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Shinseki visits Spartan soldiers

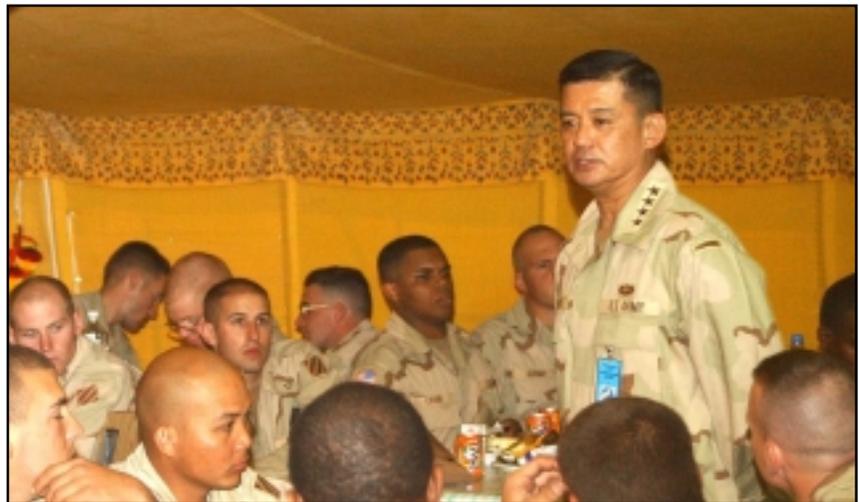
Spc. Jacob Boyer
Staff Writer

The chief of staff of the Army addressed the state of the infrastructure of the camps in Kuwait and other topics during a question and answer session held with the soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team Nov. 26 at Camp New York.

Gen. Eric K. Shinseki spoke to a group of soldiers drawn from units stationed here during lunch as part of his visit to the brigade.

A soldier asked Shinseki why there were not enough amenities for the soldiers stationed here. Shinseki said the camps were originally set up for battalion-sized elements. Because of that, there are not currently enough phone lines and recreation facilities on the camps to support the number of soldiers living here.

“Bringing a battalion in, you had a battalion’s worth of support: phone



Spc. Jacob Boyer

Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Eric K. Shinseki talks to a group of 2nd Brigade soldiers during lunch Nov. 26. Shinseki visited Camp New York, Kuwait, as part of his Thanksgiving visit to deployed soldiers.

lines, computers and gyms,” he said. “But in a very short period of time, we’ve declared an emergency and we’ve blown this up into a division-size op-

eration.”

Although the operation here has not been set up to support a division year-

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Tuskers set their sights for deployment

Spc. Adam Nuelken
Staff Writer

As the cool breeze blew across the desert, sitting atop the wind swept dunes, dozens of tankers prepared to hone their skills and sights as they began to blast rounds down range.

These tankers from the 4th Battalion, 64th Armor were participating in bore sighting, which lets them hone their sights and be able to accurately hit their targets, allowing them to be more lethal and effective.

“Before we take them to gunnery,

we verify fire control assets and give confidence to crews,” said Capt. Steven Barry, commander of C Company, 4-64 Ar. “Our job is to kill people and break stuff.”

The bore sighting gives crews a chance to work in tanks they are fully accustomed to unlike the tanks back home.

Each tank develops its own maintenance issues and crew confidence grows with knowledge of what the tank will do, according to Barry.

While many soldiers have been to Kuwait previously, newer soldiers don’t

always know what to expect. But the leaders of 4-64 Ar. are vigilant in their efforts to train them.

“Right now it’s been a hassle because we’ve had to do (bore sighting) so many times, but I guess practice makes perfect,” said 18-year-old Pvt. 2 Christopher Prioleau, a loader with A Co., 4-64 Ar., who has only been in the Army for about six months.

“I look forward to being trained very well by my tank commander, gunner and driver, learning a whole lot more about

See Tuskers, page 6

Army undersecretary shares holiday message with ready troops

Spc. Jacob Boyer
Staff Writer

The number two Department of the Army official visited the soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) deployed to Kuwait, Nov. 30 at Camp Pennsylvania.

The stop was part of a weeklong tour by Les Brownlee, undersecretary of the United States Army. He also visited deployed soldiers in Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan to show his support and tell soldiers the Army and the nation are behind them.

