

They've still got it: men's basketball tourney heats up the court

By Stephanie Heelan Cotsonas

Some of the faces looked familiar, but instead of being on the sidelines as parents or coaches, these guys were playing in the Men's Over-30 annual basketball tournament held at the Lawn School gym last Friday night.

The players were mostly islanders and former islanders. Some literally wore two shirts acting as a player and an official.

With 28 players divided into four teams, there were six 12-minute preliminary games. Chris Varrecchione organized the event and was pleased with the exceptional turnout of players, as well as friends and family that were there to root for their teams.

The first game had Team White, led by Eric Bush and star rebounder Sean Maloney, playing against Matt Swistak, Steve Froberg and Team Red who gave a solid effort. It was a close match and Tom Waddington went to the free throw line for the final point to give White the win 20-17.

Game two was Blue versus Black. Dave Clarke of Team Black made the first basket only seconds into the game. Michael Bradley of Team Blue had a three-point shot to tie the score 11-11. After a couple of breakaways and a basket by Doug Chapman for Team Black, the points were tallied and the score was 20-11. Brian Cotsonas got a nice three-point shot for Blue with less than a minute to play and

the game started to turn as Blue crept up the score 26-17, but they could not make up the difference and Black won with a final score of 30-17.

The next match-up was White versus Blue with Eric Bush sinking two of the first three baskets for White in the first minutes of the game. Blue started putting on the pressure when Ward McIntyre, at 6-feet, 8-inches, entered the game. He gave an all-around effort with a turn-around jump shot and seconds later he dove to the floor to get a loose ball on defense. Blue sealed the victory, 18-15, when McIntyre sunk the game clinching free throw. When asked what he was thinking about when he went to the free throw line McIntyre said, "I wasn't thinking, I was praying."

In Team Red versus Team Black, Rich Berthelot got a fast break and passed to Mike Casey for a 5-2 early lead for Red. Alex Bush and Nick Malloy both added two points to finally upset Black 11-4. The teams were evenly matched and after the first four games all the teams were tied with records of 1 win and 1 loss. In Black versus White, Jim Simmons and Ernie Violet of Team White stepped up the pressure to no avail as Black won 23-17.

In the final preliminary game, the players were getting heated as Red took on Blue. Alex Bush scored the first two points for Red,



Being over 30 did not stop these players from enjoying a little hoops action at the annual over-30 basketball tournament at Lawn school. Left to right are, Tom Waddington, Mike Casey, Ward McIntyre, Steve Froberg, Jim Simmons, and Matt Swistak.

Photo by Stephanie Cotsonas

and as Matt Swistak ran by he said, "Is this the ugliest game you have ever seen?" After Blue pulled ahead 11-10, Froberg got the final basket for Red giving them the victory, 11-12. Varrecchione got an amazing shot off at the buzzer from full court, which bounced off the rim.

Team Black won the championship game against Team Red with a final score of 33-28. Team members included Mark Swistak, Jim

Hamilton, Ryan Zilly, Ryan Moniz, Dave Clarke, Doug Chapman, and Kevin Sullivan.

Mark Swistak was happy with his team's win and gave credit to Jim Hamilton. "When you have the all time leading three-point scorer in Naval Academy history on your team (Hamilton) it makes things a little easier. He's not in his old playing shape, but he can still shoot the lights out."

It turned out to be a fun eve-

ning for everyone and even Mark Swistak, Sr. sat in the stands and reminisced about the days he and other islanders, including Bob Sutton and Bert Brodin played similar tournaments at the Rec Center and the Lawn Avenue gym.

The Jamestown Basketball Association thanked Mike Swistak for refereeing and the Narragansett Cafe for hosting the post-game reception.

URI English Department to host June writers' conference

The University of Rhode Island will offer its second Ocean State Summer Writing Conference, due in large part to the success of its inaugural conference last year.

The conference, sponsored by URI's English Department, will be held Friday, June 20, and Saturday, June 21. Pre-conference writing workshops will run Thursday afternoon, June 19, and Friday

morning, June 20.

Featured speaker, URI 1978 alumna Ann Hood, the author of more than 10 books, whose memoir "Comfort," comes out next month, will open the conference. Poets Denise Duhamel and Nick Carbó will give a keynote address on "Poetic Inspiration" the next day.

Internationally known poet-

composer Nina Cassian will read from her work on Friday. A concert featuring her music will be held that evening. There will be no charge for conference participants.

The conference offers panel discussions, and craft presenters will lead sessions about a particular aspect of or approach to writing fiction, non-fiction, and poetry,

giving participants the opportunity to read, write, and respond. Participants will be able to retreat to a special Workout Room this year to write or receive one-on-one feedback. Readings and book signings are also offered.

The conference fee is \$135 for the general public, \$100 for students with a valid student ID. There is a \$30 additional charge

for dinner on Friday night. The pre-conference fee is \$125 for the general public, \$55 for students with a valid student ID.

For a full schedule of events and online registration go to www.uri.edu/artsci/eng/SummerWriting/08/index.html. Enrollment is limited.

Cox cycling classic scheduled for June

The seventh annual Cox Charities Cycling Classic has been set for Saturday, June 28, in Providence, Recognized as one of the premier cycling events in the country, the Cox Charities Cycling Classic will attract nearly 300 of the top cyclists in the country and thousands of spectators to downtown Providence.

New for 2008, the racecourse has moved to the city's riverfront. Racers will compete on a one-mile, criterium course starting and finishing on South Main Street in front of the Licht Judicial Complex. With a distance of 50 miles, the pro racers will endure 50 trips up the steep climb of College Hill on Waterman Street, followed by a hair-raising descent down Thomas Street and across the

Providence River on Steeple Street. From there, the cyclists will speed south along the river on Memorial Boulevard/Dyer Street before crossing the river once again on Pine Street to South Water Street, and back to South Main via Planet Street.

The Masters will begin racing at 2 p.m.; 3:15 p.m. will be the start of the Amateur Category and the Pro/Am will start at 5 p.m.

Proceeds from Cox Communications' signature event will benefit Cox Charities New England. In partnership with the United Way of Rhode Island, Cox Charities New England has provided more than \$2.4 million in grants and in-kind support to local non-profits that support children and education since in 2001.

Seaway
Oil

BEST PRICES
In Town
847-7775

BOILER • A/C
24 / 7 SERVICE

Serving Jamestown
Since 1994
Lic # 443

**MACADAM
PAVING**

AVAILABLE IN: BLUE, TAN & BLUSH

Featured on

"THIS OLD HOUSE"
Larry Torti Paving
401-568-1500
www.larrytorti.com

CT Lic. #610387

RI Lic. #4888

APEX REMODELERS, INC.

SIDING

WINDOWS

ROOFING

WINDOWS • SIDING
ROOFING • GUTTERS
TRIM • DOORS
KITCHEN AND
BATH REMODELING

INSURED - RI REG. #1538

FREE ESTIMATES

MEMBER BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU
SERVING NEWPORT & BRISTOL COUNTIES
SINCE 1958

401-846-6292



Gardner's Wharf Seafood
OPEN YEAR ROUND

Live Lobsters ~ Fresh Fish ~ Shellfish
Retail • Located in Historic Wickford Village
170 Main St., Wickford, (next to town Dock) **401-295-4600**
Monday - Saturday 9 am - 6 pm • Sunday 9 am - 5 pm