the Panthers' race through the Marne Madness Basketball Playoffs to a crawl March 22, beating them 67-57 at Newman Fitness Center.

Cruising through the regular season, the G Company, 703rd Base Support Battalion's Crusaders maintained their impressive record of 9 and 1 as they grasped the championship title in their victory over the 135th Quartermaster Company's Panthers.

"We pretty much dominated the season," said Crusaders' coach Dean Francis. "Our first game was our only loss, but after that we pretty much dominated every team that we played."

The Crusaders' opponent had an equally competitive season record, but Panther's coach Gerald Garvey put it best when he said, "The better team won."

From the tip off, it was Crusaders' ball. The Panthers gave the Crusaders a run for their money as the beginning of the game was close-held. But, the close game only lasted so long.

With 1:30 left in the first half, Crusader Donovan Mitchell wowed the crowd with a powerful slam dunk and brought his team to a nine point lead of 34-23.

The clock winded down, and the Panthers received a chance to recuperate during half time. Special to the finals, the Bradwell High School Step Team opened up the half time show. The step show was followed by music from Bradwell's band.

After 20 minutes of entertainment, it was on to the second half.

Showing more energy than in the first, the Panthers made a desperate drive to comeback as guards Andrew Bogan and Terrance Clark scored a consistent four shots to give the Crusaders but a one-point lead of 36-35.

But their streak was soon stopped as Mitchell added two more points for the

Crusaders. Mitchell, who led the Crusaders' season with 90 points, topped his 18-point average scoring 27 points - over one third of his team's final score.

"It takes skill," said Mitchell.

His skills include high school, four years of college, and street basketball.

Terrance Clark's skills gave the Panthers another chance to take the lead as his basket left them trailing by one. But, Crusaders' guard Brandon Williams hit a three-pointer and set the Panthers back once again, 51-46.

"Coming into the game we kind of knew most of the players, and knew what they are capable of," Francis said. "So, we decided prior to the game we would hold those individuals that were the high-scorers."

Mitchell said the Crusaders' strategy was to keep pressure on their opponent. The pressure was on.

With less than two minutes left to play, the Panthers were desperate for possession as they fouled Mitchell not once, not twice, but three times. Mitchell only missed one of his six free throws to give the Crusaders a 10-point lead that sent the Panthers home.

"Hard work was put in every Saturday, when they could have been spending it with their Families prior to deployment, to practice just for tonight; just to take home a trophy and say that they're number one," Francis said.

"This is their moment. I'm extremely proud of all eleven of them."

Col. Todd Buchs, Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield's garrison commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Charles E. Durr, Stewart-Hunter garrison command sergeant major, awarded the runner-up and champion trophies.

"It's all about the win," Mitchell said after receiving his first place trophy. "We didn't come here to lose."

"You can't mess with us," he said with a smile. "We're number one."



Nondice Powell

Staff Sgt. Taur L. Fountain, NCO Academy, playing with MSC, STB, comes in off a home run drive during the Stewart-Hunter Intramural Softball Championship, July 26.

JULY 2007

MSC drowns Armor 25-5, takes softball title

Nondice Powell
Hunter Public Affairs

Dodging drenching rains and poor field conditions, Mission Support Company, Special Troops Battalion beat Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment twice in one day to take the Fort Stewart-Hunter Softball Championship, July 26.

The teams played into the night at Fort Stewart, after departing from the drenching rain and poor conditions at Hunter. The Soldiers of MSC, STB won the first game with a score of 16 - 6, forcing HHC, 4/64 Armor to play a second game. MSC, STB walked away in the end with first place, beating 4/64 again in the second game with a score of 25 - 5.

"Every game is a fight," said Capt. David Simms, HHC, 4/64 Armor. "Teams on this installation all are outstanding."

Simms' team came to the championship game undefeated while the MSC, STB had to battle their way through the double-elimination tournament to escape an early loss.

"We came up to the tournament at Hunter and we lost very badly to 632nd Maintenance Company," said Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Parker, member of the MSC, STB team. "We had to fight our way through the whole shebang to come back."

Dark clouds filled the sky over the sports complex at Hunter as a storm rolled in threatening to soak the participants and spectators of the final games of the Stewart-Hunter softball championship.