“During the holiday period, I like to travel around to visit the soldiers we have deployed around the world,” Brownlee said. “I just wanted to come out and express the appreciation of the Secretary of the Army, Tom White, and all the rest of us back at the Pentagon, as well as on behalf of all our American people. We know you’ve got big plans out here and that you’re all up to it.”

Brownlee talked to many soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment Task Force while he was in Kuwait. He also received briefings on the

M2A3 Bradley fighting vehicle, an M1A1 Abrams tank, an M113 armored personnel carrier and an up-armored Humvee. Soldiers showed him around the various vehicles and answered his questions about their systems.

of why they’re here.”

Brownlee told the Desert Rogues that Americans today value soldiers and the jobs they do more than he could recall in recent memory.

“I think Americans appreciate the military more than at any time dating all the way back to World War II,” he said. “For the first time in a long time, they realize how important they really are. We found out on Sept. 11, 2001, that it’s only people like you that stand between American citizens and the danger of terrorism and all the others.”

The leadership of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team also talked with Brownlee, and he gave them an important task.

“I’ve told your commanders here I’m

only going to ask one thing of each of them: that they bring you all back safely,” he said.

Brownlee said he was proud of the men and women of the Army, and that he was confident they would be able to perform any task put before them.

“These are professionals,” he said. “They know how to do their jobs. They’re ready to go. If the president calls, I promise you, they’ll do what’s expected of them.”



Spc. Jason Boyer

Les Brownlee, undersecretary of the Army, speaks to a few soldiers from 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment at Camp Pennsylvania, Kuwait Nov. 30.

Brownlee, a retired Army colonel who was awarded two Silver Stars in Vietnam, had high praise for the men and women of the 3rd Inf. Div.

“These are extraordinary young people,” he said. “The volunteers that serve in the military these days are just the finest I’ve ever seen. They’re ready, they’re dedicated and they’re very professional in the way they go about their duties. They’ve got a good attitude because they understand the importance

Frontline Forward

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Soldiers slug it out during Fight Night II

Spc. Jacob Boyer
Staff Writer

The Desert Rogues of 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment won six of their nine fights to take home the most titles during Fight Night II, November 29 at Camp New York.

The event featured 23 boxing matches between soldiers from many of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team units deployed to Camps New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

"This is something the commander and I came up with," said Command Sgt. Maj. Otis Smith, 2nd Brigade command sergeant major. "We already had one, and we weren't going to do it again until February. But as soon as the last one was over, people started asking when we'd have the next one. Since it was Thanksgiving, we thought we'd finish off the events with another Fight Night."

The Rogues went home with more titles than any other unit. In the 156-165 pound weight class, Arte Brown won his match for the first Rogue title. 1/64 got another early victory in the 178-200 pound class when Spc. Schipper easily won his fight.

Most of the Rogues' wins came in the open division. William Height, Eugene Stewart, Justin Mayes and Ryan Hancock all won their respective bouts.

The 26th Forward Support Battalion and 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment each won four fights to tie for second place.

Larry Black got things started early for the 26th, winning the first fight of the night when his 132-139 pound tilt was called in the first round. Travis Bartlett took home the 26th's second title in the 165-178 pound class. Naomi Martinez won the only women's fight of the night. Pfc. Jenkins won the battalion's last fight in the open division.

The Battle Kings, big winners at the first Fight Night, did not take their first title until halfway through the card. Benjamin Rivers won his 178-200 pound



Spc. Jacob Boyer

Robert Browner, 10th Engineer Battalion, squares up against his opponent before unleashing his next punch.

fight. Anthony Beckman, at 255 pounds, won the heaviest fight of the night for another title. Johnell Tolbert and LaMarcus Dunbar each took titles for 1/9 in the open division.

Robert Browner, 10th Engineer Battalion, won the other 132-139 pound bout. Roy Dixon, 123rd Signal Battalion, and Michael Sims and Chung Choi, 10th Engineers, rounded out the winners in the 156-165 pound class.

Andre Singletary, 123rd Signal, and Rosalish Fields, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, took titles in the 165-178 pound class. Quincy Johnson, 3/15, won his 178-200 pound fight. In the 201 pound-and-up class, James Jenkins, 123rd Signal, and Steven Washington, 3/15 Infantry, won their tilts.

Fight Night and other events like it are a good opportunity for soldiers to get their minds off day-to-day training, Smith said.

"It helps the soldiers get away from the everyday monotony of training," he said. "It's just a relaxation period for all the spectators."

The fights each consisted of two one-minute rounds and were officiated by referees from Camp Doha, Smith said. Three scorers kept track of the fights on the 10-point system, giving points for

hits and knockdowns and deducting them for penalties.

The first fight night, called Brawl in the Kabal, set off many rivalries between camps and units for the second event, Smith said.

"We like to pit the camps against each other, and units against units," he said. "When we hand the trophies to the winners, it gives them bragging rights."

Any soldier who wanted to fight was allowed to as long as he passed a physical beforehand, Smith said.

"We pair them up by weight class," he said. "We want to give everybody we can the opportunity to do this."

The safety of participating soldiers was important, Smith said. Two physicians stayed by the ring in case of injuries during the fights, and they checked each fighter out after his two rounds. Only one fight was stopped early due to an injury.

Fried catfish and assorted snacks were also provided at the fight, along with sodas and non-alcoholic beer, Smith said. The crowd watched from seats of all types, ranging from the desert ground to the top of a Paladin howitzer.

"It was just a great time for the soldiers," Smith said.

Fifty-two cards and a bag of bones...

Marne soldiers pass time in Ireland

Spc. Adam Nuelken
Staff Writer

When soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) left for Kuwait Nov. 23, none of them expected the delays ahead. However, soldiers are by far some of the best at finding ways to kill time during a deployment.

Over the next four days, the soldiers would find themselves sitting at Hunter Army Airfield's Departure and Arrival Control Group for 12 hours, waiting in Ireland's Shannon Airport for about 18 hours before going to the Clare Inn for two days, to eventually reaching Camp Doha, where some waited nearly 15 hours before getting out to Camp New York.

During this time, soldiers played hundreds of games of spades, countless games of dominoes and caught up on much-needed sleep.

"To pass the time, I play cards, read up on training manuals and talk to the bartender (at the Clare Inn)," said Spc. William Partin, a communication specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Engineer Battalion.

Card games have always been a favored way for soldiers to pass time because of the many different games and the

number of people who can play, according to Pvt. 2 James Hargett, a combat engineer with B Company, 10th Eng. Bn.

"A lot of people know how to play spades, four people can play it, and it takes a while to play when you have time to wait," he added.

Other soldiers found time in the Clare Inn to mingle with the locals.

"It's the best experience," said Sgt. Lazaro Perdigonpla, a cannon crewmember with B Battery 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery. "You get to know them and find out what they think of you."

"I think it's good for the military because people see the military is made up of actual people and not just machines," Sgt. Adam Cothren, a cannon crewmember for B Btry. 1-9 FA said. Irish native, Timmy Donne, agreed.

"They're decent lads and sociable. They're the same as us, but we just don't have the patches."

After the soldiers bid Ireland adieu, they left for Sicily where they had about a three-hour layover before hitting the ground in Kuwait.

The soldiers are now integrated into the camps and performing missions in support of Operation Desert Spring.

Runners race for glory in turkey trot

Spc. Jacob Boyer
Staff Writer

A 103rd Military Intelligence Battalion soldier bested a field of more than 400 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) soldiers in the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot, a 5K race held at Camp New York.

Spc. Micah Bradford had the top finish with a time of 19:50. 1st Lt. Nancy Goyings, 123rd Signal Battalion, was the first female to finish, coming in at 23:36. The 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment team came in first in the team competition. Races were held for individual soldiers as well as unit teams, said Maj. Terrance Sanders, 2nd Brigade S-1. Trophies were given to the top male and female finishers, as well as the top two teams.

The course began behind the Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent and wrapped around the inner perimeter of the camp before finishing back at the tent. The individual runners started the course at 7 a.m. The teams started 15

minutes after the individual runners.

"The purpose of this event is to bring the units together on Thanksgiving to show our appreciation for what they do," Sanders said. "Although morale has been good, we're out here to help it improve."

The individual competitors were divided into four age categories: 18-25, 26-32, 33-40 and 40 and over. The win-

ners of each age category received unit coins from Col. David Perkins, 2nd Brigade commander.