It didn't take long for the threat of bad weather to become a reality. The Soldiers tried to play on as spectators and some officials sought protection provided by the concession stand and press box overhang. Not long into the second inning, the rain became too much.

As the rain poured down, Soldiers cleared the field and headed to their respective dugouts. Game officials wanted to postpone the championship and return to Hunter the following day, but, the Soldiers had a different idea.

The Soldiers decided to move the tournament to Stewart, bringing both teams back to their home turf.

"Driving down [Interstate] 95 probably slowed us up just a bit," Parker said.

"When we got back, our momentum started and everything went into place."

The decision to leave Hunter was not so much the rain as it was the Soldiers' safety in increasingly wet field conditions. "You've got two teams full of Soldiers," said Staff Sgt. Rogers Burton, A Company, Warrior Transition Unit, part of the MSC, STB team.

"We train in the rain. Rain doesn't really bother us, but the field conditions were the worry. We moved so that no one would get hurt."

"Most of our guys are dead-tired, but we definitely came back, and it's a very big victory for us," Parker said.

"We did great," said Sgt. Tyrell Sackett, HHC, 4/64 Armor. "We stayed in the winners' bracket the entire time. We came here today, and we just didn't have it in us. We did our best though. We were in the championship game; you can't get mad at that."



Pfc. Amanda McBride

Sgt. Antonio Lewis, running back from Co. F, 703rd BSB Maintainers elude players from Co. C, 3/7 Inf. to try to get his team further on the scoreboard.

**OCTOBER
2007**

Bulls, Maintainers battle at Marne bowl, back-forth brawl with last-second saves

Pvt. Jerome Arp
4th BCT Public Affairs

The Charging Bulls nipped the Maintainers during the Marne Bowl, championship flag football game Oct. 1 at Olvey Field in Hinesville.

The Charging Bulls, Company C, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment proved the term "underdog" is just a stepping stone to the word "champion".

With a 9-2 record, the Bulls paved through opponent after opponent but another team's legend shadowed over their accomplishments.

The Maintainers, Company F, 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, were the favorites to win the championship.

With a dominant and undefeated 11-0 record, the Maintainers were last year's champions and played like the champions they were all season.

The game started with a flag ceremony and singing of the 3rd Infantry Division's trademark "Dog Face Soldier

Song" amongst teammates, Families, friends and fellow Soldiers in attendance.

The game opened with the Bulls receiving the kick-off and charging down the field to the opposite 20-yard line, earning a first down within the first minute of the game.

First Lt. Josh Ray, the quarterback of the Bulls, found wide-receiver, Sgt. Allen Roberts in the end zone to put some numbers on the board.

The Bulls' running back, Sgt. Daniel Bottoms, blew past the Maintainers' defense for the extra point.

Within the first four minutes of the game, the Bulls proved they were playing with their hearts in the game with a 7-0 score.

The Bulls challenged the Maintainers with more aggressive offense and defense, but were answered with a Maintainer interception and touchdown from running back Sgt. Antonio Lewis.

The first half of the game ended with a score of 7-6, the Bulls in the lead.

The Maintainers had possession of the ball at the start of the second half and didn't waste any time completing passes.

The Maintainers' lead inspired the Bulls to rally together and grunt their way into their half of the field where Bulls running back, Bottoms, dashed past the Maintainers' tight defense to bring the score to 14-14.

Maintainers running back, Lewis, stepped up for the team and earned another touchdown with minutes left in the game to bring the score to 20-14. The Bulls slowly advanced against the champions' defense with only a minute left in the game. Quarterback, Bottoms, found himself over the goal line, scoring his second touchdown to tie the game at 20-20.

With seconds left on the clock, Bulls quarterback, Ray sneaked past the confused Maintainer defense for the winning point, leaving the final score at 21-20. The game ended with a trophy ceremony and celebration amongst both teams on a great season.

FOB Q-West holds first 10-miler in Iraq

OCTOBER 2007



Pfc. Gaelen Lowers

Soldiers from 3rd Sustainment Bde. at FOB Q-West participate in their own version of the Army 10-Miler, Oct. 6.