"It's basically an opportunity to get the entire brigade together," Sanders said. "It's something we do around (Thanksgiving). It's definitely a spirited competition. When it's over, one person knows he has beaten everyone in the brigade."



Spc. Jacob Boyer

Three runners race to the finish line during the Turkey Trot, a 5K held for the soldiers of 2nd Brigade Thanksgiving Day at Camp New York, Kuwait.

Giving thanks

Thanksgiving celebrated with senior leaders



Spc. Jacob Boyer

Command Sgt. Maj. Otis Smith, command sergeant major, 2nd Brigade, and Col. David Perkins, commander, 2nd Brigade, serve their soldiers Thanksgiving dinner at Sky Bridge dining facility at Camp New York.



Sgt. Akilah C. Clarke

Maj. Gen. James Thurman, Coalition Forces Land Component Command C-3, greets Spc. Thomas Beno, a soldier with A Company, 10th Engineers.



Spc. Jacob Boyer

Soldiers dig into Thanksgiving dinner at the Skybridge Dining Facility at Camp New York.

****Notice: Soldiers will soon be able to make phone calls on weekends, evenings and holidays. Fort Stewart has hired two additional operators. The number is as follows: 312-870-4663. Look in future issues of the Frontline Forward for more information on when this policy will go into effect.**

Tuskers, from page 1

tanks and pretty much having fun,” Prioleau, a Charleston, S.C. native added.” Just in case we do go to war, we’ll be well prepared for it.”

Some of the newer tankers are a little concerned about being in Kuwait with the possibilities of war happening, but with proper guidance, leadership and training helps, according to 1st Sgt. Eric Wilson, first sergeant of C Co. 4-64 Ar.

“I help motivate by getting them hot chow, supplies and equipment,” Wilson said. “My bottom-line goal is to take everyone back in one piece. I really don’t have any personal aspirations.”

He just hopes his crews will get the knowledge of how to perform their jobs better, gain more confidence in their leaders and have peace of mind that they will be safe.



Spc. Adam Nuelken

Sgt. Donald Martin, C Company, 4-64 Armor sets the bore sight on an M1A1 Abrams. Tankers must ensure their sights are properly set so that they can be more accurate and effective when aiming at targets.

Shinseki, from page 1

round, Shinseki said the Army is working to remedy that.

“Very quickly, we’ve put gyms in place and we’ve put additional lines in place to support soldiers to the degree that we think we’re going to be here in this configuration,” he said. “If we thought we were going to be here for 10 years, we’d start building some permanent structures, but I don’t think we’re going to be here that long.”

It was pointed out that soldiers here had enough showers and shelter, and Shinseki praised the brigade chain of command’s work in making the most of limited resources.

“Your chain of command’s moving in the right direction and taking care of things,” he said. “You’ll just have to be patient.”

Shinseki also spoke to the soldiers about pay raises. Last year’s pay raise was the first real pay raise the Army has had in 18 years, he said.

“In January 2003, there will be another pay raise,” he said. “It will be 4.1 percent across the board, but in addition to that, there will be a focused pay raise for noncommissioned officers. We’ve already begun to discuss another pay raise for 2004.”

Shinseki said that even with the recent and upcoming pay raises, soldiers still are not paid enough.

“At times I get asked by members of Congress, ‘If we give you this, will you be back next year?’” he said. “My answer is always that I will be back next year. You can never do enough for a soldier, so I will continue to work for better pay, better housing and better benefits for soldiers.”

But money should not be a soldier’s only motivation,

Shinseki said.

“This isn’t just about money,” he said. “If it is, you better find something else to do, because those of us who have been in this profession for 34 or 37 years never figured this was about being rich. It’s tough work. It’s work that not many others can do, and it isn’t just about money. The reason is some day there’s going to be a job where money isn’t enough, and on that day our relationship can’t be about that because there isn’t anybody else to do the things our country asks of us.”

When one soldier asked Shinseki about the prospect of a war with Iraq, he said the decision has not yet been made.

“(President George W. Bush) has forced the president of Iraq to come to the table and demonstrate that he is going to be better in his behavior,” he said. “It’s the weapons of mass destruction that we’re concerned about, and we’ll see if he understands that.”

Shinseki ran into other 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) soldiers on his way to Kuwait.

“You can imagine my surprise when I came through (Shannon Airport, Ireland) and saw the 3rd ID,” he said.

However, Shinseki said he felt the soldiers of the Spartan Brigade and the 3rd Inf. Div. (M) were ready if a war were to begin.

“Inside this division, all the preparations for warfighting readiness is going on,” he explained. “If the Army is a spear, then this division is the tip of the spear. In our profession, when it comes to warfighting, we win on the offensive. We have to be able to defend well, but we win on the offense.”

Chaplain's Corner

Keeping the faith while deployed

Chaplain (Capt.) John F. Jensen
10th Engineer Battalion Chaplain

At the writing of this article, it is the evening of Thanksgiving Day. A delicious meal was just served in the Camp New York dining facility. I just called my mother at home to wish her a Happy Thanksgiving. A little later I will call my wife and children to do the same. But as the day winds down my thoughts turn to the next holiday, Christmas.

"Home For the Holidays" is an expression and an idea that evokes memories of past holidays spent with family and friends. When people are unable to be home for the holidays, it often brings sadness and feelings of loneliness.

As a chaplain I have heard from many soldiers about being deployed during the holidays. More than a few have related that they have been deployed for several holiday seasons in a row. Like many societies, ours has certain cultural norms or expectations about holidays. Chief among them is that holidays are to be spent with family. I've even heard people say, "Family is what the holidays are all about."

However, in contemplating the cultural significance of these two holidays we should be careful to remember their historical significance. Thanksgiving was initiated by a group of people who had journeyed far from their homeland and had found themselves living in rustic conditions in a sometimes harsh environment. Yet, those sojourners still found reason to pause and render thanks to the Almighty for His

providence and blessing.

Christmas was initiated when a young couple was forced by their government to travel many miles from their home to be counted in a census for taxation purposes. On that very first Christmas, those travelers did not have the best of living conditions. During their journey, the couple had experienced the birth of their child. That child, many believed, was destined for greatness. In their humble surroundings and in the stillness of the night, that first Christmas couple found reason to praise God.

When we take time to contemplate the historical significance of these holidays it becomes easier to understand their theological significance.

Theologically speaking, Thanksgiving is not about turkey, pies or football games. Rather, it is about being grateful to the Almighty God for all the goodness and mercy He has demonstrated towards us.

Christmas, theologically speaking, is not about lighted trees, tinsel or wrapped presents.

It is about redemption from sin. It is a celebration of God pouring Himself out into humanity in the person of Jesus Christ in order to save sinners. The word holiday is a contraction of the two words *holy day*.

Most everyone, myself included, would rather be at home with family and friends during the holidays. Nevertheless, we can joyfully celebrate these holy days while deployed by celebrating God's gracious gifts to us.

2nd BCT gospel choir spreads good news through song

Sgt. Akilah C. Clarke
Editor

It wasn't the gusty desert winds that rocked the tent posts of the Camp New York chapel the evening of Nov. 24. Rather, it was the strong voices of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's 40-plus member choir, singing praises unto the Lord until the later hours of the night.

Directed by Maj. Terrance Sanders, G-3, the soldiers were part of a gospel revival sponsored by the brigade's unit ministry team. "We wanted to spread the good news to all the camps. So we asked the brigade chaplain if we could do a gospel extravaganza so all of the soldiers from the brigade combat team could

come worship together," explained Chaplain (Capt.) Chris Edwards, 26th Forward Support Battalion.

After the call to worship and invocation, the choir marched in to "Don't Wait 'Til the Battle Is Over," followed by "Take the Shackles Off My Feet," "Jesus is Real," and "I Just Can't Give Up Now," to name a few.

Edwards further explained that the revival was held to demonstrate the unity and solidarity of the units. Additionally, by being able to exercise their beliefs and share the message with others, the soldiers are given the opportunity to establish new friendships in a spiritual setting – something that can help relieve some of the problems that may be en-

countered during a deployment, Edwards said.

"We can help strengthen and nurture people during these uncertain times. People need faith," he said.

Plans are in the works to hold one revival every month in each of the camps, according to Sgt. Danny Gibbs, 2nd Brigade UMT noncommissioned officer in charge. Edwards went on to thank everyone who had a part in supporting the event.