Pfc. Gaelen Lowers
3rd SB Public Affairs

Forward operating base Q-West - QAIYARA, Iraq - Forward Operating Base Q-West held its inaugural Army 10-Miler run Oct. 6.

The "shadow" run was meant to mirror the 10-mile run held in Washington D.C. the following day, Oct. 7.

Each year 30,000 runners and spectators descend upon Washington, D.C. to join in this prestigious event produced by the U.S. Army Military District of Washington.

The Army Ten-Miler has a long standing history starting with the first run Oct. 13, 1985.

Then there were only 1,600 registered runners and now in 2007, the 23rd running of America's largest 10-mile race, 15,589 participants crossed

the finish line.

"It's really all about being Army strong," said Col. Darrell K. Williams, commander of the 3rd Sustainment Brigade and FOB Q-West. "It's a great event, highly motivational and our Soldiers have done a magnificent job."

At FOB Q-West, participants registered the night prior and received their FOB Q-West Army 10-Miler T-shirt designed by Capt. Brittany Warren, the 3rd Sustainment Bde. adjutant.

There were more than 500 runners that participated in the event, said Warren. About 250 runners signed up for the 10-miler and about 295 runners signed up for the Army Strong five-kilometer run that ran simultaneously with the Army 10-Miler.

The winner of each category

was awarded a medal at the completion of the race and the overall male and female winners were given trophies.

The overall male winner was 2nd Lt. Matthew McCarthy, 3rd Sustainment Bde., with a time of 1:04:15 and the overall female winner was Sgt. Jullia Carrillo, 263rd Maintenance Co., with a time 1:13:34.

Other categories included the male and female 10-miler with age groups: 18-24, 25-39, and 40+. There were also three-man teams running the 10-mile course.

The winner of the three-man team with a time of 1:08:49 was the 226th Quarter Master Co., 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion team comprised of 2nd Lt. Alphonso Harrell, Staff Sgt. Locksley Pennyfeather and Pfc. Bettia Blount.

DECEMBER 2007

Families walk, run over 70,000 miles in support of Soldiers

Sgt. Tanya Polk
Editor

They've walked to Iraq and back - several times, but the support hasn't stopped.

Soldiers and Family members of the Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield community woke up with holiday spirit, laced their jogging shoes, and joined in on the Jingle-Bell Jog, Dec. 15.

In support of the Walk to Iraq and Back campaign, the Jingle-Bell Jog was the installation's sixth group-walk.

The 3rd Infantry Division and Stewart-Hunter initiated the Walk to Iraq and Back to support the troops deployed to the Middle East.

The Walk kicked off in May as Soldiers and Family members took steps towards their 13,000 mile goal; the distance from Fort Stewart to Iraq, and back.

Within the first 45 days, that goal was far surpassed, said Lt. Col. Ellen Birch, 3rd Inf. Div. rear detachment deputy commander.

Supporters have accumulated more than 70,000 miles.

As the holidays near, Birch and Fran Williams, the division's Family Readiness Support Assistant, put a seasonal spin to the jog. Prizes were not only awarded to the first runners, but were also given to participants for best holiday attire.

First Sgt. Aaron McHaney, 731st Explosive Ordnance Disposal, his wife Jaime, and their two children Garret, 10, and Gillien, 7 joined the Jog.

The McHaney's have supported the Walk since its start and said they've attended several similar events together.

And as the Jingle-Bell Jog was an opportunity for Families to spend quality time, for Spc. Timothy Insley, 3rd STB, it was just another opportunity to get out and run.

Insley said Birch, told him about the Walk to Iraq and Back campaign and jumped at the chance to come out and support the event.

Insley won a Marne Christmas ornament as he finished the jog first over all with a time of 18:06.

Approximatley 130 deployed service-members at Forward Operating Base Kalsu,



Sgt. Tanya Polk

Soldiers and Family members take off for the three-and-a-half mile Jingle-Bell Jog, Dec. 15.

Iraq ran a Morale, Welfare and Recreation sponsored Jingle-Bell Jog, Dec. 25. The first place winner was 1st Lt. Charmaine Lett,

26th Base Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Inf. Div., with a time of 48 minutes, 2 seconds.