"We give thanks to the Lord and we would also like to acknowledge the support from our commanders and sergeant majors – they've really supported us by giving us the resources we needed to hold this event," he said.

Marne Scoreboard

NBA

Tuesday

Wizards 103, Bucks 78
 Hornets 115, Bulls 90
 Kings 98, T-Wolves 86
 Warriors 110, Nuggets 89
 Nets 87, Hawks 72
 Rockets 89, Spurs 75
 Lakers 101, Grizzlies 91

Wednesday

76ers 99, Celtics 93
 Magic 87, Knicks 85
 Hornets 89, Raptors 74
 Kings 92, Nuggets 90
 Pacers 114, Sonics 111
 Cavaliers 111, Bulls 101
 Wizards 88, Pistons 83
 Jazz 93, Lakers 85
 Suns 98, Grizzlies 85
 Mavericks 103, Blazers 88
 Clippers 89, Heat 80

Thursday

Hawks 98, Bucks 80
 T-Wolves 114, Warriors 98

NHL

Islanders 2, Canucks 1
 Maple Leafs 4, Lightning 3
 Oilers 2, Wild 1
 Sharks 3, Coyotes 2
 Rangers 5, Blue Jackets 3
 Capitals 4, Penguins 1
 Flames 2, Avalanche 1
 Red Wings 2, Ducks 1
 Hurricanes 2, Predators 1
 Blues 4, Bruins 0

Wednesday

Canucks 3, Devils 2
 Blackhawks 1, Senators 0
 Panthers 4, Hurricanes 2
 Stars 5, Canadiens 1

Sabres 4, Ducks 0

Thursday

Bruins 4, Thrashers 3
 Lightning 3, Oilers 2
 Flyers 3, Rangers 2
 Senators 2, Blues 2
 Red Wings 5, Coyotes 3
 Wild 1, Flames 1
 Predators 2, Kings 0

NCAA Football

Saturday

Army @ Navy
 (14) Virginia Tech @ (1) Miami
 (7) Washington St. @ UCLA
 (4) Georgia @ (22) Arkansas
 (9) Oklahoma @ (12) Colorado

NFL

Monday

Oakland 26, NY Jets 20

Sunday

Atlanta @ Tampa Bay
 Cincinnati @ Carolina
 Buffalo @ New England
 Cleveland @ Jacksonville
 Houston @ Pittsburgh
 Indianapolis @ Tennessee
 NY Giants @ Washington
 San Francisco @ Dallas
 St. Louis @ Kansas City
 Detroit @ Arizona
 New Orleans @ Baltimore
 Philadelphia @ Seattle
 Denver @ NY Jets
 Oakland @ San Diego
 Minnesota @ Green Bay

Monday

Chicago @ Miami

NCAA Basketball

Men
 Tuesday

(4) Duke 91, Ohio St. 76
 (11) UConn 116, Sac.Heart 78
 (5) Pitt 96, Norfolk St. 51
 (3) 'Bama 89, Greensboro 61
 (18) Ky. 84, High Point 64
 (1) Arizona 91, St. Louis 58
 WVU 68, (8) Florida 66
 (16) Xavier 74, Purdue 59
 (10) Indiana 80, (9) Md. 74
 (25) Illinois 92, (12) UNC 65

Wednesday

(20) Minn. 64, Georgia Tech 63
 (14) Kansas 97, C. Missouri 70
 (21) Mich. St. 82, (22) UVA 75
 (7) Oregon 96, Portland 66
 (24) Miss. St. 71, Jackson St. 56
 (19) Tulsa 80, Wichita St. 69
 Wake Forest 90, (23) Wisc. 80

Thursday

(25) Gonzaga 75, Montana 64

Women
 Wednesday

(9) N. Dame 74, Valparaiso 68
 (11) Penn St. 101, Maryland 74
 (17) Texas 98, SW Texas St. 36
 (10) Tex. Tech 98, Creighton 70
 (23) S. Carolina 99, Wofford 46
 (4) Tenn. 60, (15) La. Tech 35
 (20) Miss. St. 79, Memphis 63

Thursday

(15) UNC 80, Appalachian St. 44
 (18) Okla. 77, SF Austin 55
 (22) BYU 68, San Francisco 65
 (2) UConn 68, Holy Cross 46
 (25) TCU 77, SMU 57